



LOGAN County

TOP OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The fair is a time for funnel cakes, fried food, and lots of fun. OSU Extension with Mary Rutan Hospital offered fairgoers and 4-H members an opportunity to burn off consumed calories with **“Get MOOOOOVing”** at the fair. This program helped 27 fairgoers from ages 3 to 65 years understand that exercising can be fun. Activities included aerobics, line dancing and games that encouraged physical activity for nearly two hours. This is the third year for this healthy living program.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Young people know **4-H Camp** is fun, and youth development experts know 4-H Camp helps build critical life skills for both campers and youth counselors. 4-H Camp helps build teamwork, communications and leadership, cultivating the job readiness skills employers look for, all while giving campers a chance to connect to nature. In Logan County, 27 youth camped alongside Champaign County 4-H members for a five-day, four-night adventure at 4-H Camp Clifton.
- Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) are areas of deficiency for many students. In an effort to increase excitement and confidence in these subject areas, **STEM programs** are conducted for students in kindergarten through high school during family activity night once a month at the Chippewa Outreach Center at Indian Lake. Anywhere from 4 to 12 youth attend the programs monthly. Included are the EcoBot 4-H Science Activity, rocketry, hammock making, pumpkin pie in a bag, gardening

programs, slime making, non-Newtonian fluid activities and more.

- In 2009, 16,761 teens were injured and 118 were killed in traffic accidents. Of these, 66.4% were driving. The goal of **4-H CARTEENS** is to teach first-time traffic offenders between the ages of 15 and 18 how to make cautious and responsible decisions and how to drive safer to prevent such tragedies. Participants have a chance to be involved in a series of activities that promote safe driving and encourage good decision making skills. As of September 2013, 110 teens were reached by the two CARTEENS presenters and the 4H educator. The program also includes guest speakers who have been impacted by traffic fatalities. Of the participants, 91% said the program will help them become better drivers, and 95% said they will use more caution when they drive. The program is a cooperative effort between 4-H and the Logan County Juvenile Court.
- Leadership is about serving and working with others to make an impact. Twenty-one teens served as leaders on the Logan County **Junior Fair Board**, making sure the 4-H, FFA and other Junior Fair exhibitors had a great experience at the fair. These youth set up displays, announced at shows, completed paperwork, solved problems, and worked with adults and youth to help make the fair a success. In post-fair interviews, members indicated they learned public speaking skills, how to deal with conflict and how to work with a group of people toward a common goal. As part of their workforce skills, the members also participated in the StrengthsFinder Assessment. After taking the assessment, youth saw their strengths in action during planned activities.



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ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Master Gardener Volunteers**, trained by OSU Extension, help Extension share research-based information with gardeners through workshops, community gardens and one-on-one consultations. Master Gardeners answered 70 hotline calls from the local community as well as 61 Ask-an-Expert questions from the local community and throughout the state. Individuals obtained information concerning pest issues, growing problems, invasive species and tree/arbor issues.
- In partnership between OSU Extension and the Logan County Solid Waste Management District, the Master Gardeners hosted a **composting and rain barrel workshop** in April 2013. Twenty-eight people attended and learned the basics of using a rain barrel and setting up/maintaining a compost site.
- Making an impact, one family at a time, the Master Gardeners have started a **Raised Bed Program** for families who have been selected to participate with the help of Lutheran Community Services. Among other things, family selection is based on financial need, homeownership and children in the home who might benefit from the fresh vegetables grown in the garden. Volunteers will educate the families about gardening practices and will help them start their own garden as well as offer them recipes that can be made with their own produce.
- Teaching youth best practices in the livestock industry, ensuring ethical care and treatment of animals and producing a safe and quality product for the consumer are the goals of **Quality Assurance Training**. Two hundred eighty-five youth completed Quality Assurance Training in Logan County, and an additional 41 youth either tested out of the training or attended it at another county or state event. This year, Quality Assurance Training focused on identifying and tracking animals, establishing an effective health management plan and providing proper care for animals. The 2013 hands-on challenge was for students to build a pen for their animals to see how overcrowding and poor pen planning can cause problems.