Fayette 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 Fayette 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

- Nearly 140 youths attended 4-H camp in Fayette County and nearly 250 young people were members of a county 4-H club.
- The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation provided a grant to support a summer STEM ambassador for the county. This college student served 450 hours to Fayette County youths, providing summer STEM activities. These activities ranged from regular programs at all Fayette County public libraries to a week-long Science in the Kitchen day camp.

4-H and Youth Development

4-H Camps, Programming and Clubs

- 139 youths attended Fayette County 4-H Camp.
- 247 youths were members of a 4-H club.
- 21 4-H’ers attended a state 4-H camp.
- 80 volunteers helped make these programs possible.

Energy Express

Children living in low-income homes and rural communities have been found to have lower vocabulary levels when they enter school and continue to be behind other children throughout their school years. Children who participated in Energy Express in our county, and who read and practice reading skills in the summer, will enter the new school year better prepared. The better prepared students are to learn, the more likely they will graduate from high school and pursue college training. In Fayette County, the Energy Express program provided:

- 60 kindergarten through 5th grade students were provided a safe, positive place under the supervision of a caring adult for six weeks this summer.
- The Energy Express program provided 3,548 meals to youths ages 18 and younger.
- 84 youths and adults volunteered 1,617 hours to Energy Express.
- 12 college student AmeriCorps Members and two site supervisors had life-changing summer employment.
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Master Gardener Program

- More than 1,471 volunteer hours have been registered from the 25 master gardeners with a value given back to the community of $35,320. Volunteers completed a number of service projects, including a providing weekly article called “Bette’s Bed, the Good Bug Bad Bug,” hosting workshops at 4-H camp, creating therapeutic gardens at the Hospice House and teaching various horticulture classes.

Youth Agriculture

- Agriculture in West Virginia was presented to 65 fourth grade students in Fayette County. The project was collaboration between Fayette County Farm Bureau and WVU Extension Service to educate youth about the agriculture industry in WV. The impact was demonstrated by 30% of 4th grade students increased knowledge by 20% or greater about agricultural products that are important in West Virginia and how a farm really works.

Pesticide Education

- Responded to 150 requests for information regarding pesticide use.
- Four new applicants applied for private applicator license.
- Trained 20 participants in recertification of private applicator licenses.
- Grew 11 tomato varieties in a high tunnel with no pesticide use. Yields were not affected.

Family and Community Development

- Selected as one of eight cohorts for the National Academy for the Public’s Health, a program of the Center for Disease Control. The Fayette County Team of Living Well members, was chosen to provide professional development, coaching and resources to address the River Cities trail project.
- As a result of the Living Well Workgroup, the regional development authority and Active Southern West Virginia have formed the New River Gorge Regional Health Alliance.
- Headed effort Fayette County Communications Network – headed effort to create a county-wide social service network and information center. But based upon this effort the regional United Way expanded and improved the 211 service to serve the same needs.
- Served on the Fayette County Food Access Summit Steering Committee.
- Provided agriculture training to 11 Fayette County teachers, including curricula and materials for the classroom curricula. These materials are currently being implemented in the schools.