Braxton County Annual Report 2019

Putting Knowledge to Work!
West Virginia University Extension 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 Braxton 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

- Braxton County 4-H, CEOS and Master Gardener volunteers provide approximately 15,000 service hours in Braxton County. The value of that service is more than $550,000.
- Educational programs offered in 4-H, STEM, kinship care, financial management, parenting, nutrition, agriculture and other topics reached 3,500 Braxton County adults and youths.

4-H/Youth Development

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs
- Braxton County has seven community 4-H clubs that serve more than 100 4-H members and Cloverbuds.

Special Interest Programs
- In cooperation with Mid-State Archers, the Braxton County 4-H archery program continues, and the state qualifier for national competition was hosted in Braxton County. Jamie Yoder, a Braxton County 4-H’er, competed at the National 4-H archery competition.
- Each month, 4-H STEM programming is offered as an after-school program at the Burnsville Public Library. This programming provides an opportunity for youths to join 4-H in an area where a community 4-H club is not available.
- The Braxton County forestry judging senior team placed first in the state contest and finished tenth at the National 4-H Forestry Invitational. At the national contest, 4-H’er Raven Friend received the Joe Yeager “Spirit of the Invitational” Award.

Camping
- 58 4-H members attended 4-H camp, which was staffed by 24 adult volunteers. Eight Cloverbuds attended camp for a day as they started learning about 4-H camp traditions.
In cooperation with the Mountaineer Food Bank, 4-H campers packed more than six tons of fruit for distribution to families.

**Livestock**
- 34 4-H and FFA members earned nearly $2,000 in premiums from their livestock projects at the Braxton County Fair.
- Those with market animal projects sold $63,710 at the annual 4-H and FFA Livestock Sale.
- An additional $5,000 in scholarships were distributed to 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors. Since 2009, nearly $43,000 has been distributed to local youths for post-secondary education.
- The Braxton County senior Beef Quiz Bowl team finished third place out of the 13 senior teams.
- Braxton County seniors finished third place out of 62 teams at the Beef Stockman’s Contest. Four seniors placed in the top 15 and four juniors were in the top 30 of the contest, which had more than 400 participants. Junior teams placed fourth and seventh out of 19 teams.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources**
- Partnered with Braxton County Farm Bureau to provide monthly educational programs on topics including soil testing, weed identification and control, successful timber transactions and animal health.
- 271 calves were marketed through the Central Calf Pool, realizing an increase return of $54.17 per head over stockyard returns for a total of $14,680.07.
- 13 Master Gardeners were recertified through the WVU Extension Service Master Gardener program. These Master Gardeners provided 659 volunteer hours on nine different projects, resulting in a monetary value of $25,226.56.
- Trained farmers market vendors so they can accept vouchers from the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, which allows seniors the opportunity to buy fresh fruits and vegetables. The program also provides producers with a guaranteed market for more than $10,000 in products.
- Provided educational and diagnostic resources to local growers by identifying and providing suggestions for control of insect and disease pests.
- Five local farms were highlighted during educational tours offered as part of the West Virginia Women in Agriculture Conference.

**Families and Health**
- The Braxton Healthy Families Healthy Children Coalition received a $5,000 grant to host a community baby shower, two fatherhood events, and 11 classes in finances, stress management, parenting/child abuse prevention and relationship education. These events reached 263 individuals, including Head Start parents, SPOKES participants, students in the school system and other community members.
• Partnered with the Board of Education to host a Kinship Care/Healthy Grandfamilies program for 19 grandparents and started a Healthy Grandfamilies Coalition in Braxton County.
• 495 youths and adults participated in 17 nutrition education sessions, including Healthier Holiday Celebrations, Fit + Active Schools trainings, Healthy Fuel for Your Body, Food Fear Factor, Rethink Your Drink, My Plate on a Budget, A Spoonful of Sugar, Basic Nutrition for Teens, Healthy Eating: the Mediterranean Lifestyle and Yoga for Kids.
• Three Community Educational Outreach Service clubs with approximately 32 members performed 10,000 community service hours. Projects included working with local hospitals to provide boo-boo bears and cancer pillows for patients, the DHHR to provide care bags for foster children, the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Awareness Program and Hearts of Hope to promote cancer awareness and provide much needed funding, school reading programs, and fairs and festivals. The clubs also provided two $500 annual scholarships for Braxton County High School students and conducted countless other projects and fundraising efforts.
• Partnering with the Family and Community Development agent and the Braxton County BOE, the Family Nutrition Program health educator reached a total of 995 people in six sites with public health programs (farmers markets, Rethink Your Drink and Grow This).
• The health educator delivered the Show Me Nutrition curriculum to 34 pre-k and third through fifth grade classes reaching a total of 934 youths.

Community Development/Tourism/Economic Development

• Worked closely with the Braxton County Fair to publicize and promote the fair. The Braxton County Fair is the largest event in Braxton County, and it attracted more than 7,700 fairgoers this year.
• Promoted Braxton County agri-tourism opportunities by working with the town of Sutton to promote the continuation of the farmers market.
• Braxton County WVU Extension Service Master Gardeners, CEOS members, and 4-H members and leaders are involved in a variety of beautification and community service projects, such as maintaining the flower beds at Holly Gray Park.