

Calhoun County Annual Report 2020

Putting Knowledge to Work!

The 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 Calhoun 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

- Despite COVID-19, Calhoun County WVU Extension Service and their partners provided virtual 4-H camping, a virtual youth livestock show and sale, and other distance learning opportunities. Additionally, Calhoun County WVU Extension Service focused on assisting in meeting the needs of the community through agriculture and natural resources and food security efforts.
- Calhoun County WVU Extension Service faculty were able to explore professional development, engage in curriculum development and program piloting, and collaborate with faculty around the state on a variety of projects and programs that will serve the community and the University in the future.

4-H/Youth Development

Camping

- Calhoun County hosted a weeklong virtual "Camp URLinked" 4-H camp for 55 youths in July 2020. Activities were centered on the Mission Mandate areas of STEM, Healthy Living and Citizenship, as well as the four Hs (head, heart, hands, health). Youths shared photos and videos of their participation throughout the week via a private social media group. Additionally, they were able to participate in three live Zoom sessions throughout the week.
- Two Calhoun County youths participated in the statewide virtual 4-H camp experience (Best of State Camp).

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs

- Calhoun County maintained all three traditional 4-H club programs in early 2020. This includes clubs on the two edges of the county Pleasant Hill and West Fork and a club in Arnoldsburg.
- Youth participants completed 38 4-H projects in 2020.

Special Interest Programs and School Enrichment

• Calhoun County has two special interest programs: *Kids and Kritters 4-H Club*, which meets January through October and provides programming directly of interest to the 4-H youth livestock participants in Calhoun County; *Calhoun County 4-H Teen Leaders* with more than 15

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teens registering as members and signing up for projects by December 2019. By March 2020, participation had grown to 23 youths.

• All students at Arnoldsburg and Pleasant Hill Elementary schools were invited to participate in a Pop-up Delivery Farmers Market. Youths were provided order forms and four tokens to spend on produce. Local farmers assisted in providing produce for the market.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Youth Livestock

- 27 4-H youths completed 37 livestock projects for the Calhoun County Livestock Virtual Show and Sale in September 2020. All projects shown and sold at the 2020 event were completed by 4-H youths.
- Sale of all animals grossed \$14,455.55.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Education

- Five one-on-one farm visits were conducted to assist with agriculture-related problem solving, including weed identification, pesticide recommendations and farm management.
- Responded to more than 100 calls providing solutions for farmers and homeowners with agriculture and natural resource-related questions.
- 15 farmers requested additional assistance understanding their soil test results.

Gardening Programs and Education

- More than 70 households participated in the 2020 West Virginia Grow This! Garden Challenge. This statewide effort provided seeds and educational guidance to all participants. Calhoun County Family Resource Network partnered in this effort to distribute the seeds.
- 45 households participated in the Spring Berry and Vegetable Plant Group Order. In doing so, they diversified their gardens with perennial producing plants.
- Seven homesite visits were conducted to assist gardeners with pest identification, problem solving and other recommendations.

Families and Health

Food Security and Nutrition Efforts

- Through a partnership with the local Family Resource Network and Community Resources Inc., Calhoun County WVU Extension Service assisted with three food distributions (mobile food drops).
- 14 individuals participated in a Healthy Cooking for the Heart course, which included supplemental food to be cooked (providing dinner for a family of four each week). This program consisted of six classes. Sisters of St. Joseph provided funding for the class supplies and \$1,200 to Calhoun County WVU Extension Service for providing the program.