

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

4-H and Youth Development

Outputs

- 442 youth reached through 4-H activities.
- 170 youth attended 4-H camp.
- 285 youth attended community clubs.
- 301 youth in community service projects.

Participation in specific 4-H and youth activities in our county:

- Two in STEM programs.
- 280 registered 4-Hers in county community club membership.
- 13 clubs in Hardy County, including Livestock and multi- county Horse.
- 30 youth involved in club or county teen leadership programs.
- 45 youth, 4-H and non, involved in state judging opportunities.
- 60 adult volunteer leaders on official roles in county.
- \$70,000 of volunteer time annually to Hardy County from local 4-H volunteers calculated using the “U.S. volunteer value rate.”
- 300 youth in school supported /assembly class educational programs by Hardy County Office.
- 120 youth in 2015 S.T.E.M. activities, including Ag Science, in 4-H programs.
- 190 projects completed in 2015 exhibited at Tri County fair.
- \$452 in premiums given to youth from 2015 Tri-County fair participation.
- \$255,924.23 of youth 4-H livestock projects sold at 2015 Tri County fair.

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- 90 exhibits at 2015 WV State Fair Youth Building by Hardy County 4-Hers.
- \$580 of premium money for youth from non-livestock 2015 state fair participation.
- 190 4-H camp participants, ages 9-19, at 2015 Hardy County Camp Pinnacle (annual average 180-210).
- 20 attended 2015 Camp Clover bud: Mini Day, age k-2nd grade.
- 25 campers not in 4-H program but provided a local camp experience.
- 45 trained “vetted” leaders at Hardy County Camp Pinnacle.
- 300 acres owned and operated by the Hardy County 4-H Camp Association
- \$0.00 received from county funds (funding provided by volunteer fund raising).
- 14 groups outside of 4-H used Camp Pinnacle facility for programs in 2015.
- \$9000 in private donations and grants to Camp Pinnacle facility care in 2015.
- \$1000 in books purchased to give as free books to youth in 2015 Literacy program, provided through Family Issue Task Force and Extension.
- \$3800 raised from private sources and Extension grants for 4-H educational programming in 2015, including scholarships for low income youth.

Impacts: Examples of changes in youth as a result of our 4-H and youth development activities

- 110 4-Hers in Hardy county gained knowledge and skills in exploring their future education and career options.
- 164 4-Hers in Hardy county gained citizenship/leadership skills.
- 284 4-Hers in Hardy county gained healthy living skills.
- 48 camp staff members increased their skills in accommodating the needs of children with disabilities at 4-H camp sites.

170 campers in our counties interacted with a STEM Ambassador this summer, which was their first encounter with a scientist or engineer. These campers gained an awareness of career possibilities in a STEM field for themselves and their peers.

Public Value Messages

Increased success in STEM and other academic subjects leads to positive outcomes for youths as well as a reduction in risky behaviors. Because of their involvement in 4-H activities in Hardy County, youth are more likely to obtain well-paying jobs, create their own businesses, and contribute to the health and well-being of their communities.

Bullying and other acts of exclusion limit all citizens from fully participating in society and often result in incidents of depression, suicide, and violence. As the 4-H camp in our county makes

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changes to accommodate the needs of children with disabilities, all members of the community benefit from full participation of its citizens.

Low-resource children have been found to have lower vocabulary levels when they enter school and continue to be behind other children throughout their school years. Children who participated in Energy Express in our county, and who read and practice reading skills in the summer, will enter the new school year better prepared. The better prepared students are to learn, the more likely they will graduate from high school and pursue college training.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Outputs

- 36 citizens engaged in agriculture and natural resource programs.
- 21 farmers involved in livestock management and beef quality assurance programs.
- 18 farmers involved in farm management programs.
- Five farmers/vendors involved in farmers markets.
- Three farmers involved in pest and wildlife management programs.
- 110 youth involved in youth agriculture education activities.
- 160 soil tests performed.

Participation in specific agriculture and natural resources programs in our county:

- 28 in Beef Quality Assurance programs.
- 70 PA and Commercial license holders took part in Continuing Educational programming.
- Six people who had learning opportunities for PA license holders to receive credit for license renewal.
- 65 beef producers participating in 2 BQA training opportunities to acquire or maintain their certification.
- Two workshops to be conducted and planned for transitioning the farm to the next generation.
- 24,000 lbs. of agricultural plastics from farm operations recycled in 2015.
- 37 producers involved with the agricultural recycled plastics in this continuing program.
- 90 bulls sold (150 tested), 15 consults, with support to the efforts of the WV Young Sire Evaluation program at Wardensville.
- 120 youth from four counties instructed at a farm program for performance test, RFI, etc.
- 10 participants in gardening and food preservation workshop series.

