

2014 County Highlights



NOBLE County

BUCKEYE HILLS EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

150 Court House, Caldwell, Ohio 43724-1245

Phone: (740) 732-5681 noble.osu.edu



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The Noble County Extension office remains a resource for food safety, providing training and resources for **home food preservation and safe food-handling practices**. More than 60 individuals participated in the ServSafe Food Handler Program, the Occasional Quantity Cook program, or canning classes. Also requested and provided were free services such as fact sheets, pressure canner inspections and phone consultations to protect individuals from the dangers and costs of foodborne illness.
- Noble County was one of six counties to pilot the new **Successful Co-Parenting** curriculum in 2014. This court-mandated class, taught bi-monthly, provides parents with the know-how to minimize the negative effects of separation and divorce on children. The 33 adults who attended were better equipped to address co-parenting challenges such as conflict and feelings of anger due to communication difficulties with the other parent while becoming more attentive to their child's needs.
- Noble County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences offers a variety of other **parent education programs** that share research-informed, best practices for nurturing children's growth and development. In 2014, 95 parents and childcare providers attended sessions on topics such as feeding infants and toddlers, helping children succeed in school and strengthening families.
- A new program assistant was hired and trained to conduct **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)**. This federal grant-funded nutrition program teaches those who qualify for SNAP benefits how to

stretch their food dollars. Educational programs provided information on nutrition, food safety, food budgeting and food security.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- The **Noble County 4-H Scholarship Fund** was established in 2014, and over \$9,000 was raised to support the educational endeavors of graduating seniors who are 4-H members in Noble County. Three scholarships were awarded this year to 4-H members pursuing college degrees.
- Noble County Extension conducted the OSU Extension signature program **Real Money, Real World** in 2014. Forty-six students from Shenandoah High School participated. This hands-on experience gives young people the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to those they will face in adulthood. The curriculum builds awareness of the connection between education, occupation, income and financial choices. Sixteen community partners participated in the simulation by staffing booths, teaching financial education and assisting the students in making sound financial decisions. Students' self-assessment statements included, "I learned how expensive children are and how stressful life would be if you didn't have a good paying job" and "It really helped me realize that I need to live within my means."
- The **4-H youth development program** reached over 600 Noble County youth through 4-H Clubs and research-based educational programming such as school enrichment, agricultural awareness programs, environmental education,



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Empowerment *Through* Education

twitter.com/dirkeithsmith
u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact
extension.osu.edu

summer day camps and afterschool programs. The 26 community clubs provided youth with positive relationships with caring adults. This year, 95 volunteers assisted youth in developing life skills in communication, interpersonal relations, decision-making and responsibility.

- The **Noble County Junior Fair Livestock Sale** set a new record in 2014. A total of 475 animals sold during the livestock sale for a total of \$517,826. Many youth use the funds generated from the sale of Junior Fair livestock to fund their post-high school education. Also, 4-H and FFA members pledged to donate \$10,000 from the sale of their livestock projects to various charitable organizations.
- **Ag School Days**, a hands-on educational program for third- and fourth-grade students in Noble and Guernsey counties was held in the spring. Approximately 400 youth attended this two-day program at OARDC's Eastern Agricultural Research Station. Youth participated in 15 educational stations covering topics from livestock production to natural resources.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Hay Day** was hosted at OARDC's Eastern Agricultural Research Station in June. It featured displays and demonstrations by several area equipment dealers. Dealers showcased new equipment and implements, and fielded questions about functionality, features, and pricing. In addition to live demonstrations, educational discussions highlighted forage preservation and conservation programs.
- In 2014, the Ray Family Farm, owned by Shawn and Kim Ray and located in Cumberland, was featured for **Sheep Day**, an annual event hosted by the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association. Participants toured the property to see successful Environmental Quality Incentives Program practices on the farm. Participants also attended presentations on predator management, pasture renovation, selecting sheep equipment and basic sheep management practices. In conjunction with Sheep Day, a bus tour was offered focusing on creating a pasture management plan and facing new challenges from the increase in oil and gas activity in the area.
- Twenty producers from all over the state came to OARDC's Eastern Agricultural Research Station for a three-day **Artificial Insemination School**. Attendees were given hands-on opportunities to learn proper techniques on preparing, handling and practicing artificial insemination. Additionally, industry representatives were on hand to discuss new techniques of pregnancy testing and health issues. Participants represented over 1,800 head of cattle

and stated they planned to implement many of the practices covered in the school.

- A three-part **grazing series** spanning three counties was held to discuss increasing forage yields, extending the grazing season and increasing net profit. Rotational grazing, pasture renovation and frost seeding were also discussed. Attendees indicated they expected a \$10–\$50 per acre increase for their pastures and hay fields, as well as a 5–20 percent forage yield increase as a result of attending this program.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- **Oil and gas education** remains a priority in eastern Ohio. In 2014, 209 people attended educational sessions that provided updates on shale development and pipelines in the region. Extension educators through the state hosted 17 meetings in 2014, reaching more than 700 individuals.
- The Noble County Extension Community Development educator continued to work with **philanthropy** in the county in 2014. Working with the Noble County Community Foundation, \$14,000 in general grants have been awarded and \$6,000 in scholarships have been granted.
- The Noble County Extension Community Development educator also wrote and was awarded \$20,000 in grants in 2014 for wastewater improvements at 4-H Camp Piedmont and for the Noble County Community Foundation.
- Noble County Extension **provided assistance to a regional museum** to help it successfully obtain its 501c3 designation in 2014.

Noble County receives \$33,972 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.