



PUTNAM County

MAUMEE VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **Putnam County Farm Safety Roundup**—Putnam County Extension worked collaboratively with the Putnam County Health Department to conduct the 13th annual Farm Safety Camp with all nine school districts participating. Third grade students rotated through several safety sessions including grain entrapment, pond safety, working safely around chemicals, electricity, tractors and techniques in basic first aid. The 498 students were able to recall 10 out of 12 safety messages taught at the day camps, with a minimum accuracy level of 78%.
- **Putnam County 4-H**—The 4-H program had 742 traditional 4-H members completing over 1,300 4-H projects. These members made up 26 community clubs led by 135 trained adult advisors. Fewer than 2% of the enrolled 4-H members did not complete their 4-H projects for the year. The International 4-H Exchange Program brought two 4-H members from Japan to Putnam County. The expanded 4-H Shooting Sports Program doubled enrollment in 2013, as it added two new shooting disciplines to its list of offerings.
- **Junior Fair Board**—4-H Junior Fair Board is designed to give leadership to the Junior Fair portion of the county fair and to increase proficiencies in adolescent youth in the areas of conducting junior livestock shows, handling conflict, record keeping, public speaking and leadership. Locally, the program has built a strong collaboration between Junior Fair Board and the Putnam County Agriculture Society. The addition of two youth representatives on the Senior Fair Board in 2013 was a significant milestone in building a positive relationship with the board.

- **4-H CARTEENS**—The 4-H CARTEENS program was developed in collaboration with the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, Putnam County Juvenile Court and local police departments using state 4-H curriculum. The peer-delivered program targets first-time juvenile traffic offenders. Teen drivers are referred by juvenile court and can attend the program as a diversion option in lieu of having to attend a hearing for the offense. CARTEENS has reached 78 teen drivers. Data collected in 2013 shows 77% of the participants indicated the program helped them become better drivers; 86% indicated they would use more caution when driving; and 79% indicated the program was well developed and presented effectively.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Putnam County Agronomy Night**—Over 150 farmers farming nearly one-fourth of cropland in Putnam County attended Extension's annual Agronomy Night. Farmers learned new information on topics such as managing corn following a drought year, dealing with crop disease in corn and soybeans, dealing with tough weeds and Lake Erie and soluble phosphorus.
- **Pesticide Applicator Training**—Extension conducted a three-hour course to instruct farmers wanting to pass the exam to receive a private pesticide applicator license in Ohio. Twenty-four farmers attended to learn information on sprayer calibration, pesticide safety and pesticide formulations prior to taking the exam. In addition, private pesticide applicator license recertification sessions were



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conducted for over 175 local farmers. Participants gained information about pesticide use, including wearing personal protective equipment and using pesticide management practices to protect water supplies.

Putnam County receives \$32,001 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.

- **County Educational Meetings**—Putnam County Extension was a site for the OSU Income Tax School and Ag Issues Workshop. Twenty-six area CPAs, lawyers and tax preparers attended. Three local commodity banquets (beef, pork and dairy) were held with over 945 people in attendance. Ag council meetings are held monthly for area ag business leaders. Ag issues that affect the ag community are discussed at the meetings.
- **Cover Crops/Soil Health Workshop**—Over 70 local farmers attended a three-meeting series on cover crops. Farmers learned the latest information on eco-farming, soil ecology, biology of soil compaction, economics of cover crops and more. The meetings received many positive comments.
- **Cover Crop Research**—A cover crop research plot was planted on the Jim Leopold Farm. Ten different cover crops (buckwheat, sorghum sudan grass, cereal rye, tillage radish, oats, annual rye, crimson clover, oilseed radish, sweet clover and peas) were planted. This gave area farmers information on the value and cost savings of planting cover crops. Started this year was a 9.1-acre replicated soil health research farm across from the Putnam County landfill with land owned by the Putnam County Commissioners.
- **Master Gardener Training Class**—Nineteen people from four counties completed the 2013 Master Gardener Class. All topics in the manual were covered by local speakers and Extension professionals. The Putnam County Master Gardeners had an informational booth in downtown Ottawa at their “First Friday” programs this summer. The members answered attendees’ garden and lawn questions. The group hosted a gardening series at the various library locations in Putnam County. The group also donated 10 gardening DVDs to the county libraries’ inventory. The Master Gardener group also designed and funded the landscape project at the new county Extension office. The Master Gardeners along with county 4-H members installed the landscaping this summer.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Family Nutrition Program**—The Family Nutrition Program provided to participants information and hands-on learning experiences in 99 nutrition, food safety and food budgeting classes. Most classes were part of a series that promotes behavior change. After attending the classes, most participants said they planned to make positive changes.