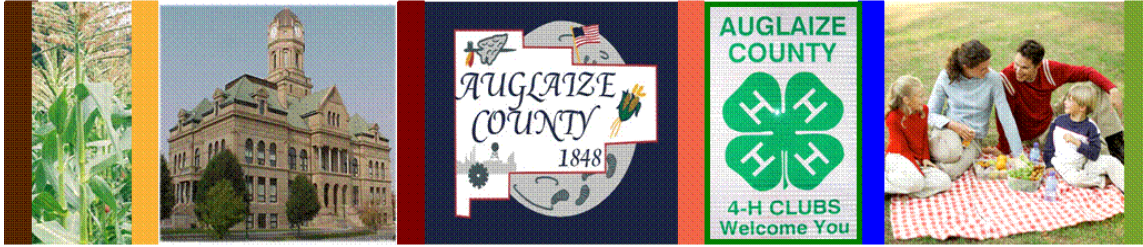


Extension Communicator



May 2023

4-H Youth Development

Special points of interest:

- 4-H Youth Development
- Agriculture & Natural Resources
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

4-H Committee Recognizes Outstanding Work

The 4-H Advisory Committee honored award winners at their annual leadership banquet held in March. The Outstanding 4-H Advisors were Eric and Jill Pax, advisors with the Auglaize Co. Show Stoppers 4-H club. The Outstanding 4-H youth were Ella Aufderhaar, Morgan Hesse, Katelyn Kinsella, Seth Lowe and Noah Walter. Our Friend of 4-H was Wapakoneta Eagles #691.

Camp Counselors Selected

Thirty-two teens were selected to serve as counselors and counselors in training for 4-H camp. The teens completed an application and interview process. After selection, they attend a series of ten training and program planning sessions. Their theme for this year's camp will be "Go for the Gold at Camp Palmer".

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Quality Assurance programs

4-H members taking market animals or lactating animals to the fair are required to complete a quality assurance program. Certified instructors teach members about environmental stewardship, cross contamination, good versus bad production practices, proper housing emergency planning and decision making regarding their project animals. Members learned about being a good neighbor and animal care standards. Older youth may opt to take a quality assurance test rather than attend the programs. Over 500 junior fair members will participate in quality assurance in 2023.

4-H in the Classroom

Classrooms around the county have been filled with 4-H excitement! Some students anxiously awaited the arrival of butterflies in their classrooms! The butterfly program continues to be the most popular project in the schools. Students learn about the life cycle of the butterfly. Twenty-four classrooms across the county hatched chicks as part of the Chick Quest program. In addition, students are learning about nutrition, electricity and other STEM related projects and participating in yoga lessons.

New Advisor Orientation

Ten potential new 4-H volunteers are in the process of applying and completing a screening process. Each new volunteer must complete an application and screening process, which includes a background check. In addition, the potential volunteers must attend an orientation meeting and training in child abuse and protection.

Club Financial Management

Over 150 volunteers completed a program about managing their club finances in an organized and efficient manner. The volunteers received tips on record keeping and best practices for handling club funds. In addition, these volunteers also completed training regarding youth protection and volunteer screening policies. Volunteers learned about different types of child abuse and how to recognize signs of each. They also learned about the proper way to document, and report concerns about neglect and abuse.

Real Money. Real World.

This financial literacy program is once again being offered in Auglaize County schools. The classroom teacher completes 4 lessons with the students prior to a real-life simulation where students must purchase items for their households and manage a monthly budget. Programs are being conducted in Wapakoneta High School, New Bremen High and Minster Middle School. This program is funded by the Auglaize Co. Endowment Fund.

Kids' Chef School

Twelve second and third graders from across the county participated in Kids' Chef School. The participants learn about good nutrition, proper hand washing, safety in the kitchen and safe food preparation. The chefs prepare and enjoy eating recipes based on a theme. This school was a spring fling - celebrating the early fruits and vegetables of the year. The menu included tortilla wraps, pea salad, fruit pizza and green 4-H punch. This program is funded by the Norbert F. and Viola Bergman Endowment Fund.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Programs

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator has been busy this spring with many speaking engagements and programs. We wrapped up the Pesticide and Fertilizer trainings at the end of March. We are looking forward to seeing the next group of folks beginning next January. There have been several speaking engagements for equine programs, including being invited to speak at the Equine Affaire. The Western Ohio Dairy Luncheon wrapped up in March as well. We had good attendance and a great sponsorship from Homan Incorporated and the Auglaize Farm Bureau to provide lunch for everyone. The soil health webinar series had a good turn out this year and I am excited for next years lineup of speakers, including a highlight on the research that has been happening in Auglaize County the past 2 years.

