Jackson 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 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 Office is fully staffed. Due to new statewide formulas and funding, we now have the most faculty and staff members possible for our office.

- Nearly 950 4-H members, 4-H Cloverbuds and FFA members took part in the 2018 Jackson County Junior Fair. They exhibited nearly 500 livestock projects and more than 1,000 still projects, in addition to the 60 youths who entered home arts exhibits in the McDonald’s Building. The 2018 livestock sale generated nearly $660,000, the vast majority of which went directly to youth exhibitors.

- John David Johnson, Gina Taylor and Missy Painter taught Venison 101 to 135 youths at Ravenswood High School. Students learned how to manage herd health; proper harvesting techniques; safe processing of the carcass; and the safe cutting, canning and cooking of meat.

- WVU Extension Service Agent Gina Taylor worked on the West Virginia Cottage Food Bill that became law in 2018. She attended Senate committee meetings and work groups, contributing information about canning safety and general food safety. Many of the suggestions were included in the law/rules. She also was asked to be a assist with the creation of a curriculum that will fit into the new requirements and which will be delivered statewide to cottage foods producers.

4-H and Youth Development – Theresa Bailey

4-H is a community of young people across West Virginia who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills as they work in partnership with caring adults. In 2015, we celebrated 100 years of 4-H camping.

Camping -- Jackson County all-age 4-H Camp was held June 22 through 26, 2018 at Cedar Lakes Conference Center.

- Nearly 280 campers attended camp, including 257 full-time/overnight campers and 22 day-campers.
- Nearly 90 vetted and trained 4-H volunteered staffed the camp.
• Our 4-H volunteers contributed 9,345 hours of volunteer time during the five-day camp for a total value of $230,728 (based on the national estimated value of volunteer time in 2018 being $24.69 per hour).

**Annual First-Year Camper Picnic** was held to help ease 45 new campers and their parents into the overnight camping experience by providing a tour of the camp to youths and discussing camp procedures and operations to parents.

**Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs**

• Thirty-three active community clubs exist in Jackson County, providing easy access for youth participation in all local communities.
• The 33 clubs are operated and supervised by 390 WVU vetted volunteers. It is estimated that these 390 volunteers provide, at a minimum, 28,000 hours of service for a value of $691,320 to the youth and 4-H program at the club level alone.
• There were 870 4-H and Cloverbud members enrolled in 2018.
• 4-H club members participated in community service projects and educational programming with their clubs through monthly meetings and other club functions/activities throughout the year.
• Jackson County had 24 clubs participate in National 4-H Week, promoting 4-H by decorating business windows throughout the county and light poles in downtown Ripley.

**Fundraising Efforts**

• Community clubs covered 40% of total camp fees and 10% of total fees were paid through scholarship funds.
• 4-H Clubs participate in the spring and fall Tractor Supply Clover Campaign, which helps to promote 4-H to the community and raise funds for county 4-H programs. In 2018 the clubs worked together to raise more than $4,500 to fund county 4-H events and programs.
• Jackson County 4-H clubs ranked highest in the state for fundraising during the Fall 2018 Tractor Supply Clover Campaign ($2,876).

**Jackson County 4-H Round-Up** is an opportunity for 4-H members and Cloverbuds to participate in leadership and skill-building activities.

• Two hundred youths took part in Round-Up.
• Activities and competitions included project demonstrations; reciting the 4-H pledge; entering cookies, cupcakes, arts, crafts and creative writing projects; and hands-on STEM activities, led by 4-H Teen Leaders.
• One 4-H member participated at the state level in the West Virginia Virtual 4-H days, by submitting his blue-ribbon demonstration via video to the competition.

**Jackson County 4-H Judging Teams**

• Jackson County 4-H Junior Livestock Team finished first in the state competition
• The Senior team finished third overall.
• The 4-H Beef Expo teams participated at the West Virginia state competition, with teams finishing fifth and eighth overall. Beef Expo members also attended the Ohio State Beef Expo in 2018.
• The Jackson County Wildlife Habitat Education Program Senior Team finished first in the state and qualified to attend and compete at the national level. Due to
the competition conflicting with our county fair, the team did not attend the national competition.

- The Jackson County Forestry Senior Team finished first place in the state, with the Junior teams finishing third and fourth.

**Jackson County Junior Fair (JCJF)** – The contribution of our community and 4-H volunteers is immeasurable in the opportunities and benefits that our county youths obtain by the operation of the county fair. The 4-H program’s and Extension Office’s joint collaboration with the fair board offers our young people valuable educational opportunities.

