Raleigh 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 Raleigh 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

- In the Energy Express program this summer, 160 youths across five sites retained reading and writing skills and received two nutritious meals a day at five sites across the county.
- Raleigh County 4-H produced one 4-H’er who was selected to the National 4-H Council and four were named 4-H All Stars, the highest honor in West Virginia 4-H.
- Agriculture constituents sent more than 500 soil tests to the WVU Soils Lab for analysis and received specific management plans to increase productivity and yields. This covered more than 20,000 acres of land in the county.
- Extension Master Gardener program volunteered more than 2,000 hours to projects around Raleigh County.
- The Family Nutrition Program curriculum around healthy lifestyles and nutritious eating was delivered to 1,159 students across eight area schools.

4-H and Youth Development

Energy Express

- Energy Express met the needs of 160 youths who struggle with reading by giving them a foundation to attend an excellent program that is well prepared and structured.

- Raleigh County had five sites this past year. Bradley, average attendance 43; Beckley (34); Independence (35); and Fairdale (20). We gained one new site this year Clear Fork with an average attendance of 28 students. 87% of participants were eligible for free and reduced lunch.

Resident and Day Camps:

- Raleigh County 4-H offered three resident camps, an older camp, younger camp and a horse camp with a total of 128 youths attending these camps.
• The summer day camp lasted five hours a day for four weeks and provided quality summer activities for 161 youths ages 5 to 12 years. It is an open site to feed youth that don't get fed during the summer.

• Raleigh County 4-H’ers attended many state-level 4-H events, including:
  o Six youths attended the WVU Football game on 4-H Football Day.
  o One youth attended the Young Adult Conference.
  o 11 youths attended Older Member Conference.
  o 14 youths attended Dance Weekend.
  o 10 youths participated in Teen Leader’s Weekend.
  o 32 youths attended Alpha II camp.
  o Two youths served on state Teen Council.
  o Two youths worked as Extension Camping Instructors.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

• 500 soil tests were taken and interpreted as a management tool in order to increase yields on over 20,000 acres in Raleigh County.

• More than 400 pesticide recommendations were made to increase yields of agriculture products while at the same time educating the producers and public on the proper use of pesticides. Five producers obtained their private applicator license in 2018, bringing the number to 66 in Raleigh County.

• Five pesticide education classes were conducted and 110 applicators received recertification.

• Average of 9 producers participated in the local farmers market which generates approximately $30,000 in sales that is returned to the producers and the local economy.

• Farmers markets in Raleigh County continues to thrive, with new producer additions and the senior and WIC coupon program.

• Held agricultural dinner meetings for producers in the area where meals were provided and producers are able to learn from expert speakers in different agricultural topics.

Southern West Virginia Young Sire and Heifer Evaluation

• Evaluated 95 bulls and 82 heifers in order to provide beef producers guidance on increasing overall genetic quality in herds. Research data was provided back to producers.

• Hosted a program on using EPDs for sire selection.

• Completed research on parasite resistance to dewormers.

Master Gardener Program

• Extension Master Gardeners contributed more than 2,000 hours to projects around the county.

• They also held an additional program in horticultural arena and conducted a series of workshops for producers.

Cooperative Calf Pools

• This multi-county project is entering its ninth year, which allows producers to capitalize on enhanced cattle management to receive premiums.

• The program was able to sell through eight, 70,000 lbs. lots.
Family and Health

Family and Community Programming

- 43 classes delivered to 628 participants in Raleigh County.
- WVU Raleigh County Extension Service faculty also serve on boards and committees for various county agencies, including the Raleigh County Head Start program, the Southeastern Area Health Education Center and the Beckley Area Foundation.
- Taught classes revolving around relationship and marriage education, delivered the Stress Less with Mindfulness curriculum and Taking Care of your Spirit class. Also delivered classes in True Colors leadership, Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace, Money Habitudes and Community Education Outreach Service lessons.

Nutrition Programs

- The Show Me Nutrition program was delivered to third, fourth and fifth graders at Coal City and Bradley schools.
- The same program is currently being taught to 498 third, fourth and fifth graders at Stratton, Daniels and Cranberry Prosperity schools.
- WVU Raleigh County Extension Service faculty and staff provide answers to inquiries to consumers who call the office with questions related to proper food handling. Also, volunteered and worked in the WVU Building at the State Fair of West Virginia to answer food preservation and canning questions.
- Taught five different series of the “Eating Smart, Being Active” curriculum at three different community agencies since August 2018, with 16 of 21 participants graduating from the program.
- Delivered Rethink your Drink program to community members through two ongoing classes.