

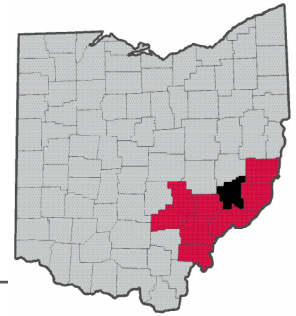
2015 County Highlights

Noble County

Buckeye Hills Extension Education and Research Area

46049 Marietta Road, Caldwell, Ohio 43724-1224

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



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Successful Co-Parenting continues to be offered bimonthly. This court-mandated program provides parents with information, skills and techniques to minimize the negative effects of separation and divorce on children. The forty-eight 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 during the coping process.
- The Noble County Extension office remains a resource for food safety, providing training and resources for home food preservation and safe food handling practices. Nearly 50 individuals participated in a certified food safety training to protect themselves and others from the dangers and costs of foodborne illness. In addition, local residents utilized free services, including a home canning class, phone consultations and requests for more than 60 fact sheets on growing, storing and preserving local produce.
- OSU Extension partnered with the local nursing and rehabilitation facility, the nearby hospital, and the Eastern Ohio Diabetes Association to offer a three-week Dining With Diabetes series to facility residents, outpatient clients and the general public. Twenty-two adults learned ways to manage diabetes through menu-planning, carbohydrate-counting, portion control, label-reading and healthy recipes.
- The Noble County OSU Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educator, in conjunction with the Noble County Health Department's "Healthy Weights Program," taught six classes on controlling portion size, reading food labels, increasing heart-healthy fats, limiting added sugars and adding fresh produce to the diet. Approximately 20 women changed their eating and exercise habits for a healthier weight and BMI.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) provided information on nutrition, food safety, food budgeting and food security to 1,254 individuals.

This grant-funded nutrition education program teaches individuals and families who qualify for SNAP benefits ways to stretch their food dollars. New this year, the program reached 720 families during Lutheran Social Services' "Produce Pick-Up Fridays." Once a month from April to August, individuals were able to see educational displays, see food demos and taste-test foods commonly distributed through the food pantry.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Noble County 4-H reached over 600 Noble County youth through 4-H Clubs and research-based educational programming such as school enrichment, agricultural awareness, environmental education, summer day camps, and after-school programs. The twenty-five community clubs provided youth with positive relationships with caring adults. This year, 98 volunteers assisted youth in developing life skills in communication, interpersonal relations, decision making and responsibility.
- Sixty-four high school students participated in the signature program Real Money, Real World. This hands-on experience gives young people the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to those of an adult. Students' self-assessment statements included, "I learned that the cost of living is higher than I expected" and "I learned how much money you have to spend to keep up a household" and "It showed me how important it is to do good in school so you can get a good job."
- The Noble County Junior Fair Livestock Sale set a new record in 2015 once again. There were a total of 490 animals sold during the livestock sale for a total of \$529,907. Many youth use the funds generated from the sale of Junior Fair livestock to fund their post-high school educations. Junior Fair members practiced "paying it forward" by pledging money from the sale of their livestock project with a total of over \$16,000 being donated to various charitable organizations.



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- One hundred five teens were provided leadership training and development through programs such as Junior Leaders, 4-H Fashion Board, 4-H Camp Counselor Training, and Junior Fair Board. Teens were involved in planning and conducting many aspects of the 4-H program and utilized program-planning, public speaking, time management, conflict resolution and communication skills to accomplish these tasks. They were also involved in community service and mentoring activities. Individually, these teen leaders, on average, contribute more than 100 hours of volunteer service to county and community-based activities.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- OSU Extension conducted a joint Fertilizer Application Certification Training with Guernsey and Monroe counties for over 40 participants. Participants learned the importance of soil sampling, manure handling and application, minimizing phosphorus run-off and reducing nitrogen applications. Ninety percent of producers indicated they were changing their nutrient management practices as a result of this meeting.
- Livestock owners protect the environment and increase production efficiencies by attending OSU Extension Grazing School. Livestock owners managing over 3,742 acres of hay and pastureland participated in this program. Eighty-eight percent of attendees expected the information they learned to increase their net profit.
- OSU Extension partnered with local agencies to provide the Growing Together Program to help children and their families improve their diets. Families who were in need of education and access to fresh foods learned how to build raised-bed gardens and produce their own fresh vegetables and herbs.
- The Master Gardener Volunteers held a very successful herb garden workshop with over 30 attendees. An herb plant swap held at the end of the meeting allowed participants to try new varieties of herbs.
- Ag School Days, a hands-on educational program for third through fourth grade students of Noble and Guernsey counties was held in the spring. Approximately 400 youth attended this two-day program at the OARDC Eastern Outlying Agricultural Research Station. Attending youth participated in 15 educational stations covering topics from livestock production to natural resources.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Oil and gas education remains a priority in eastern Ohio. Educational sessions providing updates on shale development and pipelines in the region continue to be offered.
- OSU Extension continued to work with philanthropy in Noble County in 2015. Working with the Noble County Community Foundation (NCCF), \$14,500 in general grants have been awarded, and \$6,500 in scholarships have been granted.
- OSU Extension worked with a community member to secure loan funding and develop a business plan, allowing for the purchase of a local business whose owners were retiring. This work has kept one of the key businesses open in Downtown Caldwell.
- OSU Extension also convened discussions focusing on bringing back local leadership training for community members.

Noble County receives \$39,992 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.