

2015 County Highlights

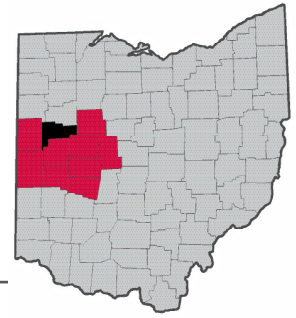
Auglaize County

Top of Ohio Extension Education and Research Area

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Auglaize County 4-H served over 2,200 youth during 2015. This number reflects participation in community 4-H Clubs, school enrichment, Cloverbuds and special events. There were over 250 volunteers involved in the program. Chick embryology and the life cycle of a butterfly continue to be the most popular classroom projects. Market hogs and cake decorating projects were among the more popular through community clubs.
- Approximately 1,006 students in 43 classrooms are learning “the 4-H way” with hands-on experiences. The program offers a variety of topics including chick embryology, butterfly life cycle, weather and nutrition education. The Cloverbud program is also conducted in kindergarten through second grade classrooms.
- One hundred forty campers went to 4-H Camp Palmer for the five-day residential camping program. Highlights included canoeing, high ropes, dances, campfires and swimming in the new camp pool. Teen counselors gained leadership skills by conducting activities and supervising campers. Counselors attended a series of training sessions to learn counseling skills and plan the program. Counselors and counselors-in-training were selected through an application and interview process. All campers responding to the post-camp evaluation said they had a good/excellent experience and planned to return in 2016. Camper comments included “(it was) easier to make new friends now that I have been to camp” and “No one judges you at camp and everyone acts different at camp in a better way.”
- Thirty-two 4-H Cloverbuds attended Cloverbud Day Camp. The camp gives young 4-H members the opportunity to experience 4-H camping. Campers enjoyed crafts, nutritious snacks, story time and games. Bald eagles and bird watching were the theme for the day. Teen and adult counselors also taught traditional camp songs. A presentation was given on bald eagles in Ohio.

- Ohio 4-H CARTEENS reached 103 teen drivers through October 2015. The program is taught by teens. Guest speakers include individuals who have been touched by traffic fatalities and troopers from the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Wapakoneta Post. The program is a cooperative effort between Auglaize County 4-H and the juvenile court. Participants consistently rate the program as a 4.5/5.0 or higher and share that they have learned the importance of paying attention behind the wheel.
- Three hundred twenty-two youth from four area high schools and middle schools increased their knowledge of how occupation affects income, how to use a checking account, and making “Real Money, Real World” choices. Volunteer community partners assisted with the programs.
- Five hundred twenty-five 4-H members enrolled in livestock projects completed their annual Quality Assurance Training. Members either attended the program or met the testing requirements. Certified volunteers conduct the program, teaching good production practices for youth livestock producers.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The incidence of diabetes has continued to increase in Auglaize County. To address this issue, OSU Extension collaborated with Joint Township District Memorial Hospital to provide a Dining with Diabetes class series consisting of diabetic education and cooking demonstrations. The 17 participants reported making positive changes to manage their diabetes.
- One hundred twenty-six, third and fourth graders learned the importance of making healthy food choices, choosing correct portion sizes and participating in physical activity through a “Choose It! Use It!” nutrition education classroom program. Students tried new foods and recorded their physical activity. Ninety-seven percent reported they learned how much food to eat at each meal. Ninety-six percent reported they would increase their physical activity.



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- The ServSafe Food Handler Program was completed by 107 food service managers and employees, representing food service establishments in multiple counties. One hundred percent of participants reported learning new information for handling food. Numerous consumer questions regarding food safety and home food preservation were answered by the OSU Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educator.
- Nutrition education programs were taught to 25 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds in the Auglaize County preschool programs. Preschoolers touched, smelled and tasted a variety of fruits and vegetables, and explored foods in a series of classroom activities. Twenty preschoolers plus parents and grandparents learned to cook and eat healthy through a series of hands-on nutrition and reading activities.
- Eighty Auglaize County adult residents participated in at least one or more of 37 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) classes. Two hundred forty-five youth participated in at least two of 66 SNAP-Ed programs. Sixty-two percent of youth reported choosing healthy snacks every day or almost every day. Ninety-two percent of adults reported that they were somewhat or very confident in making at least one positive change in their household as a result of the SNAP-Ed programming.
- Twenty-three participants attended programs to learn information about agriculture in Auglaize County. Attendees were teachers from St. Marys City Schools and Auglaize County Leadership Group representatives. Participants enjoyed the programs and indicated that they will pass the information along to others.
- Auglaize County Extension monitored for western bean cutworm. Many adults were found in northwestern Ohio. Few moths were collected in traps in Auglaize County in 2015. We have yet to see any economic damage.
- The Ohio State University received grant money to study water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin. Auglaize County is participating in the research project. Five growers are cooperating.
- This is the third and final year for a research project looking at the factors that limit soybean yield. Soil samples, plant samples and seed samples were collected and fields scouted for pest problems. Two producers cooperated with this research in 2015.

Auglaize County receives \$32,267 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- In 2014, rules were put into effect that anyone applying commercial fertilizer to more than 50 acres must have a Fertilizer Applicator Certification. Auglaize County hosted two Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training sessions in 2015. Fifty-two individuals have received their Fertilizer Applicator Certification in Auglaize County.
- Auglaize, Darke, Mercer and Shelby counties hosted a regional dairy meeting on August 10, 2015. Topics included the dairy margin protection program and milk quality. There were 25 participants in the program. Producers plan to adapt some of the milk quality practices presented.
- A weekly "Weed of the Week" radio program was started with WCSM radio on August 8, 2015. Weekly discussions included how to identify species, key biological characteristics of species and the edibility of species. So far, species in the *Polygonaceae* and *Amaranthaceae* families have been discussed.
- The Auglaize County ag breakfast is held every third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 a.m. at RJs Coffee Cup Restaurant. Many good subjects have been presented and discussed.