

Jackson County Extension

Program Impact Report

2019 Executive Summary

Jackson County had a really great year in 2019 with staff working well together through integrated programming and new partnerships, including a very important one with the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Programming Director Dora Caldwell. This was one of the better years CED has experienced in his ten year CED career. Solid work on the following resulted from staff working to benefit the public of Jackson County. **Volunteers included 98 that worked 714 hours that impacted 2,425 clients valued at \$18,156 in 2019.**

HORTICULTURE work (**1,610**) has been primarily with the Christmas Tree producers, Landscape Industry, Specialty Crop Producers, Beekeeping and 1,237 home gardeners and small farmers in 2019.

BEGINNING BEEKEEPING SCHOOL out the 35 students, over sixteen of the class participants began keeping bees this year, each with 1 to 2 hives of bees. Typically, the number of hive recommendations per acre are in the 1-2 range. As more people become familiar with bees and beekeeping the decline of honeybee colonies will be stemmed.

FRUIT TREE HOME ORCHARD WORKSHOP evaluations stated that 100% of the student said they had gained knowledge about home orchard fruit tree production. 88% indicated they planned to change their pruning practices. 79% specified their plans to change soil fertility practices. 75% revealed their intent to try more disease resistant cultivars. 54% expressed a desire to change their disease and insect control practices. As a result, participants increased their knowledge for long term sustainable production in their home orchards.

PESTICIDE APPLICATORS (109) gained additional CEUs to stay in business due to greater knowledge to safely and effectively apply chemicals for their trade.

4-H and YOUTH DEVELOPMENT directly worked with 2,507 through 6 active 4-H Clubs including STEM, 470 in Leadership and Life Skills, 364 in Conservation Education, Summer Camps, 91 in Local Agriculture through "Adventures in Agriculture" summer long day camp and 25 in Embryology with schools.

EMBRYOLOGY had 25 children experience the life cycle first hand. Most of the students cooked an omelet on their own for the first time. Creativity was sparked using beans as the material for creating artwork and the majority of students learned that corn and wheat are used to make many products that we use and eat every day. "I didn't know gas can be made from corn" exclaimed one child.

INDEPENDENCE GROWS HERE success story illustrates multiple programs **4-H programs** in 2019, thirteen youth took steps toward independence by journeying away from home to attend 4-

H summer camp. An additional 13 youth developed their potential through 4-H presentations at the county level, 11 at the district level, and 2 at state competition. Thirty-one teenagers have practiced planning, organizing and decision making through Youth Leadership Council service projects and event planning. Sometimes they have learned through failure as they regroup and practice follow through. Jackson County 4-H participants are currently the ones benefiting from this focus on learning independence but eventually the learning will show up in self-directed, responsible adults who will be leaders in our community, country, and world.

THE JACKSON COUNTY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (LEARNING 21st LEADERSHIP SKILLS) program continued to be strong and even grow in 2019 with over 30 members now, which is preparing youth for the ever changing world through real world experiences by philanthropy work and community service for those youth programs in need across the county.

FAMILY and CONSUMER SCIENCE program worked with 401 individuals with 171 on increasing knowledge of community resources in regards to a healthier lifestyle; food safety and nutrition and cooking through "Meds instead of Meds" and SNAP ED. Five (5) increased food safety handling practices and 5 in increased consumption of vegetable and fruit consumption. FCS Agents also worked with the Jackson County Extension Community Association (ECA) Clubs in 2019 with nutrition programs and some community development efforts.

SNAP-ED TRY HEALTHY had thirteen (13) out of the sixteen (16) students tried the beet recipe. Five of those students returned for seconds and verbally reported they were good, especially with the "leaves" (Parsley). Coloring sheets were handed out and of those returned (14), most (9) said they did not like them, but five said they did like the beets because they were delicious and good for you. The students benefited from this program because they got to try a food they might not get to try at home and some realized trying new food was not bad. They also learned eating beets could turn urine red, which for students is always fun.

The SMOKIES SKI-WALKING SCHOOL (SSS) of Fall 2019 had six (6) participants that attended the school All the participants were consistent in attending the class and said they were benefiting from the school because of developing friendships from others in school, which gave support to the walkers and increased cardio and strengthen building from using the poles. The SSS secured \$1,250 from the local Thrift Stores grant that purchased ski nordic) walking poles for the Smokies Ski Walking School for each Spring and Fall Schools. This school teaches the basics of ski/nordic walking to help the public with living a healthier lifestyle through ski walking with burns 20%-40% more calories than walking without poles and increases strengthening of the upper body since ski walking is a total body exercise. The CED is becoming certified in skiwalking to better teach others the benefits and skills of skiwalking properly and safely.

ANIMAL AGRICULTURE worked with 465 individuals in respect to animal production through better herd health, pasture management, reproduction, nutrition and rationing, farm business management and BQA practices. **LIVESTOCK AGENT** worked with the JMS Cattlemen's Association with as the Co-Chair of the Education Committee, which she provided educational information on 4 different occasions on the topics of Beef Cattle Nutrition, Crossbreeding Production Systems, On Farm Calving Needs, and Alternative Fertilization

Options. As a result we were able to provide approximately 20 producers with an increase in knowledge in the fore mentioned topics, had our yearly usage of cattle handling equipment and corral system double, and between 25 and 30 producers who expressed a better understanding of equipment and medication needed in the event of calving problems at home.

The "Cullowhee Recreation "AGRICULTURE DAY CAMP" had 25 campers in which 78% of children responded that they had learned at least one thing about agriculture during the seven week program. 12 of the 23 children expressed that they learned about local crops and animals that are grown and raised in Jackson County and our surrounding area. An innovative evaluation approach was utilized. A kinesthetic activity was utilized as they physically moved along a continuum to answer the survey questions.

CRD and NATURAL RESOURCES worked with about 400 individuals mostly 5th grade youth through Annual Soil and Water Conservation Field Days with the schools, but also with the Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP) and dozens of Wildlife and Resource technical assistance home owner inquiries.

ADMINISTRATIVELY the Jackson Center performed well with the transition of a retiring Administrative Assistant to the new Administrative Assistant (AA) in the summer months. This transition was smooth with the new AA taking initiative and working well with the staff. The "Farmers Breakfast" continued in 2019 with a June Breakfast bringing Extension clientele to the Jackson Extension Center, which was a great public relations event. Jackson ALS met once in May 2019 and again in November 2019. The Jackson ALS members were asked to participate more from May to November with extension programs and designate an ALS Chair, which hasn't happened as of January 2020. ALS did participate and support Jackson Extension well in 2019 with attending extension programs. All ERS, County and State Reports were completed by their designated deadlines.