

Fayette 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 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

- The Energy Express Program provided Fayette County youths with 330 books and 1,800 meals, which were delivered to households.
- More than 1,310 volunteer hours were registered from 25 Master Gardeners with a value given back to the community of \$33,346.72.
- Partnered with regional stakeholders to develop a shared tourism-focused economic and community development recreation vision across counties and towns to improve social, ecological and economic health and vitality of the New River Gorge region.
- Partnered with Keys 4 Healthy Kids to develop and provide Steps 4 Stronger Families, a community collaborative approach to children's health. As part of the collaborative, Teen Cuisine was taught to families in 12 weeks of online sessions.

4-H/Youth Development

Camping

- 20 youths and 8 vetted volunteers participated in Fayette County 4-H CampURL, with 17 participants attending/completing enough activities to qualify for the reward incentive.
- A \$500 grant from the United Way of Southern West Virginia provided each registered participant with a "Camp in a Box" full of free materials.

Programming and Clubs

- 37 youths and 6 vetted volunteers attended the 2020 West Virginia Day at the Legislature, where Fayette County had the largest county delegation.

- 52 youths participated the Fayette County 4-H Round Up, which displayed entries for the state photo, poster and writing contests.
- 5 youths completed 4-H projects; 3 projects were sent to the state fair.
- 3 youths participated in statewide virtual project workshops.
- 111 youths were registered in ZSuites as 4-H members, belonging to one of the county's five clubs; 14 adult volunteers were registered in ZSuites.

Energy Express

- 55 youths were enrolled in Fayette County Energy Express between two sites; 8 AmeriCorps members and two site supervisors were employed.
- One site reported 100% attendance at all sessions.
- 330 books were distributed to youth participants.
- 1,800 meals were delivered to youth participants and their households.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Master Gardener Program

- An online statewide Master Gardener training was held twice a week for 10 weeks.
- 97 new Master Gardener trainees from eight counties completed the online training program: Cabell, New River (Nicholas, Fayette, Raleigh, Summers), Hampshire, Hancock, Marion, Ohio, Preston and Roane counties.
- By opening class to all active Master Gardeners, 994 attendees were able to earn volunteer hours to keep their active status and in turn, help WVU Extension Service disseminate science-based horticulture information through outreach in their respective communities.
- Pre- and post-test results showed a 11% increase in knowledge.
- The local New River Master Gardener volunteers logged more than 1,310 hours of volunteer time with a value of \$33,346.72.

West Virginia Farmer Market Nutrition Program Training

- Two virtual trainings were conducted for farmers to participate in the West Virginia Senior Farmers Market Program and the Woman Infants and Children Farmers Market Nutrition Program, allowing them to accept coupons from seniors and WIC participants for fresh fruits and vegetables. The monetary value of \$1 million that this program puts into the state will be accessible to these producers.
- Fayette County had a redemption rate of 58% for a value of \$11,600.

Consultations

- Phone call and email questions were handled dealing with pest management in yards, gardens, ponds and grasslands, soil test interpretations, gardening and lawn variety recommendations.

Cooperative Cattle Marketing Program

- In Nicholas and Fayette counties small farmers have difficulty marketing their products, because they lack the critical mass required for many marketing strategies. A calf pool marketing group was established in the two counties and has been in existence for 16 years.
- This year, the group marketed \$122,763 of calves in the month of October.

Family and Community Development

Community and Economic Development

- Provided subject matter expertise and education support for Moving Ahead Together Summersville to draft a comprehensive plan for city leadership (Planning and Zoning Commission, City Council and others).
- Helped develop a public engagement plan for the city and developed an implementation plan for Summersville Lake tourism-oriented economic development.
- Partnered with regional stakeholders to develop a shared tourism-focused economic and community development recreation vision across counties and towns to improve social, ecological and economic health and vitality of the New River Gorge region.

Financial Literacy

- Led the beginning development stages of a statewide financial literacy education program for people of all ages.

Family Support, Wellness and Substance Use Prevention

- Together with Active Southern West Virginia and West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, recruited and trained 18 local work sites, including City of Summersville, Nicholas County Community Action, City of Oak Hill and the Town of Fayetteville, to participate in the Center for Disease Control Work@Health program. Participants created individualized, data- and resource-supported work site wellness programs to improve productivity, reduce costs and influence community health.

Family Nutrition Program

- Partnered with Keys 4 Healthy Kids to develop and provide Steps 4 Stronger Families, a community collaborative approach to children's health. As part of the collaborative, Teen Cuisine was taught to families in 12 weeks of online sessions.
- Assisted with the virtual 4-H camp to teach youths about hydroponic gardening and how to make homemade bread.
- Assisted the Fayette County Farmers Market with grant writing to receive \$3,000 to upgrade the structure in Oak Hill.
- Assisted the city of Smithers with starting a First Friday Farmers Market.
- Received a \$2,000 grant from the Master Gardeners Association to build community gardens. The first will be built in Smithers.

- Reworked curricula and recorded video lessons and cooking demonstrations to be used in virtual classes throughout the state.