

Some Topics to Pursue

Tourism:

A. Heritage Tourism - this group has high disposable income. Hampshire County has a wealth of history from several eras and categories to appeal to a wide range of interests. We also have several sites open to the public.

B. Recreation Tourism - this group is often family/association related. Our rivers are accessible, but the WMAs need state maintenance support for summer use including hiking and birdwatching. We have many farms which could develop tourism related activities.

C. We need more directional and interpretive signage for tourists. We need to coordinate with Google Maps to insure that sites are correctly located and described. This includes sites to visit as well as travel amenities.

D. We need to develop themes which various businesses can promote; we need to cater to the tourist's interests.

E. Investigate opportunities working with the West Virginia Tourism office. Our Governor has said tourism is an important part of the plan to raise our economy. Remember Hampshire County is a “gateway” to West Virginia from the Washington-Baltimore Metropolitan areas.

F. Broaden opportunities for showcasing Appalachian Music and Culture.

Farm to Market Agriculture:

Develop programs to allow specialty agriculture activities access to nearby metropolitan area markets

Jobs/Employment:

A. Check out www.wvpubcast/jobs

B. Coordinate with Catholic Charities West Virginia in its broad-based approach to attacking poverty/unemployment.