

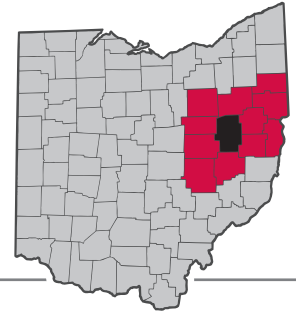


## TUSCARAWAS County

### CROSSROADS EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Barn owner Lynn Foust enjoys being part of the **Tuscarawas County 4-H Quilt Square Trail**. She has several displayed on her barns. Her favorite, “4-H Club Quilt,” greets tourists traveling between Sugarcreek and Dover. Like other owners, Lynn enjoys talking with visitors who travel the trail from next door to as far as Ontario, Canada. 4-H Club Advisor Melissa Horn is also excited about the project. Horn’s club has painted 3 of the 71 squares. “We’ve been involved with the project from the beginning,” Horn said in a recent interview with Suzi Parron, a well known quilt barn enthusiast/writer. “The kids do all the painting and help with framing. They really enjoy it and are proud to be part of something special in our community.” Tuscarawas County’s trail will be featured in Parron’s newest book, to be published in late 2014.
- **Food preservation programming** offers something for everyone. Basic preservation classes on freezing, drying and canning as well as specialty classes featuring salsa, pickles and jam drew crowds ranging from first-timers to old pros. Participants completing the retrospective program survey indicated they are more likely to use a pressure canner to safely process low-acid foods, blanch vegetables, fill to the proper headspace and use current U.S. Department of Agriculture/OSU Extension recommendations. One participant noted, “I’ve been canning for over 40 years and learned something new today!” Another noted, “I never knew how to properly blanch vegetables. Now I know how to do it right.”
- Program Assistant Sharon Cropper is a well-known face in the community. As part of the **Supplemental Nutrition**

**Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** grant, Sharon has taught over 840 individuals in 2013 on such topics as stretching food dollars and preparing safer food. “A-choo!” she says as she pretends to sneeze during a recent program, her hand coated with a special glow powder. She shakes the hand of the participant next to her, as they “pass the sneeze” around the table. Next, participants looked at their hands under a black light. “I never thought about how germs spread from place to place like that,” a participant commented. “I need to go wash my hands now, and wash them much more when I am making food!”

#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- More than 680 youth learned how to provide proper nutrition to their project animal, provide appropriate housing and space and safely move and work with their animal at the livestock **Quality Assurance Training**. Hands-on exercises also reinforced the importance of biosecurity when working with livestock.
- Public speaking is most people’s number one fear, but you wouldn’t know it from watching the 65 participants at the county’s yearly **4-H Safety Speaking and Demonstration contests**. Members build communication skills that help them with school, college applications and interviews. Teachers often report they can pick out 4-H members by how well prepared and comfortable they are speaking in front of the class.
- Recent findings from a **4-H Study of Positive Youth Development** indicated young people in 4-H are three times more likely to contribute to their communities than

non-participating youth. The research discovered that the structured learning, encouragement and adult mentoring 4-H members receive play vital roles in helping them actively contribute to their communities. Tuscarawas County has 1,184 members in 64 local clubs led by 235 adult volunteer advisors. Participating in 4-H school enrichment programs were 1,406 youth, and 2,500 youth received information from 4-H staff through several community events.

- 4-H develops youth to their full potential by allowing them to participate in **educational opportunities**. One hundred thirty-five members attended small animal seminars, teaching them about selecting, caring and showing their animals, and 85 members attended a hog clinic. Seventy-eight members and adult chaperones involved with dairy projects traveled to Illinois, exploring dairy farms and visiting sites including President Lincoln's home. Forty-eight youth and adults visited a horse facility and areas of interest in the Columbus vicinity. Clinics were also available for members in quilting, scrapbooking, sewing and nutrition projects. Outdoor learning continues each year through 4-H Camp, with 232 youth attending in 2014.

**and Forage Management Workshop.** A post-program evaluation indicated 96% would increase forage yield; 43% expected to increase yield by at least 20%; 90% expected to increase their grazing season; 91% expected to increase net profit; and 60% expected to increase net profit by at least \$25 per acre. With more than 1,200 acres represented, this translates to a potential \$30,575 of increased profit.

- An evaluation of the **Agromony School** indicated knowledge gain in all topics. Additionally, 90% of participants correctly identified the 4Rs of nutrient stewardship; 55% planned to use a pre-herbicide program to battle herbicide resistance; 54% intended to adopt practices that minimize the loss of phosphorus from cropland; and 100% correctly identified the appropriate time to apply herbicides. Farmers represented more than 20,000 acres of cropland and reported an average savings of \$1,300 per person as a result of their participation.

**Tuscarawas County receives \$17,190 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Oil and gas exploration** within the Utica Shale formation has created numerous educational opportunities. Fact sheets have been authored and hundreds have participated in educational programs to learn about leasing, easements and tax management strategies. A county landowner used materials developed by Extension and reported an increase of more than \$9,000 from the initial lease offer, along with developing a lease that provided more protection.
- Pesticides play an important role in crop production. Using pesticides in a manner that both protects the environment and results in minimal cost was taught at **Pesticide Applicator Recertification**. Farmers applying restricted-use pesticides are licensed and receive recertification training every three years. Evaluations indicate more than 94% have adopted practices to improve their safety and protect the environment as a result of attending recertification training.
- The **western bean cutworm** is known to cause economic damage to corn, and the local Extension office participated in a project to determine its severity statewide. One pheromone trap was placed in two corn fields located in different parts of the county. This research showed the population has not yet reached economically important levels in the county but warrants additional monitoring.
- In addition to classroom teaching, participants used on-farm learning to apply principles taught at the **Livestock Grazing**