

Highlights in Paulding County in 2024

1st Quarter (January to March)

Ohio State University Extension
Paulding County
503 Fairground Drive, Suite A,
Paulding, OH 45879

Phone: (419)399-8225

*In Cooperation with the Paulding County Commissioners
 Lisa McClure, Mike Weible, and Mark Holtsberry.*

FAST FACTS

235

programs offered in all
 program areas in 1st quarter

5419

participants in all
 programs 1st quarter

Welcome to the Paulding County Office



Sarah Noggle, Extension Educator, Agriculture/Natural Resource,
noggle.17@osu.edu



Michael Schweinsberg, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development,
schweinsberg.5@osu.edu



Emma Horstman, Extension Educator, Family/Consumer Sciences,
horstman.124@osu.edu



Erika Johanns, Program Assistant, SNAP-Ed,
johanns.14@osu.edu



Rachel Cochran, CCA, Water Quality:
Paulding, Van Wert, Defiance Counties,
cochran.474@osu.edu



**Sara Zimmerman, Program Coordinator, 4-H
 Youth Development,**
Zimmerman.948@osu.edu



**Katy Williamson, Student Intern,
 Extension Office,** williamson.866@osu.edu

OFFICE STAFF

**TyAnna
 Miles**

Miles.397@osu.edu

**Katie
 Jackson**

Jackson.2533@osu.edu



Who's in our Office



*Katie Jackson,
Office Associate*



*Rachel Cochran,
Water Quality*



*Sarah Noggle,
Agriculture &
Natural Resources*



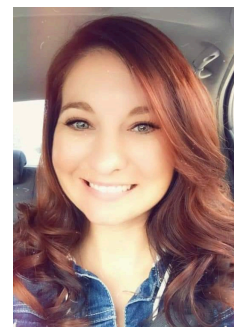
*Katy Williamson,
Student Worker*



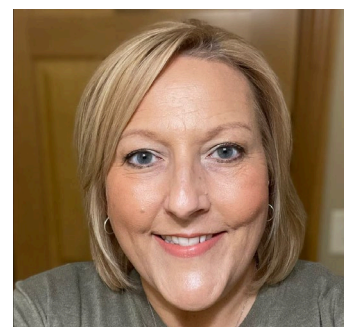
*Emma Horstman,
Family & Consumer
Sciences*



*Sara Zimmerman,
4-H Youth
Development*



*TyAnna Miles,
Office Associate*



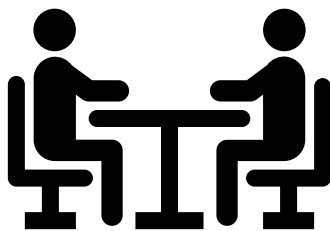
*Erika Johanns,
SNAP-Ed*



*Michael
Schweinsberg,
4-H Youth
Development*

Our Partnerships

Allen County SWCD
 Ann's Bright Beginnings
 Antwerp Community Food Pantry
 Antwerp Elementary School
 Antwerp Local Schools
 Caring & Sharing Food Pantry
 Celebrate Your Plate
 CAP Board
 Conservation Tillage and Technology Council
 Cooper Community Library
 Cooper Farms
 Cargill
 Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP)
 Evergreen Garden Club
 Grover Hill Elementary School
 Hoorman Soil Health Services
 Job and Family Services
 Leadership in Action (Paulding Co.)
 Limitless/PC Workshop
 Little Sprouts Early Learning Center
 Kenn Feld Group/Truland Equipment
 Mercer Landmark
 Michigan State University
 Midwest Cover Crops Council
 NOCAC/Head Start
 Northwest Ohio Community Action Coalition
 North Central SARE



Our Partnerships

Oakwood Elementary School
 Ohio Corn & Wheat
 Ohio Department of Agriculture
 Ohio Department of Natural Resources
 Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Laboratory
 Ohio Soybean Council
 Ohio Sustainable Ag Research Network (SARE)
 Paulding County Carnegie Library
 Paulding Co. Economic Development
 Paulding County EMA
 Paulding Chamber of Commerce
 Paulding County Commissioners
 Paulding County Farm Bureau
 Paulding County Jr. Fairboard
 Paulding County Master Gardeners
 Paulding County Opportunity Center
 Paulding County Sr. Fairboard
 Paulding County SWCD
 Paulding County United Way
 Paulding Exempted Village Schools
 Paulding Elementary School
 Paulding High School Personal Growth Class
 Payne Elementary School
 Soil Health Nexus
 Sustainable Ag Research Network (SARE)
 The Nature Conservancy
 Tri-County ADAHMS Board
 Wayne Trace Athletic Boosters
 Wayne Trace FFA
 Wayne Trace Local School District
 Wayne Trace Middle/High School
 West Ohio Food Bank
 Women, Infants, Children (WIC)



