Lewis County Annual Report 2018

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 Lewis 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

- 265 youths were active members in one of the nine Lewis County community 4-H clubs (including Cloverbuds).
- 287 calves were marked through the Central Calf Pool, West Virginia Quality Assurance Program, realizing an increase of $91.55 per head ($26,274.85 total).
- In 2018, Lewis County CEOS members reported 61,550 volunteers hours. At the current volunteer hourly rate as established by the independent sector, the financial equivalency is $1,298,705.

4-H and Youth Development

- 265 youths were active members in one of the nine community 4-H clubs (including Cloverbuds).
- More than 100 Lewis County volunteers completed the WVU Extension Service certification process to become vetted volunteers. This included documentation, references, training, online quiz, background check and sexual predator check.
- The Energy Express program held at Peterson Central Elementary School served 56 children. Pre- and post-reading assessments showed significant increases in letter-word identification, reading fluency, passage comprehension and broad reading. The site was served by eight AmeriCorps members and 26 volunteers from the community.
- One Lewis County 4-H member attended the National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C.

Camping

- 47 certified West Virginia 4-H volunteers provided volunteer hours at camp.
- 105 youths attended Lewis County 4-H camp.
- Campers participated in a choice of 33 small group classes and four large group classes.
- $6,625 was received in contributions (from individuals, businesses and organizations) for camp operations, STEM activities and events.
**Jamboree at the Mill (county 4-H showcase)**

- 224 projects were exhibited; 99 of those were livestock.
- 75 animals sold with a gross sale of $94,982.
- Six $500 scholarships were awarded and $5,840 was donated to the scholarship fund through donated animals.
- The Mountain Valley Pipeline provided $2,500 for the Imagination and Exploration Pavilion at the Jamboree at the Mill, which hosted over 165 youths in three days of education, fun and food.
- The 4-H Lego Robotics program, which was organized in the county for the first time in 2017, continued and four members participated in a regional competition.
- The Leaders In Training program continues with teen leaders taking responsibility for officers training school and providing leadership at multiple county 4-H functions. They also had a teen leader retreat and other fun activities.
- The Lewis County Youth Livestock Club conducted the market animal program, including the show and sale at the Jamboree at the Mill. The club also hosted a show at WVU Jackson’s Mill in April that attracted 80 entries from around West Virginia and nearby states.
- Teams from Lewis County competed at the West Virginia Beef Expo Stockman’s Contest and the State Beef Quiz Bowl.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

- 287 calves were marked through the Central Calf Pool, West Virginia Quality Assurance Program, realizing an increase of $91.55 per head ($26,274.85 total).
- WVU Extension Service worked with local growers and community volunteers to develop a farmers market. It averaged seven vendors per week and included some food items as well.
- Bruce Loyd led a team of three Extension agents that produced a pesticide recertification video program that was used statewide and viewed by approximately 450 private applicators. Three update sessions were held around the state for commercial applicators (forestry, right-of-way, landscape) and were attended by 305 applicators. Both efforts resulted in safer use of pesticides.
- 107 soil samples were sent by Lewis County residents to the WVU Soil Testing Lab. Written recommendations were provided for each of these, and they involved approximately 2,675 acres.
- 32 farmers from Lewis and other counties adopted improved weed control practices using improved pasture management and herbicides.
- Since WVU Jackson’s Mill is located in Lewis County, several statewide agricultural events happen in Lewis County. In addition to the participation from county residents, these events bring significant dollars to the county in terms motel, food, etc. The Lewis County WVU Extension Service faculty are an integral part of these events, which include:
  - West Virginia Beef Expo – moved from the livestock unit to the new building on the airstrip property in 2017 and continued there in 2018. The expo includes sales for six breeds of cattle, which grossed $385,325. It also includes four educational youth events and is the major fundraiser for the county agricultural groups.
○ State Livestock Roundup – approximately 30% of the 275 feeder calves entered are from Lewis County. This includes 4-H and FFA feeder calf projects, and cattle exhibited and sold by farmers.

○ State Dairy Show – this has been an annual event at WVU Jackson’s Mill since 1938 and is the only statewide dairy event that remains. Of the 87 dairy animals exhibited, only three were from Lewis County, but the WVU Extension Service faculty from the county are essential in making the show happen.

Family and Community Development

- 104 people attended the breast cancer educational awareness event hosted by the Lewis County Community Educational Outreach Service, Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital and Lewis County WVU Extension Service.

- For its small population and rural geography, Lewis County boasts a significant number of CEOS members. In 2018, there were 196 members in six clubs county wide.

- In 2018, CEOS members reported 61,550 volunteers hours. At the current volunteer hourly rate as established by the independent sector, the financial equivalency is $1,298,705. The service provided by these Lewis County citizens would not have been possible if paid positions were used.