Summers County Annual Report 2018

Putting Knowledge to Work!

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

Highlights

4-H and Youth Development (Lesley Woodrum)

Camping

- 143 attended Summers County 4-H Camp
- 18 attended Cloverbud Day
- Youths attended state events, including Young Adult Conference, Dance Weekend, Teen Leader Weekend, Older Members’ Conference, Alpha I and Alpha II
- Served as co-director of Young Adult Conference at Jackson’s Mill
- Attended Mercer County 4-H Camp as additional faculty support for county program
- More than 35 adults are now fully vetted following the mandates of WVU Extension Service, as well as 17 4-H members ages 18-21
- $5,000 in grant funding from the United Way of Southern West Virginia for camp scholarships and funding

4-H Teaching and Service Opportunities

- The Germ Stops Here
- Get a Life program
- Ice Cream in a Bag
- Camp Counselor Training
- Rethink Your Drink
- Bicycle Safety
- Expect the Unexpected
- 4-H Fit Happens
- 4-H Winter Wonderland/Achievement Day – 50 in attendance
Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs

• Six 4-H clubs
• One Cloverbud Club
• 28 blue ribbon projects
• One red ribbon and four white ribbons were awarded in the poster contest and one ribbon was awarded in the dairy poster contest.

Energy Express

• Site served 40 youths, with the majority maintained or increased their literacy levels
• 3,909 total meals served
• $750 grant from Hinton Area Foundation for Energy Express

Other Responsibilities and Memberships

• Chair of Youth Literacy Team for WVU Extension Service
• REACHH Family Resource Center Board of Directors
• Family Resource Network
• Summers County Program Coordinator
• West Virginia Association of Extension 4-H Agents
• National Association of Extension 4-H Agents
• Epsilon Sigma Phi

Research

• Project lead on new 4-H Reading Rocks! project book
• Authored two healthy living skill-a-thons
• Authored two Parent Express fact sheets, an online resource for parents and adults that provides literacy information and reading help
• Co-PI on new research article, *Perceptions on Out of School Time and Why Some Choose to Not Participate*
• Lead author, *The Impact of Service in College on Service Later in Life*

Agriculture and Natural Resources (David Richmond)

As Summers County producers compete in local food markets, more of the food dollar stays in the county helping the local economy as well as the agricultural producers. In addition, buying local, fresh produce has benefits related to healthy eating and nutrition while at the same time promoting sustainable agriculture.

Highlights and Outcomes

• 500 soil tests were taken and interpreted as a management tool in order to increase yields on more than 10,000 acres in Summers County.
More than 100 pesticide recommendations were made as a means to increase yields of agriculture products while at the same time educating the producers and public on the proper use of pesticides.  
  - 6 producers obtained their Private Applicator License in 2018 bringing the number to 61 in Summers County  
  - 2 pesticide education classes were conducted to serve as an educational vehicle

Average of nine producers participated in the local farmers market, which generates approximately $30,000 in sales that is returned to producers and the local economy.

Southern West Virginia Young Sire and Heifer Evaluation  
- Evaluated 95 bulls and 82 heifers  
- Provided research data back to producers  
- Worked with local producers in sire selection  
- Introduced bulls into county herds  
- Hosting program on using EPDs for Sire Selection  
- Completed research on parasite resistance to dewormers  
- Program continues in 201

Master Gardener Program  
- Served as advisor for New River Master Gardeners  
- Instruct additional program in horticultural arena  
- Conducted series of workshops for horticultural producers  
- New River Master Gardeners completed 1,000 + hours of volunteer service in the area

Farmers Market  
- Active markets in both Raleigh and Summers counties  
- Serve as advisor and trainer for the markets  
- Continue to work to increase producers  
- Serve as area trainer for the Senior/WIC Market Coupon Program  
- Conduct multi-county trainings on signage and market operations

Pesticide Training  
- Conducted three pesticide training workshops for private applicators  
- 110 applicators received recertification hours

