

2014 County Highlights



DEFIANCE County

MAUMEE VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** presented over 115 educational sessions with 1,544 participants. Various programs on nutrition, food safety and food shopping were offered. Topics included the power of protein, whole grains, Glo Germ, MyPlate and portion distortion.
- During the summer, programming was offered at the **Summer Food Service Program** through NOCAC. The children learned about hand washing, MyPlate and the five food groups. Matching games and beanbag toss were enjoyed by the children.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **Real Money, Real World** is an active, hands-on experience that gives young people the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to those of an adult. The curriculum builds awareness of the connection between education, occupation, income and financial choices. This program utilizes 15 business and professional volunteers from the community in providing the real-life simulation experience. Defiance County Extension conducts this program in Tinora and Hicksville school systems.
- Fifty-eight girls ranging from first to fifth grades attended **4-H Cowgirl Princess Camp**. The sixth annual camp was hosted by four 4-H Extension professionals: Teresa Johnson, Defiance County; Laura Rohlf, Henry County; Staci Hiler, Paulding County; and Jill Stechschulte, Fulton County, who

planned, organized and conducted the event held at 4-H Camp Palmer, Fayette, Ohio, on May 17.

The program included lessons on self-esteem, self-confidence, table manners and etiquette. Activities included making horseshoe crafts and leather coin purses, playing rodeo games, and participation in a barn dance and a tea party. The day ended with a very special princess graduation ceremony, where participants were presented with a certificate and an embroidered camp napkin.

The guest speaker was Susan Hill Pieper, an accomplished horsewoman, who started riding at age five and has trained horses and given riding lessons in Alabama, Texas and California. At age 19, she was named Tennessee Valley Rodeo Queen and went on to compete in the Miss Rodeo USA pageant in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Today, Susan Hill Pieper is the director of the Paulding County Carnegie Library and still maintains a passion and deep love for all things horses.

- **4-H Camp Palmer** participation was at 138 total campers. This number represents 100 youth campers, 30 teen counselors and 8 adult volunteers. Fifty-four percent of campers received scholarships totaling \$3,100. Youth participating at camp made new friends, developed independence from their family, participated in leadership and skill-building activities, and had safe, supervised fun with their friends. They were given a new opportunity through 4-H programming that they might not otherwise have had a chance to experience.



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ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Sixty-five area farmers recertified their private pesticide applicator license by attending Defiance County Extension **Pesticide Applicator Recertification**. Over 170 farmers are licensed in Defiance County, and they must obtain recertification every three years. Ninety-one percent of participants improved safety practices, and 90 percent learned to control pests more effectively. Ninety percent of participants agreed that the program provided current pesticide-related topics, issues or regulations. On average, participants apply pesticides on 860 acres, and the program reached 56,000 acres of cropland.
- A **computerized farm recordkeeping workshop** with Quicken was attended by 56 farmers. The chief financial officer set up farm accounts, entered expenses and income, and tracked each to maximize end-of-year reports. Participant evaluations measured significant knowledge gain about using Quicken for farm and personal financial records, and using Quicken tags to track production information. The workshop was taken by farmers (21 percent) that currently used Quicken, and farmers (79 percent) not currently using Quicken. Participants not using Quicken indicated that they will use Quicken (61 percent), will not use Quicken (10 percent), or are undecided about using Quicken (29 percent) for farm financial recordkeeping.
- Defiance County Extension taught a **Farm Business Transition to the Next Generation workshop** to 22 area farmers. Participant evaluations measured significant knowledge gain about getting financial affairs in order, family business communication, treatment of heirs, and business structures and strategies. Participants plan to have a family meeting (97 percent), meet with an attorney (83 percent), and meet with a financial advisor (67 percent) to discuss transition-planning within the next 12 months.
- Local research conducted by OSU Extension at the **Defiance Agricultural Research Association site** began in 2005 to examine controlled drainage (CD) compared to conventional free drainage (FD) from cropland on concentrations of soluble nutrients in subsurface tile drainage water. During the 2007–2013 research period, differences in annual nitrate-nitrogen and phosphate-phosphorus concentrations in drainage water from CD versus FD were not significant. While concentrations were not significantly affected by drainage water management, CD has potential to reduce the total volume of water leaving cropland on an annual basis, thus reducing the total nutrient release from subsurface-drained cropland.
- Educator Bruce Clevenger and a team of Extension colleagues wrote a series of **solar electric generation fact sheets**. Topics include introduction to on-farm solar electric generation, site assessment for solar electric, sizing your solar electric system, and financial considerations of on-farm solar electric generation. In Ohio, a policy tool called “net metering” is a billing arrangement where customers can receive a credit on their electric utility bills for any extra electricity produced by the customer.
- OSU Extension taught over 400 youth at the **Defiance County Public Safety/EMA Open House**. Bruce Clevenger taught farm machinery safety, and power takeoff shafts were discussed as a major danger zone on machinery. Youth learned the importance of keeping a safe distance from mowing equipment, and they also learned that a tractor with one seat means no riders. Youth from farms or nonfarm backgrounds are fascinated by tractors, but they need to understand the danger points on farm machinery.
- OSU Extension coordinates vendor registration requests for and provides market guidelines to the **Defiance County Farmer’s Markets** in Hicksville and Defiance. In 2014, the Defiance Farmer’s Market had registered 50 vendors that served the community with markets on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The Hicksville Farmer’s Market has 14 vendors and is open Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Defiance County receives \$43,655 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.