

# Clay 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 Clay 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

- Organization Remoted youth development activities were organized.
- The New Elk River State Parks Foundation established leadership.
- CDC obesity prevention grant continued to change community outlook on healthy lifestyles.
- The virtual presence of WVU Extension programming was strengthened.

## 4-H/Youth Development

- 22 youths participated in 4-H Camp URLinked.
- Garden seeds were distributed to all 4-H members.

## Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Soil testing was continued.
- Agents worked to help identify pest and diseases in the local community. Pest and disease identification
- Agents provided pruning and landscape information and guidance to members of the community.
- Beginning gardener series videos were recorded for continued education in the community.
- New river accesses complimented tourism for countywide tourism efforts.

## Families and Health

### *Be Wild, Be Wonderful, Be Healthy Project*

- 6 mini grants in Clay County
  - Risen Lord Catholic Church made upgrades to storage and funding of the purchase of foods for the pantry to distribute

- Deliciously Vivid was a geocaching course in partnership with the Clay County Library.
  - Clay County Park has a disc golf course.
  - Clay County Board of Health created a walking path in downtown Clay.
  - Clay County Business Development Authority received a pocket park in Two Run with basketball court, shade structures and picnic tables
  - Elk River Trail System added six exercise stations along the trail between Dundon and Pisgah bridges
- A partnership with with Mountaineer Food Bank provided pop-up farmers markets at four elementary schools and provided healthy foods to 895 students in the county

### *Kinship Care Program*

- The program was delivered to families at Big Otter Elementary School prior to COVID-19.
  - Modules helped families to communicate better with each other, improved family relationships and eased financial burdens by providing resources and legal information to help families obtain benefits available to them.
- After in-person programming was paused, our coalition supported these families by distributing \$1,300 in grant funding for school supplies and holiday needs.

## **Community Development/Tourism/Economic Development**

- Elk River Trail Towns program provides continuity along the Elk River Corridor's tourism efforts.
- Voice at the Elk River Trails State Park Foundation Meeting
- Provided critical input to the ERTF Planning Committee.
- \$238,000 from WVU Foundation funded a shell building for auxiliary practice courts in downtown Clay.