

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

Highlights

Harrison County summer 4-H camps and programs, directed by 4-H Extension Agent Jason Burnside, have grown in quality and participation highlighted by 264 campers participating in weeklong residential 4-H camps at WVU Jackson’s Mill. Harrison County 4-H camping programs are recognized throughout West Virginia as premier camping opportunities for youth to participate learning Healthy Living; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math; and Citizenship.

The *Stress Less with Mindfulness* Program, which was co-authored by Becky Smith, Harrison County Extension agent, accounted for the largest amount of money received from PEIA to WVU Extension for cost recovery of more than \$25,000 for each of the last two years.

Larry G. Campbell, Extension agent, is pursuing research on asparagus and garlic production in cooperation with a Harrison County producer. The goal of the asparagus trial is to evaluate methods of asparagus production which increase the marketable yield and reduce the diameter of the spear size to meet consumer preferences. Crowns versus seedlings, spacing and the use of plastic mulch versus no mulch are being evaluated. The goal of the garlic trial is to determine if the production of garlic in West Virginia can be improved through the use of a high tunnel or low tunnel plasticulture system. Evaluation of varietal performance is also being conducted. Both trials are producing helpful data that will lead to improved production and profitability for West Virginia asparagus and garlic producers.

4-H and Youth Development

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

- 341 youths were active members of a community 4-H club. There are 16 active 4-H clubs in Harrison County that include special interest clubs covering Shootings Sports, STEM, Teen Leadership, and Interstate Exchange.
- 264 youths attended county 4-H camp. This camping program has seen its highest participation

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numbers in the last 20 years with an attendance increase of 30% from 2014. Camp was highlighted this year by a community service project called “Empty Bowls” where campers were able to paint ceramic soup bowls to help raise money for local organizations fighting hunger in Harrison County.

- Over 80 4-H volunteers are fully vetted through WVU Extension’s volunteer processes. This includes application, interview, job description agreement, background check and youth development training before being able to lead 4-H events, clubs or activities. 4-H is looked to as an excellent example of youth protection in communities in West Virginia.
- Two teams of Harrison County 4-H participants competed in the First Lego League robotics competitions. They continue to excel, winning regional and state honors highlighted by a third place finish in the table competition at the state tournament.
- 65 Harrison County youths attended a state 4-H camping event in 2015. We hold the largest delegation in attendance award at Alpha II State 4-H camp.
- 142 4-H projects were completed by 4-H members in 2015. One Harrison County 4-H participant received a “Best of Show” recognition at the state fair.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- 2,319 Harrison County residents were involved in Extension educational activities such as the Master Gardener Training program, Salem Correctional Center Horticulture program, Community Horticulture program, Low Tunnel Workshops, Harrison County 4-H Livestock Show, Pesticide Private Applicator Recertification Training, AG Educational Dinner Meetings, Harrison County Farm Club and individual consultations involving horticulture, pest control, and weed and pasture management.
- As Harrison County producers compete in local food markets, more of the food dollar stays in the county or in West Virginia. In addition, buying local, fresh produce has benefits related to healthy eating and nutrition. The local Extension office is helping Harrison County vegetable producers to be more competitive through educational programs that teach producers improved production methods that involve high tunnel, plasticulture and low tunnel strategies.
- A \$14,968 grant was awarded to a local producer as a result of the Extension supported SARE Farmer Grant: Honeybee Pollen Type Analysis.
- 118 Harrison County Master Gardeners contributed over 1,152 hours of service to the local community through projects such as the Master Gardener Spring Garden Fair, Shinnston Community Garden, Fort New Salem Apothecary Garden, Hospice Garden and Seeds to Go.
- 20 inmates at the Salem Correction Center participated in local Extension-sponsored horticulture vocational training. Participants in the program also developed a garden at the

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prison which produced over 1,203 pounds of produce which was donated to local food pantries.

- Local Extension research efforts helped to produce the “Gothic Arch Hoop Bender” jig which is being tested for use in producing Gothic arch hoops for low tunnel units used in season extension for vegetable production.

Families and Health

- 66,500 volunteer hours were contributed by the Harrison County CEOS members which has 9% of the entire state membership and 11% of the state total of volunteer hours.
- 30 families attended *Dining with Diabetes* to improve their nutritional and health management of the disease.
- 20 youths from 4-H camp engaged in hands-on healthy cooking classes and 10 military families engaged in hands-on cooking classes at the Family Symposium at Camp Dawson.
- 149 new National Guard Service members received financial education the last quarter of 2015 facilitated by Becky Smith, chair of the North Central West Virginia Joining Community Forces.
- The North Central West Virginia Joining Community Forces collected more than 300 lbs. of food for the *Brown Bags for Vets* program.

Programs and activities offered by the West Virginia University Extension Service are available to all persons without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, veteran status, political beliefs, sexual orientation, national origin, and marital or family status. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Director, Cooperative Extension Service.

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