

# 2014 County Highlights

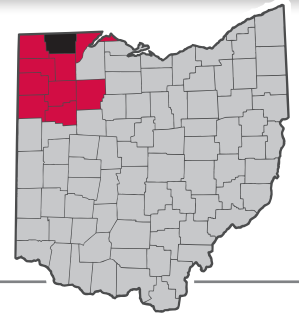


## FULTON County

### MAUMEE VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **Fulton County 4-H** served 1,047 youth through 44 4-H Clubs. Fulton County 4-H is led by adults who provide safe, inclusive environments for youth to determine goals and make educated decisions. Members develop leadership and interviewing skills as part of being club members and officers. The program encourages youth and parents to work as a team to learn the skills needed to complete 4-H project work. Parents are involved in participation at club events and are encouraged to learn along with their children.
- Two hundred fifty volunteers work directly with youth, ensuring positive youth development experiences. The volunteers provide leadership in the 4-H program, and each volunteer donates approximately 100 hours per year. At the current Ohio rate of \$22.14 per volunteer hour, this equates to \$553,500 worth of **volunteer support** to our county's future leaders. Support for their efforts includes initial screening/background check, fingerprinting, orientation to the role and continuing training.
- One hundred percent of the eligible Fulton County 4-H Junior Fair exhibitors with livestock projects completed **Quality Assurance Training**. The five training sessions were a collaborative effort of the Fulton County 4-H educator, Senior Fair Board members, FFA advisors and 4-H advisors/volunteers. A total of 858 youth learned about animal ethics, animal husbandry and raising quality food-chain animals.
- Two hundred four youth per year (including 33 teen counselors and 10 adult volunteers, one of whom is a registered nurse) participated in **4-H Camp**. Participants learned cooperative living in a natural environment, which

was focused on each individual's social, spiritual, mental and physical development. Participation in the camp program contributes to a caring community environment.

- More than 200 teen driving traffic offenders completed the Northwest Ohio **4-H CARTEENS** program, which was cooperatively offered by 4-H in Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams counties. This peer-to-peer-taught program focuses on re-education of Ohio traffic laws, distracted driving, seatbelt safety, speeding and sharing the road with large farm equipment.

#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Three hundred ninety-seven Fulton County residents participated in one of 83 classes taught by Extension's **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)**. One example of these classes was a series of six lessons over a six-week period. The series was conducted in conjunction with NOCAC's Summer Food Service Program. Within Fulton County, the Summer Food Service Program provides meals at two sites in the Wauseon area: West Elm Apartments and Reighard Park's Potawatomi Lodge. Total contacts included 264 children over the six-week period. According to NOCAC's Community Partnership Coordinator Heidi Keween, who oversees the Summer Food Service Program, the program assistant was successful in engaging the children and providing an additional reason for them to participate daily. "The children at the new site really lit up when you arrived," Keween said. "The adults at the site spoke often about your participation. I am proud to be part of such a successful program."



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- **Live Healthy, Live Well** spring and fall 2014 email challenges resulted in over 100 participants learning new information and adding new, healthy lifestyle practices to their daily routine. Outcomes include improvements in weight maintenance and obesity prevention.
- Individuals working at Triangular Processing through the Fulton County Board of Developmental Disabilities participated in **health and wellness lunch-and-learns**. Through a visual bulletin board display and an educational lesson, over 40 employees gained information on healthy snacks and stress management each month.
- Fulton County Family and Consumer Sciences educators and Ohio Homemakers and Community educators hosted **Woman's Day** at the Fulton County Fair. Over 175 attendees enjoyed informative presentations including a cooking demonstration by Connie Cahill, egg safety specialist with the American Egg Board.
- **Weekly classes to improve personal/life skills and workforce development** were provided to clients in the job-seeking process at Fulton County Jobs and Family Services. The ultimate goal of the classes is successful employment.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Two **small farm programs** were conducted to promote local food production. A High/Low Tunnel Field Day, supported by the Warner Grant for Sustainable Agriculture, drew 38 participants. Also, the Northwest Ohio Berry School drew 52 participants from the tri-state area. Both events emphasized alternative production practices for local food, marketing options, business considerations and practical application.
- **Agricultural Fertilizer Applicator Certification** in Ohio was conducted with over 370 farmers and agricultural retailers. This event focuses on best management practices for soil testing, phosphorus and nitrogen management.
- A **Corn-Soybean Regional Agronomy Day** attracted 265 private industry and Certified Crop Advisers. Through **Pesticide Applicator Recertification**, 125 farmers were educated on the latest application practices. Fulton County was also the host site for the **Overholt International Drainage School**.
- **Northwest Ohio Precision Agriculture Technology Day** focused on combines, yield monitors, yield monitor calibration and data management. Impacted by this program and requesting it again were producers representing 50,000 acres, as well as consultants serving over 440,000 acres. A Precision Software Training Day was held in the winter for those farmers who wish to manage their own data.

## ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Youth need a clear understanding to manage their finances. The school enrichment program **Real Money, Real World** provided financial education to 100 Fulton County twelfth graders through hands-on simulation. Participants gained financial knowledge during a real-life simulation of occupation, salary, family and budget balancing. These youth commented, "I'm living at home all the way through college" and "I didn't know stuff costs so much!"
- Many family farms are in the midst of transition. Eleven farms participated in the February **NextGen Farmer series**. A Farmland Leasing Workshop was co-hosted with Defiance County to educate the next generation of landowners on effective, fair and legal leasing arrangements.

**Fulton County receives \$54,202 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**