

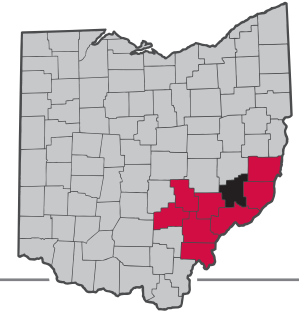


## NOBLE County

### BUCKEYE HILLS EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

150 Court House, Caldwell, Ohio 43724-1245

Phone: (740) 732-5681     noble.osu.edu/



#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Conducted by the Noble County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences program assistant, **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** is designed to help families who qualify for SNAP-Ed benefits stretch their food dollars to feed their families. Educational programs provided information on nutrition, food safety, food budgeting and food security. Three hundred forty people participated with 97% gaining knowledge and 87% planning to make changes.
- **Successful Co-Parenting** is taught bi-monthly for divorcing couples with children under the age of 18. Sixteen participants focused on understanding their children's perspectives and needs during a divorce and ways to keep children out of the crossfire. Of participants, 88% felt more prepared to co-parent after taking the class, and 94% found the program to be helpful.
- Six 4-H volunteers who prepare large quantities of food for fundraising events attended **safe food handling training**. In addition, over 30 home food preservation fact sheets were provided.
- About 10% of Noble County residents are diagnosed with diabetes. The **Dining with Diabetes** educational series was provided to participants who learned ways to manage diabetes through menu planning, carbohydrate counting, portion control, label reading, healthy recipes and physical activity. Participants reported they were more physically active and were more likely to use nutrition labels to help make food choices.

- Extension continued to assist the **Noble County Community Foundation (NCCF)** grow their endowment. Since its founding eight years ago the NCCF has provided 37 grants totaling more than \$12,500 to local organizations, and eight scholarships totaling \$5,500 to local students and have grown their total resources to more than \$150,000.

#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- OSU Extension Noble County conducted the OSU Extension signature program **Real Money, Real World** in 2013. Fifty-five students from Shenandoah High School and 45 students from Caldwell Middle School participated in the program. This hands-on experience gives young people the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to those of an adult. The curriculum builds awareness of the connection between education, occupation, income and financial choices. Sixteen community partners participated in the simulation, staffing booths, teaching financial education and assisting the students in making sound financial decisions.
- The **4-H Youth Development** program reached over 600 Noble County youth through 4-H Clubs and research-based educational programming such as school enrichment, agricultural awareness programs, environmental education, summer day camps and after school programs. The 26 community clubs provided youth with positive relationships with caring adults. This year 95 volunteers assisted youth in developing life skills in communication, interpersonal relations, decision making and responsibility.

- The Noble County **Junior Fair Livestock Sale** set a new record in 2013. There were a total of 451 animals sold during the livestock sale for a total of \$465,561. Many youth use the funds generated from the sale of junior fair livestock to fund their post-high school educations. 4-H and FFA members also pledged money from the sale of their livestock projects. A total of \$9,525 was donated to various charitable organizations
- **Ag School Days**, a hands-on educational program for third through fourth grade students of Noble and Guernsey counties was held in the spring. Approximately 400 youth attended this two-day program at OARDC's Eastern Outlying Agricultural Research Station. Attending youth participated in 15 educational stations covering topics from livestock production to natural resources.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- OSU Extension recertified 34 private licensed pesticide applicators during **Pesticide Applicator Recertification**. One hundred percent of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they had improved personal safety practices; 97% agreed or strongly agreed that they had improved practices to protect the environment; and 97% agreed or strongly agreed that they had increased the efficiency of their applications. Acreage represented by attendees was 4,155, with producers indicating they expect to save an average of \$16.50 per acre as a result of attending this program.
- **FAMACHA**, a technique of selective deworming, identifies those sheep and goats needing treatment by assessing the color of the mucous membranes of the eye. OSU Extension and OARDC's Eastern Outlying Agricultural Research Station hosted a **FAMACHA certification and training workshop**. Sheep and goat producers representing over 245 head of mature animals participated. Participants rated this program a 5 out of 5 for usefulness. All of the participants indicated that they learned something that would benefit them economically. The number one most frequently listed producer change was to use this technique to strategically deworm.
- Twenty-three area livestock producers with over 5,300 acres of hay and pastureland attended a three-part **grazing management workshop**. This program focused on how to implement rotational grazing, water system development and fencing systems to improve farm productivity and protect the environment. Livestock owners controlling 1,078 head of beef and dairy cattle represented the largest group of attendees. Completed evaluations indicated 68% of attendees expected the information they learned to increase

their net profit, while 79% indicated they expect to be able to extend their grazing season by adopting the practices taught.

- Family farms that wish to improve cattle performance must adopt and learn artificial insemination techniques. By implementing artificial insemination small farms can afford to introduce superior genetics that increase cattle performance and profitability. Twenty producers attended a three-day **artificial insemination workshop**. Of attendees, 100% indicated that they learned techniques that would help them implement artificial insemination.

## ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- In April 41 area residents attended a **pipeline leasing workshop**. Participants were asked to evaluate the pipeline program, and respondents indicated the overall quality of the program rated a 4.47 out of 5. One hundred percent of those completing evaluations said they learned new information. One participant commented, "I have a better understanding of right-of-way contracts," as a result of attending this program.
- The recent shale gas development in eastern Ohio has complicated farm taxes. As a result of the tax changes OSU Extension hosted a **farm tax workshop**. Participants rated this program a 4.6 out of 5. All attendees completing evaluations stated they learned new information. Seventy-five percent of the farmland owners attending said they plan to implement a tax strategy as a result of this program.

**Noble County receives \$19,880 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**