- More than 400 4-H and FFA youths participated in spring educational livestock workshops.
- Approximately 333 4-H and FFA youths participated in the Jackson County Junior Fair livestock sale.
- As part of the fair, 486 youths participated in livestock showmanship classes and 418 in market show classes.
- Cloverbuds displayed 242 creations for activities they completed during the year.
- There were 370 4-H projects entered into the exhibit hall, with 39 receiving “Best of Fair” honors.
- Nearly 50 youths completed 4-H Project Grand Champion interviews during the fair.
- In November, 656 youths signed livestock contracts for the 2019 JCJF, including 656 market animal and 50 equine contracts.
- The JCJF Exhibit Hall Committee has been working for three years to fund the construction of a new 4-H and FFA Exhibit Hall. Ground has been broken and the building will be under roof and available for 4-H youths to exhibit their projects at the 2019 fair. Theresa Bailey obtained $15,000 of grant funding in the past year for the construction.

**Jackson County 4-H Youth Achievement** is an event where 4-H youths are recognized for their accomplishments throughout the year in all areas of the 4-H program.

- There were 180 youths and family members in attendance for the the 4-H Youth Achievement in November.
- The event recognized 119 first-year members, 77 fifth-year members, and 19 ten-year members.
- Twenty-one members received project awards for completing their book and presented the project at county Round Up.

**4-H Poster, Photo and Writing Exhibitions**

- 4-H youth created and submitted 109 posters to promote 4-H, 115 photos, and six creative writing samples for state competitions
- 10 best overall posters, 6 creative writing submissions, and 76 blue ribbon photos from Jackson County advanced to state-level competitions

**State Fair of West Virginia**

- Jackson County 4-H members exhibited 182 blue-ribbon projects at the 2018 State Fair of West Virginia.
- Six members’ creative writings, 10 best of county posters and 76 county blue ribbon photographs were on display at the State Fair.
Sixteen 4-H members participated in State Fair livestock shows.

**Jackson County 4-H Teen Leaders** – Teen leaders actively participate in camp planning and assist with events like Cloverbud camp, County Round-Up, 4-H Youth Achievement and officer training school. Teen leaders collected donations and made cards for local charities, which support local youths and deployed soldiers. In 2018 group members were required to complete the 4-H Philosophy and Traditions project book in order to further make them aware of the history and the programs available to them at the state and national levels.

- Forty teens participated in Jackson County as 4-H teen leaders.
- 4-H teen leaders completed more than 1,000 hours of community service.
- The number of 4-H Teen Leaders participating at state-level events and camps doubled in 2018.

Teen Leaders must also complete a set number of volunteer hours in the community as a requirement for project completion. Below are the volunteer hour requirements:

- First-year members must complete 10 hours of volunteer service.
- Second-year members must complete 20 hours of volunteer service.
- Third-year and up members must complete 30 hours of volunteer service.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources – John David Johnson**

- The JCJF boasted 498 livestock projects, including 193 hogs, 120 lambs, 52 goats, 84 heifers, 38 steers and 11 pens of rabbits. Of the 498 projects shown, 333 animals were sold at the Jackson County Livestock sale. Our sale total was more than $652,722, which was an increase compared to 2017 ($98,362). To be eligible for sale, the JCJF Board requires each exhibitor sign a livestock contract, attend an educational workshop per species and have their project animals tagged.

- **Mobile Cattle Facilities** – More than $19,000 was raised to purchase a 35-foot Arrowquip chute, alley and tub, a Priefert chute, 20 twelve-foot panels and a 50-foot 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.

- **Wool Pool** – Jackson County hosts a wool pool every year. Producers bring their wool from the spring and pool it with other farms. It is then baled and transported to Greenbrier County where it is combined with other pool bales for sale. In 2018, we were slightly higher in poundage of wool at more than 6,927 lbs.

- **Research** – In 2018, two research projects were undertaken including **sweet corn research** and **pearl millet research**. The sweet corn research study was conducted at a commercial farm in Vincent, Ohio, in partnership with another WVU Extension agent. Five treatments were evaluated: attribute, attribute II, obsession II, and two non-Bt isoline hybrids. Sampling for corn earworm larvae and feeding damage was conducted October 9 by evaluating 100 primary ears from the Bt plots, and 50 ears from the non-Bt plots.

- The pearl millet research was conducted as part of a 2018 yield trial for Prim 180, Prim 360, Wonderleaf, Tift Leaf 3, and Southern States hybrid millet. The two plot locations included the Jackson County Junior Fairgrounds and Lathey Farms in Given, and were sown on May 24. A plant ground cover percentage was calculated on established plants on June 8 using a Canopeo App; a plant height and a square foot plant emergent count were also conducted. Two additional height measurements were taken and a nutrition randomized sample was used to compare nutrition quality between varieties.
• Approximately 600 soil tests were conducted, covering 22,000 acres.

