



VAN WERT County

MAUMEE VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Recipients of the U.S.D.A.'s **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** learn how to stretch their food dollars through classes offered by OSU Extension. Program assistants offer interactive classes on diet quality, physical activity, food safety and food resource management. The Van Wert County Family Nutrition Program (FNP) provided education programs to 1,002 participants through direct programming. Among many topics, participants were introduced to MyPlate, which is the revised version of the food pyramid. As a result of the programs, 99% of the participants indicated they learned some or a lot of information, and 91% indicated they planned to make a change. Nutritional programming was provided for approximately 200 low-income youth from the county.
- **Van Wert County Health Collaborative** was formed this year, with membership including directors and supervisors of all major health-related organizations in the county. The collaborative identified key health issues in the county, based on an in-depth 2011 county assessment, and current information and statistics were presented at meetings. The team identified key issues and concerns, and decided to focus on the areas of weight control and substance abuse of both adults and children.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Van Wert County **Cloverbuds** has 550 members. Youth take part in 23 local clubs focused on social skills development, community service and personal project work in over 200 different 4-H projects.

- **4-H Buckeye Ambassadors** visited 241 third graders in three schools, teaching youth about opportunities in 4-H through projects, clubs and community service.
- Approximately 113 youth campers, teen camp counselors and adult volunteers developed their skills at **4-H Camp Palmer** while canoeing, playing sports and exploring the Dr. Seuss theme, "4-H Camp Palmer Can Show You a Thing or Two!"
- Participating in livestock Quality Assurance Training in 2013 were 146 youth. Youth who participated in this workshop explored the good production practices. Members also completed a sample DUNF. There were zero reported cases of drug residue in the 2013 Junior Fair Market livestock program.
- In 2013, over 150 youth have been schooled through **4-H CARTEENS**, which focuses on driving safety for first-time traffic offenders. Three youth assisted in facilitating sessions with the help of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The program also features three teen facilitators from the 4-H program.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- The 1,600-acre industrial site located on U.S. Route 30 will be a "**Shovel-Ready Site**" with rail access. The certification process and marketing efforts are currently underway.
- Van Wert County received a **ConnectOhio Broadband Certification** and plans fiber optic expansion.
- The county and city **revolving loan fund** invested over \$160,000 in local manufacturer expansions and start-up small businesses with new job creation commitments. The

Second Business Plan Challenge, offering new business start-ups a curriculum to explore their entrepreneurial spirit, was conducted, and a total of \$4,000 in business development funds was awarded to three separate businesses along with continued counseling services and support.

- Extension surveyed and conducted 30 **business retention and expansion visits** with local manufacturers throughout the county. Efforts promoted local and state incentives, workforce education and training, alternative energy possibilities and local vendors to fill supplier needs. .
- **Cool Machines** purchased and renovated a 40,000-square-foot building to relocate and expand their insulation blowing machine business.
- **Braun Industries** completed their 6,000th ambulance and hired 50 new employees.
- **Toledo Molding and Die** invested \$8 million in an expansion and new equipment, and hired 125 new employees.
- **Cooper Farms** celebrated its 75th anniversary and installed its third wind turbine.
- **Ridgeview Hospital**, located in the former Lincolnway Nursing Home, now employees 120.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Crop and livestock research coupled with Extension education has generated greater than a 40% rate of return on investment. **Agronomic studies** carried out in Van Wert County in 2013 included the following western bean cutworm survey; exotic insects of corn and wheat survey; brown marmorated stink bug survey; spotted wing drosophila survey; and data collection on the impact of western corn rootworm on corn production after the introduction of rootworm-resistant corn hybrids. The western corn rootworm project was supported by grants totaling \$14,400 to cover the costs of the project, including hiring a summer research intern.
- **Master Gardener Volunteers** completed more than 400 hours of service to the community in a variety of programs. This equates to \$7,548 worth of services provided to Van Wert County residents. The Master Gardener Volunteers were recognized for their efforts with state awards for their project, “How Does Your Garden Grow?” They tied for Outstanding Master Gardener Volunteer Project, Small Category (1–25 volunteers), and State Outstanding Master Gardener Volunteer Project Winner Overall, Small Category.
- Four hundred eighty-eight farmers and small business owners undertook the three-hour **Pesticide Applicator**

Training in 2013. Participants gained information about pesticide use, including proper use of fumigants and protection of livestock buildings from destructive insects.

- The Van Wert Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension educator is the full-time lead editor of the **Buckeye Yard and Garden Line (BYGL—pronounced “Beagle”) Newsletter**. BYGL is delivered via email to 2,324 subscribers every Thursday afternoon. The number of people who directly received all or parts of the BYGL each week in 2013 was 125,480, which is a weekly multiplier effect of 54 times the BYGL distribution. The number of people with whom BYGL subscribers shared their knowledge gained (via television, radio, newspapers, etc.) from the BYGL each week in 2013 was 5,871,321, which is a weekly multiplier effect of 2,526 times the BYGL information delivery. The calculated value of the information that BYGL provided to horticulture professionals in 2013 was \$2.6 million. This value was largely based on changes made to customer service, plant problem diagnostics and pesticide use.
- The Van Wert Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension educator is also one of several lead editors of the **Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (C.O.R.N.) Newsletter**, which provides savings in reduced input costs, appropriately timed pesticide applications, pest resistance management recommendations and alerts to developing problems as well as increases in corn, soybean and wheat production.

Van Wert County receives \$29,779 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.