

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

Highlights

Alexandria Straight received the Achievement Award from National County Agents Association. She also was part of a team that received national recognition and runner up national award on their Annie’s Project and Youth Livestock Overnighter Program.

Stephanie Deem received her 10 year of service certificate from the West Virginia University Extension Service. She is part of a team putting together a statewide WVU Extension Service manual for policies and procedures for 4-H Camping and other Extension related events.

Stephanie Deem and Alexandria Straight along with the WVU Extension Service – Ritchie County Office staff worked diligently and were successful in hosting Spring Agricultural, Natural Resources and Conservation Field Days. There were 350 youth and 25 adults who participated in the event.

4-H and Youth Development

We have made great strides at including more STEM in our programming with the increased interest in this subject matter. Our county feels that it is time we really move more towards this kind of programming while continuing to foster and enhance our current programming. Not only have we been able to offer STEM programming to our 4-H members but we have been able to collaborate with the Ritchie Board of Education in providing these programs to the Pre School and After-School programs and take our 4-H STEM curriculum into their setting.

While making these strides in STEM programming, our county 4-H program continues to grow and improve with increased membership and programming.

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

- 176 youth including Cloverbud joined 4-H in 2015.
- Four members successfully participated in the Charting program in 2015.

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- 124 youth attended 4-H Camp.
- 68 4-H'ers participated in national, regional and/or state events (judging, WV State Fair, camps, posters and photos).
- 82 elementary children and 11 college students participated in Energy Express – a nutrition and summer literacy program for low-resource youth.
- Stephanie Deem is part of a research team for best camping practices when dealing with technology and social media.

Volunteer hours are calculated at \$22.55 per hour when using donated time for grant applications. Volunteers are extremely important to our programs and our county. The WVU Extension Service programs provide excellent returns on the investment.

- 4-H Clubs – 5,000+ hours.
- 4-H Club Leaders – 4,000+ hours.
- 4-H Camp Volunteers – 4,500+ hours.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Youth Agriculture

- In the past we have exhibitors sign up and about 15% drop out by fair time. These numbers do not include animals that did not meet fair requirements. With the addition of the educational components we have had an increase in the retained animal numbers. Participants increased project knowledge at about six livestock meetings yearly, the Livestock Multi-County Overnighter, 4-H camp and three 4-H club meetings each year.
- Over the past 7 years we have steadily increased exhibitor numbers.
- 2015: 65 animals \$89,000.
- Over the past several year Ritchie County about 50,000lbs. of meat was generated.
- 12 farm visits were made with project recommendation provided and one-on-one teaching with the exhibitors.

Ritchie County Cooperative Marketing Association Inc. Calf Sale

- 152 Heifers Sold Averaging 487 pounds. Total heifer weight sold was 74,010 pounds. Average price was \$162.84 and total sale of heifers was \$120,514.34.
- 208 Steers Sold Averaging 524 pounds. Total steer weight sold was 108,925. Average price was \$164.84 and total sale of steers was \$179,552.50.

West Virginia State Fair Jr. Horse and Pony Show

- The WVSF added nine new exhibitors in 2015 with the addition of contest and education clinics

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- 2015 released the updated rule book with plans to unveil it statewide in the spring of 2016 at an equine clinic.

Women in Agriculture

- Pre-survey developed and completed assessing successful Annie's Projects from across the nation.
- 2012-2014 Marketing and promotional materials developed and distributed.
- 2012 \$36,000 Northeast Risk Management Grant awarded.
- 2012 Curriculum developed for West Virginia's pilot Annie's Project.
- 2013 \$16,000 secured for Annie's 2 funding.
- 2013 \$28,000 Northeast Risk Management Grant received to expand Annie's 2 and Curriculum developed.
- Marketing and promotional materials developed and distributed.
- 2012-2014 Impact of the program was presented on the national level for the National Women in Agriculture Educators Conference, Galaxy, and Extension Risk Management Conference.
- Six sites throughout West Virginia established for pilot program (fall 2012 – spring 2013).
- 15-20 participants recruited for each site, total of 70-80 participants for pilot project.
- Approximately 60 educational workshops were held throughout the state in 2013-2014.
- Approximately 80 educational workshops will be held throughout the state in 2015-2016.

