



CLINTON County

MIAMI VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Increasing Profitable Crop Yields Above Trendline**—Corn College was a high impact program designed for producers wanting to be on the cutting edge of corn production for their operations. This program helped producers realize management strategies that could improve their yields and in turn increase profits. The workshop was attended by 52 corn producers, reaching over 42,000 acres of cropland. As a result of this program, 73% of participants indicated they learned a new idea/practice, and 55% indicated they would adopt an idea/practice that could help increase crop yields and/or reduce costs on their farm. Examples of farm practices that participants plan to change or adopt include the proper use of fertilizer, adding cover crops, better nitrogen placement, better drainage, variable rate seeding and nutrient technology and more efficient use of fungicides.
- New and Small Farm College**—In 2013, two colleges were held in Ohio with 40 farms and 63 individuals represented, making the total participant count of this highly successful program 631 individuals and 476 farms representing 52 Ohio counties and one Indiana county since it began in 2005. Pre-program surveys in 2013 indicated participants represented 15 counties with 39.6% of the audience being female and 64.1% of the participants as new clientele to Extension programming. The average farm size was 46.9 acres owned with average ownership of 10.3 years. Post-program surveys indicated 67.3% of the participants developed or changed their farm use plan after attending

these colleges. The participants rated the overall program a 9.08 out of a 10 point scale, with 10 being best. One hundred percent of all participants responding would recommend this program to others, and 98.0% felt the program met or exceeded their expectations.

- Small Farm Conferences**—In 2013, 265 small farm owners and enthusiasts participated in two conferences held in Wilmington and Zanesville, Ohio. Participants represented 37 Ohio counties and three states. Average farm size reported was 79.4 acres. Responses to post-conference surveys indicated 49% of the attendees were women and another 3% were socially disadvantaged or minority farmers. Seventy six percent of respondents considered themselves part-time farming operators. Ninety percent indicated they learned something new from attending the conference, and 38.7% indicated this was the first Extension program they had ever attended. As a result of attending, 22% of the survey respondents indicated they would increase production by adding acreage, and 32% would add more livestock into their operation. From post-conference surveys, 37.7% of the participants were not yet engaged in farming. Eighty-eight percent of those not yet engaged in farming indicated they were planning to start their operation within the next year.
- Master Gardeners**—Clinton County Master Gardener Volunteers completed a total of 575 community service hours valued at over \$10,000 of education and service to the community in 2013. Major projects included the Orion Nike Center Clinton County MRDD-Adult program, Habitat for Humanity, area beautification projects, in-school



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programs and local library educational programs associated with growing food gardens. Seven new Master Gardener volunteers were trained in 2013.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **Junior Fair**—The Clinton County Junior Fair reaches over 650 members each year plus families, advisors and community members. Due to limited staff and the importance of a Junior Fair in the community, there was a need for assistance with Junior Fair management. The Ohio State University plays an active role in the success and management of events for the Junior Fair. This year a Junior Fair Coordinator (JFC) was supported and funded by county commissioners to assist with operating the Junior Fair. This saved over 10 hours per week during the fair season for the support staff and 4-H educator to conduct other important office tasks, educational programs and assist Extension clientele. The JFC worked with 190 4-H volunteers, 550 Junior Fair buyers, 225 award donors and several county committees and boards. The JFC assisted with livestock and non-livestock shows and sales, pre-fair events, exhibits, awards programs, contests, horticulture and farm displays, and cooking and sewing contests, saving OSU time, resources, money and more.
- **Real Money, Real World**—“All students should participate in Real Money, Real World,” was a comment from a new program volunteer after participating in a simulation event for eighth graders. The Clinton County Extension office has expanded Real Money, Real World into one more county school. Over 525 students countywide have the opportunity to participate and explore the program’s curriculum, increasing student awareness of education level and career opportunities. Over 60 trained community members came together to partner with Wilmington City Schools, Clinton Massie Middle and Blanchester Middle School students this year. The coalition included Wilmington College, teachers, the Kroger Company, county commissioners, the sheriff’s office, juvenile court, Bennett Real Estate, OSU Extension state and county staff, Nationwide Insurance Wilmington and Blanchester, National Bank and Trust, Liberty Center Bank, the health department, County Homemaker Members and 4-H volunteers.
- **Clinton County Junior 4-H Camp**—The camp program is growing strong in Clinton County. An outstanding team of adults and teens provided excellent planning, counselor instruction and two successful camps. In 2013 each camp filled the sites to capacity with high numbers from both male and female campers. As a result, camp staff are deciding between new campsites or offering more than one Junior Camp. The camp program has grown between 1–4%

annually. To meet the needs of our county membership, an overnight Cloverbud Camp was implemented to provide a safe and positive camp environment for our youngest members. Over 25 youth participated in the summer Cloverbud Camp. Their comments were positive: expand more and continue to offer an overnight Cloverbud Camp.