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- 24 Hardy County youth in the Beef Expo stockman's contest.
- 18,000 lbs. of wool marketed at the Regional Wool Pool- with 75 producers and others.
- 70 youth instructed at 4-H Horse Camp.
- 280 youth at TCF/State Fair activities (4-H FFA Junior Horse and Pony Show) plus an additional 57 youth additional family members.
- 500 youth in four to five counties participating in an Entrepreneurial Event collaborated with County BOE, EWVCTC.
- 60 First Responders and Extension Educators directed instructed in the emergency program (BERP) program in Putnam County, EDEN and other regional areas.
- 55 participants in NE SCD Tour of WV 55.
- 75 producers and others involved in Small Ruminant project/Ram Sale-WVU Farm (60 rams and goats) Many- the calls and visits for insect and disease pests in horticultural crops in gardens/orchards.
- Six people in the nutrient management work with Town of Moorefield.
- Several Horticultural research projects in Hardy County with Dr. Jett and WVU Farm-Green beans, specialty crops, and high tunnels.
- 45-50 auctioneers in the Auctioneer Continuing education program support licensing in VA and West Virginia.
- 48 seats needed every other year to bus Ag Tour beef producers to Virginia educational programs with Farm Credit support (Dec 8-9 in 2015).
- \$255,924.23 of youth livestock projects sold at Tri County fair in 2015.

Public Value Message – Value to people not in the program

As Hardy county producers compete in local food markets, more of the food dollar stays in the county or in West Virginia. In addition, buying local, fresh produce has benefits related to healthy eating and nutrition.

The beef cattle industry faces challenges that include, but are not limited to, increasing competition from other meats, product variability, and rising costs associated with production. WVU Extension efforts in Hardy County to promote marketing pools and analyze cattle through the Livestock Administrator Database increases production and sale of cattle in this county and in the state, thus improving the county's economy from agriculture.

If vegetable growers are able to prevent diseases in their produce, they can increase yield of cucurbits, tomatoes and potatoes in the county. Increased revenues improve the incomes of

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growers and the West Virginia economy grows through higher taxes. Additional health benefits are also accrued as citizens eat more fruits and vegetables that are grown locally.

Presentations on pond management help the public understand how to manage their water resources. Properly managed ponds can provide a source of water for local irrigation, fresh fish for the local populations and recreational centers for community and tourist activities. All of these add to the local economy and health and vitality of the community.

If West Virginians create new industries by growing certain energy crops such as switchgrass on marginally productive lands and reclaiming surface mine sites to grow energy crops, it will reduce the reliance on coal production, thus lowering CO2 emissions, and contribute to the overall economy of the state with the creation of new jobs.

West Virginia has already begun to reap financial gains from the production of natural gas in the state's Marcellus shale. In order to continue to provide this natural resource to citizens and benefit from its revenues, it is imperative that we develop and monitor drilling techniques that protect the environment and West Virginia citizens. It is also important to create an informed public.

As farmers fine tune their management of feed production, crop and livestock nutritional management and livestock marketing and cow efficiency, they will reduce expenses related to producing fed-cattle and be able to reap larger financial gains from the sale of cattle. This increased revenue will result in farmers increasing their incomes and contributing to the general economy.

Community, Economic and Workforce Development

Public Value Messages

WVU-ES provides a valuable service workers who work in construction and maritime industries for the government and private industries. The value of this service is the reduction of on-the-job injuries for workers and efficient and safe work environments which enhance production.

Comprehensive plans for counties, cities, and towns enable municipalities to create safe and healthy environments for their citizens to live and prosper. These plans also enhance the ability of communities to create revenues, such as tourist revenues, help them attract new residents to their communities and improve property values. All of this creates new income for local communities as well as the state.

As leaders in our county identify and build on our community's assets we build solid foundations in public organizational and financial management.

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.

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While West Virginia is known for its natural beauty and outdoor recreation, an overnight visitor study ranked visiting a landmark/historic site as the second highest activity/experience. The development of historical/cultural tourism sites in our county increases tourism activity and increases revenues for our county.