West Virginia Women in Agriculture Conference

- 190 women attended the conference.
- About \$40,000 secured through fund raising and support efforts.
- 50% of those evaluated said they gained knowledge and 50% plan to change something in their operation.
- 2016 WIA conference being planned.
- As a direct result of the conference one woman is now selling her value added products to one of our tour stops.
- All 37 respondents were female. 48.65% had been operating more than 10 years.
- 32.43% had been operating less than 5 years; 8.11% weren't yet operating.
- 78.03% of respondents were over 50.
- Operations were very diverse.

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- 94.59% were interested in online classes.
- Due to the conference, 37.5 % made a change in market practices and 34.38% increased value added practices.
- 78.79% plan on attending the 2016 conference.

Farm Opportunities Day

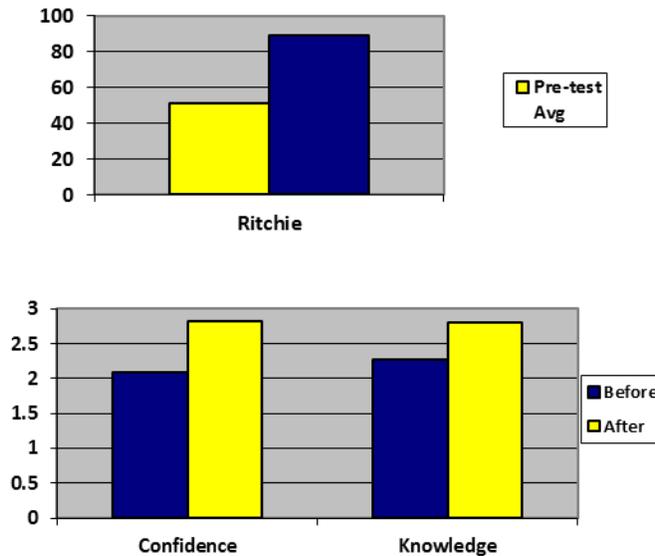
- 80 total conference participants.
- 16 partnering agencies and organizations for the structured vendors fair.
- Successful collaboration between WVU Extension Service, WVU Small Farms Center, Glenville State College, and West Virginia Small Business Development Center.
- 100% of respondents stated that the date of the conference was convenient.
- 89% of respondents felt the conference was an appropriate length (9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.).
- 100% of respondents stated the conference location in Glenville was convenient.
- 94 % of respondents stated that they would consider attending this conference again.
- 300 soil tests completed.
- Alexandria Straight is involved in research studying the increased protein and digestibility of bailing.
- Alexandria Straight is involved in research studying Use of Summer Annual and Cool Season Perennial Forages to Improve Management of Winter Feeding Areas for Beef Cattle, secures 2,000 grant to aid in this research.

Food Preservation

- 100 handouts were distributed at the Venison Preservation class taught at Hunting and Fishing Days.
- 12 individuals attended the Venison 101 course held in Ritchie County. On a scale of one - three, the instructors' average ratings were three for style and delivery and three for rapport with group. Overall, the presentation received a 2.8.

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Pre/post test scores



- The pre/post evaluations indicated a gain in participants' knowledge.
- Participants felt more confident in using the information and skills learned after the workshop.

A summary of the most valuable information gained: *(complete summary in documentation)*.

- That you can thaw and can previously frozen meat.
- Learning about canning.
- How meat was cut.
- Lymph nodes.
- The way meat was trimmed from bone.
- Proper way to use canner.

Community, Economic and Workforce Development

As farmer's market vendors receive business training, networking opportunities and technical assistance, the county will benefit from increased revenues and citizens will have access to fresh foods which will improve health.

- \$40,000 in Farmers Market Sales.
- Over 20 vendors participated each week.
- \$10,000 in grant funding was secured for farmers market equipment.

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- We had one person from Ritchie County who attended the Community Leadership Conference. This individual now serves on the statewide planning committee for the 2016 Community Leadership Conference.

Families and Health

- Six Community Education Outreach Service (CEOS) clubs with 70 members.

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- CEOS – approximately 7,000+ hours.

Properly preserved fruits and vegetables by citizens in our county will increase the consumption of healthy foods which will lead to an improvement in general health and decrease the need for medical interventions.

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