

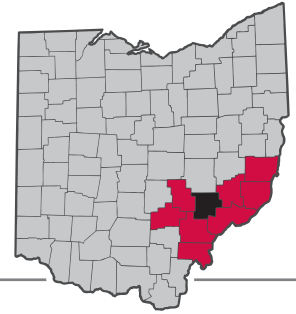


MORGAN County

BUCKEYE HILLS EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-ED)**—This program targets individuals participating in, or eligible for, food assistance. The goal of the program is to improve, within a limited budget, making better food choices and choosing an active lifestyle. This program touched over 725 participants in 2013. Of the 677 direct contacts, 99% reported they learned some or a lot of new information, while 94% reported they plan to make some or a lot of changes after attending this program.
- **Safety Around the Home and Farm**—In June a presentation was made to over 160 adults on accidents that can happen around the farm, ways to prevent them from occurring and food safety. During the past year, 12 ATV presentations and demonstrations were made to elementary students in Morgan County, reaching over 200 youth. The sessions taught how to safely ride and operate the equipment. In addition, proper age requirements and safety equipment were taught to the youth. The goals of these programs are to educate residents of the dangers of farm and recreational equipment, and to think safety prior to using the equipment.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **4-H CARTEENS**—The Morgan County 4-H CARTEENS program offers peer-led programming to first-time juvenile traffic offenders and their parents. Three programs were offered in fiscal year 2013 with 24 youth and 23 parents in attendance. Participants reported a better understanding of the impacts of distractions while driving, especially texting, and the majority of the participants noted they would

become more defensive drivers and avoid speeding. One parent noted, “This is a great program and I think having teens talk to other teens and developing the program themselves is powerful”.

- **Counselors-in-Training (CITs)**—Ten young people enrolled in the Morgan County 4-H Older Youth/Counselors-in-Training program elected to spend a portion of their time at 4-H Camp working on the Camp Hervida Nature Center. Due to an increase in older youth interested in becoming 4-H Camp Counselors and a decrease in overall campers, Morgan County was faced with either having to restrict the number of CITs coming to camp or find another leadership opportunity for them connected to the camp experience. Camp Hervida, struggling with a variety of difficult financial decisions over the years, had long neglected the Nature Center. The 2013 Morgan County CITs were more than willing to adopt the center. Over the course of their camp week, the CITs cleaned, cleared out and painted the building, making it a working nature center once again.
- **County 4-H Project Judging**—4-H members demonstrated their knowledge and learned interviewing and interpersonal communication skills during the 2013 Still and Small Animal Project Judging. Two hundred twenty-eight projects were judged during the two days. 4-H members participated in interviews and hands-on activities while sharing their displays and/or completed projects. Project materials and activities focus on the specific project area with additional material that helps 4-H youth develop life skills through learning by doing in areas such as leadership, public speaking, goal setting, planning and implementation, organizational skills, decision making and citizenship.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Forages, a Renewable Resource**—Morgan County is in the Appalachian foothills, making most of the land suitable for forest or forage cover. Managing forages can improve utilization for livestock to improve profitability for farmers. Thirteen programs were provided to Morgan County residents to educate them about the importance of forages and ways to improve utilization and reduce erosion and other types of pollution. Local research plots on crops to extend the grazing season have been established to help farmers reduce costs and feed higher quality forages.
- **Morgan County's first CSA**—Faced with a decrease in the number of vendors at the local farmer's market and an increased interest in access to fresh, local foods, the Extension office and the Chesterhill Produce Auction teamed up to start the first community supported ag program in Morgan County. Several families participated in the program. For an investment of \$20 per week each family received one-half bushel of produce purchased at the Thursday produce auction and brought to the farmer's market on Friday for pickup. The benefits of this pick and delivery system were twofold: The CSA members came to the market and thus, could supplement their produce purchases by visiting other vendors; and the non-CSA customers were able to learn more about the CSA program and possibly consider becoming members in 2014.
- **Thirteenth Annual Ag and Livestock Field Day**—Each year OSU Extension Morgan County plans a major field day in the county. In August, over 100 people attended the meeting at the Wilson family farm. The field day included a tour of pastures, feedlots, field crops and cattle. Participants learned how to manage invasive weeds, improve forage utilization and innovate water development that can provide water throughout the farm. There were presentations on drought management, alternative feeds and animal care

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- **Impacts of Drilling for Oil and Gas**—During 2013, information on oil and gas production and leasing continued to be one of the most important topics in the county. To address this issue, the OSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educator continued to provide programs on the process and implications of drilling within the county and the region. The programs focused on the process of horizontal drilling; the impacts to the environment, communities and families; and the leasing process. During the past year, five programs to over 300 people have been

provided in Morgan County. Post-program evaluations indicated 98% will make a more informed decision about leasing property, and 98% learned new information as a result of the meetings.

- **Pesticide Applicator Training**—In January, 23 producers attended a pesticide recertification course that is required every three years. As a result of these classes, 92% have improved personal safety, and 90% have improved practices to protect the environment.

Morgan County receives \$26,783 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.