

# Wayne 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 Wayne 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

- 1,718 youths reached through school enrichment, community clubs and virtual programs
- 1,200 WVU Extension Service Garden Calendars were distributed
- 325 4-H projects were completed and featured in virtual exhibitions at the county and state levels
- 195 soil test results disseminated to Wayne County residents
- More than 100 adults participated in Gardening 101 educational workshops

## 4-H/Youth Development

#### Camping

• 124 youths participated in virtual camp programs. Registered youth received kits complete with activities to do at home, along with details to engage in daily online activities with faculty and staff. Three weeks of virtual camps were conducted.

#### **Energy Express**

• 119 youths registered for the virtual Energy Express program conducted in June and July. Three site supervisors and 22 mentors (primarily college students) were hired to support this literacy and nutrition program for youths in Wayne County. 2,894 meals (breakfast and lunch) were served to youths enrolled in the program.

#### 4-H School-based Programs

- 1,528 youths participated in school-based programs in STEM, Healthy Living and Citizenship programs. Notable programs conducted virtually or using kits, unless otherwise noted, include:
  - Computer Science (CS) First with 4th and 5th graders at Buffalo Elementary
  - West Virginia Know Your State (history, agriculture, economy, etc.) with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at C-K Elementary, Fort Gay PrK-8, Prichard Elementary, Crum PrK-8 and Lavalette Elementary
  - Digital Citizenship with 7<sup>th</sup> graders at Wayne Middle School (in-person before the pandemic)

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- Litter Education with 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Vinson Middle School (in-person before the pandemic)
- Global Education lessons with 7<sup>th</sup> graders at Wayne Middle School (in-person before the pandemic)
- Engineering Science with Dunlow Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders (in-person before the pandemic)
- Engineering Science with Crum PrK-8 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders (in-person before the pandemic)

### Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs

- The county has six traditional community clubs. In-person club meetings were suspended for much of last year due to the pandemic. The county 4-H program pivoted to a county-wide virtual club meeting held monthly with online and at-home activities for youths. Additional programs conducted to keep youths engaged include:
  - o 22 youths participated county-wide 4-H challenges focused on nature, upcycling and food.
  - Picture This Wayne County was created in partnership with Robert Thompson, local author and historian, to engage members in places of local interest throughout the county. Seven youths engaged in the program submitting more than 50 photos of 15 different places of interest in Wayne County. Visit <a href="https://padlet.com/julietritz1/picturethiswaynecounty">https://padlet.com/julietritz1/picturethiswaynecounty</a> to see places visited.
  - The 4-H Ambassadors secured a grant and built a Kindness Rock Garden, featuring beautifully painted rocks. The garden is located just outside of the WVU Extension Service office. By the end of 2020, the Kindness Rock Garden featured more than 50 rocks painted by 4-H members.
  - o 60 4-H members received a 4-H Welcome Kit in November 2020 filled with at-home activities, as well as 4-H facemask and hand sanitizer.
  - The newest 4-H club, International Travel 4-H Club (consisting of 11 members), has met virtually since March. Youths choose a different country each month, identify and make a recipe from that country, and speak about it during their monthly meeting. The club has travelled virtually to China, Ireland, Russia, Kenya, the Caribbean, Belgium, Switzerland and Egypt.

## Agriculture and Natural Resources

#### Youth Agriculture

Provided all six middle school principals with information for students to complete the ATV
Safety Institute E-course when schools closed. It is unknown how many completed the ATV
Safety Institute E-course since it is administered at the national level. Taught virtual project
workshops on record keeping, poultry and rabbit 4-H projects reaching more than 70 youths
combined.

#### Soil Samples

• Disseminated 195 soil test results to individuals throughout the county.

#### Garden Calendars

Distributed 1,200 garden calendars throughout the county.

#### **Educational Workshops**

- Workshops were held on the following topics:
  - Gardening 101 reached 8 in-person attendees and 100 virtual attendees.

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- o Mid-Ohio Valley Ag Zoom Pesticide Trainings reached 30 adults.
- The Wayne County Cattlemen had several in-person meetings with educational programs reaching more than 50 farmers combined.
- The Bitter on Litter program for senior centers reached more than 200 seniors.

#### Research Garden

- Cucurbit downy mildew research garden involved growing six varieties to include: Silver Slicer Cucumbers, Kabocha Squash, Thunder Acorn Squash, Butternut Squash, Cantaloupe and Watermelon.
- Harvested three bushels of cucumbers, one bushel of cantaloupe, one bushel of acorn squash, ½ bushel of butter and kabocha squash. All produce was donated to participants in the Grow Wayne County program, as well as Extension Service volunteers.

### Families and Health

### Family Nutrition Program

- NEAT, Teen Cuisine and Eating Smart Being Active are research-based curricula developed to target low-income adults and at-risk youths. Programs were conducted at Playmates Child Care Centers, Starlight Behavioral Health, Tolsia High School, Spring Valley High School, Genoa Elementary School, Marie's House Women's Recovery Center, Wayne County Head Starts and county 4-H virtual camps. Combined these programs reached 850 youths.
- Public health initiatives conducted include Grow Appalachia, Nourishing Networks, Learn Grow Eat Go, Grow This West Virginia Garden Challenge, Food of the Month and Marie's House Recovery Garden at Wayne United Methodist Church. Combined these programs reached 1,800 adults and youths.

#### Community Educational Outreach Service

• 16 CEOS members continued to engage in virtual meetings and community service projects despite the pandemic. Notable projects include held breast cancer awareness event at the Wayne County Courthouse, made 17 baby quilts for the annual Community Baby Show, held several in-person educational workshops (before the pandemic), supported Little Free Libraries throughout the county, conducted a Virtual Garden Showcase in August and September showcasing produce grown by Wayne County residents, conducted a Virtual Quilt and Fiber Showcase last fall showcasing quilts and other items made by CEOS members, started a virtual CEOS monthly book club discussion group and started a monthly electronic CEOS newsletter for members.

#### Senior Centers

- Conducted educational workshops at the Wayne County senior centers in January and February. In August, we resumed our partnership with the senior centers by delivering educational resources for the center directors to distribute via meal pick-up and delivery.
- In January and February, we reached more than 200 seniors each month with in-person programs. The topics covered include:
  - Brain Basics (January)
  - Hydrate and Nourish Your Brain (February)

From August through December, we reached more than 300 seniors each monthly via delivery of educational handouts on the following topics:

- Household Cleaning Products (August)
- West Virginia State Parks (September)

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- How Glass Molded West Virginia (October)
- WVU Extension Garden Calendars (November December)

## Community Development/Tourism/Economic Development

### Partnership with the Small Business Administration

• Kimberly Donahue with the Small Business Administration continued monthly office hours in the Wayne County Extension Service office in January, February and March 2020 to meet with small business owners to answer questions. This was discontinued once the pandemic hit.