

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

Highlights

WVU Extension Service Energy Express, a summer youth reading and nutrition program, expanded from 3 to 5 sites in Greenbrier County this year serving the communities of Rainelle, Rupert, Frankford, White Sulphur Springs and Alderson.

Farmers and small producers learned how to start a successful business through participation in the Food for Profit Workshop held at the State Fair of West Virginia. Participants learned how to develop a business plan, food safety guidelines, target marketing, product labeling, financing options and risk management strategies. Local producers and the WVU Extension Service Families and Health agent also joined together to provide educational exhibits and working demonstrations at local farmers markets.

In addition to having 18 community clubs, reaching 334 youths and reaching over 550 youths through 4-H in-school enrichment programs, the Greenbrier County 4-H program began a shooting sports county club serving 25 youths lead by 2 new volunteers who are trained in the shotgun discipline.

4-H and Youth Development

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

- 25 teen youths completed approximately 2,000 hours of community service.
- 183 youths attended county 4-H camp.
- 11 teens attended a state 4-H camp.
- 334 youths were active members of a community 4-H club.
- 150 volunteers served the 4-H youth program in various ways.
- 665 youths were influenced by the Rethink Your Drink Campaign to make better and healthier beverage choices.
- 208 youths learned about healthy lifestyle practices through Health Rocks.

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Held three Winter Educational Dinner Meetings. Topics included Baleage and Factors Effecting Fermentation Quality, Soil Health and Pasture Management, and Farming as a Business. 40-60 county producers attended each training. Private Applicators also received credits towards their Pesticide Recertification Training.
- Our Master Gardener program continues to flourish. 59 Master Gardeners fulfilled their yearly volunteer and education hours. They provided 3,091.3 volunteer hours, and earned 460.1 educational hours. 18 new Master Gardeners graduated the class in November. They also plan to host the West Virginia Extension Master Gardener Association Annual Conference in April 2016.
- 11 applicators attended the 2015 Private Applicator Video training held in December 2015.
- Over 250 soil test samples were sent to the WVU Soil Testing Lab.

Families and Health

- Nutrition education encourages youth to try a variety of healthy foods. 372 elementary students were reached through the FNP school program, and 1,200 high school students were reached through Wellness Week Activities.
- 76 families were reached through the adult Family Nutrition Program. It helps families improve food resource management, food safety practices, and how to make positive nutrition and lifestyle changes. The adult nutrition programs also reaches individuals through the Seeds of Recovery Program.
- 12 individuals attended the Dining with Diabetes Cooking School series, which helps diabetics and their caregivers prepare meals lower in fat, sugar and sodium. In addition participants involved in the yearlong Diabetes Prevention Program lost 98 pounds and reduced their risk of Type II diabetes.
- The Families and Health agent provided relationship education programs such as How Not to Marry a Jerk or Jerkette, Money Matters, 5 Love Languages, and 5 Languages of Apology to CEOS groups, participants in the Day Report Program, civic and nonprofit organizations and local businesses. 66 state employees also received the Smart Money Series helping employees prepare for the payday changes and develop budgeting plans.
- 160 CEOS members attended local, regional and state workshops. 27 education lessons were provide at the local CEOS level. Members also contributed 2,400 volunteer hours to their communities.

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