

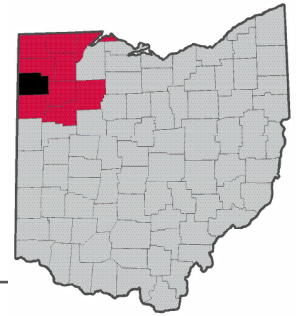
2015 County Highlights

Paulding County

Maumee Valley Extension Education and Research Area

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- In 2015, Paulding County 4-H enrolled 340 members from 209 families. With 26 certified volunteers in 12 clubs, youth took 499 still and livestock projects to the county fair. Youth had 43 projects in sewing, cooking, small animal, tractor, welding, health, safety, woodworking, public speaking and outdoor learning. Youth also had three horse projects and six livestock projects eligible for the Ohio State Fair.
- Participation at 4-H Camp Palmer totaled 167 total campers. This number represents 98 youth campers, 29 teen counselors, 15 adult volunteers and 25 Cloverbuds. Sixty-two percent of weeklong youth campers received scholarships totaling \$3,660. Youth participating were “Stepping Into the World of Seuss at 4-H Camp Palmer” as they made new friends, developed independence from their families, participated in leadership and skill-building activities, and had safe and supervised fun with their friends. They were given a new opportunity through 4-H programming that they might not otherwise have had a chance to experience. Campers lived the magic of Camp Palmer while doing high-ropes, creek seining, line dancing, cooking outdoors and shooting at the archery range. Campers made use of the brand new pool at 4-H Camp Palmer. This was the highlight of the week for all.
- The OSU Extension 4-H Youth development educator re-established in-school programming in Paulding County schools. The educator collaborated with Paulding Middle School one day a week from August through December to lead a program on financial literacy, career goals and career development. This opportunity allowed 30 students the chance to further their understanding of financial and career decisions.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- The 2014 Farm Bill provides update options and program choices to farmers and cropland owners. The federal

legislation allows farms to update their program crop yields and to reallocate the farm base acres to align with recent planted acres. The updates are used in calculating risk management payments to farms that did or will experience price or revenue losses during the 2014–2018 crop years. OSU Extension taught 30 large-group sessions, connecting with over 1,000 farmers, producers, agribusinesses and landowners. Fourteen two-hour small group computer lab sessions were also taught to over 160 producers. One-on-one meetings were held with over 135 citizens to help them better understand the online tools and mechanics of the 2014 Farm Bill.

- Paulding County Extension established a countywide emergency planning group in case an outbreak of avian influenza were to plaque the county. The group identified human health, livestock biosecurity/health and safety as the top factors, as well as the economic impact on the county. The group included the County and Regional Health Department, the EMA, the ODA district veterinarian, OSU Extension, the county sheriff’s office, the local veterinarian, the Paulding County commissioners, the Paulding SWCD, and Cooper Farms representatives. The group worked on education for the Junior and Senior Fair Boards on the determination of keeping or canceling the local poultry show during the county fair. As a result, to minimize risk, the Paulding County Agricultural Society, which held the first county fair in the state, voted to cancel the poultry show. One week later, the State of Ohio followed in our footsteps.
- The western bean cutworm continues to be a measurable insect pest to corn production in northwestern Ohio. Western bean cutworm moths were trapped in July through the beginning of September 2015. Peak flight was determined to be the third week of August. When western bean cutworm eggs hatch, larvae migrate to the corn ear and cause damage by feeding directly on kernels.
- Nineteen producers attended a hands-on Intensive Soil Health/Cover Crops Management Workshop. Topics



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- included nutrient recycling with ecological farming; soil compaction; economics of cover crops; extreme weather with cover crops and no-till; using cover crops and no-till to keep nitrogen and phosphorus out of surface water; homegrown nitrogen: legume cover crops; sustainable crop rotations using cover crops: grasses and brassicas; and a cover crops selector tool to assist farmers in making good production practice choices.
- An online local agriculture resources workshop focused on resources available to make farmers more productive. Sessions included navigating the Paulding County auditor's website and creating a map via the USDA-NRCS online web soil survey.
 - An Ohio law passed in 2014 now requires farmers and commercial applicators of fertilizer to be certified by September 2017. OSU Extension is the exclusive provider of the Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training (FACT). Certification is required if commercial fertilizer is applied on 50 acres or more of cropland. OSU Extension taught four area FACT meetings, reaching 414 fertilizer applicators with information about water quality, proper soil sampling, calculating fertilizer recommendations and utilizing plant nutrients where needed/not needed. Farmers are managing nutrients to reduce production costs, produce responsible crop yields, and have a positive impact on water quality. Paulding County currently has over 175 certified farmers, agribusiness and landscaping people.
 - Forty-five area farmers recertified their private pesticide applicators license by attending 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 to target sites of plants. The number one topic delivered was current updates to pesticide labels. On average, participants apply pesticides on 710 acres. The program reached 45,000 acres of cropland.
 - A farmland lease workshop was presented in Paulding County in February with over 25 members in attendance. The program covered flex to cash rent, farmland leasing options, factors affecting leasing options and rates, evaluating cash rent survey data, legal issues in farmland leasing, analyzing good and bad leasing practice, and developing a written lease for a farm.
 - The Northwest Ohio Livestock Producers Meetings granted certified livestock manager credits to 147 citizens during meetings from January through March. Topics included biosecurity, manure management, and Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 63.
 - To identify risk to farmers and nonfarmers when working around grain bins, a two-step grain bin safety class was conducted in the county via the Comprehensive Agriculture Rescue Trailer (CART). Seventy-eight adults and twelve youth attended the seminar on the first evening. A live reenactment by the local fire departments for farmers, families, community members and grain elevator employees was conducted. On the second day, 17 local fire fighters from six different departments attended the six-hour, hands-on training class. Local departments received grants for rescue equipment as a result of the training.
 - Ninety pre-harvest soybean fields were observed for weed escapes above the soybean crop. These observations have led OSU Extension in developing education and research about controlling and managing weeds in field crops. The top weed escapes in Paulding County were marestail, giant ragweed and common ragweed.
 - Master Gardener Volunteers offered their weekly helpline for citizens. Twelve Master Gardener Volunteers that meet monthly and plan community service have offered over 1,250 hours of volunteer work to the community.
 - Agronomy Day was held with topics focusing on solar energy, entomology, tile drainage, water quality and precision agriculture. Over 30 vendors and 100 landowners, farmers and agribusinesses were in attendance.