

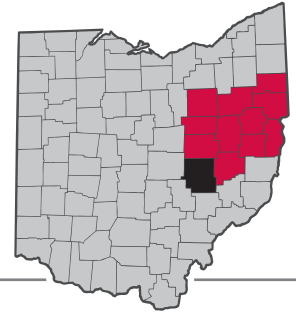


MUSKINGUM County

CROSSROADS EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Vicki Reed, 4-H Youth Development Extension educator in Muskingum County since 1983, tragically passed away on May 28, 2013. She will be remembered for her passion and enthusiasm for the Muskingum County 4-H program. The **Reed Family chose the Muskingum County 4-H Endowment Fund** for individuals, businesses and organizations to make a contribution in her memory. To date, 101 monetary gifts totaling over \$8,000 have been made to the fund as a tribute to Vicki.
- OSU Extension sponsors the monthly **Ag Breakfast**, a forum where farmers, agricultural agency personnel and community leaders discuss relevant local issues. The 2013 topics and speakers included energy saving tips, updates by the Muskingum County Commissioners, Genesis Healthcare System building expansion, quasar energy group, "Experience Adamsville," T&M Tactical (lighted gloves), community health report, agricultural agency update, ODNR service forester and local hospice resources. Breakfast participants keep up to date on local ag happenings and have direct access to government officials. The breakfast is held the first Tuesday morning of each month at the Friendly Hills Grange Camp and is open to the public.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Zanesville was the site of the OSU Extension **Small Farm Conference** in 2013. Ninety current or aspiring farmers were able to select and participate in five different sessions from a total of 26 class offerings. These topics included specific

sessions on livestock, horticulture, natural resources, marketing and farm management. Post-conference evaluations indicated all respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with the speakers, sessions, facilities and value of the Small Farm Conference.

- **Real Money, Real World** engaged 452 eighth grade students in learning about how education impacts income and lifestyle choices. The six-part curriculum included lessons on how occupation affects income and checking and savings accounts. Students posed as married 25-year-old adults with children in a simulation activity where they made consumer decisions. Thirty-nine community leaders, business representatives and others served as volunteers for this activity. One student participant commented, "I didn't realize how much it costs to live on your own. I will start saving money and try to get a good education."
- Since 1980, OSU Extension has partnered with the Muskingum County Sheep Producers Improvement Association in conducting a **Lamb Carcass Contest** for 4-H members taking market lamb projects. An analysis of 341 lambs from 28 different contests found that traits such as carcass weight, average loin eye area and average backfat improved slightly but not significantly over the 33-year period. Participants and their families indicated that data from the carcass evaluations provided important feedback in making management decisions for their sheep operations.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- In 2013, 233 teens and 219 parents participated in **4-H CARTEENS**, a two-hour traffic safety educational program

for first-time juvenile traffic offenders. OSU Extension, 10 teen volunteers, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and car accident victims provided instruction during nine sessions. 4-H CARTEENS generated user fees that covered program costs and provided college scholarships for teen volunteers. Eighty-seven percent of teen participants indicated they strongly agree or agree with the statement, “I am less likely to be a repeat traffic offender as a result of attending the CARTEENS program.”

- Providing opportunities for 4-H teens to develop leadership skills is a primary goal of **4-H Youth Development**. Groups such as 4-H CARTEENS, Junior Fair Board, Junior Leaders, and 4-H Camp Counselors gave 50 teens training in public speaking, decision making, organization and planning and conflict management.
- Five days and four nights at **4-H Camp Ohio** for Muskingum County 4-H Junior Camp was a highlight of the summer for 157 campers, ages 8–13. Youth travelled to “where dreams come true” at the Disney-themed camp as well as experienced nature, living history and adventure. Activities were led by 32 teen counselors. Campers gained skills in the areas of independent living, communications, teamwork and leadership. **“Cloverspud” Day Camp** was conducted at Friendly Hills Grange Camp for 61 youth in kindergarten through second grade. The Cloverbuds participated in a variety of potato-themed learning activities.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- OSU Extension conducted **Pesticide Applicator Training** sessions in 2013 for 59 licensed Muskingum County pesticide applicators who are required to participate in a recertification session every three years. These pesticide applicators learned new information about the relationship between water quality characteristics and pesticide effectiveness, pesticide disposal methods, herbicide resistance in weeds, invasive pests threatening area forests and changes to pesticide laws.
- Educating youth about livestock care is a high priority for OSU Extension. More than 700 youth participated in livestock **Quality Assurance Training**, where they learned good production practices to raise safe, high-quality food products for consumers. The annual **Livestock Skillathon** challenged 323 4-H members to gain knowledge in areas related to animal health, humane care and handling of livestock and showmanship. Sixty Cloverbuds (ages 5–8) participated in **Barn to Barn** at the Muskingum County Fair. Junior Fair Board members taught youth about caring for and showing animals during this two-hour program.

- OSU Extension partnered with other agricultural agencies in presenting several **educational programs about soil fertility management**. A total of 97 crop and livestock farmers increased their knowledge about rotational grazing, farm profitability, cover crops and the 4Rs (right source, right rate, right time and right place) of nutrient stewardship at these programs. In addition, OSU Extension provided soil testing services to area farmers and gardeners through the Penn State University Ag Analytical Lab. Testing soil saved money with more precise, accurate fertilizer applications and protected the environment by ensuring that fertilizer is not over-applied. One hundred ninety-six soil tests were conducted through the OSU Extension office in 2013. OSU Extension assisted 69 farmers and gardeners with an interpretation of their soil test results.