

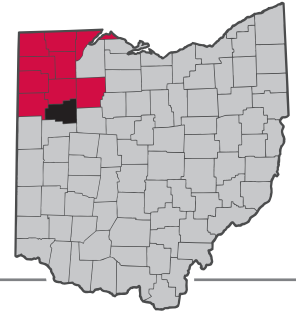


## ALLEN County

### MAUMEE VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **Youth Leadership**—Twenty Allen County 4-H Camp Counselors planned activities, sessions, games and camp schedules for 200 campers, as well as career development and communications. This year, Allen County co-camped with Van Wert County as an EERA regional partnership with a Dr. Seuss theme, “4-H Camp Palmer Can Show You a Thing or Two!” Twelve of those counselors went on to assist at our 4-H Cloverbud Day Camp where 57 campers attended. Thirty-six older youth on our Junior Fair Board learned lifetime skills such as problem solving, communications and confrontation management by assisting at livestock interviews and judging events before and during the fair.
- **4-H Volunteer and Youth Activities**—A total of 196 volunteers developed educational opportunities for 1,021 youth in 45 clubs. Volunteers also assisted youth to help complete 3,544 projects. A total of 569 youth participated in Livestock Quality Assurance training in 2013. Youth who participated in this workshop explored good production practices. Members also completed a sample DUNF. There were zero reported cases of drug residue in the 2013 Junior Fair Market livestock program. 4-H programming reached 2,244 youth through traditional clubs and school programming. In addition, 4-H volunteers and youth, along with community businesses, continued to raise funds for the 4-H program.
- **Real Money, Real World**—Real Money, Real World is an active, hands-on experience that gives young people the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar

to those they will make as adults. This experience helped some 1,145 Allen County middle and high school students to explore careers and realize the importance of family budgeting and how today’s consumer economy works. After completing the exercise, students stated, “I need to prepare myself better by doing well in school” and “It costs a lot to raise kids.” More were quoted as saying, “I need to work hard in school and plan for my future” and “I didn’t know how much everything cost. I need to think about college and what I want to do.”

#### ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Master Gardeners**—Allen County Master Gardeners logged 2,122 volunteer hours of horticulture-related educational activities, serving 2,837 people and 705 hours of continuing educational training in 2013. Projects included The Children’s Garden, Art of Gardening Seminar, The Brown Bag Series, The Butterfly Migration Celebration and Allen County Fairgrounds Entrance. More than 8,000 visitors toured the Children’s Garden. This fall a new regional Master Gardener class was held at OSU-Lima. Eleven Allen County residents will be new volunteers and will be required to give 50 hours of service each in 2014.
- **Science Education Indoors**—The Allen County Master Gardeners participated in the St. Rita’s Healthy Kids Fair in August. A total of 186 children planted lettuce seeds to take home and grow.
- **Horticultural and Environmental Education for Adults**—In March, the Master Gardeners hosted “The Art of Gardening

Seminar” at OSU-Lima. One hundred fifty-six adults attended six hours of horticultural and environmental training on topics including caring for bulbs and growing perennials.

- **Horticultural Training for Senior Citizens**—Master Gardeners provided horticultural education to senior citizens in two different ways. They taught sessions on gardening at the Bluffton Library. Additionally, the Master Gardeners presented a program on plant propagation to members of The Bluffton Garden Club.
- **Public Outreach**—In May, the Allen County Master Gardeners provided a daylong “Ask a Master Gardener” event at DeHaven’s Garden Center. They assisted 131 customers by helping with proper plant selection, planting and care tips as well as recommendations for “best practices” advice regarding landscape and turf questions. Additionally, Master Gardener Rita Thelan presented 10 segments regarding a variety of horticultural topics on WLIO-TV News *Noon Edition* on a monthly basis.
- **Horticultural Science Learning Outdoors**—In June, the Allen County Master Gardeners began two separate outdoor learning programs at The Children’s Garden. The Brown Bag Lunch Series is a seasonlong event providing members of the community an opportunity to learn horticultural and environmental topics. In 2013, 387 adults were served by the Brown Bag Lunch Series. The Allen County Master Gardeners also provide an outdoor educational series for children ages 4–6 for eight weeks during the growing season. This year an average of 14 children per week participated in the program and learned about seed propagation, insects, spiders, sources of foods, plant care, vermiculture and recycling and the five senses.
- **Historical Basis for Current Horticultural Practices**—One hundred twenty-nine Allen County residents attended Pioneer Days at the Allen County Museum, where Allen County Master Gardeners displayed examples of native plants and discussed the uses for and storage and growing of various herbs, vegetables and fruits.
- **Science Education Outdoors**—The Allen County Master Gardeners held The Butterfly Migration Celebration at The Children’s Garden in September. Over 217 youth and adults attended this event. Monarch butterflies were released by the children, and the youth could rotate to various educational stations to learn about the life cycle and migratory habits of the monarch butterfly.