

Community Voices

“Our Extension service helps us keep up with modern methods of raising crops and livestock, as well as conservation practices that reduce or eliminate soil and nutrient loss. We definitely appreciate all the extra hours our Extension staff put in. It proves their dedication to the youth and our entire community!”



Franklin Zitta
Hatcher’s Run

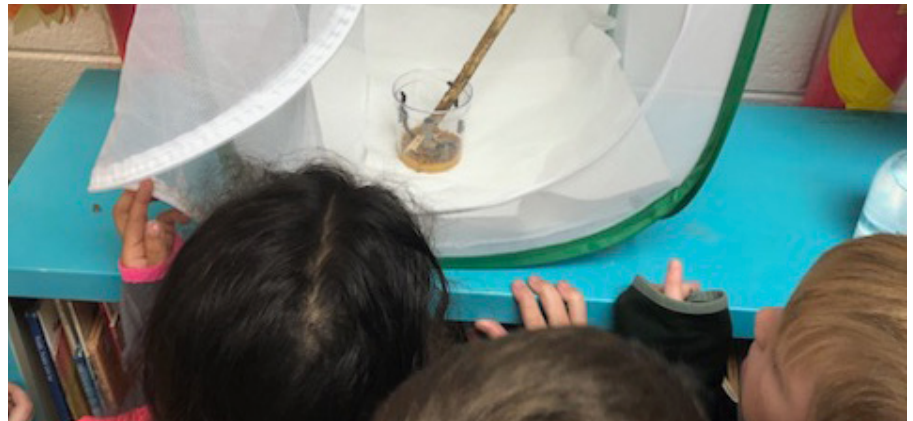
10,000
Plastic Pesticide
Containers Recycled

Partners for Solutions

“In response to a critical community need, I delivered a comprehensive parenting program that utilized evidence-based strategies to empower parents, foster positive outcomes for children, and strengthen family connections.”



Jessica L. Jones
Agent



Students watch caterpillars in a butterfly habitat.

Sharing Knowledge

In 2022, the Extension agent for 4-H Youth Development worked with the director of elementary education for Dinwiddie Public Schools to identify key areas in the science curriculum where hands-on programming is needed. Within the SOL framework, one key topic is that animals have life cycles.

Funding was received through the Innovative Program Grant to support a life cycle program on butterflies. The 4-H technician developed a six-lesson program that was shared to all second grade classes in Dinwiddie. Kits were created that included live caterpillars, food, a netted habitat, supplies for crafts, lesson plans, a butterfly net, daily videos, and more. All of the information and details were housed in an easy-to-access Google site so classrooms could interact with some online content to go along with their curriculum. Lessons came from various sources, including the national 4-H At-Home curriculum. Additionally, students were provided with a short project book to complete throughout the process to add to the life skills taught in 4-H, such as record-keeping.

Teachers said they felt the project helped youth develop the ability for science-processing skills, and one commented that it was helpful to observe changes that they had already discussed in a hands-on way. The students and teachers alike thought that it added value to their class experience. At the conclusion of the project, classes were able to release their butterflies to finish out their life cycle in nature. Due to the grant and local support, this program will continue on a yearly basis.

Dinwiddie County

Funding by Source



33% State

37% Local

9% Federal

20% Other

Total Funding: \$539,670

\$1.71

return on investment
for every dollar
invested by the county
in **Dinwiddie County**

\$176,761

value of extension
volunteer hours in
Dinwiddie County

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