Families and Health – Gina Taylor, Crystal Cochran and Melissa Painter

The Family Nutrition Program is designed to help limited resource families, youths and adults improve their health through education on making healthy food choices, buying healthy foods on a budget and preparing and storing food safely.

• Show Me Nutrition teaches students about healthy eating and exercise. Crystal Cochran teaches the class once a week to students in third through fifth grade at each of her designated schools.
  ▪ 2018 Schools and Students Reached
    ▪ Cottageville Elementary – 58 students
    ▪ Gilmore Elementary – 120 students
    ▪ Ravenswood Elementary – 284 students
    ▪ Fairplain Elementary – 78 students
    ▪ Kenna Elementary – 143 students
    ▪ Ripley Elementary – 100 students
    ▪ Total 2018 students reached = 783

• Eating Smarter, Being Active is a curriculum for adults that teaches healthier eating and food preparation, as well as the importance of exercise. Melissa Painter teaches the class at various locations throughout Jackson County. In 2018, she reached 91 participants, with 70 graduating from the program. Locations for 2018 included:
  ▪ Adult Basic Education
  ▪ SPOKES (Strategic Planning in Occupational Knowledge for Employment and Success)
  ▪ Jackson County Development Center in Millwood
  ▪ CFT in Ravenswood
  ▪ Elizabeth Way Senior Apartments
  ▪ BoMar Club

• Public Health Efforts – Crystal Cochran and Melissa Painter both contribute to public health in Jackson County. Public health efforts are independent of their classroom education experiences.
  ▪ Rethink Your Drink is a program that helps participants visualize the amount of sugar contained in common drink choices and provides opportunities for participants to sample low-sugar alternatives. Below are the numbers of students reached:
    • Taught during Show Me Nutrition classes = 783
    • 4-H Meetings = 90+
    • 4-H Camp = 48
    • Jackson County Junior Fair = 200+

• Kids Mobile Market – This year, during the JCJF, Crystal Cochran and Melissa Painter provided a Kids Mobile Market for more than 200 children attending the fair. Each child was given a shopping bag and four tokens used to “shop” at the market, choosing fruits and/or vegetables they wanted to take home. This event was sponsored by TransCanada.
▪ **Mobile Food Bank** – The purpose of the Mobile Food Bank is to serve needy families by providing boxes of fresh and shelf-stable foods. Our office does this once a year and this year, we served 250 families.

▪ **Dining with Diabetes** is a class designed for people with diabetes or their caregivers to learn about managing the disease and cooking good-tasting, nutritious meals that will help with self-management.
  - Ten people attended Dining with Diabetes to improve their nutritional management of the disease (Elizabeth Way Senior Apartments).

▪ **Mediterranean Cooking** is a class designed to teach people about the healthy way that people in the Mediterranean region eat.
  - Nineteen participants prepared one of six recipes, selected for their relationship to the region including, Humus, Kibbe, Greek salad and Baklava. The class was held at the Kenna Grange.

▪ The 2018 **Jackson County Pie Contest and sale** was very successful, with approximately 40 pies baked by Jackson County residents and entered into the competition. This year, the pies sold for $7,400, half of which went to fund educational programs in our county through Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS). The other half went to a fundraising effort to build a better 4-H Exhibit Hall at our fairgrounds for the youth of our community.

**Community and Economic Development**

While Jackson County does not have an agent dedicated to these specific efforts, we are still able to contribute toward the improved economic situation of the county.

▪ The purpose of the **CEOS** is education. Their mission is to strengthen individuals and families through continuing education, leadership development and community service. According to the Points of Light Foundation, the 2018 value of a volunteer hour was $24.69 per hour. Jackson County CEOS members contributed more than 33,800 service hours to the county, which equals more than $834,522 of unpaid service work provided by this group.

▪ **Food Science Teams** (in cooperation with FFA) – Gina Taylor coached two Food Science Teams, spending approximately 30 hours in direct teaching during 12 weeks. Students learned about food science and technology related to the food industry and developed practical knowledge of principles used in the team decision-making process through games, team activities, and sensory evaluation activities. Below are results from this effort:
  - Four of the eight students (three middle school and one high school) placed in the top 10 for knowledge of food science.
  - Teams placed **first** (middle school) and **third** (high school) overall in the state, the highest rankings we have received in four years.

  o This program is a career development event through the FFA program, and meant to enlighten youths about the possibilities of careers in the food science field. The average salary of a food scientist is approximately $60,500, with companies such as PepsiCo ($70,000) and Kraft ($87,000) paying much higher average salaries.