

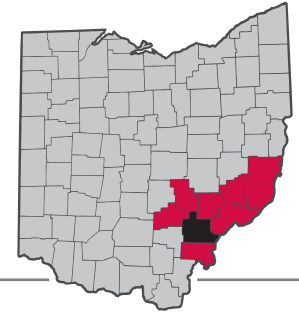


## ATHENS County

### BUCKEYE HILLS EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **4-H Camp**—In all, 95 youth (up from last year) ages 8–14, 25 teen counselors and 14 Extension and camp staff participated in 4-H Camp at Tar Hollow State Park. During the four-day camp, campers and counselors experienced the dynamics of group living and were educated about the importance of communication skills, citizenship, conservation and teamwork. They also participated in recreational activities while building lifelong friendships. A total of 30 teen counselors interviewed, and 25 completed 24 hours of mandatory training and planning to prepare for camp. Teens increased their knowledge about team building, leadership skills, teaching techniques, risk management and youth protection, health, safety, decision making, communication skills and program planning. We will be adding another day to our camp in 2014.
- **Teen Leadership Development**—Athens County 4-H trained and implemented programming with over 20 Junior Leaders, coordinated 10 PetPALS members, and organized Quality Assurance Training for around 450 youth in 2013. All of these training programs help teens perform professionally, raise livestock and conduct other specific tasks. This year, Junior Leaders is focusing its efforts on assisting the dog shelter both by volunteering and hosting a donation drive.
- **4-H Club Development**—In 2013, we trained over 60 advisors on new policies while implementing a new rule that at least one advisor from every 4-H Club had to attend each year. These advisors oversaw our 50 4-H Clubs and helped over 713 participating youth complete projects. Within clubs, members learned proper meeting structure, how to work

together on booth/float projects and how to coordinate community service projects.

- **4-H Impact**—In 2013, Athens County 4-H helped 597 young people between the ages of 8–18 assume responsibility and follow through with work ethics. In addition, the 4-H Cloverbud Program for youth in kindergarten through second grade continues to grow, with 116 Cloverbuds this year. This year, Cloverbud Day Camp was expanded to a full day on the Athens County Fairgrounds. Over 40 Cloverbuds experienced several rotations of arts and crafts, games, a petting zoo and nature, all of which were led by fully trained 4-H Camp Counselors. There was also a special Cloverbud Advisor Training this year to increase programming. Finally, the program is helping over 100 youth in area schools with 4-H School Garden Curriculum on a consistent basis, which is new from last year.
- **4-H in the Community**—The 4-H Extension educator is also working on boosting the program throughout the fall and winter. In October 2013, Extension hosted its third annual booth at the Athens County Chili Cook-Off. The goal was to show members of the community that 4-H has something for everyone. In addition, the new 4-H educator has done several presentations, hosted a booth at Fourth Grade Ag Day, held a 4-H Fall Craft Night and hosted a booth at the Alexander Fall Festival. All of these efforts have resulted in new youth already requesting information about 4-H for next year. Athens County 4-H also partnered with the Athens County Dog Shelter, Athens County Farmer's Market, Tractor Supply and other community groups to promote 4-H and conduct community service projects. Finally, the

4-H educator has partnered with several Ohio University classrooms to promote non-traditional education and teach lesson planning and programming elements.

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Ohio SNAP-Ed**—This program provided 123 classes on food safety, protein foods and whole grain foods during the federal fiscal year of 2013. A total of 887 recipients of food assistance and eligible non-recipients attended classes. Of those attending, 97% reported they learned new information and 89% planned to make recommended changes. In addition, 1,400 nutrition education newsletters were distributed monthly to Commodity Supplemental Food Program and WIC participants.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Soil Testing**—Spending limited financial resources in agriculture to maximize returns is enhanced by soil testing, accurate interpretation of soil test results and timely implementation. Twenty-eight farmers and homeowners were assisted in their understanding of soil test results. Reduction in fertilizer needs (especially phosphorus), too much manure application and insufficient lime application were the primary problems resolved by one-on-one evaluations and discussions.
- **Agricultural Classes**—Fourteen private pesticide applicators were assisted with a three-hour Pesticide Applicator Recertification. A three-hour class in good agricultural practices was also presented to 28 produce growers to help them meet new national Food and Drug Administration laws.
- **2013 Pawpaw Festival**—Over 90 new potential pawpaw growers were registered as new members of the North American Pawpaw Growers Association at the 2013 Pawpaw Festival held at Hocking College's Lake Snowden. Over 800 attendees from 12 states attended educational classes conducted by researchers and growers on "Growing Pawpaws into the 21st Century," "Pawpaws 101," "So You Want to Grow Pawpaws," "Pawpaw Permaculture," "Adventures and Misadventures With Pawpaws" and "Cultivating Persimmons and Pawpaws."
- **Master Gardeners**—The Athens County Master Gardeners' initiative is to influence the next generation of gardeners. Forty-five actively trained Master Gardeners are sharing the horticultural resources of OSU Extension with the youth and adults of Athens County. The Athens County Children's Garden provides a learning laboratory for youth (nine classes with an average attendance of 10 children per class) in summer educational classes sponsored by

the Athens Recreation Center. Over 1,000 visitors asked questions of Master Gardeners at their booth at the Athens County Farmer's Market. Three special informational days were provided on "Food Safety and Canning Testing" to homeowners, in collaboration with a regional OSU Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educator.

**Athens County receives \$21,719 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**