



HANCOCK County

MAUMEE VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Thirty-eight teens were selected to serve as **4-H Camp Counselors** for Hancock County 4-H Junior Camp. The teens practiced and completed an application, resume and interview. They completed over 24 hours of training in youth protection, program planning, child development, team building and teaching skills. The counselors planned and conducted a resident camp for 157 Hancock County youth. In self-assessments, 100% of the counselors reported gaining a better understanding of becoming employed and the skills needed for the present and future.
- OSU Extension, in partnership with local businesses and community volunteers, facilitated **Real Money, Real World** in area schools. The program teaches participants about the value of education in relation to future employment, how pay checks work and basic budgeting. The simulation portion teaches youth the value of money and managing a household budget as an adult. From seventh grade through college-age, 1,143 young people participated.
- Sixty future leaders learned about the economic importance of agriculture to the local community at **Agriculture Day**. The youth component of the program stressed career opportunities in agriculture. Evaluations showed a score of 4.8 on a 5-point scale that assessed how much participants learned and benefitted from the program.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- OSU Extension, in partnership with area businesses and organizations, conducted a variety of **youth safety**

programs. Youth were taught about safety regarding bicycling, farming horseback riding, pet care, electricity, poisonous plants, emergencies and car seats through hands-on activities. Events included two bicycle rodeos, Danger Zone simulations, a Safe Kids Day during the county fair and presentations to 4-H members with horse projects about the proper fitting and use of riding helmets. Over 500 people participated in these programs.

- Seven hundred fifty **youth participated in 4-H activities** that taught skills in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), nutrition, teamwork, living history and environmental science.
- Eight hundred seventy-three youth participated in 39 **4-H Clubs**, with 164 volunteers providing local support. The volunteers' combined 6,560 hours of service were valued at \$126,148 in support of local youth.
- Extension programming helped 373 seventh graders increase their knowledge and skills in **money management**. Ninety-six percent of the participants indicated they would make a behavior change in the next six months, and 100% indicated they increased their knowledge on financial matters. Twenty-one youth pledged to save through Hancock County Saves.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Pesticide Applicator Recertification** was offered to 502 producers who received the latest safety and research information on pesticides, information on crops and livestock to benefit their farm operation, environmental stewardship

by learning the proper use of pesticides and educational training to fulfill their private applicator recertification requirements.

- **Master Gardener Volunteers** contributed \$54,000 in donated time and service to the community. Major activities stressed local foods through community seminars and community gardens. Over 3,000 consumer questions were answered via monthly radio call-in programs, eXtension, web page contact, the Hancock County Fair and individual assistance. Sixteen residents completed 50 hours of horticultural training to become new Master Gardeners.
- **Soil fertility research** has provided results to better manage phosphorus and nitrogen in crop production systems. A **fall soybean weed survey** has been used to reduce the spread of weed resistance to current herbicide programs and identify weeds that limit yields. A **western bean cutworm survey** has been used to prevent unnecessary applications of pesticides.
- Some 20,000 individuals were informed weekly of **agricultural communication alerts** including new practices, emerging issues and pest concerns facing the agricultural industry through radio, newspaper and newsletters.
- Producers and consultants (1,325 individuals total) received the latest **agricultural education and research information** at two regional meetings (Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference and Northwest Research Field Day), six production workshops (beef and sheep) and six county meetings (Farm Records and Soil Fertility for Corn, Soybeans and Wheat).

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Fifty-three adults participated in five **classes on retirement, downsizing** and “Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate?” Four parents in a **parenting class** indicated they would try new techniques in parenting.
- Nutrition and healthy cooking skills were taught to 39 adults through two **Dining with Diabetes** classes and two basic cooking classes. As a result of these classes, 90% of participants made behavior changes in eating and cooking methods. Over 1,300 students from Findlay City Schools participated in nutrition activities. Five hundred parents and children participated in eight health and nutrition displays at a YMCA Healthy Kids Day event, and 248 adults participated in nutrition activities at four health fairs. Thirty-one adults also participated in “Buckeye Wellness” activities.
- Eighty-four adults participated in nine classes on **food preservation safety**. Afterward, 95% indicated they would change their food preservation procedures as a result

of new knowledge and skills gained. Thirty-five students received instruction in food safety, and over 300 consumers were taught food safety principles through monthly in-store demonstrations at two Kroger stores. One hundred percent of those consumers said they are now aware of using proper cooking temperatures when cooking meat, fish and eggs.

- Over 300 adults at four health fairs received **DermaScan** scanning for sun damage to their skin. Afterward, 85% said they would make changes to prevent further damage.
- One hundred forty-five adults participated in **financial education classes** on homeownership, basic budgeting, debt reduction and related topics. As a result, 90% said they gained knowledge and would make a change in managing their money. A total of 162 youth and adults started or increased their savings accounts by depositing \$14,000 at 10 local financial institutions during “**Count Your Coin Week,**” and 1,636 youth and adults received information about managing and saving money and debt reduction. A total of 202 adults (181) and youth (21) pledged to save through **Hancock County Saves**.
- Leveraged for **nutrition education** to food-stamp eligible persons in 2013 was \$44,954 in federal funding. Through 93 classes, 831 people received direct education and 4,372 received indirect contacts. Also, 818 youth were reached at the Summer Food Service Program through 23 classes.

Hancock County receives \$33,928 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.