

# 2014 County Highlights



## PAULDING County

### MAUMEE VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

503 Fairground Drive, Paulding, Ohio 45879-0087

Phone: (419) 399-8225     [paulding.osu.edu](http://paulding.osu.edu)



#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Over 120 third graders in Paulding County schools participated in the 4-H school enrichment program **ChickQuest**, a classroom journey through the life cycle of chickens. This 4-H school enrichment program challenges elementary students to use science, technology and engineering to investigate the life cycle of an embryonic egg.
- **Paulding County 4-H** has seen a record number of 352 members enrolled in 4-H for 2014. Of the 352 members, 96 are new. Our membership promotions began in December 2013 with 4-H school visits in all six elementary schools in the county. 4-H teen youth visited the schools to educate the youth about the highlights of 4-H, including the educational and fun experiences that last a lifetime.
- One hundred youth campers, 30 teen counselors and 14 Cloverbuds participated in **4-H Camp**. "Baking up a Good Time at 4-H Camp Palmer" was the theme. From high ropes to creek seining, from line dancing to outdoor cooking, from the archery range to the flying squirrel, the campers lived the magic of 4-H Camp Palmer. 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.
- **4-H project evaluation** took place during the 2014 Paulding County Fair. Over 239 still projects were taken out of the entire 4-H membership of 352 youth. The still project topics ranged from cooking to small engines to companion animals. The youth completed a project book and were evaluated on their project knowledge and display during

judging. The judging process enabled youth to experience a formal interview to help them gain confidence and self-esteem for interviews they will experience as they enter adulthood. Over 30 volunteers from the community donated their time to be judges for the various still project categories.

#### ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- In September, OSU Extension began training area farmers and agriculture suppliers for **Agricultural Fertilizer Applicator Certification**. Certification is a requirement by 2014 Senate Bill 150 for anybody who applies commercial fertilizer to 50 or more acres. The new law is part of a broad plan to reduce the impact of nutrients on Lake Erie water quality and other fresh bodies of water impaired by harmful algal blooms. Over 800 applicators were certified in the Northwest Ohio region in September alone. All certification will be valid for three years, at which point the applicator will need to be recertified by OSU Extension. Paulding County was one of the first three training locations, with over 160 in attendance. As a result, Paulding County has currently over 90 certified farmers, agribusiness and landscaping people through the first three trainings.
- Twenty-five area farmers recertified their private pesticide applicators license by attending Paulding County Extension **Pesticide Applicator Recertification**. Over 130 farmers are licensed in Paulding County and must obtain recertification every three years. Participants were updated on the practices of good recordkeeping, safety and the relationship of pesticides on target sites of plants. But the Number One



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Empowerment Through Education

[twitter.com/dirkeithsmith](https://twitter.com/dirkeithsmith)  
[u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact](http://u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact)  
[extension.osu.edu](http://extension.osu.edu)

topic delivered was current updates to pesticide labels. On average, participants apply pesticides on 640 acres. The program reached 35,000 acres of cropland.

- Research is being conducted based upon using dairy manure as a fertilizer source for corn and/or corn silage. The **Manure Nutrient Boom** is a new technology being developed to apply dairy manure to standing corn in the tasseling stage. The application of manure to a growing corn crop can expand the manure application window for livestock producers while improving corn and silage yields. The boom applicator applies approximately 350 gallons per minute and covers 48 rows of corn with each pass. This is a part of a grant from the Ohio Dairy Research Fund and the Ohio Corn Marketing Program.
- Twenty-seven area farmers attended a **“Farm Business Transition to the Next Generation” workshop** during the Paulding County Agronomy Day. Families were taught the value of monthly farm family meetings to ensure a viable and steady business plan.
- One hundred twenty farmers/producers were introduced to the **Ohio Sensitive Crop Registry** to develop awareness of apiaries, sensitive crops, organic fruit, vegetable and crop production, and aquaculture and aquaponic practices to help keep Paulding County a safe and viable community. Paulding County currently has 86 registered apiaries with over 1,500 bee colonies.
- Over 60 participants attended the Paulding County Extension **Tree Diagnostic and Tree Pruning Clinic**. Participants learned to ensure proper care and maintenance of locally grown trees. This program stressed how trees play a valuable environmental, social and economic benefit to our communities.
- Paulding County Extension educated 19 **Master Gardener Volunteers** on producing, selecting and maintaining small-scale-garden fruit-and-vegetable crop production through planning small gardening projects in Northwest Ohio. This program is helping to create sustainable food production for those not currently involved in commercial food production. Paulding County Extension currently has 12 Master Gardener Volunteers that meet monthly and plan community service.
- The Paulding County Master Gardener Volunteers, with the assistance of Noggle, developed a program on native and invasive plants in Paulding County near the Black Swamp areas. Over 300 youth and teachers attended the **“Big Five” field day** held in conjunction with the Paulding County Soil and Water office. Youth and teachers were taught the importance of native plants and their impact on the Paulding County environment. Students were then taught ways to identify and control invasive plants in the county.
- During the 2014 Farm Science Review, a program titled “100 Years of Extension and 100 Women in Agriculture” honored 100-year-old Paulding County farmer Mapha Schaadt and local agribusiness leader Dianne Cooper of Cooper Farms. This program demonstrated women’s valuable impact on society and in agribusinesses and family farms over the last 100 years.