Winter Dinner Meeting Educational Series  
- Each year, host three, free dinner meetings on various agricultural topics  
- Provided meals and coordinated speakers from all over nation to present  
- Served as speaker at other dinner locations within the state

Cooperative Calf Pools  
- Currently pooling cattle together for marketing (8th year this has been done)  
- Will capitalize on enhanced management and receive premiums  
- Market through 50,000 lbs. lots.; sold five lots this year  
- Multi-county project to increase profits

Raleigh County Program Coordinator  
- Handled day-to-day operations of county office  
- Responsible for local budget and funding sources  
- Supervised office staff
Ongoing Projects:

- Beckley Uptown Farmers Market
- Summers County Tailgate Market
- Summers County Farmland Preservation
- Southern Conservation District Grassland Committee
- Educational Series: “Management Decisions for the Future”
- Weed Wiper Demonstrations
- BQA Certification
- Master Gardener Program
- Extended Grazing and Pasture Management
- Extended Grazing Research Project

Family and Community Development (Victoria Cox, Lesley Woodrum and Rick Moorefield)

Family Nutrition Program (Victoria Cox)

School-based Programs

- Show Me Nutrition
  - Completed a six to eight-week nutrition education program with 3rd through 5th grade students in all Summers County and Monroe County schools (693 participants).

- Smarter Lunchrooms
  - Hinton Area Elementary completed the post scorecard assessment and increased their scorecard total from 34 to 42.

- Walking Programs
  - Talcott Elementary students and teachers competed in a six-week walking challenge.
  - Talcott Elementary (19 participants) and Summers Middle School (44 participants) formed walking clubs.

- Rethink Your Drink
  - All Hinton Area Elementary students had the opportunity to try fruit infused water during the HAE Color Run.

Community Based Programs

- Show Me Nutrition
  - Completed a six- to eight-week nutrition education program with participants of REACHH’s Summer Fun Program.

- Rethink Your Drink
  - Summers County and Monroe County 4-H participated in a week-long Rethink Your Drink Program during their 4-H camps.
One-time Rethink Your Drink Events were provided at: REACHH After School, REACHH Summer Fun, Energy Express Parent Night, State Fair of West Virginia, Sprouting Farms educational potlucks, Summers County Extension Heart Healthy Open House, REACHH Trunk or Treat and Summers County 4-H Winter Wonderland Event.

- Pop-Up Farmers Markets
  - Participants of REACHH Summer Fun, Energy Express and STEM Camp received $4.00 to purchase produce at a pop-up farmers market held at Hinton Area Elementary.
  - Partnered with Keys 4 Healthy Kids to provide a pop-up market for participants of the Monroe Daycare and the Monroe County Food Pantry.

Upcoming:

- Hinton Area Elementary is currently participating in nutrition education classes. Talcott Elementary and Jumping Branch Elementary will begin in March.
- All elementary and middle schools in Summers and Monroe counties have signed up for the Smarter Lunchrooms Program and the WVU Food of the Month Program.

Various Workshops and Classes (Lesley Woodrum)

- Active for Life
- Eating a Rainbow
- Pop Up Farmers Market (in conjunction with Victoria Cox)
- Exercise
- Nutrition
- Heart Healthy Open House
- True Colors
- Say Yes to Saying No

Community Development/Tourism/Economic Development (Rick Moorefield)

- John Henry Historical Park Development
  - $5,000 in contributions and grant funds secured for maintenance and development
  - New promotional brochure developed, printed and distributed to visitors’ centers.
  - Stage addition completed
  - Site improvement/grading projects completed
  - New safety signage installed.
  - New Phase III educational kiosks installed

- Special Events Team established to facilitate the creation of new festivals and events in the county
- Summers County Planning Commission members received annual board training
• Members of the New River Gateway Convention & Visitors Bureau received annual board training

• A new strategic plan was developed for the New River Gateway Convention & Visitors Bureau

• 43 county residents received training in emergency preparedness basics

• Members of the Summers County High School senior class were presented the West Virginia State Treasurers Office’s “Get a Life” program aimed at developing new financial life skills