

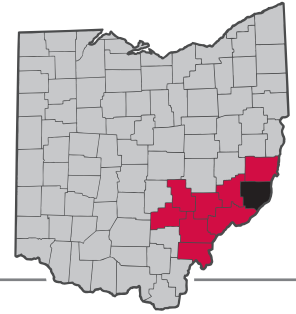


MONROE County

BUCKEYE HILLS EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Successful Co-Parenting** is a court-mandated class taught bi-monthly for divorcing couples with children under the age of 18. The class helps parents understand their children's perspectives and needs during a divorce, and suggests ways to keep children out of the crossfire.
- One in 10 Monroe county residents has been diagnosed with diabetes, a chronic disease that costs Ohioans an average of \$5.9 billion each year and leads to other costly health conditions. **Dining with Diabetes** teaches ways to manage diabetes through menu planning, carbohydrate counting, portion control, label reading and healthy recipes.
- OSU Extension provides the **ServSafe Food Handler Program** to protect Monroe County residents from the dangers and costs of foodborne illness. Several 4-H volunteers who prepare large quantities of food for fundraising events were trained in safe food handling practices. Thirty-six people attended home food preservation classes.
- The Monroe County Extension office began **Wellness Wednesdays**, a series of lunch and learns on health-related topics. Nearly 30 people attended six classes on nutrition and physical activity. Of participants, 64% learned new information, and 59% planned to make changes such as modifying recipes to be healthier and becoming more active.
- Extension prepared a **successful grant application to the State of Ohio's Community Development Block Grant program** to fund three projects in Monroe County totaling \$75,000: repairs at the Laings Community Center in Green

Township; purchase of a backup generator and turnout gear for the Lewisville Volunteer Fire Department; and the replacement of a small bridge in Wayne Township. Projects will start in 2014.

- Extension oversaw the **installation of a backup generator at the Graysville Community Volunteer Fire Department** firehouse, funded partially with Community Development Block Grant funds. The firehouse serves as the area's emergency shelter.
- Extension worked with the Ohio Regional Development Corporation to inform Monroe County citizens of their **rights under state and federal fair housing laws**.
- Recipients of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** learn how to stretch their food dollars through classes offered by OSU Extension. Classes included diet quality, physical activity, food safety and food resource management. During the past year, 1,155 Monroe County residents participated in the SNAP-Ed Program.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Funds from an Ohio 4-H Foundation Grant were used to implement a **4-H Cloverbud robotics program**. Cloverbud advisors were recruited to organize teams of Cloverbuds to participate in the Ohio 4-H Cloverbot Challenge.
- Monroe County Extension delivered an annual **safety and health series** to over 200 students at Beallsville Elementary School. Students learned about ATV safety, sensible snacking, hand washing, poison control and animal safety.



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- Monroe County 4-H teens volunteered their time and effort as 4-H Week Ambassadors and visited local kindergarten and third grade classrooms to **promote literacy and science**. Each student received a free book, compliments of a grant from the Monroe County 4-H Committee.
- H.E.L.P. (Higher Education Learning Partnership) is a regional non-profit helping to identify transition points in education where students may experience difficulty. The partnership's primary goal is to significantly increase the advancement of education or training rates beyond high school and with adults through college enrollment and vocational, skills or military training opportunities. The team partnered with over 30 local colleges and trade groups to conduct a **Higher Education and Career Expo** for seventh through twelfth grade students, parents and adult learners.
- Teens attend hands-on training sessions to become equipped and prepared as **4-H Camp Counselors**. Following Junior Camp, 20 4-H Camp Counselors were surveyed, and 100% of the counselors indicated they gained leadership skills as a result of being a 4-H Camp Counselor.
- Financial literacy is a major concern in today's society. It is taught through Extension's **Real Money, Real World** program. Woodsfield Junior High School students participated in a simulation utilizing knowledge gained to make financial and lifestyle decisions. Students used a checkbook and a savings account to learn and better understand how to balance monthly household expenses.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Nearly 40 cow calf producers participated in this year's **Barnesville Feeder Calf Association sales**, where 461 calves were marketed for local producers. This sale provides farm managers another option to market feeder calves locally. A two-session **beef production workshop** and a three-part **forage production school** were offered for clientele. Many topics were discussed among an average of 39 participants per session at the beef workshop, and an average of 29 producers per session at the forage school. Two **on-farm pasture walks** were also organized to discuss topics associated with rotational grazing; 42 producers attended.
- Landowners in our area, during 2013, have had many questions regarding pipeline easements. Multiple companies plan to install miles of pipeline in Monroe County as more deep shale oil and gas wells are drilled. Three **pipeline right-of-way and easement meetings** were held in the area. One hundred eighteen people attended the meetings to learn about evaluating easement agreements.

- Fifty-one producers attended **wildlife and forestry meetings**. Increasing growth rate decreases the length of time it takes trees to grow to harvest size, and it often increases the quality, and therefore the value, of logs.
- Seven **honey bee meetings** were held in the county this year, with more than 18 honey bee enthusiasts attending each meeting. New and veteran beekeepers attended to teach and learn from each other production practices that would assist them in their operations. Numerous topics were explored during the meetings, and round-table discussions took place that addressed current issues pertaining to producers' hives. Learning from others' experiences was the most commonly mentioned answer when asked what the individuals liked about the Monroe County honey bee meetings.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- In response to Ormet's closing and the ensuing mass layoffs, five **Rapid Response meetings** were held in Clarington with over 200 former employees. Ohio Department of Job and Family Services representatives spoke to the affected workers about preparing for re-employment. Representatives also spoke from One-Stop centers in Monroe, Belmont and Washington counties in Ohio and from One-Stop centers in West Virginia. Additionally, OSU Extension, the Ohio Department of Insurance, the Digital Works Program, schools and other agencies shared the many opportunities available to families. Extension educators compiled a list of federal, state, local and non-profit resources on a website, Help4U, to share resources.

Monroe County receives \$21,540 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.