

Summers County Annual Report 2020

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

- Over 4,200 seed packets, healthy living activity packets and STEM kits were provided to Summers County residents.
- Over 4,800 contacts through courses and programs offered to youths and adults in Summers, Raleigh and Monroe counties.
- Continued community outreach despite COVID-19 restrictions.

4-H/Youth Development

Camping

- 48 youths participated in camp activities – Summers County 4-H Camp URLinked and Cloverbuds.
- 13 fully vetted camp staff also participated in camp-related programming.

Youth Teaching Opportunities

- Taught Germ Stops Here lesson at Head Start to 56 participants.
- Led virtual programming for 1,395 participants, covering a variety of programs and topics, including: Fun Day Friday, virtual project workshops (such as news reporting, news photography, creative writing, first aid and literacy service project) and Cloverbud Clubs, among others.

4-H Programming and Clubs

- Youths participated in 4-H clubs, 4-H activity bags, project roundup and poster contest with three blue ribbon projects, four photo exhibits, one writing exhibit and three poster contest winners.

COVID-19 Outreach Activities

- Distributed over 900 STEM activity kits through virtual camp programming, Board of Education food distribution and Summers County schools.

- Started Fun Day Friday, a video series shared through the county's private 4-H Facebook group with 85 members based on the three 4-H mission mandates.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Southern West Virginia Young Sire & Heifer Evaluation

- Evaluated 95 bulls and 82 heifers, which provided research data back to producers and generated \$159,650.00 in total sales.

Master Gardener Program

- Advised members of the New River Master Gardener Association, which completed 1,000+ hours of volunteer service in the area.

Farmers Market

- Served as advisor and trainer for active markets in both Raleigh and Summers counties, which provides local farmers a way to sell produce and allows residents to purchase local, healthy food.

Pesticide Training

- Conducted three pesticide training workshops for private applicators, where 110 applicators received recertification hours, including three new applicators.

Families and Health

COVID-19 Healthy Living Outreach

- Promoted the Summers County Stay Healthy Challenges – Healthy Living Daily Challenges (541 reported being completed) and Walking Challenge (6,216,859 steps reported).
- Distributed over 1,600 health activity kits through virtual camp, BOE food distribution, schools and Monroe Daycare.

Family Nutrition Program

- More than 2,500 students in Summers and Monroe counties students were reached through various school-based programming:
 - Show Me Nutrition is a six-week nutrition program offered to third through fifth grade students.
 - Introduced students to new foods through the WV Food of the Month program.
 - The Grow This: WV Garden Challenge provided Summers County students with microgreen kits to grow.
- More than 700 community members in Summers and Monroe counties were reached through community-based programs:
 - The Grow This: WV Garden Challenge distributed more than 1,700 packets of seeds to participants in Summers and Monroe counties.
 - Recipe and wellness videos were created to be used on social media and with virtual programming.

Health and Wellness Workshops and Classes

- Reached 78 people through in-person programming, including Active for Life at Summers County Senior Citizen Center, Healthy Grand Families and a foster parent support group class on communication.

Community and Economic Development

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John Henry Historical Park

- Obtained a \$25,000 park development grant from the National Coal Heritage Area Authority.
- Provided leadership for volunteers who completed 627 service hours with a local match value of \$13,276.20.
- Generated over \$7,000 in additional cash and in-kind contributions.
- Provided support for a History Channel film crew producing a program featuring John Henry legend.

City of Hinton Waterfront Development

- Provided conceptual plan for development of Hinton Landing on the New River and served as member of project steering committee.

Water Harvesting

- Compiled and distributed resources to local farmers on water conservation during drought conditions.

Regional Tourism Development

- Conducted data input and analysis for New River Gorge Tourism Asset Survey to improve and increase tourism in southern West Virginia.