Families and Health

Outputs

- 332 youth participating in the family nutrition program.
- 59 adults participating in the family nutrition program.
- 72 participants in food safety programs such as food preservation.
- 1515 participants in healthy lifestyle programs such as obesity prevention programs.
- 203 participants in chronic disease prevention programs.
- 113 participants in parenting programs.
- 28 participants in childcare training programs.
- 180 volunteers participating in family and health programs.
- 29 part in financial education programs.

Participation in specific programs in family and health

- 161 in CEOS.
- Seven organizations in our Families and Health in Hardy County are currently partnering for educational programs :PEIA, AARP, West Virginia Secretary of Treasury, West Virginia Dept. of Education, WVDHHR and Marshall University.
- \$10,000 in grant funds Hardy County will receive this year to gain benefits during our second National Institute of Health Grant. WVU-ES Hardy County and the Hardy County Wellness Center have received these funds to educate our communities on the importance of Heart Health Awareness.
- 4000 dental health products WVU-ES Hardy County has distributed to residents Dental Health programming in partnership with Marshall University, WVDE, and WVDHHR has worked to promote the Oral Health Project. WVU-ES Hardy County has also partnered with Hardy County Child Care Center, Hardy County Public Schools, and EA Hawse Health Center-Mathias.
- 1100 youth and adults who benefited from Family and Health Education including peer relationships, physical activity, diabetes education, food safety, life skills, literacy, STEM, child

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care continuing education, Home health Continuing Education and nutrition education .

- Three agencies so far in partnership with the WV Secretary of Treasury the amount of agencies so far that WVU-ES Hardy County provided financial preparation and education regarding the State employee pay schedule change to employees at Lost River State Park, DHHR-Hardy County, and DHHR- Grant County.
- \$275,455.80 is the value of 11,940 volunteer hours through the CEOS (Community Educational Outreach) to Hardy County with 1,991 physical activity hours, with 2,049 books read, and volunteer hours of service to the local community.
- 30 percent out of total program cost is the only amount Hardy County must pay to have the 2016 Energy Express Literacy summer program for up to 60 Moorefield and East Hardy youth through West Virginia University and Ameri-Corp. Cooperation and support from the Hardy County Board of Education. Also provide local employment for six-eight college age youth mentors and one adult. WVU Extension Agent is county coordinator contact working with BOE.

Examples of changes in participants (citizens, business, organizations, communities, conditions)

- 262 youths in the Family Nutrition Program improved their ability to choose foods according to Federal Dietary Recommendations.
- 106 youths in the Family Nutrition Program improved their use of safe food handling practices.
- 83 youths in the Family Nutrition Program improved their physical activity practices.
- 59 adults in the Family Nutrition Program improved their ability to choose foods according to Federal Dietary Recommendations.
- 52 adults in the Family Nutrition Program improved their use of safe food handling practices.
- 48 adults in the Family Nutrition Program improved their physical activity practices.
- 10 in food safety programs increased their knowledge of using current and research-based processes in food preservation.

Public Value Messages

According to a report by the West Virginia Governor's office in 2013, if West Virginia is to successfully reverse high health care costs and poor outcomes, it is going to require specific changes in the healthcare system that address high-cost health conditions and improves the overall health and healthcare of West Virginia families. Our county's Family Nutrition Program plays an important part in improving overall health by training youth to make healthy food and activity choices early in their lives which will lead to better health outcomes over time for them and their families.

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Research has shown that children who are raised in families who eat one meal together several times a week, are physically and mentally healthier, perform better in school, and are less likely to engage in risky youthful behaviors. The Strong Families Eat Together program in our county helps to maintain family vitality and improve positive outcomes for families and for communities.

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.

Parenting education programs, such as “Parenting Piece by Piece” help to restore family bonds. By offering parenting education programs in our county, Extension plays a part in producing positive home life situations for the state’s youth which leads, eventually, to a more productive workforce and healthier, safer environment.

Family stability is cited by many studies as a protective factor for guarding against risky behaviors and depressive disorders in youth. WVU Extension’s efforts to offer programs in our county that enhance coping skills in divorcing parents helps to stabilize family relationships during difficult times and to protect youth from engaging in negative behaviors and attitudes. These protections help to ensure healthy youth development and productive adult participation in communities.

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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