



PAULDING County

MAUMEE VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

503 Fairground Drive, Paulding, Ohio 45879-0087

Phone: (419) 399-8225 paulding.osu.edu/



ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Educational articles** is being published weekly in four area newspapers: *Paulding Progress*, *West Bend News*, *Defiance Crescent News* and *Van Wert Times Bulletin*. Collectively these four newspapers have a circulation of over 30,000. Topics for the articles look at local questions or inquiries received by the Paulding County Extension office. Articles cover topics ranging from lawn and garden problems, crop issues and local OSU Extension events. Feedback from area residents continues to grow and several area residents have reported that they have been helped or were made aware of a problem or practice due to these articles. Paulding County Extension has also been recording a bi-weekly radio segment called “**The Paulding County Extension Connection.**” The radio stations WERT 99.7 and WKSD 1220 cover both Paulding and Van Wert counties and reach over 4,000 homes. These broadcasts inform residents of upcoming programs, meetings and activities being sponsored by Extension, and they address issues or topics of concern initiated by requests from county residents.
- Thirteen active **Master Gardener Volunteers** have recorded over 800 volunteer hours to maintain and improve the landscape around the community, provide educational programs and conduct an annual plant sale. Community projects include maintaining the landscape around the Blue Building and Extension Center, located on the fairgrounds. Members continue to take care of several trees planted in 2010 at the Payne Community Park. This spring the group hosted their sixth annual plant sale in mid-May. The

sale continues to be well received and supported by the community.

- The Master Gardener group and the Paulding Soil and Water Conservation District co-sponsored two **educational programs** during the year. The first looked at various plants along the Black Swamp Nature trails, and the second program worked with educating fifth graders from throughout the county on native and invasive plants. The group has maintained a **demonstration garden** using native plants next to the Black Swamp Nature Center. The group provided **landscaping** for the Paulding County Dog Kennel as well as a plot at Fort Brown for a historical celebration. The group also helped staff a weekly **Horticultural Hotline Service** during the summer months to answer over 70 walk-in and telephone questions on gardening, trees, insects and other related concerns.
- **Pesticide Applicator Recertification** was held on February 25 for private pesticide applicators presently holding a license to buy and apply restricted-use pesticides. Ninety-five applicators received the latest information in research and technology for pesticide application. Topics covered during the three-hour program include pesticide safety, case studies, seed treatment, stored grains, forage crops, crop versus non-crop land, livestock, vegetable crops and fruit crops. Participants indicated their appreciation for local agents providing instruction in the various categories.
- The Paulding County Agronomy Committee hosted the 2013 **Paulding and Van Wert Counties Agronomy Day Program** on Wednesday, January 23. Eighty-five individuals attended the program, which focused on updates from



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the Paulding County Soil and Water District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency and Paulding County Area Foundation. State Extension and field specialists presented research-based information on gypsum, crop weed management, soybean diseases and growing corn after a drought.

- The **Northwest Ohio Livestock Producers (NWOLP)** hosted three programs in 2013. The first program was covered by Dave White, senior director of issues management and the Animals for Life Foundation, who presented “Conversation with EASE.” The second program was covered by Glen Arnold, OSU Extension field specialist in manure management, who discussed manure research. The third program was an update on facility evaluation by Kevin Elder, executive director of the ODA Livestock Permitting Program. A total of 47 people attended the three programs. The overall rating for the three programs was 4.46 out of 5.