4-H Youth Development in Paulding County

- Schweinsberg hosted a lock-in for our 2024 Paulding County 4-H Camp Counselors. During this lock-in, camp counselors **discussed programming opportunities** for Paulding County youth who attend 4-H Camp, planned a theme (Traveling through Time at 4-H Camp Palmer) for Paulding County 4-H Camp, discussed opportunities for promoting 4-H Camp to Paulding County youth, as well as began the required 24 hours of training that camp counselors must receive to be a 4-H Camp Counselor. Monthly Camp Counselor meetings continued in February and March for additional training for our camp counselors.
- Paulding County 4-H was invited to provide programming at Grover Hill Elementary during their family **STEAM night**. Schweinsberg and Zimmerman led a session on "Creativity with Pictures on an iPad" and participants were able to use I-Pads obtained from the Apple Grant. The pictures from the night were saved and we are currently working on a way to share these pictures with the school. This opportunity has, once again, **brought excitement to the STEAM programming offered through the Paulding County 4-H program**.
- ChickQuest, a staple 4-H program in Paulding County, began in two elementary schools at the end of February and will continue through the remainder of the school year. In this program, **3rd graders learn about the parts of an egg, how a chicken embryo develops, and how to care for chicks after they hatch**. Students are tasked with being "egg-cellent" babysitters as they patiently wait the three weeks it takes for chicken embryos to develop while being incubated. They then spend a few days with the chicks in the classroom before they are taken back to the farm.
- Zimmerman has been invited to many different classrooms over the first three months of 2024. She has completed programming over **robotics, forces, and motion using straw rockets and Spheros, sound waves, seasons, math facts with Spheros, living vs. non-living, reading maps, and properties of matter**.
- Zimmerman has worked closely with the Paulding County Carnegie Library to partner for a **Bug Club program** that started at the beginning of March and meets weekly at the main branch of the library.
- Schweinsberg spearheaded the required **Assuring Quality Care for Animals (AQCA) training that all 4-H and FFA youth must complete to be eligible to show their animals at the fair**. Schweinsberg prepared the training PowerPoint and talking points for the five counties that represent Area 1 within OSU Extension. Schweinsberg also taught two of the AQCA training, with one being a virtual training on ZOOM and one being hosted in-person in Paulding County.
- Schweinsberg and Zimmerman completed training to become certified instructors in the **Mike Rowe Works Work Ethic Certification**. This certification will allow for programming to take place using a curriculum that focuses on "The S.W.E.A.T Pledge" that was developed by Mike Rowe himself.
- Schweinsberg continues to balance his work between **Paulding County 4-H Educator and Area Leader for Area 1**, which includes the counties of Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, and Williams Counties. Holding this position has allowed Schweinsberg to encourage professional growth in all Northwest Ohio counties and is a testament to how strong Extension is in Paulding County.



2024 Paulding County
4-H Camp Counselors

Agriculture & Natural Resources

- Moderated and presented information at the statewide Organic Grains Conference on Ohio's role in Sustainable Ag Research Education (SARE) network to 367 individuals over two days. Participants **were given tools and funding opportunities to make their lives more productive and sustainable** via agriculture and natural resources content.
- Coordinated with the area Farm Bureaus in Allen, Putnam, Paulding, and Van Wert counties a climbing and ladder safety program as part of a Worker's Compensation training. Thirty-seven (37) participants attended the training on Farm Stress.
- Paulding County was selected as one of **Ohio's Victory Garden** counties via the work Noggle has been completing. Victory Gardens originated during World War I, an answer to **a severe food shortage** at the time. People were encouraged to find any usable space, plop in some seeds, and contribute homegrown fruits, vegetables, and herbs to the effort. The idea was wildly successful, growing an army of amateur gardeners and serving to boost morale and patriotism. While we're not in wartime, we can all commiserate the past few months have been tough, and mood-boosters are welcomed. The Ohio Department of Agriculture and Ohio State University is reviving the effort and once again inspiring people to get their hands dirty, realize the fruits of their labor, and share with others if inspired. We believe a good day in the garden is good for the soul. Seed packets will be available to the community starting in April.
- Shared countywide weed presence updates at both Paulding County's pesticide applicator recertification, new pesticide applicator training, and regional Weeds University. Through research and education, participants were **taught how to better control the top weed escapes in Paulding County of Volunteer Corn, Giant Ragweed, Waterhemp, and Grass species**. Participants were given factsheets on how to identify pigweeds and grass species. Overall, through these seven-training sessions including the other area of Pesticide Recertifications, 480 participants were given this information.
- Through her involvement with the Midwest Cover Crops Council, which Noggle serves as a board member and Ohio's State representative, **the team is developing statewide educational resources based on cover crops and soil health**. The education comes as handouts, factsheets, and webinars. Noggle presented Ohio's research findings and education programming during an update at their annual meeting. Two hundred forty-four (244) people attended the three sessions.
- Partnered with Nationwide Children's Hospital to work on rural community care for families, specifically farm families with access to services and travel. Twenty-one (21) doctors, social workers, and therapists heard the presentation on the Farm Stress Certified program and developed connections for further work.
- **Master Gardener Volunteers** held meetings in January, February, and March. Members have been busy modifying the scholarship program, preparing for the annual plant sale, developing the plan for the children's educational garden area, and working on receiving their annual educational training. They are constantly learning about topics of landscape design, native plants, and the park system so they can better the programs in Paulding County. The **Green Thumbs children's garden will be continuing with additional trial gardens on gourds** in 2024.
- Noggle continued her training and partnership as the **State Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education (SARE) Co-Coordinator** for Ohio in 2024.
- Noggle served as the co-coordinator for Ohio's nationwide Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference in the **area of Soil Health and Cover Crops**. Over two days, 1241 participants attended educational sessions.

