

Mason County Annual Report 2020

Putting Knowledge to Work!

West Virginia University Extension works to provide “solutions in your community” through key programs and resources including agriculture, environment and natural resources, 4-H youth development, food and nutrition, health and wellness, financial planning and home gardening. These research-based programs and services are available to all residents of Mason County thanks to the tremendous support of our community members, local organizations, volunteers and local partners – the Board of Education and County Commission.

Highlights

- More than 250 non-livestock projects were completed and featured virtually on the county and state levels.
- Nearly 200 4-H members and FFA members took part in the Mason County Youth Livestock Show and Sale in 2020, generating over \$407,000, the majority of which went directly to the youth exhibitors.
- Despite the pandemic, CEOS members reported 4,625 community service hours, which can be translated to more than \$106,000 in value to the community.
- The Southern Bull Test generated \$181,750 to local producers through the sale of 37 bulls and 41 heifers.

4-H/Youth Development

Camping

- As of December 2020, over \$207,000 has been raised to complete the new camp dining hall, which is projected to be completed by April 2021.
- In 2020, a total of 43 campers completed virtual 4-H Camp, earning a commemorative headband.
- Over 20 4-H'ers attended virtual state camps or events.
- Received a \$5,700 grant to develop a hands-on woodworking shop at the camp to facilitate new skills among 4-H'ers and other educational activities.

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs

- Over 500 youths were active members across 20 community 4-H clubs and 12 Cloverbud clubs (mostly in a virtual setting).

- 63 adult volunteers were fully vetted following WVU Extension Service policies and procedures.
- 12 Mason County youths completed the ATV Riders Certification Course, a program that promotes safe and responsible use of ATVs in order to reduce the number of accidents and injuries that might occur.
- A total of 11 adult and youth members and volunteers were inducted into the West Virginia 4-H All-Stars, an organization that recognizes outstanding leadership and service to the WV 4-H program.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Youth Agriculture

- Nearly 200 4-H members and FFA members took part in the Mason County Youth Livestock Show and Sale in 2020, generating over \$407,000, the majority of which went directly to the youth exhibitors.
- More than 250 projects were exhibited and showcased virtually at the local level.
- 66 Blue Rosette projects were showcased on the State Virtual Exhibit site.
- Two of those entries won Best of Show.
- 4-H members created over 84 native bee habitats that were distributed across Putnam and Mason counties.

Producer Outreach and Training

- As Mason County producers compete in local food markets, more of the food dollar stays in the county or in West Virginia. In addition, buying local, fresh produce has benefits related to healthy eating and nutrition.
- In 2020, over 1,500 acres of land were tested for soil fertility across 20 different types of crops.
- Putnam and Mason counties have contributed over 76 CEUs (764 contact hours) in agriculture and natural resources programming to West Virginia producers.
- Programming from the agriculture and natural resources unit in Putnam and Mason counties provided over 650 CEUs for pesticide, nutrient management and crop management certifications.
- The Southern Bull Test generated \$181,750 to local producers through the sale of 37 bulls and 41 heifers.

Families and Health

Community Educational Outreach Service

- 83 members served the Mason County community through six different Community Educational Outreach Service clubs.
- Despite the pandemic, CEOS members reported 4,625 community service hours, which can be translated to more than \$106,000 in value to the community.