Wayne County Annual Report 2019

Putting Knowledge to Work!

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

Highlights

- Four successful Energy Express sites were implemented in Wayne County. Over 184 children participated in the six-week program. Local funding matches were secured for each site, which allowed the program to be offered at more sites and provided nearly $30,000 in financial support.
- Nearly 2,500 youths participated in an in-school enrichment program provided through the Wayne County 4-H program.
- More than 1,200 WVU Extension Service Garden Calendars were distributed throughout the county, providing agricultural education and information.
- Wayne County Community Educational Outreach Service members invested over 500 hours of community service toward various causes and efforts throughout the county and region.

4-H/Youth Development

The Wayne County 4-H program reached 2,697 youths during the 2018-19 year. These youths received one or more hours of instruction via after-school activities, in-school enrichment, 4-H team judging practices or 4-H camp.

Camping

- In 2019, 117 campers attended 4-H camp in Wayne County. There were 43 older campers (ages 13 to 21), 55 younger campers (ages 9 to 12) and 19 day campers (ages 5 to 8).
- A total of $698 in scholarships was provided by businesses, 4-H clubs and individual donors to be awarded to low income youths.
- 28 fully vetted 4-H volunteers served as camp staff during the three weeks of camp.
- Eight teens were selected as teen counselors at younger camp, and five teens were selected to serve as teen counselors at day camp.

In-school Enrichment

- Over 2,000 youths participated in a school enrichment program provided through the Wayne County 4-H program. Programming includes hands-on, educational lessons related to STEM, agriculture, healthy living and citizenship.

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs
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- Wayne County 4-H has a total of five community clubs. Two are special interests clubs – horse and livestock and shooting sports.

- 267 4-H project exhibits were shown at the Wayne County Fair. Eight animals were shown at the Wayne County Fair. Total livestock sales were $7,400.

- The 4-H shooting sports program participated in the State Air Rifle Competition. Two Wayne County youths placed in the top four and represented West Virginia at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Competition.

- Eleven youths engaged in a four-week international cooking class, which included preparing a variety of dishes from four different countries.

**Energy Express**

- Four successful sites served the following Wayne County communities: Crum, Ceredo-Kenova, Buffalo, East Lynn and Fort Gay. Over 184 children participated in the four sites. In total, 131 youths attended at least 50% of the program days.

- A 30% local funding match was secured for each site to offer the program at four sites in the county, totaling $29,196 in support.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**In-school Enrichment**

- In-school enrichment reached a total of 400 youths last year. Topics included hands-on learning related to gardening, pollinators and other agriculture-related content.

**Youth Contest Achievements**

- Eight Wayne County contestants competed in the West Virginia Stockmen’s Contest. The junior team finished 8th overall.

- Six contestants competed in the West Virginia Forestry Contest. They placed 1st and 2nd overall in the team division.

- 12 contestants competed in the West Virginia Beef Quiz Bowl. The senior team placed 4th, and the junior teams placed 9th and 17th respectively.

**Educational Workshops**

- Led educational workshops on the following topics – small ruminants and farmers market training (voucher program).

**Other Outreach**

- Disseminated 149 soil test results to Wayne County residents.

- Distributed over 1,200 garden calendars to residents throughout the county.

**Families and Community Development**

**Family Nutrition Program**

- NEAT, Teen Cuisine and Eating Smart Being Active are research-based curricula developed to target low-income adults and at-risk youth. These courses were taught at locations around the county, including Starlight Behavioral Health, three Wayne County schools, Marie’s House Women’s Recovery and Wayne County 4-H camp, among others.

- Public health initiatives conducted last year included Grow Appalachia; Nourishing Networks; Learn, Grow, Eat, Go; and the Marie’s House Recovery Garden.

**Community Educational Outreach Service**
Three Wayne County CEOS clubs conducted a variety of community service projects over the past year, including making comfort items for area hospitals and care centers, teaching crocheting to women in recovery, collecting items for Energy Express and beautifying flower beds in Wayne.

Wayne County CEOS members also led educational trainings that covered pinecone gardens, making elderberry syrup, and using sage and other herb oils, for the community.

**Small Business Development**

- Partnered with the U.S. Small Business Administration to encourage new businesses in the area. Regional SBA representative held monthly office hours in the Wayne County WVU Extension Service office to provide business owners with easy access to information and resources.
- Organized a Small Business Saturday event in mid-November to highlight Wayne County small businesses with the holiday shopping season starting later that month.