Mason County Annual Report 2019

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 thanks to the tremendous support of our community members, local organizations, volunteers and local partners – the Board of Education and County Commission.

4-H/Youth Development

Activities:

Camping
- $200,000 raised to complete new camp dining hall. The dining hall is projected to be complete by May 2020.
- 183 campers attended a 4-H and Cloverbud camps in Mason County.
- 20 fully vetted 4-H volunteers served as camp counselors and eight teen leaders served as junior counselors at younger camp.
- 40+ 4-H’ers attended a state camp or event.

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs
- More than 500 youths were active members in one of 20 community 4-H clubs and/or 12 Cloverbud Clubs.
- 63 adult volunteers were fully vetted following WVU Extension Service policies and procedures.

School-Based Programming and Clubs
- 1,600 youths participated in school enrichment programs which included hands-on, educational lessons related to STEM, healthy living, citizenship and animal sciences and agriculture.
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Youth Agriculture

• Nearly 600 4-H members, 4-H Cloverbuds and FFA members took part in the Mason County Fair. More than 834 projects were exhibited including 311 livestock projects resulting in $4,000+ in ribbon premiums.
• Livestock sale generated over $451,000, the vast majority of which went directly to the youth exhibitors.
• 4-H members created more than 45 pollinator habitats that were distributed across Putnam and Mason counties.
• Mason County Junior and Senior 4-H Teams placed 14th and 20th at the Stockman’s Contest at the 2019 West Virginia Beef Expo.
• As Mason County producers compete in local food markets, more of the food dollars stay in the county or in West Virginia. In addition, buying local, fresh produce has direct benefits related to healthy eating and nutrition.
• Six producers received the Beef Quality Assurance certification.
• More than 2,700 acres of land was tested for soil fertility across 20 different types of crops.
• Putnam and Mason counties contributed 116+ continuing education credits (1,157 contact hours) in ANR programming to state producers.
• Programming from the ANR unit in Putnam and Mason counties provided 250 hours for pesticide training and 29 hours in nutrient management to West Virginia producers.
• Southern Bull Test generated $147,000 to local producers through the sale of 33 bulls and 43 heifers.

Families and Health

• 83 members participated in six different Community Educational Outreach Service clubs.
• 9,000 community service hours, valued at more than $200,000, were provided to the community.
• Mason County CEOS members continue to promote Breast Cancer awareness by sponsoring a “Walk for Women.” Nearly $4,000 was raised for the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Fund, which directly benefits women in Mason County who are uninsured and underinsured.