



GUERNSEY County

CROSSROADS EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Livestock owners protected the environment and increased production efficiencies by attending **OSU Extension Grazing School**. Livestock owners controlling 1,078 head of beef and dairy cattle and managing over 5,303 acres of hay and pastureland participated in this program. Sixty-eight percent of attendees expected the information they learned to increase their net profit, and 79% said they expect to be able to extend their grazing season by adopting the practices taught.
- FAMACHA, a technique of selective deworming, identifies sheep and goats that need deworming. OSU Extension and OARDC's Eastern Agricultural Research Station hosted a **FAMACHA certification and training workshop**. Sheep and goat producers representing over 245 head of mature animals participated. Participants rated this program a 5 out of 5 for usefulness. All of the participants indicated that they learned something that would benefit them economically.
- **Ag School Days**, a hands-on educational program for third and fourth grade students in Noble and Guernsey counties, was held in spring. Approximately 400 youth attended this two-day program at OARDC's Eastern Agricultural Research Station. Attending youth participated in 15 educational stations covering topics ranging from livestock production to natural resources.
- Thirty-four private licensed pesticide applicators were recertified through **OSU Extension Pesticide Applicator Recertification**. Ninety-seven percent of the participants indicated they have improved practices to protect the

environment. The attendees represented 4,155 acres. They indicated they expect to save an average of \$16.50/acre as a result of attending this program.

- **OSU Extension right-of-way classes** were offered to area residents. These grants have a significant and potentially lifelong impact on family farms. Seventy-three area residents attended these classes. Participants indicated the overall quality of the program rated a 4.6 out of 5. One hundred percent of those completing evaluations said they learned new information.
- Guernsey and Noble Counties currently have 21 active **Master Gardener Volunteers** teaching horticulture-related classes to the public, tending community gardens and staffing displays at the farmer's market, county fair and other locations. Volunteers speak on a variety of topics to service organizations and are teaching in three Cambridge elementary schools. The Master Gardeners volunteered hundreds of hours, valued in the thousands of dollars.
- As a result of recent tax changes, OSU Extension hosted a **farm tax workshop**. Participants rated the quality of this program a 4.6 out of 5. All attendees completing evaluations stated they learned new information. Seventy-five percent said they plan to implement a tax strategy as a result of this program.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **Guernsey County 4-H** member enrollment totals 1,615 youth, reaching 23% of eligible youth. Guernsey County offers 78 community 4-H Clubs led by 215 4-H advisors. Membership includes 840 youth in club groups and 1,054 in school



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and special interest programs. Members completed 1,788 projects to learn about personal development, careers and life skills.

- In all, 117 campers made **Guernsey County 4-H Camp** a popular program for leadership and citizenship skill development. Almost \$2,400 was provided for scholarships from community and 4-H organizations. Over 12 hours of training and planning meetings enabled 21 counselors to develop skills to work with youth in a group setting. Evaluations were consistently positive.
- **Real Money, Real World**, a hands-on financial literacy program, engaged 218 eighth grade students in learning how education affects income and lifestyle choices. The six-part curriculum included lessons on “How Occupation Affects Income” and “Deductions: What You See is Not What You Get.” Each student posed as a 25-year-old adult with a spouse and children in a simulation activity where he or she made consumer decisions. Fifteen community leaders, business representatives and others served as volunteers for this activity.
- Three-hundred sixty-two 4-H and FFA members participated in livestock **Quality Assurance Training** to learn how to raise a safe and wholesome food product for consumers. In all, 153 members participated in the Livestock Skillathon contest consisting of interviews, evaluation of livestock records and simulation exercises. Over 70 volunteers donated 225 hours to plan and conduct these programs.
- A total of 445 kindergarten students celebrated 4-H Week by participating in the **“Reading Makes the Best Better” program**. 4-H teen volunteers read to students, distributed books and encouraged students to join 4-H. Parents completing the program survey responded that a family member read the book with their child at home. One hundred percent of the participant surveys returned thought the program would encourage their child to read more.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The **Community Action Team (A-Team)** was developed for 4-H youth ages 12–18 who want to volunteer their time in the community. This year, thirty-one 4-H members reported 1,224 hours of volunteer work. Members help with service projects in school, church, library and 4-H Clubs and at many events throughout the community. The A-Team (sponsored by 4-H Council) awarded \$500 to 4-H Clubs for community service projects. The team’s work has increased the visibility of 4-H while providing a valuable service to the community.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tobacco is the leading cause of preventable morbidity and mortality in the United States. Greater efforts

are needed to accelerate the decline in cigarette smoking in adults. Ohio ranks 35th among the states as one of the worst for adult cigarette smokers. OSU Extension partnered with Ohio State’s College of Public Health through a National Institute of Health grant to help 60 adults in Guernsey County **quit smoking** by providing support based on research that addresses the unique needs of people living in Appalachia Ohio.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- A recent study estimated that the projected economic impact from the **development of oil and gas resources** in Ohio will grow to \$9.6 billion in 2014. Educational programs have been held in the county, region and state on topics related to oil and shale gas development.
- The recent shale gas development in eastern Ohio has spurred increased interest in **long-term rural community sustainability**. Two teams submitted and received two grants that will be used to provide education to local leaders and communities to prepare for and mitigate the immediate impacts of shale development while taking advantage of revenue generation to build long-term sustainability.