

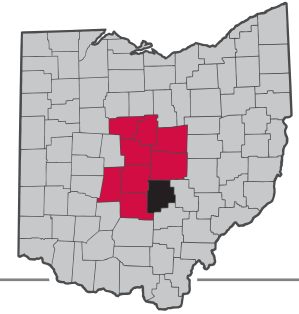


FAIRFIELD County

HEART OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Nearly 750 Fairfield County residents participated in one of 90 classes taught by Extension's **SNAP-Ed** program. Ninety-seven percent of the participants reported learning new information, and 92% said they planned to make changes based on what they had learned.
- Nearly 500 seventh-grade students in Lancaster City Schools learned hands-on budget management and decision making in Extension's **Real Money, Real World** financial education program. Nearly 80 percent of the students reported an increased understanding of the importance of having a spending plan, and 65% reported an increased understanding of the importance of saving money regularly.
- More than 150 Fairfield County consumers increased their knowledge about health and wellness by participating in at least one of 10 **Live Healthy, Live Well** programs. A full 100% of the participants in one program said they learned new cooking techniques, 86% said they would try healthy recipes and 86% said they planned to cook at home more often.
- More than 45 consumers learned safe canning methods in a **Home Food Preservation** series taught by OSU Extension's Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) educator. A full 100% of the participants indicated they planned to implement safe canning practices that they learned through the program.
- Using social media, the FCS educator conducted three **online health and wellness challenges** to "live healthy, live well." More than 150 Fairfield County adults participated. More than 82% of them reported adopting one or more

practices that may help cut the risk of developing chronic disease. In followup surveys, 95% said they maintained or lost weight.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- More than 900 4-H members developed valuable life skills by completing more than 2,300 4-H projects for exhibit at the **Fairfield County Junior Fair**. More than 60 4-H youth learned about meat science, livestock growth and performance and carcass characteristics by participating in beef, lamb and hog carcass contests at the Fairfield County Junior Fair.
- Forty-seven teens served as **4-H Camp Counselors**, completed a comprehensive 4-H Camp Counselor Training program and utilized the life skills that they developed both during camp and afterward.
- More than 310 Fairfield County youth developed life skills by participating in one of four **4-H Camps** conducted this summer by Fairfield County 4-H. More than 97% of the campers indicated they wanted to return to camp the following year.
- Forty-five Fairfield County 4-H members learned communication and leadership skills by participating in the **Ohio 4-H Teen Conference** and the **Fairfield County Teen Conference Overnighter**. Participating youth reported learning how to incorporate new ideas into future 4-H events and how to provide leadership as 4-H Camp Counselors.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- More than 102 crop producers increased their management skills by participating in the daylong **Fairfield County Agronomy Day**. More than 96% of the participants indicated they learned something new in the program, and nearly 76% said that as a result of what they learned, they would be able to improve their profitability by an average of \$48 per acre through increased yields, reduced costs or both.
- Thirty-four private woodland owners increased their timber marketing skills by participating in a **Timber Marketing Workshop**. Participants learned about timber stand improvement, crop-tree release, how to find timber buyers and how to work with service and consulting foresters to maximize returns from timber sales.
- Nearly 40 beef producers increased their knowledge of beef management issues by participating in a three-evening **Beef Management School** hosted at the Fairfield County Extension office and presented using a live Internet connection. More than 93% of the participants reported increasing their knowledge by participating in the sessions, and 79% said they planned to implement something they learned in the sessions.
- Seventy-two Fairfield County fruit and vegetable producers improved their food safety skills by participating in two **GAPS Certification Workshops**. “GAPS” refers to “good agricultural practices.” Workshop participants learned how to grow, harvest, store and market produce safely to reduce the risk of foodborne illness to consumers.
- More than 125 licensed private pesticide applicators became recertified to purchase and apply restricted-use pesticides at two **Pesticide Applicator Recertification** workshops taught by Extension. Participants learned how to effectively manage pests, how to minimize pesticide use and how to protect the environment when using pesticides.
- More than 400 Fairfield County residents participated in **Taste of Fairfield County**, co-sponsored by OSU Extension in Fairfield County. Participants learned about the economic impact and the scope of Fairfield County’s largest industry: agriculture.
- Ten OSU Extension **Master Gardener Volunteers** provided more than 750 hours of volunteer service to the Fairfield DD Opportunity Center during this year’s growing season. Master Gardener Volunteers and OSU Extension faculty and staff have helped the Opportunity Center’s Green Machine garden team develop an onsite seasonal farmer’s market to sell produce to the public. The team is also producing micro-greens indoors at the Opportunity Center and marketing the product to three local restaurants.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- More than 35 Fairfield County farm operations participated in the **MarketMaker Program**; as a result, their income increased due to more direct sales to consumers.
- Fifty-two beef producers learned how to direct market beef to consumers at a **Managed Grazing and Direct Marketing of Meat Tour** conducted by OSU Extension in northeastern Fairfield County. Participants in the tour learned about the legal and business management requirements of direct marketing meat products in Ohio, about marketing principles and about operating managed grazing systems.
- Thousands of Fairfield County residents are making connections with Fairfield County farmers and food producers thanks to a new publication developed by OSU Extension in Fairfield County. The new **Fairfield County Local Foods Guide** lists more than 30 farms and farmer’s markets in Fairfield County where consumers can buy local food and farm products directly from farmers and food producers.

Fairfield County receives \$46,341 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.