

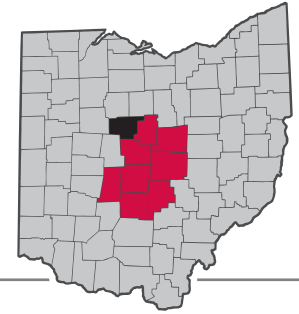


MARION County

HEART OF OHIO 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 critical life skills for both campers and youth counselors. 4-H Camp helps build teamwork, communication and leadership, cultivating the job readiness skills employers look for, all while giving campers a chance to connect to nature. One hundred twenty-seven youth ages 9 to 13 participated in Marion County 4-H Camp. This four-night, five-day camp gave the youth an opportunity to learn valuable life skills. They also learned about and participated in recreation, team building activities and other educational opportunities. Forty-five teen 4-H Camp Counselors and 20 adult staff were involved in the successful completion of this camp.
- Marion County supported **43 4-H Clubs**. These clubs involved nearly 700 youth, ages 5 to 19, and 148 adult volunteers. Volunteers contributed over 3,000 hours of time to teach youth life skills such as leadership, decision making and communication. Members completed educational and community service projects, and practiced public speaking through demonstrations and presentations to their clubs.
- Nearly 800 youth participated in **project-related clinics, Skillathons and Quality Assurance Training**. These educational programs were offered for sheep, swine, rabbits, poultry, beef, dairy, horses and goats. The programs covered a variety of topics including showmanship, proper animal care, nutrition, equipment and grooming. Following

the programs, many participants indicated they felt more prepared to care for and exhibit their animal project.

- Fifty-six teens participated in at least 16 hours of **leadership and event management training** taught by the Extension educator. Through their participation on the **Marion County Junior Fair Board**, the teens contributed an average of 20 hours of leadership service each.
- Twenty-three middle school and 12 high school students from Pleasant Local Schools participated in an **after school study program**. Twice a month they learned leadership development, communication and life skills.
- Forty-five teens completed approximately 30 hours of **4-H Camp Counselor Training**. They learned the responsibility of caring for children, as well as how to plan and coordinate camp activities and education sessions.
- Twenty-two 5- to 8-year-olds were active participants in countywide **4-H Cloverbud meetings** and a two-day **Cloverbud Camp**. Participants indicated they made new friends, learned new skills and had fun.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Recipients of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)**, formerly called the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program, learn how to select fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy products to maintain a healthy

diet. Recipients also learn to use limited resources to plan, purchase and prepare food for the family. Through classes offered by OSU Extension, participants learn to be physically active every day and learn how to store and handle food for safe consumption.

Marion County receives \$3,500 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.