

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

Highlights

Under the editorial direction of our office secretary, Joyce Foster, the WVU-Roane County Extension Office staff has collaborated to create a new bi-monthly newsletter that keeps our local stakeholders up to date on our programming efforts and impacts, with a distribution of over 600 electronic copies and 225 mailed copies to youth and adult in Roane County.

Crystal Cochran was hired as the new Roane/Jackson County Youth Health Educator in mid-July to deliver family nutrition programs in the local schools and through other youth development outreach opportunities.

We provided an award-winning “Farm to School” program known as the “Kid Koupons” where over 400 kids in 3-5th grade got to learn more about healthy choices and use \$4 vouchers to purchase local produce at a mobile farmers market set up on-site at each school.

Extension agent Travis Cullen received a \$165,000 grant to construct a new recycling center in Roane County. Over the last 3 years the amount of materials recycled has increased by over 1250%. Travis has implemented several educational opportunities in the school system, civic organizations and throughout the communities of Roane County. With the amount of materials increasing he has also been able to increase jobs with this program.

Two AmeriCorps VISTA summer associates served with the Roane County 4-H program in 2015. This project, funded through a partnership with West Virginia’s Promise, provided two college-aged VISTA members who conducted STEM programming with Roane County youth during their summer 2015 placement. Over the course of their ten-week placements, the summer associates collaborated with local agencies and organizations to offer STEM programs for youth and families. Altogether, the summer associates planned and implemented STEM programs and activities with 658 Roane County youth participants.

4-H and Youth Development

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Roane County youth participated in 4-H and other youth development programs and activities in the following ways:

- 252 youth were active members of a community 4-H club.
- Five county 4-H'ers were inducted into the West Virginia 4-H All Star organization in recognition of their outstanding record of service to the 4-H program and other community organizations.
- 17 club officers increased their knowledge of 4-H club officer duties and responsibilities during the 4-H Club Officers' Training School.
- In 2015, WVUES celebrated 100 years of 4-H camping! 148 youth attended county 4-H camp; 112 youth received camp awards with 27 receiving full scholarships to attend the 2016 county 4-H camp and four receiving full scholarships to attend 2016 state 4-H camps.
- 21 youth attended a state 4-H camp in 2015. The Roane County 4-H Leaders' Association and 4-H Foundation provided \$1,170 in financial assistance to youth attending state 4-H camps.
- 175 4-H projects were successfully completed during the 2014-2015 4-H program year.
- 142 youth showed and sold livestock project animals during the 2015 Roane County 4-H and FFA Youth Livestock Show and Sale generating \$232,406.90 in sales.
- 56 4-H exhibits were showcased during the 2015 Black Walnut Festival.
- 19 4-H youth exhibited items at the 2015 State Fair of West Virginia.
- 70 4-H'ers/ family members attended the 2015 Roane County 4-H Achievement Banquet; 57 youth and 11 4-H volunteers were recognized with awards during the banquet.
- 35 youth participated in the Energy Express program; 16 older youth provided 555 hours as program volunteers.
- 33 middle school students increased knowledge in engineering and computer programming during after school LEGO robotics classes.
- Four middle school youth increased knowledge in astronomy by learning how to program robotic telescopes located around the globe to take images of objects in space during and after school SkyNet Junior Scholars class.
- 658 community youth engaged in hands-on STEM programs and activities with two AmeriCorps STEM summer associates this summer. These youth increased in STEM content-related knowledge and gained an awareness of career possibilities in a STEM field.

Roane County adult volunteers provided service to 4-H and other youth development programs and activities in the following ways:

- 79 adult volunteers contributed at least 3200 hours of service to the Roane County 4-H Program.

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- Three county 4-H volunteers were inducted into the West Virginia 4-H All Star organization in recognition of their outstanding record of service to the 4-H program and other community organizations.
- 25 volunteers served as cabin counselors during the 2015 Roane County 4-H Camp.
- 42 volunteers taught 47 classes focused on 31 different topics during county camp.
- Three Registered Nurses (RN) and one Certified Nurse Practitioner (CNP) provided over 400 hours of medical supervision during county camp with two also serving as volunteer medical staff members during state 4-H camps (OMC and Alpha II).
- Five volunteers attended the 2015 West Virginia 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Camp with three successfully certified as Air Rifle instructors and two successfully certified as Archery instructors.
- Eight Energy Express volunteers provided 73.25 hours of service at the 2015 site.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Farm Management