Field and Insect Scouting

This spring and Summer I have been excited to get our insect traps out and start our monitoring season. So far we are monitoring for Black Cut Worm, European Corn Worm and True Army Worms. You will see white wing traps and green bucket traps throughout the county this summer as we monitor insects. We will be providing updated reports in our weekly newsletter.

Research

As you know our ANR Educator Jamie, is an advocate for research in Auglaize County. Currently we have 2 trials going on in the county: one on manure and livestock integration and another with cover crops. She has been out collecting samples and taking measurements. As the summer continues you will see our young and eager to learn interns out getting things done. We are very proud of the interns that come through our office, they have proven to be excellent students and will have an impact on agriculture in their future.

Water Quality

Water sampling

Our Delphos sampling loop consisting of 9 sites is back into weekly sampling which allows us to collect 18 samples a week from these locations. Our Harmful Algae Bloom Initiative Projects or HABRI sites are also being monitored for weekly water sampling and soil sampling before any nutrient amendments (manure vs nitrogen) are being applied and will continue to be monitored for nutrients until later in the summer. This is the second year of this project, and the goal is to determine if manure or nitrogen application is better for the farmers situation.

Webinars

We host two different webinars and recordings are available online on the Ohio State University Ag Crops YouTube page. The Certified Livestock Mangers (CLM) webinar is hosted every other month with varying topics on anything CLM related. Our next CLM will be on June 5 from 10-1130 on the topic of manure and nutrient management. Our Water Quality Wednesdays (WQW) are hosted during the winter months on a monthly basis and also have varying topics related to water quality issues. These are free to the public and we encourage you to use these resources.

Conversation Planning

Non-point source runoff are very large concerns within the Western Lake Erie Basin as far as nutrient loading is concerned. We are writing 14 Non-point source implementation strategy plans to be implemented within the local watersheds. These plans will fall into the hands of the Soil and Water conservation districts and will have funding available to farmers and landowners who are interested in implementing different water quality-based projects also known as 319 type projects.

We are partnering with Michigan State University to bring farmers and landowners more information and educational displays. Collaboration has begun on a no-till field day and a virtual conservation practice series focusing on various conservation practices from implementation, to how they work, cost, etc.

Events

Conversations on Conservation round table will be an up-and-coming event to be hosted after planting season is finished. Please be on the lookout for more information on this as it is free and open to anyone interested in conservation or best management practices. The goal with this is to connect local landowners and farmers with valuable resources and be able to mentor each other on what has or has not worked well, economics of these practices, what's available, etc.

In-field and Edge-of-Field conservation practice field day will be hosted Thursday July 20th near north creek Ohio from approx. 9am -1pm. Our keynote speaker will be Kevin King. We will have four different breakout sessions focusing on phosphorus filters, two stage ditches, cover crops and more. The event is free so please join us for an educational and fun filled day. Lunch will be provided all we ask is that you register ahead of time. The flyer will be circulating online. Any questions feel free to reach out for registration or general questions at 419-910-6057.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)

Current programs

Sarah just wrapped up a 12-session program series at Head Start locations in St. Marys and Wapak. The students were very enthusiastic about trying fresh fruits and vegetables, learning about MyPlate, and many success stories about children recreating recipes at home that were demonstrated during programming.

Current series at Wapakoneta Village Apartments, Blume Alumni Apartments, and Coleman have been focusing on recipes that are simple and nutritious with the focus being that cooking is not a chore, but a positive experience and an activity to bring loved ones together. We also discussed tips on how to stay within a food budget and meal plan to save both time and money.

Future Programs

This summer will be full with series at the Summer Food Service Program at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Wapakoneta, Auglaize County Council on Aging (both locations), Coleman in Wapakoneta, and Agape Food Pantry. Sarah's focus this summer will be utilizing seasonal produce and various ways to prepare locally grown vegetables.

OSU Extension Staff

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