

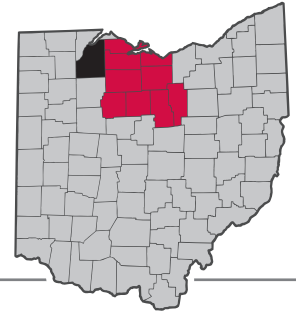


WOOD County

ERIE BASIN EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- The Wood County **4-H CARTEENS** program taught 135 first-time juvenile traffic offenders valuable safety information. Twenty teen facilitators utilized a “teens teaching teens” approach to traffic education while also building offenders’ self-esteem and interpersonal skills. As a result of this program, 97% of the participants said they will drive more cautiously, will not text and drive and will slow down while operating a vehicle.
- Wood County is ranked as one of the top Northwest Ohio counties for 4-H involvement. This year, **Woody County 4-H** offered educational experiences to 5,750 youth, 392 volunteer advisors and 300 teen leaders. There were 55 community 4-H Clubs with an enrollment of 1,302 and 106 4-H in-school units instructing 2,200 4-H projects. Wood County 4-H teen involvement is ranked among the highest in Ohio. Ninety Leadership Board members helped conduct judging events and were involved in community service, and 55 4-H members were heavily involved in the planning of the Junior Fair. Also, 100 4-H teens were camp counselors.
- **4-H Camp** was filled to capacity in 2013 with 200 4-H campers. Forty-two camp counselors received training to design a camp program that incorporated many of the critical elements needed in a positive 4-H experience. Counselors applied this knowledge to create a fun, yet safe environment for campers. Over 97% of the counselors felt more prepared to lead campers, and 89% learned new techniques in dealing with campers with special needs and preparing for emergency situations.

- Collaborating with Bowling Green State University and Virginia Tech University through a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant, 120 area youth were taught valuable **STEM concepts** on the BGSU campus by professors from around the nation. The 4-H program gave managerial leadership to the multi-Saturday event. Of the youth, 89% expressed an interest in participating next year and liked the hands-on activities that supported the lecture.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Agricultural research projects** conducted by Wood County Extension in 2013 sought to increase knowledge for producers, consultants and ag professionals in the areas of nutrient management, soil and water quality improvement, integrated pest management and production efficiency. Specific projects focused on cover crops, soil compaction, soil quality, pest scouting, soybean population comparisons, crop rotation and sustainable cropping systems. Results were shared through various events. As a result, producers improved farm income and reduced pesticide and fertilizer use by following Extension recommendations.
- The **Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (C.O.R.N.) Newsletter** was distributed to farmers and agribusinesses. The newsletter provides crop scouting, integrated pest management, cultural practice and other practical information during the growing season, plus updated research results during the winter months. This timely information has increased yields and reduced herbicide costs for thousands of acres of crops.

- About 2,000 Wood County residents gained **information on horticultural subject matter** via telephone calls, emails and horticultural seminars. Areas of most importance were gypsy moth infestations, pond management, tree and small fruits, general outdoor landscape questions and pest problems. About 80% of the clients adopted one or more of the practices taught, resulting in savings between a few dollars to upwards of a thousand dollars.
- Commercial **Pesticide Applicator Training** was offered to Wood County and Wood County Township employees. This training gave the employees the tools to pass the exams for their commercial pesticide applicator's licensure.
- The Wood County **Master Gardener Volunteers** welcomed 17 certified volunteers in 2013, bringing the number of active volunteers to 127. Volunteer efforts continued with the City of Bowling Green Parks and Recreation and with the Wood County Parks District. New projects were started with Wood Lane Schools, the Daughter Project and the Wood County Public Library. Volunteers distributed horticultural information to the community through the Wood County and Pemberville fairs, local farmer's markets and plant exchanges.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Wood County 4-H, with support from the Wood County Commissioners, the Agricultural Society and the Historical Museum, completed the **Wood County 4-H Quilt Square Trail**. Eighteen 4-H Clubs constructed twenty 8x8 plywood quilt blocks that are displayed on historical barns, farms or buildings throughout the county. Visitors will gain insight into our agricultural roots and learn about the many fascinating businesses and tourist attractions Wood County has to offer.
- **Women in Agriculture**, a one-day workshop for farm women, reached about 135 women in 2013. Evaluations showed 97% of women reported the program increased family communication on the farm; 96% reported the knowledge gained at the workshop can be applied to their farm operation; and 99% reported they will apply what they learned to their personal life.
- Foodborne illness costs the nation \$77.7 billion a year due to an estimated 48 million illnesses, 128,000 hospitalizations, and 3,000 deaths. Research indicates that restaurants and other food service outlets are responsible for 7 in 10 outbreaks. Wood County Extension provides training to food servers to prevent such outbreaks. Since January 2013, 143 public food servers were taught to avoid cross contamination and to take/log food temperatures from delivery and storage to cooking, holding, cooling, and reheating.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Over 1,400 people attended 303 demonstrations or presentations on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's MyPlate food guidance system, dietary guidelines for americans, food safety and other nutrition topics. Afterwards, 73% indicated they planned to make changes in their **nutritional choices and food safety habits**, and 83% indicated they had learned new information. Sixty-two percent of the classes taught were part of a series, which research verifies, increases the amount of knowledge gained.
- Nearly 1 in 10 Ohioans has been diagnosed with diabetes, which can increase the risk for serious health problems, from heart disease to eye and foot complications. To address this critical problem, OSU Extension's **Dining with Diabetes** teaches how to manage diabetes through menu planning, carbohydrate counting, portion control, label reading and healthy recipe taste testing. Wood County Extension partnered with Meijer Stores' Healthy Living Program and Bowling Green State University Dietetics Program to offer classes in 2013, with 50 attendees. Following the classes, participants reported reading labels more often, working harder to control their diabetes, an overall feeling of better health and improvements in clinical health outcome.

Wood County receives \$44,471 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.