

## Brooke County Annual Report | 2016

### Putting Knowledge to Work!

West Virginia University Extension works to provide “solutions in your community” through key program areas 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 Brooke County thanks to the tremendous support of our community members, local organizations, volunteers and local partners – the Board of Education and County Commission.

### Highlights

Brooke County Extension secured at least ten grants or awards individually and in partnership totaling nearly \$200,000 for 2015! The programs helped establish two high quality drug and alcohol prevention programs, tobacco prevention programs, health education programs, a new Farmers’ Market gleaning project, and various community development projects.

Brooke Extension secured a full time AmeriCorp VISTA position to conduct community development in Brooke County. The award is worth approximately \$22,000 and it gives the VISTA worker excellent work experience, a livable wage and an education stipend to be used for college tuition.

Two Brooke agents were recognized as part of a National Award for Team Excellence in Community Development and State Award for Outstanding Achievement with 4-H Education Package as a Team.

### 4-H and Youth Development

In 2015, we celebrated 100 years of 4-H camping!

- 89 youths attended Brooke County 4-H Camp.
- 42 youths attended community 4-H clubs.
- 30 volunteers in youth programs throughout Brooke County.
- 17 youths involved community service projects.

Participation in specific 4-H and youth activities in our county:

- 40 in Energy Express – a nutrition and summer literacy program for low-resource youth.
- 99 youths reached in the Children, Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR) – The PROSPER project – addresses substance abuse prevention.
- 5 families graduated from the Strengthening Families Program.

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- 89 campers participated in the Health Rocks program at Brooke County 4-H Camp.
- 50 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders completed the Stop Spit Tobacco Curriculum.
- 17 youths in 4-H after-school programs.
- 111 youths were taught an ATV safety lesson.
- 17 youths attended STEM Camp.
- 5 Teen Leaders volunteered at STEM Camp.
- 6 Teen Leaders were Teaching Assistants at 4-H Camp.
- 7 youths attended Lego Robot Meetings.
- 3 youths competed in Lego Robot Competition.
- 121 youths were reached throughout schools with 4-H STEM lessons.
- 11 members of the 4-H Shooting Sports Team.
- 46 4-H'ers, volunteers and parents attend the 4-H Awards Banquet.

## Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Brooke Extension supported two Farmers Markets in Brooke County with vendors seeing an increase in revenue from the previous years.
- Helped secure a \$1,500 grant for a Gleaning Project for the Brooke Farmers Market that provided 575 lbs. of produce distributed to needy families in the county with a total value of approximately \$534.
- 47 soil tests, involving 261 acres were performed.
- Taught 6 agriculture programs to nearly 200 participants and conducted a television session that reached over 10,000 people.
- Served on the WVU Extension Oil and Gas Team and helped coordinate a state oil and gas conference, regional oil and gas education sessions throughout the northern panhandle including a careers in the oil and gas field for the Northern Panhandle Workforce Career Center.
- Taught a college class on the Impacts of Brownfields and Oil and Gas on Rural Communities and received the highest evaluation from students and professor for the year.
- County residents who attended Brooke Agent Gardening Classes over five years ago recently won 1<sup>st</sup> place in International Competition for their Maple Syrup and another award for their Maple Sugar. They cited WVU Extension as getting them started in their work and have asked for assistance from the agent to establish a retail outlet in the county to sell their products.

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## Community, Economic and Workforce Development

- Agent helped coordinate two regional tourism forums for Brooke and Hancock Counties.
- Agent is also helping to coordinate a five county Heritage Tourism Committee. Agent secured assistance from the WVU Extension Tourism Specialist and Department of Tourism for a research project on a Regional Competitiveness Strategy. This research is being used by the local Convention and Visitors bureau to improve heritage tourism services in the region.
- Agent served on the WVU Extension Central File Review Committee for faculty going up for promotion and tenure.
- Agent helped secure a \$4,000 award to assist in the purchase and installation of air conditioning for the Brooke County Museum.
- Agent is also helping to coordinate a database of vacant properties and buildings in the county and listing the data on the web for economic development purposes.
- Agent has established the Brooke County Economic Development Authority as a respected development organization and tripled attendance at meetings.

## Families and Health

- 652 youths participated in the family nutrition program.
- 82% of children and youth in the Family Nutrition Program improved their abilities to choose foods according to Federal Dietary Recommendations or gain knowledge.
- 37% of children and youth in the Family Nutrition Program use safe food handling practices more often or gain knowledge.
- 37% of children and youth in the Family Nutrition Program improve their physical activity practices or gain knowledge.
- 99 youth in Wellsburg Middle were reached for recruitment to the Strengthening Families Program.
- 6 families were a part of the Strengthening Families Program and graduated from the program.
- 8 adults completed the Strengthening Families Program.
- 6 youth completed the Strengthening Families Program.
- 10 volunteers participated in families and health programs.
- 1 grant from Brooke and Hancock counties totaling \$250,000 per year for 5 years for substance abuse prevention.

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