Every season brings a variety of programs and activities offered by OSU Extension in Fairfield County. Late summer and fall focus on local foods and agriculture, the start of new school programming, and Fairfield County Fair events, to name a few. Here are some highlights from the second half of 2015.

**PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS**

More than 906 4-H members developed valuable life skills by completing more than 2,031 4-H projects for exhibit at the Fairfield County Junior Fair. More than 67 4-H youth learned about meat science, livestock growth and performance, and carcass characteristics by participating in beef, lamb and hog carcass contests at the Fairfield County Junior Fair.

- **Dairy** - 44 exhibitors showed 62 animals, 25 exhibitors took part in showmanship
- **Beef** - 44 exhibitors showed 102 animals, 41 exhibitors took part in showmanship
- **Swine** - 189 exhibitors showed 323 animals, 147 exhibitors took part in showmanship
- **Sheep** - 92 exhibitors showed 165 animals, 79 exhibitors took part in showmanship
- **Horse** - 103 exhibitors showed 103 horses, 103 exhibitors took part in showmanship
- **Dairy Goat** - 9 exhibitors showed 11 dairy goats, 8 exhibitors took part in showmanship
- **Meat/Market Goat** - 99 exhibitors showed 179 meat/market goats, 73 exhibitors took part in showmanship
- **Pygmy Goat** - 36 exhibitors showed 58 pygmy goats, 26 exhibitors took part in showmanship
- **Llama** - 4 exhibitors showed 4 llamas, 4 exhibitors took part in showmanship
- **Poultry** - 81 exhibitors participated in poultry judging and poster/cage displays
- **Rabbit** - 246 exhibitors showed 840 rabbits, 137 exhibitors participated in showmanship
- **Dog** - 23 exhibitors showed 23 dogs, 19 exhibitors participated in showmanship
- **Cavy** - 9 exhibitors participated in showmanship
- **Companion Animals** – 62 exhibitors showed 19 cavy, 15 cats, 8 rodents, 2 small pets, 22 pet rabbits
- **Cakes/Pies/Candies** – 60 exhibitors participated with 36 cakes, 11 pies, 13 candies
- **Crops** - 21 exhibitors participated with 34 crops
- **Livestock Judging Contest** - 31 exhibitors took part in the judging contest
- **Super Showmanship** - 9 large animal participants and 5 small animal participants
- **Display Barn** - 43 booths
- **4-H Clubs** - 61 Traditional Clubs (older member), 21 Cloverbud Clubs, and 2 special interest clubs
ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Fairfield County farmers experienced over $100 million in agriculture and horticulture sales in 2015. This information and details of how the agriculture sector positively impacts the local economy was shared with more than 600 chamber members, local politicians and consumers during the annual Taste of Fairfield County Agriculture.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

Over 140 participants toured five Fairfield County agricultural businesses during the 2015 Local Foods & Farms Tour Series. Topics ranged from growing grapes for wine production, picking your own berries, high tunnels for season extension, raising & processing sheep, growing and marketing vegetables, and raising specialty crops such as freshwater prawns, pumpkins, squash and Christmas Trees. Post series surveys showed that 92% of participants would be likely to use the Extension office to gain information on agriculture, horticulture or natural resource issues. 100% of survey respondents would recommend the 2016 Local Foods & Farms Tour Series to others.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

By year end, more than 7,400 Fairfield County residents participated in one of 458 classes taught by Extension’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed). In post-program evaluations, 71 percent of adult participants reported eating at least one kind of fruit and one kind of vegetable daily while 68 percent of teen participants reported being physically active at least 30 minutes a day most days of the week.

Using social media, Fairfield County Extension conducted three online health and wellness challenges to “live healthy, live well.” More than 201 Fairfield County adults participated, with over 82 percent reporting adopting one or more practices that may help cut the risk of developing chronic disease. In follow up surveys, 95 percent said they maintained or lost weight.

Community ambassadors were utilized to expand the successful Real Money, Real World financial education program to additional county schools. By year end, 465 students and young adults in three school districts and one community organization learned hands-on budget management and decision making. Over 96 percent of the young people reported that participating in this program would help them in the future.

Where To Find Us

For the latest news, program and events being offered by OSU Extension in Fairfield County, and important announcements, visit us online at fairfield.osu.edu.

Look for the OSU Extension Update each week in the Lancaster Eagle Gazette (Fridays) and The Towne Crier. The Update offers timely home horticulture tips as well as upcoming classes, meetings and events conducted by OSU Extension in Fairfield County.

Listen to the 88.9 WLRY’s Farm Page with Mike O’Riley and OSU Extension Staff each Saturday morning from 6 a.m. until 8 a.m. The Farm Page offers gardening tips, upcoming events and the Wildlife Corner with Tommy Springer from Fairfield SWCD, interviews with local FFA chapters, 4-H advisors and much more!!

Visit our office in the Fairfield County Agriculture Center at 831 College Avenue, Suite D in Lancaster or call the office at 740-652-7260. Our office is open from 7:30am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday. Walk in customers and phone calls are welcome!
GETTING THE WORD OUT

In addition to the numerous programs that are held each year through OSU Extension in Fairfield County, large events like the Fairfield County Fair are prime opportunities to promote the benefits of the Ohio State University Extension educational system. Hundreds of county residents visited the OSU Extension display at the 2015 Fairfield County Fair, enjoying interactive activities, learning from educational displays, and leaving with educational fact sheets on a variety of topics.