- 159 soil tests involving 1541 acres were performed.
- 271 farmers in the region learned progressive farming techniques at our annual series of 3 winter dinner meetings on farm management topics. \$600 was generated from local partners to provide dinner and door prizes.
- Local farmers Ben Hays and Larry Cottrell were involved in a state-wide research project on the nutritional value of haylage, which was subsequently published this year in the *Progressive Farmer* publication, other peer-reviewed publications, and shared at state and national Extension conferences and meetings.
- 35 private pesticide applicators' educational credit hours were provided to seven landowners.
- Numerous pest and plant identification, diagnostic and control advice services were provided.
- Assisted in the development and delivery of the 2015 Farm Opportunities Day Conference held in Glenville, where 10 Roane County farmers participated and learned a variety of small farm management strategies.
- Assisted in the development and delivery of the 2015 West Virginia Small Farm Conference in Charleston, West Virginia, where 12 Roane County producers were able to learn more about risk management, marketing, production and sustainable practices to improve or begin operations. This conference also hosted a youth entrepreneur's contest where three Roane County youth competed, two of which won first place team and one who won 2nd place individual, earning a combined \$3,000 in prizes.

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Horticulture

- 15 active Extension Master Gardener volunteers completed 647.5 hours of service and 141.5 hours of additional training. They contributed \$18,202.23 worth of volunteer time to our communities, completed 18 community service projects, served in eight leadership roles in a local association and maintained a treasury of approximately \$2,000.
- 21 homeowners participated in a fruit tree pruning workshop and demonstrated proficiency in pruning skills during workshop.
- Conducted two educational sessions with 12 participants of the Southern Roane Garden Group at Walton Public Library on Straw Bale Gardening and Small Space Gardening.
- Conducted on-going research on the effectiveness of Early Jersey Wakefield Cabbage as a trap crop in broccoli planting with 2 Roane County market gardeners.

Marketing

- Membership in a regional local food marketing cooperative known as the Mid-Ohio Valley Growers Association has increased by 19% from last year, generating over \$24,184 in sales for local youth and adult producers.
- Acquired a \$5,000 grant from the West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition to fund a delivery van for the Mid-Ohio Valley Growers Association.
- Acquired and utilized \$26,630 in USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant funds to assist with marketing needs, including the hiring of a part-time cooperative coordinator for local food producers.
- Assisted a local retailer with certification and licensing to become a local meat distributor, increasing their product offering and sales opportunities.
- Assisted a local wholesale company of value-added food products to prepare for and pass a USDA and FDA inspection to expand their marketing opportunities outside of West Virginia.
- Assisted in the development and delivery of the 2015 West Virginia Women in Agriculture Conference and secured scholarship funding for four local women to attend the 2nd annual event.
- 215 head of feeder calves were marketed through the Roane County Calf Pool as part of the West Virginia Quality Assurance Sale Program, six farms consigned calves, 14 producers were Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certified, 116,785 lbs. of BQA beef was sold, a \$212,448.50 value.
- Four local producers consigned purebred Angus bulls and heifers to the West Virginia Southern Test Station to improve management practices, herd genetics, and marketing opportunities

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throughout West Virginia and surrounding areas.

- Assisted the West Central Beekeepers Association in monthly education of 61 beekeepers, 65 package bees were purchased from a West Virginia beekeeper in 2015 with association cost-sharing efforts totaling \$5,525 in local investment in honeybees and honey production. Assisted in preparing and securing a Parkersburg Area Community Foundation grant for \$3,000 to buy additional package bees and medication for hives in 2015.

Youth Agriculture

- 24 community members served as program volunteers for the 2015 Roane County 4-H and FFA Youth Livestock Show and Sale, 164 animals were tagged for the 2015 show, 142 animals were sold, 100% of livestock sold were from quality assurance trained youth, \$232,406.90 in funds were generated from the sale, \$1,240 in premium monies were awarded to youth, \$5,500 was generated in fundraising efforts to support for program, and \$6,000 in facility improvements were made to the grooming and parking areas of the facilities.
- Six youth livestock educational sessions were conducted for over 400 youth and adults on topics covering livestock selection, housing and care, 4-H project work, quality assurance, judging livestock classes and meats, fitting and grooming, and showmanship.
- Garnered \$500 in support from local organizations to sponsor the participation of four local youth in West Virginia Conservation Camp.
- Trained three groups of youth judging teams, totaling 26 youth and took them to state contests at the West Virginia Beef Expo, State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, and the West Virginia Youth Beef Bowl Contest.
- 12 youth exhibited livestock and participated in hands-on educational exhibits at the State Fair of West Virginia.
- Partnered with the Roane County Farm Bureau and the Roane County FFA to ensure that 176 3rd grade youth participated in the county-wide Ag Field Day on the Woods Farm where they learned agricultural concepts and built relationships with FFA youth. 40 FFA teens also gained valuable community service and youth development experience.
- 108 7th graders at Spencer Middle School participated in four water quality activities to learn about the amount of fresh water available on Earth and the importance of water conservation and quality. As a result of these activities, students averaged an 11% increase in correct answers from pre to post testing.
- Served on an advisory board for the WVU-P Agriculture and Natural Resources Division to develop curriculum to attract Roane County high school graduates to pursue post-secondary education in agriculture and natural resources in our region.

