

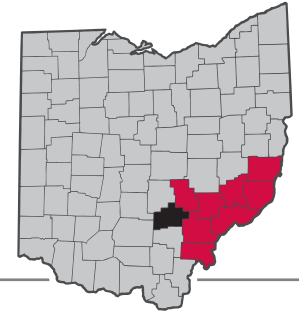


HOCKING County

BUCKEYE HILLS EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Young people know **4-H Camp** is fun. Youth development experts know 4-H Camp helps build teamwork, communication, leadership and job readiness skills that employers look for, all while giving campers a chance to connect to nature. Forty Hocking County 4-H members participated in Beginner/Junior Camp at Tar Hollow. Nineteen teens and four adults participated in 24 hours of training, then volunteered as 4-H Camp Counselors and hill supervisors, respectively.
- The 2011 Hocking County Health Plan identified the following as major areas of concern: youth health and well-being, risk behaviors and behavioral health issues such as drug and alcohol use. To address these concerns, **Health Rocks**, a National 4-H curriculum on the prevention of tobacco and substance abuse, was the educational component of Beginner/Junior Camp. Campers and counselors participated in 13 hours of education. Sessions included “The Cycle of Addiction;” “All Stressed Out;” “Don’t Get Dragged Down;” “The Chains that Bind;” “The Choices that Matter;” “Risky Business;” and “How to Say ‘NO!’” Comments on camp evaluations included, “drugs are bad,” “tobacco is wacky” and “I’m going to help my Mom and Gram stop using tobacco.”
- Sixteen Cloverbuds and four counselors participated in a new **Food, Fun and Fitness Day Camp**. Activities included The 12 Days of Fitness, making ice cream, a pumpkin craft, parachute play, story time and a fitness hike. Education included lessons on downsizing food portions and food safety. Evaluations showed that all campers learned new information, and 94% planned to use the information at home.
- Eighteen Cloverbuds and eight counselors attended **Crockett’s Run Day Camp**; 13 4-H members attended **Sewing Camp** (an increase of 186%); 14 members attended **Horse Camp**; and seven youth received all-expense paid trips, courtesy of the Hocking County 4-H Committee, to **specialty camps** including Citizenship Washington Focus; Leadership Camp; Shooting Sports Camp; Watersports Adventure Weekend; Forestry Camp; and Sea Camp.
- Members enrolled in 1,263 traditional **4-H projects**, with the youth completing 95% of the projects—an outstanding improvement compared to the 81% completed in 2009.
- The 4-H educator taught five animal **Quality Assurance Training** sessions. A total of 204 youth participated in the interactive sessions. Evaluations showed that 89% learned “some” or “a lot” of new information, and 75% said they probably would use one of the new practices, ideas or tips.
- Older 4-H youth learned **leadership skills** through participation in the Hocking County Youth Board, Fashion Board, CARTEENS, Junior Leaders, PetPALs and through service as 4-H Camp Counselors.
- **Chick embryology classes** were presented to 292 students in 11 elementary school classes.
- **Real Money, Real World**, an OSU Extension signature program, gives middle school students an understanding of how current grades and life choices affect future income. Two hundred fifty-six students participated in Real Money, Real World programming during the 2012–13 school year.

Evaluations showed that 96% of students believed that participating in the program gave them a better idea of what's involved in earning, spending and managing money, and 93% believed that participating in the program would help them in the future.

- The **Hocking County 4-H Committee** sponsors a food booth during the fair to raise funds to support the 4-H program. In addition to paying for postage for all 4-H mailings, the funds are used to sponsor fully paid trips to specialty camps, trophies and ribbons, camp counselor fees, graduation gifts, college scholarships, volunteer training and recognition and much more.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The Ohio **SNAP-Ed** program (formerly the Family Nutrition Program) provided 89 classes on food safety, protein foods and whole grains in 2013. A total of 537 recipients of food assistance and eligible non-recipients attended the classes. Of those attending, 99% reported they learned new information, and 91% planned to make recommended changes. An additional 1,200 individuals were reached with educational newsletters.
- Beginning in October 2013, Ohio SNAP-Ed expanded its audience to include youth in schools that qualify for the 50% free and reduced lunch program. Now the Hocking County SNAP-Ed classes are being provided during before and after school care at all the Logan-Hocking Elementary Schools.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Trained by OSU Extension, Hocking County **Master Gardeners** are actively involved in the Logan Community Garden and Logan in Bloom. Eight new Master Gardeners received 40 hours of classes using The Ohio State University's new CarmenConnect technology, which allows Ohio State instructors to interact with participants in real time via the Internet. Thirty-six Hocking County Master Gardeners also explored The Wilds on a daylong field trip. The trip focused on establishing native plant species used to restore the once-damaged landscape at The Wilds.
- The Hocking Hills Chapter of OSU Extension's **Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) program** performed trail monitoring and maintenance on the Buckeye Trail and at nearby state nature preserves such as Boch Hollow and Hocking Hills State Park. The Hocking Hills chapter hosts a booth at Lilyfest, where OCVNs provide information on a variety of natural resource issues such as invasive species identification, control and prevention.

- OSU Extension partnered with Laurelville Fruit Farm owner Bob Bowers for a hands-on **fruit tree pruning workshop** in the orchard.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- OSU Extension is helping lead the effort to educate landowners and help **prevent invasive species** such as the hemlock woolly adelgid, an insect pest of hemlock trees, from causing severe environmental and economic damage in Hocking County. OSU Extension co-sponsored a meeting in Logan where U.S. National Park Service staff discussed their efforts to protect hemlock trees in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. OSU Extension educators were part of a team that went to North Carolina to capture and return with native predator beetles that may be used to control the adelgid. OSU Extension has also been a strategic partner in scouting Hocking County for the adelgid. Hemlock trees are vital to the county's tourism economy.
- **Growing shiitake mushrooms** was a popular Extension program with local woodlot owners looking for an understory crop.
- Funding from the Ohio 4-H Foundation supported a series of **4-H Preparing Youth for Employment programs**. Twenty students at Logan-Hocking Middle School attended one or more of the programs. During the first two classes, students discussed their career goals, voted on local businesses they wanted to visit and identified questions to ask the host at each business. Worksite field trips provided an opportunity to learn about the importance of developing employment skills, prioritizing school achievement and saying no to high-risk behaviors.
- Shoplifting impacts the local economy through higher retail prices to compensate for stolen items, lost sales tax, fewer jobs and costs to prosecute criminals. To help alleviate this drain on the economy, OSU Extension partnered with the Hocking County Juvenile Court to offer **shoplifting prevention classes**. The programs are designed to help participants understand why they shoplifted and how to avoid doing it in the future. To fulfill the program requirements, shoplifters completed 5–6 hours of homework and participated in the six-hour class.

Hocking County receives \$27,242 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.