Monongalia County Annual Report 2018

Putting Knowledge to Work!

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 Monongalia 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

- Employees and WVU faculty members of the Monongalia County Extension Service are excited about the construction of the new Monongalia County Extension Service Complex and 4-H Center at Mylan Park. This complex will provide the opportunity for additional programming for our local community members and youth.

- Monongalia County was one of six counties who was randomly selected to take part in a USDA Civil Rights’ review. The 4-H program was reviewed and, although official results are forthcoming, reviewers indicated that program reaches a variety of demographics and young people throughout the county and youths from a variety of backgrounds who are involved in 4-H events.

4-H and Youth Development

Activities and Highlights:

- In 2018, 7,334 youths were served by the Monongalia County 4-H program. More than 4,100 youths participated in afterschool programs; 2,430 youths participated in special interest programs; 332 young people participated in camps; and 298 youths enrolled in a 4-H community club. These numbers represent the highest number of youths reached in any county in West Virginia. Additionally, 105 individuals completed the volunteer vetting to be acknowledged as 4-H volunteers in Monongalia County, and 79 volunteers assisted with 4-H camps in 2018 (both teen and adult).

- A $5,450 WVU internal Community Engagement grant was secured by Agent Becca Fint-Clark to purchase supplies for a new statewide 4-H financial literacy program called “moonjars.” This program has been implemented with 145 fourth graders in Monongalia County to date, and Becca has trained and supplied 10 other 4-H agents throughout the state on how to implement the program within their counties.

- Club leaders completed the club chartering process. A total of 10 community clubs, two special interest clubs (air rifle and shotgun), and one teen leader organization are chartered in Monongalia
County. One new club, the Suncrest 4-H Club, started in 2018 and includes three new volunteers and 55 new members. This past year, an archery club was started to enhance offerings for young people. This club has 15 members, and volunteers are provided with resources, training and opportunities within the county 4-H program.

- Three successful week-long 4-H camps were held at Camp Muffly with a total of 332 campers (108 older campers – 7th grade through age 21; 44 day campers – kindergarten through second grade; and 180 younger campers – third through seventh grade). A total of $5,250 in scholarships were provided by businesses, 4-H clubs, and individual donors to support low-income youths attending camp. Students from every school in Monongalia County attended the camps. Demographic data from the Monongalia County 4-H Camp shows that participants included youth from varying socioeconomic, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

- Three sites for Energy Express (Mason Dixon, Mylan Park and Skyview) were offered to youths from the county, including those from rural and low-income backgrounds. A 30% local match ($7,774) per site was secured to offer the program locally. Funding provided from the Board of Education, local organizations, businesses and the local 4-H program. A found object recruitment drive was held with many donations collected, sorted and provided to sites. Our office assisted with AmeriCorps member applications/interviews, and 15 individuals were selected to serve as AmeriCorps Members in Monongalia County, as well as three site supervisors. Ninety-six youths enrolled in the program and 87 volunteers served more than 1,089 hours. Demographic data includes youths from a variety of socioeconomic, racial and ethnic backgrounds participated in Energy Express.

- Our program recruited two teen teams to participate in the 4-H National Youth Science Challenge, hosted by Google, national 4-H and WVU Extension Service focusing on the theme “Code Your World.” Teens attended National Maker Summit and were challenged to teach the “Code Your World” activities within the community. Agent Fint-Clark Served as their coach and assisted them during the times they taught afterschool, with Girl Scouts and with local 4-H community clubs. Also, met with Googler virtually to help plan NYSD events.

- Agent Fint-Clark was a member of the team who authored the new “Know Your State” 4-H project book, available to youths throughout the state to learn more about West Virginia. She also co-authored two journal articles which are currently under review; completed three peer-reviewed presentations at the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Conference in 2018; and one peer-reviewed presentation at the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Conference.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**Activities and Highlights:**

- With the construction of the new $3 million agricultural complex, Agent H.R. Scott has devoted considerable hours working with the collaborators toward project completion. Being an agent in the county where WVU is located has presented a variety of opportunities to provide support to
statewide youth agricultural programming, working with various student interns and other WVU colleagues to collaborate on projects and programs.

- Agent Scott also has dedicated time to many groups and organizations and has constantly sought out partnerships and collaborations to expand agriculture and natural resources programming in the county. He provides monthly newspaper articles to inform county residents on timely agricultural topics. H.R. has implemented formal and informal teaching/outreach through county and state instruction for the Master Gardner program, provided quality assurance and nutrient balance of forages in livestock rations for beef producers; continued work with teachers and volunteers in the North Elementary garden-based learning program; and assisted with soil analysis interpretation.

- On average, more than 900 contacts have been made with clientele on soil analysis, insect identification and lawn and garden topics. The availability of the WVU Soils Lab for free soil testing, has been an economic benefit to the local community.

- A NE SARE research grant entitled *Obtaining Preventative Veterinarian Care in Underserved Areas* was introduced to beef cattle producers in North Central West Virginia during the winter of 2018. This beginning phase of the research project included conducting educational meetings along with surveys of farmers to gather baseline information on various components of their farming operations and veterinary care at the farm level.

- Monongalia County youths sold 16,814 pounds of beef; 3,248 pounds of lamb; 13,304 pounds of pork; 664 pounds of goat; 145 pounds of rabbit; and 88 pounds of poultry for a total of 34,263 pounds of meat which entered the food chain during the annual sales. The economic benefit to youths totaled $148,443.75 with $13,023.00 being donated back to community groups or 4-H/FFA organizations. This resulted in a **multiplier effect of $204,852.38 to the region (using the multiplier of 1.38, Daniel Eades, WVU Extension Specialist)**. The multiplier effect includes purchase of project animals, feed and animal health supplies, show equipment, veterinarian services, transportation costs, etc.

- For the 2017 year, sales at the downtown Morgantown Farmers Markets was $438,019.36 and Westover Farmers Market sales were estimated at $18,516 for a total of $456,535.36 in gross sales. Using the multiplier of 1.38, as noted above, to project economic impact of farmers market sales for the region was $630,018.80. The most popular items sold at the downtown market during 2017 were vegetables (54.31%), meat (19.01%) and value-added products (8.24%). Using the West Virginia Department of Agriculture’s multiplier of three for agricultural products, the 2017 farmers market regional economic regional impact was more than $1,369,606.

- The West Virginia-Pennsylvania calf pool generated more than **$650,351** in sales for the 18 producers in the pool. Using the West Virginia Department of Agriculture’s economic multiplier of three (3) gives an economic benefit to the region of **$1,951,053.69**, including southern
Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia. These dollars benefited local feed, grass seed, fertilizer, animal health products, equipment and farm supplies to local businesses in the region.

**Family and Community Development**

**Activities and Highlights:**

- Monongalia County Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS) members continue to be active within the county and state. Members volunteer at churches, senior centers, schools and food pantries. They attend county lesson training and members take these lessons out into the community so that others may obtain the information.

- CEOS support 4-H through scholarships, donations for the 4-H hat, glove, and scarf tree, and donations for Energy Express.

- Additionally, CEOS members:
  
  - Volunteered, exhibited and hosted demonstrations at the Monongalia County Fair.
  - Donated shoes for the needy.
  - Made cancer pillows, heart pillows, walker mates for a local hospital and stuffed bears that go in police cars.
  - Donated baskets of items that are given annually to the Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center.
  - Provided/donated bingo prizes to nursing homes.
  - Hosted a meal at the Rosenbaum Family House.
  - Purchased children’s books, which were donated to local libraries.
  - Collected/donated diapers for local food pantries.