

Extension Communicator



October 2022

Special points of interest:

- Agriculture & Natural Resources
- 4-H Youth Development
- SnapEd

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Farm Management Series

We had a farm management series that we partnered with Farm Bureau. We had 5 sessions and an average attendance of 10 participants. We were able to have program locations across all of Auglaize County bringing attention to the variety of beauty that our county has to offer. This program will be repeated next summer.

Auglaize County Office

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Summer Nature Walks

We also had the opportunity to focus on some of the natural resources available in Auglaize County this summer. We had a Nature Walk series that averaged 5 participants this summer, we were able to discover some of the trails that are part of the Heritage trails park district, and we learned a lot about the history of Auglaize County's development in regard to the Miami and Erie Canal through the Miami Erie Canal Corridor Association.

Monitoring Crops and Fields

This summer I did monitor the Western Bean Cutworm and for the Fall Army Worm. I am pleased that we did not have any significant numbers here in Auglaize County.

We also monitored crops for diseases and progress. Auglaize County had very little disease this summer. We will continue to monitor fields through harvest and the winter for weed and disease pressures.

Auglaize County participated in the Extension Weed Survey this year. There will be an extension report this winter.



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Western Ohio Ag Updates

Auglaize County now gives the western Ohio Ag update for WCSM radio out of Celina. Tune in on Friday mornings at 8:30 am for the latest Ag News.

Should you miss our radio updates there is a weekly ANR newsletter that is sent out via email, uploaded to our website and social media to discuss the weekly concerns and considerations of the community as it relates to Agriculture and Natural Resources. Reach out to the office if you would like to be added to the mailing list!

Ongoing and Future Programming

I have been active in Mental Health First Aid Training this summer, I look forward to the training becoming available here in Auglaize County in January.

The Cover Crop Roundtable group has continued to meet regularly.

Remember that the programs are open to the public and we look forward to seeing you.

If you would like to suggest programming that is of interest to you, please reach out to me at Hampton.297@osu.edu I enjoy hearing from you and your suggestions.

4-H Youth Development

4-H Program Reaches Over 1,800 Youth

The Auglaize County 4-H program served over 1,800 youth during 2022. This number reflects participation in community clubs, CARTEENS, school enrichment, Cloverbud and special events. There were over 150 volunteers giving leadership to the program.

4-H Camp Celebrates 75 Years

One hundred and sixty-eight campers went to 4-H Camp Palmer in June. Our theme was “75 Years of Not Being Board at 4-H Camp Palmer”, a board game theme. The theme also recognized that 4-H camp is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Campers and counselors enjoyed the five-day residential camping program. Highlights included canoeing, high ropes, candlelighting, dances, campfires and activities such as the water carnival, field games, yoga and duct tape art. Campers shared their talents during the talent show. Teen counselors gained leadership skills by conducting activities and supervising younger campers. These counselors attended a series of ten training sessions in the spring to learn counseling skills and plan the program. Counselors and counselors in training were selected through an application and interview process.

Cloverbud Day Camp

Thirty-nine 4-H Cloverbuds attended day camp in June. Day camp gives young 4-H members the opportunity to experience the 4-H camping program. Day campers enjoyed crafts, making nutritious snacks, story time and a carnival. Our theme was “Drivin Into Day Camp”. Each camper received a t-shirt and other 4-H items through a grant from the Bergman Endowment Fund. Teen and adult counselors taught traditional camp songs and games.

Auglaize County Fair A Success

After many months of planning, the Auglaize County Junior Fair Board conducted the junior county fair. With over 1,600 youth participants, the Junior Fair continues to grow in size. The board of teen leaders conducted their judging events with the cooperation of adult advisors, including OSU Extension staff. Members of the Junior Fair Board were elected or appointed by their peers to serve. These board members dedicated many hours to insure that the fair will be a positive experience for all who are involved.

Stock the Trailer Food Drive

The Junior Fair Board hosted a food drive during the week of fair. The program was sponsored by Farm Credit Mid America. The board collected nonperishable items and monetary donations to secure more items. These items were donated to local food pantries.

Cloverbuds Come to the Fair

Cloverbuds had the opportunity to complete a scavenger hunt at the fair. Each cloverbud followed the clues given and found different locations on the fairgrounds. Each cloverbud received 4-H promotional items for participating.

Fun at the Fair

Some fun activities were offered to 4-H families during the Auglaize County Fair. A Facebook photo contest “Your Favorite Fair Animal” was conducted. 4-H families were asked to share their photos of their favorite animal. We also conducted a critter hunt, bendable farm animal toys were hidden around the livestock barns, youth claimed prizes when they found a critter. Prizes for both contests were awarded through a grant from the Bergman Endowment Fund.

School Programs Reach Students throughout the county

4-H staff has been bringing 4-H into county elementary classrooms with two programs. The importance of hand washing was taught in 4 classrooms. Students learned about the proper way to wash their hands and the fact that an uncovered sneeze can travel as far as 17 feet! The second program is centered around creating a superhero classroom. Students explore their superhero talents and how they can be used to create a successful classroom. Students work together in groups to complete a cup stacking teamwork activity. Each classroom is left with a superhero poster and the teachers are given a pack of stickers to award students who exhibit superhero classroom behavior.

SNAP-Ed

Summer has been filled with nutrition series at Coleman Professional Services, Auglaize County Council on Aging, Summer Food Service Program at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Wapakoneta, Auglaize and Mercer County WIC agencies, Blume Alumni Apartments, and Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

My focus this year is “Back to Basics”- empowering participants with fundamental skills such as how to properly prepare rice, boil eggs, prepare dried beans, and meal plan.

New Partner Agencies:

Auglaize County Council on Aging is a new partner with SNAP-Ed. We had a very successful pilot series reaching between 38-52 people for each session.

Current and Upcoming Events:

As fall and winter come into play I am excited to continue programming with many of our summer participants, as well as bringing back programming with Head Start in Wapakoneta, Saint Marys, and Celina. I’m proud to be training Vicki in Mercer County so they experience a seamless transition when she is ready to solo teach.

I will also continue our successful and rewarding indirect program with Agape Ministries in St. Marys.

OSU Extension Staff

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