

Jackson County Annual Report 2020

Putting Knowledge to Work!

The West Virginia University Extension Service works to provide solutions in our communities 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 Jackson 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

- The WVU Jackson County Extension Service office introduced virtual learning and activities into their programming during this difficult and unprecedented year.
- The 2020-2021 4-H registration and market livestock contracts were offered via a new online platform.
- The Grow This: West Virginia Garden Challenge program allowed the entire Jackson County office to reach over 900 participants through the seed packet and education distribution. The office also participated in the microgreens project, reaching over 800 elementary students.

4-H/Youth Development

Camping

- Due to the pandemic, 2020 Jackson County All-Age 4-H Camp was cancelled per WVU policies. Information on alternative virtual state and county camp offerings were shared and offered to county 4-H membership.

2020 Jackson County Junior Fair

- Upon the cancellation of the Jackson County Junior Fair, due to state and county restrictions, the collection of 4-H project books and Cloverbud activity books was also canceled. As an alternative, members were given the opportunity to share photos of their completed projects with the Jackson County office.

4-H Poster, Photo and Writing Exhibitions

- Jackson County 4-H youths created and submitted 151 promotional posters, 159 photos and eight creative writings for the state exhibition contest in 2020. Of these submissions, the following county creations advanced for judging at the state level: 117 photos, 10 posters and eight creative writings.

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs

- Due to the pandemic restrictions, the Jackson County 4-H program's 33 community clubs were unable to hold in-person monthly meetings after March 2020. Some club leaders offered virtual meetings to continue communication with their membership and share information provided by the Jackson County office.

Virtual Alternatives Created for 4-H Youths

- With the restrictions of the pandemic, a system was necessary to keep our 4-H youth involved since county and state events were not able to be held. A county system was designed online through PADLET to offer activities for Jackson County youth to participate in, therefore earning them the necessary points required for their 2021 4-H project score.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Jackson County Junior Fair Sale

- Although the Jackson County Junior Fair and open shows were canceled, we were able to work with the regional livestock market to give the kids that still retained ownership of their animals a chance to sell. There were around 25% of the showmen that still had their animals. With only 25% of the kids selling this year, the sale total was around \$185,000.

Mobile Cattle Facilities

- More than \$19,000 was raised to purchase a 35-ft Arrowquip chute, alley and tub; a Priefert chute; 20 12-ft panels; and a 50-ft addition to the steer barn for storage. Any livestock producer may borrow these mobile facilities, which will strengthen the cattle production in the region by improving management practices. Another \$19,500 in grant money was secured to implement stage two of the program, which will help further improve the community's pasture management and cattle sustainability.

Southern Bull Test

- 33 bulls and 43 heifers were sold as part of the Southern Bull Test for a total of \$147,700. This money was retained by local producers in the state.

Jackson County Calf Pool

- In 2020, 553 head were sold during the Jackson County Calf Pool, which yielded \$474,523.20 of revenue for Jackson County producers. The program has a main protocol of management practices that producers must follow and adopt into their own management strategies.

COVID-19 Market Hog Project

- Partnered with hog producers in the Midwest who needed to relinquish ownership of overpopulated swine due to processing facility closures. In the Mid-Ohio Valley, 358 hogs were purchased for a total of 115 families. It is estimated that the yield was approximately 59,000 pounds of pork protein.

Family and Community Development

I Can! Speaker Series

- Taught monthly lessons to sixth grade students at Ripley Middle School. Topics included substance abuse prevention, homelessness and depression awareness. Each lesson was taught

to approximately 115 students per month. In-person lessons were put on hold in March, but recorded presentations continued to be used by Ripley Middle School.

Mandated Reporter Training

- Taught program virtually to 190 Appalachian Council Head Start employees.

Simple Cooking with Heart

- Taught 10 sessions (three in person and seven virtually) of heart-healthy cooking classes to 21 adults. The curriculum was provided by the American Heart Association through a grant from the Sisters Health Foundation and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

Safe Canning Methods

- Taught one virtual session on canning meats for 22 participants. The session was broadcast to people who registered for the class from all areas of West Virginia. Taught three Canning 101 classes online to 64 participants.

Early Childhood Learning Series

- Created an online learning series for early childhood professionals that included 12 sessions. Our series provided 12 of the 15 required annual credits to an average of 113 participants per session.

Wellness Program

- Created an online wellness program for WVU Extension Service employees. Held 36 30-minute sessions that included topics, like Tai Chi, healthy cooking, growing plants, mindfulness, food preservation and more. Each session averaged more than 30 participants.

Family Nutrition Program

Youth Health and Wellness Education

- Led six weeks of Show Me Nutrition education for third through fifth graders at four Jackson County elementary schools, for a total of 329 students.
- Taught eight weeks of Teen Cuisine classes at the Greene Center in Kenna to 10 students.
- Installed Active Pathways at the following elementary schools: Evans, Cottageville, Gilmore and Kenna.
- Provided pre-made bags of produce for students at Fairplain and Cottageville elementary schools through the Kids Farmers Markets program.

Family and Community Nutrition Outreach

- Served approximately 260 households/820 individuals monthly through the Mountaineer Food Bank.
- Assisted with seed distribution for the Grow This: West Virginia Garden Challenge in Jackson, Roane and Mason counties, reaching over 900 participants.
- Partnered with the Jackson County Food Bank to serve 200 to 250 families with pandemic food relief.