

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

Highlights

Webster County 4-H Leaders Association sponsored the Summer Food Service Program, serving 6,541 nutritious meals, supporting seven summer programs in addition to 4-H Camp.

136 youth attend Webster County 4-H Camp, with 82% giving an overall camp grade of A or B.

Ten Farmers Market producers provided fresh vegetables and fruits to income eligible seniors and WIC program participants by accepting Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons.

4-H and Youth Development

In 2015, we celebrated 100 years of 4-H camping through special programs during Webster County 4-H Camp and exhibits at Webster County Fair.

- 62 youth exhibited 93 blue ribbon projects at Webster County Fair.
- 136 youth attended county 4-H camp.
- 175 youth participated in 4-H community club programs and activities.
- 30 4-H adult volunteers have cleared background checks and been trained in protecting children and mandatory reporting of abuse and neglect.
- 123 4-H members learn about the harmful effects created from the miss use of social media when communicating by participating in iRESPECT programming.

48 youth enrolled in Energy Express experienced, on average, an age equivalent gain of 2.8 months. 74% of the students maintained or increased their scores on reading achievement over the course of the program. An additional 26 youth participated less than 15 days. Summer employment is provided for 10 adults, in addition to the 10 college students serving as AmeriCorps members. Participants are exposed to college-going students and see the value in school achievement and pursuing a post-secondary education, leading to a potential increase in the number of Webster County residents with a higher

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education degree.

Youth participating in 4-H develop leadership, citizenship and life skills, enabling them to develop the skills needed to obtain jobs and contribute to the health and wellbeing of their communities. 96% of 4-H camp participants felt good about something they accomplished, 87% skills improved in some activities and 94% learned things that will be useful in the future.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- 11 producers sold fresh produce and home baked goods at the Webster Springs Farmers Market.
- 14 soil tests involving 84 acres of hay and pastureland and 6 home gardens and lawns were performed.

10 producers were eligible to accept Senior Farmers Market and WIC Farmers Market coupons, making fresh vegetables and fruits available to income eligible program participants.

Agriculture producers and home owners using soil testing services apply only needed soil amendments, reducing their costs of production and protecting the environment through application of nutrient amounts that will be used by plants.

Homeowners, gardeners, and agriculture producers using pest management assistance (identification and recommendations) use only the correct amount of pesticide and at the appropriate time to control a pest, saving the applicator money and protecting the environment from overuse and misuse of chemicals.

Community, Economic and Workforce Development

Camp Caesar completed a \$10,000 Flex-E-Grant supported Funding Strategies Plan for implementing the Strategic Master Plan adopted in 2012. An Economic Impact Study and Facilities Study have also been completed in preparation for maintenance, renovation, and development of Camp Caesar enabling it to remain a viable, economic force well into its second century, which begins in 2022. Seasonal employment is approximately 50, many of them youth at their first job, who are learning and developing job skills.

Ten college-going youth provided a valuable service opportunity and resume building experience while serving as AmeriCorps Energy Express mentors, earning a total of \$30,450 in living allowances and education awards, helping them finance their post-secondary education.

Families and Health

- 6,541 nutritious meals served to youth at summer programs.
- 14 CEOS members develop leadership and knowledge skills while maintaining an active

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community service agenda.

- 4-H Leaders Association sponsored Summer Food Service Program that provided 6,541 nutritious meals to youth participants and teen volunteers at two Energy Express sites, two school-based summer remedial enrichment programs at two sites, children enrolled in the Starting Points Child Development Center, participants at the week-long “deliver the rock” basketball camp, middle and high school band camp participants, participants on the WCHS middle and high school football teams, and eligible participants at 4-H Camp. Total reimbursement was \$19,551.71.
- Two cook jobs for six weeks and one for nine days were created by this program. Adult employment opportunities and paid service opportunities for college-going youth associated with Energy Express supported by this 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