



DEFIANCE County

MAUMEE VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The **SNAP-Ed** program presented over 260 educational sessions with 1,360 participants. Various programs on nutrition, food safety and food shopping were offered. Topics included “Eat a Rainbow,” “Feed Your Bones,” “Stretching Food Dollars,” “Read It Before You Eat It,” “Meals on a Budget” and “FightBAC.”
- Participants built a healthy and low cost shopping list using grocery store ads. Most enjoyed participating in the shopping game and all agreed that “When in Doubt, Throw it Out” will keep their families safe from foodborne illness.
- In November, programming began at Defiance City Elementary. All fifth graders began a series on “Breakfast Go Power.” Programs on “Meal Appeal” and “Snack Attack” will also be included. These sessions run for three weeks at a time and will continue into 2014.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- The 4-H educator provided support with time and educational materials to school systems in Fulton, Williams, Putnam, Allen, Van Wert, and Paulding counties for **Real Money, Real World**. This is an active hands-on experience that gives young people the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to those of an adult. The curriculum builds awareness of the connection between education, occupation, income and financial choices. This program utilized 15 business and professional volunteers from the community in providing a real life simulation

experience. Defiance County conducts this program in Tinora and Hicksville school systems.

- Sixty girls ranging from first to fifth grades attended **4-H Princess Camp** in May. The program focuses on self-esteem, self-confidence, inner beauty, poise and grace, cultural customs, table manners and etiquette. Teresa Hillis of Defiance was a guest presenter who shared with the girls the importance of being beautiful on the inside and out. Hillis is a Henry County native, a marine corps veteran and a member of the Detachment #758 Marine Corp League.
- **4-H Camp Palmer** participation was at 132 total campers. This number represents 93 youth campers, 29 teen counselors and 10 adult volunteers. Sixty-eight percent of campers received scholarships totaling \$2,500. Youth participating at camp made new friends, developed independence from their family, participated in leadership and skill building activities and had safe fun with friends.
- One hundred forty-eight teen counselors from northwestern Ohio participated in **4-H Camp Counselor Training**, a full day of direct instruction in areas of safety, health, behavior management, group leadership, relationship and team building, program development and implementation, interpersonal skills and teaching skills. Twenty-eight Defiance County 4-H Camp Counselors received additional training the night before at a lock-in with Williams County 4-H Camp Counselors. The Defiance County 4-H educator conducted a “Rookies 101” session and a “Maintaining Your Professionalism at Camp” session for 55 first time counselors.



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ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- A **computerized farm record keeping workshop** with Quicken was attended by 29 farmers. The farm chief financial officer was put to work on setting up farm accounts, entering expenses and income and tracking each to maximize end of year reports. Reports generated were cash flow, enterprise analysis and tax accounting. A 12-month follow-up evaluation of workshop participants indicated the following:
 - 82% have Quicken installed on their home/business computer
 - 67% are using Quicken for farm record keeping
 - 87% have a better knowledge about their farm income and expenses
 - 78% used their Quicken farm records to prepare their tax return
- OSU Extension hosted a **2013 Farm Outlook Meeting** at the Jewell Community Center, attracting 110 area farmers and agricultural business representatives. Three speakers from Ohio State University spoke on the following specialized topics: “Outlook on Tax Laws and Strategies for Farm Businesses,” “Farm Production Economics: Inputs and Land” and “Grain Market Outlook: Old Crop and Futures.” Of the participants, 94% identified tax management strategies helpful to their farm business, 98% learned information useful for their grain marketing strategies and 94% gained knowledge about determining a fair cash rent.
- OSU Extension established two Defiance County research plots to participate in the **Statewide Survey of Yield-Limiting Factors in Ohio Soybean Production**. Research protocol includes identifying fields with normal and low yielding areas and collecting georeferenced data and practices that contribute to the yield differences. Data analyzed included zone soil samples for nutrients and nematodes, plant tissue, farm history of practices and grain samples.
- Seed costs for corn and soybean production have increased significantly in the last five years. Since 2008, corn and soybean seed costs have increased 160% and 175%, respectively. Two studies were established to evaluate seeding rates of corn and soybean in Defiance County. **Corn plots were established** with two hybrid types with 5 populations 26,000 to 50,000 seeds per acre. **Soybean plots were established** with 80,000 to 220,000 seeds per acre. Trends indicate that optimum corn populations are increasing with today’s hybrids while optimum soybean populations are decreasing with today’s varieties.

- Youth learned about **fruit trees, soils and how plants stimulate our five senses**. A total of 127 youth from Hicksville Elementary, all three Defiance County Public Libraries and St. John’s Lutheran Tiger’s Den took part in this program. Topics included caring for fruit trees; Johnny Appleseed; soil versus dirt; and the human senses of sight, smell, sound, taste and touch. Youth engaged in hands-on activities to increase knowledge about the value of plants and soil in our everyday life.
- For today’s farmer, not every Extension meeting is face-to-face. OSU’s online meeting system is called CarmenConnect and is used to deliver education directly to participants at farms, homes and agribusinesses. Extension co-taught **Returns to Drainage: Calculating the Payback Period**. This program was part of a farm management series presented by the OSU Extension Ohio Ag Managers Team. Participants from various locations across Ohio and the Midwest listened live with a recording posted online.

Defiance County receives \$29,123 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.