



FULTON County

MAUMEE VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

8770 State Route 108, Suite A, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-8607

Phone: (419) 337-9210 fulton.osu.edu/



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Strengthening families is a key component in Extension's **Parenting Education** classes. The classes are offered with the grant support of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF). They consist of a series totaling six hours in order to receive proof of completion. Sixty-seven parents participated in the program, and 72 children in the county were indirectly affected through the parents' participation in the program.
 - Ninety-seven percent of the parents reported increased knowledge of positive discipline techniques after completing the series.
 - Ninety-two percent of the parents reported an increase in self-esteem after completing the series.
 - Ninety-five percent of the parents reported increased knowledge of child development after completing the series.
- Swanton Library hosted a summer reading series for youth called "**Dig into Reading,**" and two **classes were offered to youth regarding root vegetables**, which incorporated interactive touching and tasting of the vegetables and enjoying a healthy snack made from the vegetables. Thirty-six youth participated in these classes to increase their knowledge on the variety of root vegetables available in the garden, at farmer's markets and in their grocery store. Many tasted vegetables that they had never been exposed to before the classes and took recipes home that they shared with their families. An **adult evening program on using local foods** also was offered; seven adults participated. The participants gained knowledge on local farmer's markets, community supported agriculture (CSAs) and local

restaurants using local produce and meats. Information was provided on a range of topics such as beginning gardening tips and container gardens. Healthy snacks made with fresh fruit from a local farm were shared.

- Extension, in conjunction with the Ohio Homemakers and Community Education educators, provided supervision and programming for **Woman's Day at the Fulton County Fair**. Over 175 attendees, both male and female, enjoyed presentations ranging from "Identifying Possible Identity Scams" (presented by the Fulton County Sheriff) to sampling handcrafted goat cheese from a local artisan, Turkeyfoot Creek Creamery.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- An average of 225 youth ages 8–19, including 30 teen counselors, participated in the **Fulton County 4-H Camp** program in 2013. They learned cooperative living in a natural environment focusing on individual social, spiritual, mental and physical development. Ten adults volunteered five full days to give supervision and guidance for the week of camp in the areas of programming, health and youth development.
- One hundred percent of the eligible Fulton County Junior Fair exhibitors with livestock projects completed **Quality Assurance Training**. The five training sessions provided were a collaborative effort of the Fulton County 4-H educator, three FFA chapter advisors and 27 4-H advisors/volunteers. A total of 1,237 projects were carried by 4-H youth learning about animal ethics and raising quality food chain animals. Sixty-one volunteers gave time to support this program. All livestock were cleared for harvest.

- Through **4-H Youth Development**, 1,106 Fulton County youth experienced hands-on learning about decision making, leadership, communication, citizenship, self-esteem, life skills and more. These youth were supported by 291 adult volunteers in 42 community clubs.
- Fulton County 4-H members enrolled in a total of 1,780 **4-H projects** which is up from 145 projects from 2012. Interview judging of these projects allowed youth to gain job interview skills, improved communication skills for oral presentations, critical thinking and learning by doing. Community services performed within the clubs is another vehicle of learning to improve youth employability and job skills.
- To help the Wauseon Elementary Schools meet their requirements of a 21st Century Grant, Extension provided nine programs to supply **nutrition education classes**. Topics focused on reading food labels, healthy snacks, sugars and fats. Youth were observed reading labels and selecting healthy snack choices during the after school programs.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- The **Northwest Ohio Precision Agriculture Technology Day** took place in August with 190 participants and 15 Certified Crop Advisors participating. The event focused on planter technology. OSU Extension specialists emphasized the importance of precision in agronomic decisions and data collection. Producers observed the multitude of technology that can be used on planting equipment and watched demonstrations from recognized equipment manufacturers to ensure maximum planter performance. The event drew producers from the tri-state area and impacted over 540,000 producer and consultant acres.
- **Corn-Soybean Day** attracted 255 participants, including 32 Certified Crop Advisors and 114 private or commercial pesticide applicators. The event included 29 exhibitor-sponsors. The curriculum for the day, presented by four Extension state specialists, included how to manage corn after a drought, avoiding weed disasters, improving soybean health and soil factors for high yields. The program led to a higher level of understanding of crop production practices and programs to manage risk and improve farm profitability.
- Two hundred five licensed pesticide applicators received updated product and application technology education through the county's **Pesticide Applicator Training** program. The program has led to increased safety for applicators and better environmental safety in application of pesticides to control yield-limiting pests.
- Extension developed a **Fulton-Farmers listserve** to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of agriculture- and natural

resource-related communications in our county. Over 250 producers and homeowners have subscribed. Also, over 500 walk-in requests for individual information were met in 2013. The answers to these requests help clientele meet their individual production needs.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Locally grown produce has gained traction in our county in recent years. In an effort to promote local farms and agribusinesses, a **Small and Sustainable Farm Tour** was coordinated in June, with 66 participants. Tour stops included Kinsman Farm, Turkeyfoot Creek Creamery and Knotty Vines Farm and Winery.
- The **NextGen Farmer Series** was designed to help up-and-coming producers evaluate their balance sheet and financial position, review budgeting strategies, minimize production and legal risk and begin the farm transition conversation with the current generation. Eighteen people participated in the event. One hundred percent of respondents reported a better understanding of key benchmarks for evaluating farm financial health, and 93% said they plan to start the succession planning conversation with the current generation in the coming year.

Fulton County receives \$26,892 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.