

Lewis 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 Lewis County thanks to the tremendous support of our community members, local organizations, volunteers and local partners – the Board of Education and County Commission.

Highlights

Extension Agent Liz Post completed research on the strategic implementation of 4-H Club Meetings in West Virginia that was published in the national Journal of Extension, February 2015.

Agriculture agents in Lewis, Gilmer, Upshur, Doddridge and Ritchie Counties secured funding for, and purchased a portable squeeze chute and panels, to administer animal health programs on cattle. The first use was during the regional livestock overnigher, where 32 youth administered vaccines, de-wormers, and ear tags to cattle using quality assurance principles.

Agent Post, a member of the WVUES Citizenship Team, hosted a regional Youth Voice Leadership Meeting at the Lewis County Senior Center that was attended by youth and adults from five counties.

4-H and Youth Development

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

- 48 certified West Virginia 4-H volunteers provided volunteer hours at camp.
- 102 youth attended Lewis County 4-H camp.
- Campers participated in a choice of 45 small group educational classes.
- Over \$10,000 was received in contributions (from individuals, businesses, and organizations) for camp operations including \$6,000 for STEM activities and events.
- 190 were active members (including Cloverbuds) of a community 4-H club.
- 97 Lewis County 4-H volunteers completed the WVUES Certification process to become vetted 4-H volunteers. This included documentation, reference checks, in-person training, on-line quiz, background check, and sexual predator check.

Jamboree at the Mill (County 4-H showcase):

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- 256 projects exhibited (151 of these were livestock).
- 84 animals sold, with a gross sale of \$107,223.
- Six \$500 scholarships awarded and \$5,466 donated to the scholarship fund.
- Community contributions of \$13,450, of which \$5,000 was earmarked for educational programming.
- The Lewis County Beef Quiz Bowl team placed 3rd out of 10 teams in state competition.
- 675 children and youth actively participated in health and safety enrichment programs offered by the WVU Lewis County Extension Service Nutrition Outreach Instructor and Agent Energy Express.
- 64 Children received two nutritious meals and reading assistance each day through the Lewis County Energy Express program.
- Nine AmeriCorps volunteers received experience working with children from low income, rural families as well as a financial stipend and educational award through their summer work with Energy Express.
- Over 30 teen and adult volunteers read to Energy Express participants throughout the summer of 2015.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- 193 calves were marked through the Central Calf Pool, West Virginia Quality Assurance Program, realizing an increase of \$115.21 per head (\$22,235 total).
- Bruce Loyd led a team of three extension agents that produced a Pesticide Recertification Video program that was used state-wide and viewed by approximately 500 private applicators; three update sessions were taught around the state for commercial applicators (forestry, right-of-way, landscape) and were attended by 282 applicators. Both efforts resulted in safer use of pesticides.
- 242 soil tests, involving 4,840 acres were performed.
- Bruce Loyd co-authored a May 2014 research report about making quality baleage, published by the *Journal of the National Association of County Agriculture Agents* that was labeled a “must-read” in an October 2015 article of the *Progressive Forage Grower*.
- 42 farmers from Lewis and other counties adopted improved weed control practices using herbicides.

Community, Economic and Workforce Development

- Liz Post received three independent grants totaling \$26,000 to enhance summer youth

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- development programming (camp, Energy Express, and Jamboree at the Mill) in Lewis County.
- The Lewis County Breast Cancer Educational Event received contributions solicited by Liz Post.
 - In 2015, CEOS members reported 72,500 volunteers. At the current volunteer hourly rate as established by the Independent Sector, the financial equivalency is \$1,672,575. The service provided by these Lewis County citizens would not have been possible if paid positions were used.
 - Bruce Loyd was an integral part of the Lewis County Economic Development Authority Board, which has received funding for three water projects, the first of which will provide water to Roanoke Elementary School and Stonewall Resort, as well as residences in the area.

Families and Health

- Nutrition education encourages youth to try a variety of healthy foods. 432 youth in Lewis County Public Schools (grades K-5) were reached in 2015. The number of adult education classes increased in 2015.
- 103 People attended the Breast Cancer Educational Awareness Event hosted by the Lewis County Community Educational Outreach Service (CEOS) and the WVU Lewis County Extension Service. 100% of the attendees reported that the information presented was important to their health and 99% indicated that they would one) share information that they learned and two) the time invested was worthwhile.
- For its small population and rural geography, Lewis County boasts a significant number of Community Educational Outreach Organization members. In 2015, there were 230 members countywide.
- Ten professionally developed educational lessons by WVUES faculty were taught to Lewis County CEOS members. Topics included health issues, finances, heritage, and more.)

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The WVU Board of Governors is the governing body of WVU. The Higher Education Policy Commission in West Virginia is responsible for developing, establishing, and overseeing the implementation of a public policy agenda for