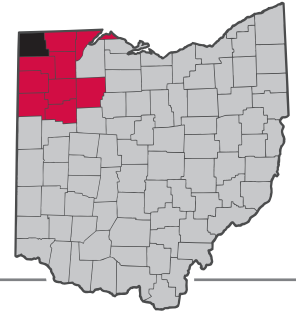




WILLIAMS County

MAUMEE VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Six hundred eighty-five Williams County youth were enrolled in 2013 in the traditional **4-H Youth Development program**. Those enrolled in 4-H Youth Development enhanced their leadership skills, expanded their community service and volunteerism and enhanced their record keeping skills by taking 4-H Youth Development projects. The 4-H members enrolled in 4-H projects from the areas of animal sciences, family and consumer sciences, creative and leisure arts, leadership and citizenship, plant and natural sciences, STEM and Cloverbuds. There were 13 youth that volunteered as educational volunteers in 2013. The 4-H Youth Development program was managed by 197 adult 4-H advisors in 2013, giving the youth guidance and direction.
- One hundred ninety Williams County youth participated in three **educational camp programs**. Those programs were special interest/short-term programs, with 62 youth involved in expanding their knowledge and record keeping skills. The Williams County 4-H Camp had 146 youth involved in an educational 4-H Camp Palmer program. Here, youth attended educational classes to develop and expand their knowledge and skills in communications, partnerships and teamwork. They also developed many interpersonal skills. Exploring 4-H members (kindergarten through second grade) attended a one-day camp, with 44 youth participating. The youth developed skills in communications, knowledge expansion and teamwork.
- In 2013, the 4-H Youth Development program expanded to more Williams County Schools by offering **Real Money, Real World**. The program was offered in five of the seven

county high schools, with a majority of the participants learning about the value of education and the professional jobs they would need in order to support a family. The educational sessions taught the youth about adulthood, family support and achieving an education. The students attended four classroom sessions where they learned about careers, family and banking. The one-day educational event was where 14–20 community leaders came and managed an educational booth where the students experienced monthly living. An evaluation has shown the students gained a great deal of knowledge and respect about education and adulthood. **4-H CARTEENS** is another 4-H Youth Development program. It is for first-time traffic offenders and their parents or guardians. Those attending are taught about speeding, safe stopping distances, Ohio traffic signs, Ohio laws and operating a vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In 2013, 237 youth were involved in Real Money, Real World and 4-H CARTEENS.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Soil health/ecology is going to become an even more important area in the future as the world needs to be fed in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner. Using cover crops with no-till is helping to improve soil health. Thus, Williams County Extension is working with 35 area farmers to use no-till on over 7,000 acres to grow cash crops followed by cover crops to see if yields can be improved.
- Gardening, whether landscaping for beauty around the home or growing vegetables for better health, is still an

important activity in Williams County. In response to many questions, the Williams County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educator organized the **Williams County Master Gardener Program** for beginning individuals to obtain their title as Master Gardener, and for Alumni Master Gardeners to continue educational classes. The beginning class is organized and hosted for individuals interested in gardening and sharing information to others. The class requires a total of 50 hours of education, weekly quizzes and a final exam. Classes are taught by the Williams County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educator and other horticultural leaders. Before being given the title of Master Gardener, participants in this beginning class also have to give back to the community 50 hours or more of volunteer service. This program has successfully continued for many years. This year's class formed into groups that worked on several different projects including flower beds at the entrance of Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio. Other members of the class worked at Ferrell's Lawn and Garden Center and Stone Ridge Winery. The Alumni Master Gardeners, under the direction of the Williams County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educator and the Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator, organized this year's calendar for continuing educational opportunities, trips and work nights at the Williams County Fairgrounds. Through their efforts, both groups gave back to the county over 360 hours of volunteer time worth \$7,560 at the rate of \$21.00 per volunteer hour.

- Questions on farm land renting arrangements were answered by the Williams County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educator using multiple information methods in order to provide statistical information pertinent to this area. He summarized information after consulting with 11 landowners concerning their farm rental arrangements, and he provided the latest information on **cropland values and cash rent rates** from OSU Extension's "Western Ohio Cropland Values and Cash Rents 2012–2013" survey and other fact sheets.
- The Williams County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educator, together with the Williams County Soil and Water Conservation District and Eugene Briggs from The Ohio State University School of Natural Resources, co-hosted a **Pond Clinic**. Here, pond management solutions were presented. The Williams County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educator continues to answer pond questions and work with pond owners' unique problems. As a result of this work, pond owners have stated that they are saving time and money by avoiding incorrect pesticide applications.

- The science of 100% pure maple syrup production was introduced in conjunction with the graduated OSU Extension signature program Why Trees Matter to 410 youth at **Maple Education Day** and to more than 1,700 adults at the **Williams County Maple Syrup Days**. While witnessing first-hand all aspects of maple syrup production, participants learned about evaporation boiling point as it varies with elevation and density of solution, measurement scales such as Baum and Brix and photosynthesis. These programs were conducted by the Williams County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educator, the Williams County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Northwest Ohio Maple Syrup Producers.