Calhoun County Annual Report 2019

Putting Knowledge to Work!

WVU Extension works to provide “solutions in your community” through key programs and resources including agriculture, environment and natural resources, 4-H youth development, food and nutrition, health and wellness, financial planning and home gardening. These research-based programs and services are available to all residents of Calhoun County thanks to the tremendous support of community members, local organizations, volunteers and local partners – the Board of Education and County Commission.

Highlights

• Participation in 4-H programming continues to rise. Camp participation grew by 28% in the past two years and the non-livestock project completion increased by 83% (from 24 to 44). Youths are actively participating in 4-H programming in Calhoun County. A rise in teen involvement through the resurgence of a Teen Leader program has resulted in a Teen Leader Club with more than 15 members who plan to chart summer of 2020.

• Since obtaining the old Arnoldsburg Elementary property, the Calhoun County Youth Livestock Program had a goal of eventually building a barn adjacent to the current structure. That goal is looking like more of a reality as resales in 2019 resulted in $4,827 toward those efforts. This money, and other funds associated with the project, are providing a basis from which to pursue additional funding via grants and loans. The barn is becoming a very realistic possibility.

4-H/Youth Development

Activities:

Camping

• Calhoun County hosted a weeklong residential 4-H camp for 87 Calhoun County youths under the theme “Wild & Wonderful.”
  ○ Camp participation increased by 7.5% with six more campers; camp enrollment is up 28% in two years.
  ○ As a result of increased camp participation, a large number of 4-H teens have developed an interest in year-round involvement.

• Eight Calhoun youths attended three statewide weekend or weeklong camps during the 2019 program year. This included participation in Dance Weekend, Alpha I and Alpha II. As a result, additional youths have expressed interest in attending a statewide event in 2020 with two additional youths already signed up for the 2020 Teen Leader Weekend.

Traditional 4-H Programming and Clubs
Calhoun maintained all three traditional 4-H club programs in 2019. This includes clubs on the two edges of the county – Pleasant Hill and West Fork – and a club in Arnoldsburg.

Youth participants completed 102 4-H projects in 2019. This is up from just 62 in 2018. Completed projects included 44 non-livestock projects, which were completed by 25 different youths.

**Special Interest Programs**

- Calhoun County has two special interest programs:
  - **Kids and Kritters 4-H Club** – This club, which meets January through October, provides programming directly of interest to the 4-H youth livestock participants in Calhoun County.
  - **Calhoun County 4-H Teen Leaders** – This program was revised in 2019 with more than 15 teens registering as members and signing up for projects by December 2019.

**4-H Projects (non-livestock)**

- Non-livestock project completion rose from 24 in 2018 to 44 in 2019. That is an increase of 83%. Youths in Calhoun completed 93% (102 out of 110) projects they enrolled in at the start of the year.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**Youth Livestock**

- Thirty-seven (37) 4-H youths completed 58 livestock projects for the Calhoun County Livestock Show and Sale. All projects shown and sold at the 2019 event were 4-H youth completed projects.
- Sale of all animals grossed $31,147.55. Program supporters stepped forward to increase the profit of youths completing the market lamb project to ensure all youths were rewarded for their efforts.
- Youth participation in the Calhoun County 4-H Livestock Show and Sale grew by seven participants, an increase of 23%.
- Calhoun County 4-H/FFA Livestock Association is hoping to build a barn in the near future. Livestock resales resulted in $4,827.58 in funding to go toward that project.

**Community and School ANR Efforts**

- Twenty individuals attended the Pasture and Grazing Improvement Course. Participants learned valuable skills and knowledge on how to improve their pastures and grazing systems.
- Garden Based Learning programs at Pleasant Hill Elementary and Arnoldsburg Elementary school provided each child a one to two square ft. garden space to raise a vegetable crop. All crops were harvested and sold back to the school cafeteria to incorporate into school lunches.

**Families and Health**

**Food Security Efforts**
• Through a partnership with the local Family Resource Network and Community Resources Inc., WVU Extension Calhoun County helped secure $15,000 to provide supplemental nutrition to seniors within the community.
  
  o Nourishing Networks – Food Security for Seniors, initially funded by a grant through the WV FOODLINK/WVU Food Justice Lab, provided a commodity food box (as well as some additional fresh produce and choice market items) to 65 senior families every month in 2019.

Other F&H Efforts

• Calhoun County maintained their single Community Education Outreach Service club in 2019.

• WVU Extension provided STEM and healthy living activities for Summer Foods participants at Calhoun County’s FRN. This included teaching basic concepts through hands-on activities.