

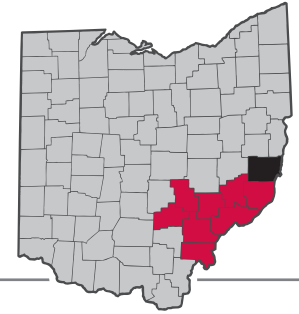


BELMONT County

BUCKEYE HILLS EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The **Belmont County Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)** program continues to work within the schools and community to increase awareness of wellness practices, including better nutrition choices and increased physical activity. The highlight of 2013 was the Library Walking Challenge, financed by a \$2,400 grant from the American Cancer Society. Three libraries competed against each other for most community participation, with 286 registrants (nearly twice the goal). Over 30 attended each of five educational lessons with a total attendance of 157 throughout the series. Though participation dwindled over the 11-week program, the goal of 75 completing was well exceeded as 151 checked in at the final reporting period.
- **Dining with Diabetes** programs were held in three communities, reaching 50 people with the educational message that diabetes is manageable. We continued collaborations with the Ohio Diabetes Association for resource people and the American Heart Association for funding of this popular program.
- **Road Trip Life: Navigating Your Future** reached all Belmont County ninth and tenth grade girls with a multimedia program that addressed nutrition, exercise, smart and safe dating, wellness, stress management and bullying. The program was delivered in all seven Belmont County high schools. Over 500 girls participated in the half-day sessions at each high school. Participant evaluations indicate that over 50% learned something new in each session while 38% to 61% reported that they would implement suggested behavior changes as a result of the various sessions.

- **Divorce education programming** reached over 200 adults, teaching parents to help children cope with divorce. This 2.5-hour multimedia cost-recovery program is court-mandated and contracted by the Belmont County magistrate. Evaluations from participants indicate that most of them learned something new and/or useful and will utilize suggested strategies in dealing with difficult interpersonal situations arising from their divorce.
- **Prison parenting classes** were taught in a six-week series at the local state prison. Topics included developmental stages, discipline and parenting styles, anger, nutrition, maintaining communication and self-esteem. In 2013, 35 men participated.
- The **Family Nutrition Program (FNP)** continues to be funded by a federal grant in Belmont County. Basic nutrition, food safety and food security skills are taught to food stamp-eligible audiences throughout the county. In 2013, 1,932 participants attended 266 direct programs, 89% of which were held in a series. A total of 98% of participants reported "some or a lot of new information learned" while 90% planned to make changes due to knowledge gained.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Twenty-two teens completed approximately 40 hours of **4-H Camp Counselor Camp and Training**. They learned the responsibility of caring for children, as well as how to plan and coordinate camp activities and educational sessions. This training also helped teens gain useful employment skills.

- Eighty-five youth ages 9 to 13 participated in Belmont County **4-H Junior Camp**. The camp program gave youth an opportunity to learn valuable life skills during their four-day stay. Youth also learned about and participated in natural resources lessons, athletics, boating, swimming, crafts and other educational activities. Another 20 youth, ages 5–8, participated in Cloverbud Day Camp programs.
- A total of 105 youth campers, teen counselors and adult staff from throughout Ohio participated in the **2013 Piedmont 4-H Shooting Sports Camp**. Seventy-eight percent of the participants strongly agreed they learned safe use of shooting sports equipment, whereas 65 percent strongly agreed they learned range safety. In addition to learning specific skills related to shooting sports, youth participants were given an opportunity to meet others and make new friends from outside their counties.
- Designed to use positive peer pressure to elicit positive change in the driving habits of first-time juvenile traffic offenders, **4-H CARTEENS** continues to operate in Belmont County in cooperation with the Belmont County Juvenile Court. This year, approximately 150 teens attended with a parent, learning about the dangers of texting while driving, driving too fast and distracted driving.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Over 1,500 landowners, public officials, community leaders, industry leaders and other stakeholders have attended numerous **Marcellus and Utica Shale Educational Programs** in Belmont County. Program topics included the legal and financial issues involved in finalizing a lease, public policy, leadership education and Pipeline Easement and Right-of-Way Agreements. The OSU Extension Shale Education Work Group has continued to meet on a monthly basis in Columbus.
- In 2013 more than 40 producers attended a three-part **Grazing Workshop** to learn about proper grazing management. Rotational grazing practices offer managers the opportunity to utilize higher stocking rates, reduce erosion and earn higher profit per acre on their farm than routine conventional grazing. Participants learned about growth, forage quality and mineral supplementation, soil characteristics, how to capitalize on their water and land resources, rotational grazing economics and how to reduce winter feed costs.
- In 2013, 20 Belmont County **Master Gardeners** provided 400 hours of volunteer service and made more than 1,000 individual contacts. The Master Gardeners planned educational meetings, which were well attended. Since the

program began in 1994, Master Gardeners in Belmont and Monroe counties have provided more than 14,000 hours of volunteer time.

- The fifth year for the **St. Clairsville Community Garden** was very successful. Fifty 10x10 raised-bed gardens were once again sold to local residents, and the OSU Master Gardeners again maintained a 300 square foot educational herb and vegetable demonstration garden. Due to the influence of this effort, five additional community gardens have been established in eastern Ohio.
- Two **Quality Assurance Training** sessions were offered, reaching nearly 200 4-H and FFA members. Youth explored each of the 10 good production practices in addition to animal welfare, ethics and food safety. Youth participated in sessions on identifying and tracking animals, establishing an effective and efficient animal health management plan and providing proper care for their animals.
- Nine hundred sixty-nine elementary school children from throughout Belmont County attended **Fair Field Days** at the Belmont County Fair. Participants learned about agriculture, history and safety by touring exhibits and workshops throughout the fairgrounds.

Belmont County receives \$40,276 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.