

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

Highlights

After losing our Nutrition Outreach Instructor position in May 2012, we successfully obtained a new Health Educator position in late 2015 scheduled to begin in early 2016. This Health Educator will be cross-trained in adult and youth programs to provide quality health education in Summers County.

A busted main water line temporarily stopped Summers County 4-H Camp. On the second night of camp, a busted water pipe forced 4-H Agent Lesley Woodrum to make the difficult decision to cancel camp for the remainder of the week based on an estimated three days to fix the problem. Although the maintenance staff of Camp Summers thought the repair would take three days, it was fixed within hours. After sending over 200 people home, the decision was made to resume camp Wednesday morning. 100% of counselors returned and 88% of campers returned. Prorated refunds were given to campers who were unable to return.

All 4-H volunteers in Summers County have gone through the new vetting process including background checks, Children on Campus training, and other mandatory training pieces as mandated by WVUES. This is an important step in ensuring our youth are safe and protected in all 4-H settings.

4-H and Youth Development

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

- 185 youth attended Summers County 4-H Camp.
- 15 youth attended Clover Bud Day Camp.
- Three teens attended Teen Leader Weekend.
- Three members attended Young Adult Conference.
- 4-H Agent Lesley Woodrum co-directed Young Adult Conference.
- 17 members attended state camp: Older Members’ Conference, Alpha I, Alpha II.

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- 33 blue ribbon projects at the West Virginia State Fair.
- Four members received their Charting Pins.
- Five youth and three adults were inducted into All Stars.
- Youth participated in a variety of programs throughout the year: The Germ Stops Here!, Health Rocks!, Eating a Rainbow, nutrition, exercise, after school programming, etc.
- \$6,000 grant received from United Way of Southern West Virginia (an increase of \$3,500 from 2014)

Agriculture and Natural Resources

As Summers County producers compete in local food markets, more of the food dollar stays in the county helping the local economy as well as the agricultural producers. In addition, buying local, fresh produce has benefits related to healthy eating and nutrition while at the same time promoting Sustainable Agriculture.

- 300 Soil Tests were taken and interpreted as a management tool in order to increase yields on over 18,000 acres in Summers County.
- Over 250 pesticide recommendations were made as a means to increase yields of agriculture enterprises while at the same time educating the producers and public on the proper use of pesticides. Seven producers obtained their Private Applicator License in 2015 bringing the number to 55 in Summers County. Four pesticide education classes were conducted as an educational vehicle .
- Average of 12 producers participated in the local farmers market which generates approximately \$50,000 in sales that is returned to the producers and the local economy.

Community, Economic and Workforce Development

- CRED Agent Rick Moorefield applied for and received a \$15,000 National Coal Heritage Area Partnership Grant for the construction of restroom facilities at the John Henry Historical Park.
- CRED Agent Rick Moorefield applied for and received a \$15,000 National Coal Heritage Area Partnership Grant for the repairs to the John Henry Museum and the collection and display of artifacts.
- An estimated 320 youth and adults attended the Safety on the Blue Festival and over 90 life jackets were distributed free of charge to area youth that participated in the water safety program thanks to CRED Agent Rick Moorefield's efforts to raise over \$1,500 in grants and donations to purchase the life jackets.
- 15 county residents participated in a Summers County Community Leadership Expo aimed at

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increasing volunteerism in the county that was developed and facilitated by CRED Agent Rick Moorefield.

- CRED Agent Rick Moorefield supported WVU Extension efforts by providing data in support of Extension's federal reporting; serving on the CEWD Peer File Review Committee; representing Extension and Summers County at various state, regional, and local events; and supporting initiatives of Extension's Community Planning, Economics, Leadership and Tourism Specialists.

Families and Health

- Summers County Extension Service received approval for a Health Educator position to be cross-trained in youth and adult programming.
- 12 participants attended Dining with Diabetes to improve their nutritional management of the disease. The majority of participants saw a decrease in their A1C and blood pressure.
- Active for Life was taught 21 times in 2015.
- Lesley Woodrum led an exercise program for adults. Participants increased the number of repetition they were able to perform, lost weight, increased strength, and increased endurance.
- A variety of programs were offered to the residents of Summers County: True Colors, nutrition, exercise, Taking Charge of Your Health and Safety, healthy relationships, etc.

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