Fairfield County Highlights

Taste of Fairfield County

Despite remaining one of the most rapidly urbanizing counties in Ohio, Fairfield County farmers will generate $125 million in agriculture and horticulture sales in 2014. This information and details of how the agriculture sector positively impacts the local economy was shared with more than 500 Chamber members, local politicians and consumers during the annual Taste of Fairfield County Agriculture.

Fairfield County Master Gardener Volunteers are Platinum Rated

The Fairfield County Master Gardeners recently received a Platinum rating from the Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program for completing eight of the criteria goals set forth in the Standards for Excellence. The Standards include maintaining recertification hour credits, adhering to all Volunteer Management Standards and also completing continuing MGV continuing education hours. The Fairfield County Master Gardener program has been in existence since 1996 and currently has 63 Active Master Gardener volunteers. Educational efforts and opportunities exist for Master Gardener Volunteers (MGV’s) in Fairfield County at the Fairfield Medical Center’s Tranquility Garden, the Fairfield County Court House Project, the Sherman House Gardens and the Green Machine Gardeners at the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities’ Opportunity Center.
Fairfield County Highlights Continued

Real Money Real World

Nearly 500 seventh-grade students in Lancaster City Schools learned hands-on budget management and decision making in Extension’s Real Money, Real World financial education program. Nearly 80 percent of the students reported an increased understanding of the importance of having a spending plan, and 65% reported an increased understanding of the importance of saving money regularly.

Snap Ed in Fairfield County

- Nearly 3,122 Fairfield County residents participated in 2014.
- 234 classes taught by Fairfield County’s SNAP-Ed program in 2014.
- More than half of the participants reported improving behaviors on using MyPlate to make food choices for a healthy lifestyle.
- 65% of participants improved behavior on using food labels to choose whole grains.
- Almost 60% reported increasing the frequency of using MyPlate to make food choices with a limited budget.
- 23 nutrition and physical activity programs provided to children participating in the Summer Food Service meal program.

4-H in Fairfield County

- Involves 1,510 Fairfield County youth in Community Clubs and 1,007 youth in school projects
- Led by 287 Fairfield County adult volunteers
- 356 Fairfield County youth attended camps
- 175 members were involved in special interest functions
- Forty-nine teens served as 4-H Camp Counselors, completing a comprehensive 4-H Camp Counselor Training program and utilized the life skills that they developed both during camp and afterward.
- 19 Youth and 5 adults will be attending the OFMA Junior Fair Conference on January 10th

Happy December Birthdays!

- December 4th – Peggy Murphey Program Assistant – Franklin County
- December 5th – Sabrina Schirtzinger Educator – Knox County
- December 28th – Rob Leeds County Extension Director – Delaware County

Administrative Update

As we look forward to 2015, we have a full calendar of programs and events. We continue to build and strengthen relationships with community partners. Now with more staff than we’ve had in the recent past, we expect our programs to grow exponentially. We are also pleased to report having a positive budget hearing with the Fairfield County Commissioners. Bring on 2015!
Managerial Writing for Results, Jan. 15  (Source: onCampus)

Join the John Glenn School of Public Affairs on Thursday (1/15) from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Ohio Union for Managerial Writing for Results. This seminar will provide you with practical techniques to sharpen your writing skills. Topics include: the writing process, strategies for revising and editing, and the relationship between writing and effective leadership.

-- > Contact: Natalie Gintert at gintert.5@osu.edu or 247-8823

-- > Register: glennschool.osu.edu/training/maps.html

OSU Greenhouse Management Workshop

This year’s workshop, to be held Thursday (1/22)-Friday (1/23) at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster, will focus on pest control and features many opportunities to learn from experts in the industry and academia. Topics include preventive cultural practices for pest management, application technology, biocontrol, and more. There will be fundamental and advanced tracks as well as hands on sessions and tours of research and industry greenhouses.

-- > Contact: Peter Ling at ling.23@osu.edu

-- > Registration: fabe.osu.edu/greenhouse

Outreach and Engagement Grant Opportunities... (Source: Mark McCann)

OSU CARES(OSU Extension, the Service-Learning Initiative and the Office of Outreach and Engagement are pleased to offer this year’s OSU CARES(OSU Extension Seed Grants, Service-Learning Grants, and Engagement Impact Grants to support scholarly engagement efforts of university faculty and staff.
This year, we have more than $300,000, to support programs that establish and expand innovative, creative, scholarly engagement to address compelling challenges and critical needs in communities.
Information on the grants is available at http://outreachgrants.osu.edu, and on the attached Grant Comparison.

Proposal Deadline is Monday, February 16, 2015
If you would like some additional information, please feel free to contact Mark McCann (mccann.249@osu.edu) and we ask that you share this information with your colleagues.