

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

Highlights

Dr. Bill Shockey, Extension agent was author of two peer-reviewed journal articles describing the harvest and baleage management practices in West Virginia. He presented the research results to 410 farmers in Mineral, Hardy, Hampshire, Berkeley, Greenbrier and Monroe counties.

David Hartley, Extension agent and the iRESPECT Team presented the team training resources at National Bullying Conference in February. The iRESPECT team anti-bullying program was developed by West Virginia Extension.

Both Preston County Extension agents and the entire Preston County Extension staff are greatly involved in the Preston County Buckwheat Festival. From the youth livestock exhibitors, livestock competitions, to all 1192 of exhibits and staffing of Memorial North the Extension Office coordinates a substantial portion of Festival activities. Like most undertakings, all the behind the scene work isn't done overnight making the Buckwheat Festival a yearlong commitment.

Bill Shockey and David Hartley are developing of a smart phone application designed to allow livestock producers contact remotely with a large animal veterinarian or veterinary clinic.

4-H and Youth Development

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 Preston 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.

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

- 173 youth attended county 4-H camp.
- 41 attended a state 4-H camp.

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- Preston County received the award for largest delegation for the fourth time at Older Members Conference.

County 4-H Highlights:

- Two members attended National 4-H Conference in the spring 2015 and 1 will attend in 2016.
- Four members attended National 4-H Congress in the fall 2015.
- 382 active members in community 4-H club.
- 12 after-school/out of school STEM programs were conducted for 468 school age youth across the county.
- 32 youth in Energy Express – a nutrition and summer literacy program for low-resource youth.
- Five members were part of the first Lego League Robotic Team for Preston County.
- Over 231 completed 4-H projects were exhibited at Buckwheat Festival.
- 16 youth attended the State Shooting Sport Competitions.
- 169 4-H and FFA members trained in youth quality assurance.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Programs addressed high priority efforts related to youth agricultural education, livestock health and marketing, local food production and farm to table initiatives, Master Gardener Volunteers, farm management and grassland production.

- 169 Junior Exhibitors sold 269 head of livestock at the 2015 Preston County Buckwheat Festival Youth Livestock Sale for a total value of \$280,736.70.
- Dr. Shockey is involved in research to describe effects of harvest management practices on baleage quality and distributed results to West Virginia farmers at winter meetings.
- Supported a farmer initiated marketing coalition designed to increase local food consumption of institutional customers. In 2015, over \$6,000 worth of local food was purchased by Preston County Schools and West Virginia National Guard Mountaineer Challenge Academy.
- Master Gardeners reported 895 volunteer hours to county residents by providing civic organization education, public park design, school science education, public flower care and many more activities.
- Ten farm women completed Annie's II Project on farm finances and risk management training designed specifically for female clientele.
- Funding has been requested to conduct research and teaching programs to address the availability of local preventative veterinary services.

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Families and Health

- Nutrition education encourages youth to try a variety of healthy foods. 239 youth were reached in 2015.
- Youth reported 56% like vegetables and almost 54% like fruits, post-program.
- 21 adults in the Family Nutrition Program improved their ability to choose foods according to Federal Dietary Recommendations.
- 63 CEOS Members conducted over 4250 hour of service to their communities in 2015.

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