

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

Highlights

Over 75% of the Tyler County 4-H membership took part in a camping program throughout 2015. Those members attended the following camps: Tyler County 4-H Camp, Young Adult Conference, Alpha I, Alpha II, Older Members Conference (OMC), Multi-county Livestock Overnighter, Tyler County Younger Member Overnighter as well as exchange camps with other counties.

Natasha Robinson, Extension agent, worked closely with Tyler FFA program to further promote youth agriculture. Over 200 hours were spent working with the Tyler Ham, Bacon & Egg program resulting in more than 150 hams and bacons, 16 dozen of eggs, and 10 loaves of bread being sold on a county, regional and state level.

The Tyler County 4-H and FFA Market Livestock program had a very successful year at the Tyler County Fair. Students raised and exhibited 67 market livestock projects and earned over \$103,000 collectively through our market livestock sale. Each participant was trained in Quality Assurance and completed a record guide for their project.

4-H and Youth Development

Youth in Tyler County are in need of constructive and positive environments as they develop into contributing members of society. The Tyler County 4-H Program provides youth a place where they can truly grow as a person and can do so in a welcoming and inclusive environment. This is best showcased through our 4-H camping program. In 2015, we celebrated 100 years of 4-H camping!

4-H is an experiential learning organization. This is shown through our extensive project book selection. 4-H members can choose from a wide variety of the project subject areas in which they can garner knowledge and skills related to some of their favorite topics. Some of these subjects include cooking, STEM, livestock, outdoor education and an introductory project called This is 4-H.

West Virginia piloted a new Stop Spit Tobacco curriculum in seven counties. Tyler County was one of

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the pilot counties, introducing youth grades 3-6th to the latest information regarding spit tobacco and how it effects a person's life as a whole. This new curriculum doesn't just preach not to use spit tobacco, it equips young people with the knowledge of what it does to your body, how it effects your lifestyle, how it is introduced into kid's lives and most importantly how to say no to using it.

Here are some highlights from 2015:

- 85 campers participated in this year's camp with eight of those being day campers participating in the Cloverbud Day Camp held in conjunction with the residential camp. We also had five additional Cloverbuds participate in our Cloverbud Day. 21 participants were first-year campers.
- 37 adult volunteers contributed towards camp with 22 working during the week of camp full time.
- 22 members attended a state 4-H camp.
- 116 were active members of a community 4-H club.
- 108 completed project were exhibited at the Tyler County Fair. Our project book completion rate rose to 63% this year.
- 36 Tyler County 4-H members exhibited a still project at the State Fair of West Virginia. An all-time record for number of projects from Tyler County at the state fair!
- 67 4-H members received an achievement pin at our annual Achievement Banquet for their work on their project books on a county level.
- 22 youth participated in project book workshops.
- A record high, during Natasha Robinson's tenure as agent, 52 posters competed in the county poster contest. Eight posters went on to the state 4-H poster contest, resulting in six blue and two red ribbons.
- 30 youth participated in 4-H club officer training. Surveys showed that 93% of participants believed the training would help them become more effective leaders within their club and county.
- 150 third thru fifth graders participated in the Stop Spit Tobacco curriculum that was piloted in West Virginia in 2015. These students learned the effects spit tobacco can have on your body, life, and future.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Youth agriculture is one of the most important programs for young people to be involved with. It provides them the training and skills needed in order to be a successful part of the agricultural

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industry, as well as provides them the skills needed to provide for themselves and their family on the most basic level.

Agriculture is very important for the Tyler County community. Many local farmers sell goods at the farmers' market, can goods for use at home, and sell goods to the local grocery stores. This provides added income to the households while providing a rich learning environment for all involved.

Agricultural based education has taken a rise in importance in the state as more and more employers are looking for young workers with a skill set. The agricultural contests allow students to learn skills that they can potentially use for a job. This ranges from public speaking to knowledge of how to produce an agricultural product.

Here are some highlights from 2015:

- The Tyler Ham, Bacon & Egg program had more than 150 hams and bacons, 16 dozen eggs, and 10 loaves of bread being sold on a county, regional and state level. Students earned more than \$60,000 in income from these enterprises.
- 67 market animals were raised and exhibited in the Tyler County 4-H & FFA Market Livestock Program at the Tyler County Fair. Total sales from the livestock auction totaled over \$103,000.
- 134 youth and 30 volunteers participated in the Progressive Ag Farm Safety Day in Tyler County. Students learned how to be safer and more proactive in regards to safety measures within their rural community through classes ranging from food safety to tractor safety.
- Two Tyler County 4-H Members exhibited Market Hogs at the State Fair of West Virginia. These two young people were the first from Tyler 4-H to show livestock there in recent history. As a result, interest for next year's state fair livestock shows have greatly increased.
- 22 students learned how to properly candle and grade eggs. The increased ability to judge their own eggs was demonstrated in the success of the Egg component of the Ham, Bacon & Egg Program on a regional and state level.
- 59 youth were trained and completed certification in the Quality Assurance program for livestock.
- 55 youth participated agricultural based contests including: Beef Expo Stockman's Contest, State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest and the Grassland Evaluation Contest. One junior team placed 4th over in the Beef Expo contest, with a 5th place individual. In the livestock judging contest, two individuals placed 2nd and 3rd in the beef judging component.
- 16 youth participated in a market livestock showmanship clinic. In addition, eight youth participated in a market steer grooming clinic. These youth showed increased knowledge and ability in the showing & throughout their market livestock project.

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- Approximately 600 youth learned how molasses was made through talks and demonstrations at the Middle Island Harvest Festival.
- 193 calves were sold through the Tyler County Calf Pool program. This was nearly a 10% increase from the previous year.
- 10 farm visits were conducted throughout the year, resulting in completed soil tests and increased yield in crops.

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