

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

Highlights

Carole Scheerbaum, Extension agent, received a national award for Achievement in Service from the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents.

4 youths visited the state Capitol and served as legislative pages during House and Senate sessions.

County staff substantially restructured office space for a more efficient environment.

4-H and Youth Development

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

- 79 youths attended county 4-H camp; volunteers contributed 1,050 hours to implement camp (with a value of \$21,252*).
- 25 attended a state 4-H camp and 2 attended a national conference.
- 25 local youths participated in our Cloverbud Day Camp; 6 members of our Teen Leaders 4-H Club contributed 166 volunteers hours assisting with camp activities (value of \$3,359.84*).

Additional 4-H and youth development programs included:

- 91 were active members of a community 4-H club.
- 83 participated in Energy Express – a nutrition and summer literacy program for low-resource youth:
 - 38 adults and 39 youth volunteers contributed 1,485.5 hours of service (with a value of \$30,066.52*).
 - 70% of funding required for the program was provided by WVU Extension (\$37,241.00). Remaining funding was contributed by local partners.
 - Program evaluation showed that the average child increased 2.8 months in broad reading achievement.

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- Seven members participated in the West Virginia 4-H Horse Judging competition.
- 279 local middle and high school students participated in financial management workshops.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- 34 soil tests involving 145 acres were performed.
- Master Gardeners contributed 1,125.5 of service (value of \$22,780.12) and participated in 508.5 educational hours to increase their knowledge and skills.
- Six community members completed the annual pesticide recertification program.

Community, Economic and Workforce Development

- Partnership created with the National Council on Aging to provide 15 hours per week of workforce training for a program participant.
- 13 AmeriCorps members received workforce training as part of their national service within the Energy Express Program.
- Two summer interns received 630 hours of on-the-job training.
- 18 local business professionals participated in leadership training in partnership with the Weirton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Families and Health

- Nutrition education encourages youth to try a variety of healthy foods; 114 youths were reached in 2015 with 27 hours of evidenced-based programming.
- Community Educational Outreach Service volunteers documented more than 7,000 of service to the community in a variety of projects (with a value of \$141,680*).
- Membership in the Advocates for Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition produced a successful 5-year grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy for activities in Hancock and Brooke Counties (total award: \$625,000).

Source: Cost value calculated at \$20.24/hour from Independent Sector (accessed 1/14/16; http://independentsector.org/volunteer_time).

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