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Farm to School

- Conducted Farm to School training in schools.
- Installed two raised bed gardens for Reedy Elementary and planted cool and warm season vegetables in the grow lab.
- Provided hands-on learning at four raised bed gardens at Building Blocks Child Development Center.
- Donated 10 trays of starter plants to the Roane County High School Vo-Ag program.
- Assisted with marketing the harvest from the high tunnel at Roane County High School.
- Consulted on the purchase and installation by school staff of \$1,000 in raised beds and composters for school gardening lessons throughout the school year at Walton Elementary.
- Secured a regional Farm to School AmeriCorps Member for Mid-Ohio Valley region of West Virginia, providing a \$9,790 living stipend and \$5,550 educational award for 2016.
- Six 3-5th graders from Walton Elementary learned more about soils, plants, gardening and vegetable production in a six-week Junior Master Gardener course as part of PATCH's after-school activities in the spring.
- Coordinated the sale of over \$4,899 to Roane County School from local food producers.

State-wide Grants

- An agent served as co-principal investigator for a Northeast Risk Management Education grant for \$46,067 that provided six regional six-week courses and one on-line course for risk management education, known as "Annie's Project" for 150 women.
- An agent served as co-principal investigator for an Extension Risk Management Education grant for \$25,014 that provided two regional courses, one on-line course, and a cap-stone bus tour on agritourism development and farm-based education in West Virginia.
- An agent served as co-principal investigator for a National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant for \$515,075 grant to provide a comprehensive new farmer curriculum to beginning and aspiring farmers in West Virginia. This grant was un-funded, but has been tweaked for re-submission in 2016.

Community, Economic and Workforce Development

- Extension Agents contributed to the planning and implementing of the West Virginia Black Walnut Festival as organizers of the exhibits and nut contests during the event and coordinated the distribution of over \$1,000 in premium monies.
- Extension Agent Travis Cullen wrote and received two grants totaling \$165,000 to build a new

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recycling center in Roane County.

- Two farmers' markets have been connected with technical resources to allow vendors to accept electronic payments at market locations including SNAP, credit and debit cards.
- The Roane County Farmers Market was awarded \$8,000 to feed youth during the summer.
- The Roane County Solid Waste Authority increased the amount of materials recycled from 2014 by nearly 75%.
- \$200,000 of grant money raised for community projects or improvements.
- The Roane County Farmers Market generated \$60,000 into the local economy.

Families and Health

- 21 Reedy Elementary School preschool and kindergarten youth improved their handwashing skills after participating in the Germ Busters/Germ City handwashing program.
- 17 parents of HeadStart preschoolers increased their knowledge of parenting-related topics through participation in three educational workshops.
- 60 youth and 10 adults participated in a Healthy Foods Fear Factor Challenge in which they were challenged to try healthy snack foods with unusual names or appearances.
- 128 Roane County School system employees increased their ability to identify bullying and knowledge of how to effectively address bullying.
- 110 3-5th grade students at Geary Elementary Middle School participated in six weeks of a "Show Me Nutrition" curriculum, learning important healthy habits and nutritional information.
- 415 3-5th grade students in each of the county elementary school participated in a 30-minute activity known as "Re-think Your Drink" to encourage them to make healthier drink selections and improve public health among Roane County youth.
- One Community Education Outreach Service club known as the "Gandeeville CEOS Club" has 15 active members and has contributed over 300 hours of community service to various project for families and health based initiatives in the county.
- Extension Agents served as Read Aloud program volunteers for two classrooms at Spencer Elementary and one classroom at Spencer Middle School.
- Extension Agents served as school volunteers and/or judges in career, science, social studies and reading fairs.
- Extension Agents on the Friends of the Roane County Schools committee to educate the public on the school level assisted with fundraising of \$2,533 to publicize the levy's impact on Roane

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County Schools and the youth.

- Extension Agents served as judges for the school and regional creed contests for the FFA.
- Acquired and utilized a \$5,000 CSX/Conservation Fund grant to fund the “Kids Koupons” Program that provided hands-on learning experiences about healthy, fresh and local produce and shopping at the mobile farmers market for over 400 local elementary school youth.
- Received the WVU Extension Service’s team award for New Program of Excellence for the “Kids Koupons” Program.

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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