ANR mission: Ohio State University Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources empowers Ohio's agriculture and natural resources communities, provides outreach and education based on unbiased research, and cultivates relationships to strengthen the economic viability and quality of life for Ohioans.

Family & Consumer Sciences

- Horstman co-facilitated **Ohio Person In Charge: Know and Show** where participants learn and evaluate Ohio Department of Health (ODH) training requirements for food service employees as well as those opening an establishment for the first time.
- **Walk to Wellness Wednesdays**, formally known as Walk Through Winters, has been a continuous program, where community members can **walk, talk, and enjoy a healthy snack and recipe card**. Horstman has had a great turnout consisting of local community members, and business partners who come to participate regularly.
- Horstman continues to research **Freeze-Drying**, a method of food preservation, alongside Ohio State University Extension's Food Preservation Statewide Team.
- Horstman has been participating in various trainings that provide crucial information when working with families of different backgrounds and cultures. Horstman has also participated in training in food safety and preparation.

FCS mission: Ohioans have the tools and resources to actively engage in creating conditions in which they thrive as individuals, families, and communities.



HEALTHY PEOPLE



HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS



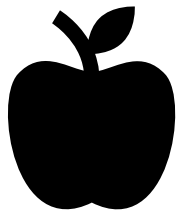
HEALTHY FINANCES



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)

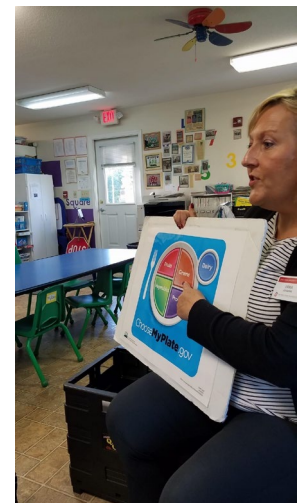


- SNAP-Ed also offered indirect programming to 1050 participants, from January to March 2024. Recipients of SNAP-Ed indirect programming included, The Caring and Sharing Food Pantry, The Antwerp Community Food Pantry, and The Paulding County WIC. Informational handouts from USDA about **MyPlate topics** and **Celebrate Your Plate** recipe cards/incentives were distributed.
- SNAP-Ed offered classes to participants from January to March 2024. Nine hundred eighty-seven (987) youth recipients received SNAP-Ed direct education programs. Lessons on **MyPlate, were delivered, focusing on all five food groups with specific food tastings, how food grows, eating a rainbow of colors, eating whole grains, drinking more water, and staying physically fit.** Adult programming delivered SNAP-Ed **adult nutrition education** to 63 participants.



**OHIO
SNAP-ED**

Better food choices for healthier Buckeyes



The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed)** program serves people eligible to receive SNAP benefits or certain other federal assistance programs. SNAP-Ed targets individual youth and adults, as well as families. SNAP-Ed is funded by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service and partners with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and OSU Extension.

Water Quality

- Organized statewide **Soil Health Webinar Series** as part of the OSU Agronomy Team Soil Health Committee, which reached over 830 individuals through live and recorded viewing.
- Hosted 3 **Cover Crops Roundtable meetings** at the Paulding Extension Office with topics including benefits of cover crops, mechanical termination, and chemical termination. 26 attendees came together to discuss their challenges with growing cover crops.
- Cochran and Noggle were honored with the **Gold Award (National 1st Place)** for Websites/Apps/Educational Technology from the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP) for their **2023 Soil Health Tour StoryMap**, showcasing local farmers utilizing conservation practices on their operations. It can be reached by visiting go.osu.edu/SoilHealthTour2023.
- As **Co-Editor** for the OSU Extension Agronomy Team's **On-Farm Research Committee**, Cochran organized grammar checks and 8 peer reviewers to publish 15 on-farm research reports from across the state, including Paulding County. These reports will provide methods and results for people across the US who may want to duplicate the research conducted here in Ohio.
- Taught **95 individuals** at online New Fertilizer Applicator training covering the Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendation Framework. Attendees of this course better understand the reasoning behind Ohio's certified applicator laws and will **promote better stewardship of agricultural nutrients**.
- Virtually presented **research conducted in Paulding County** at the National Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference in Ada, Ohio. Three years of trials focusing on the use of row cleaners when planting soybeans into standing cover crop were discussed at length.

Overview Stop #1 Stop #2 Stop #3 Stop #4 Stop #5 Stop #6 Stop #7

2023 Soil Health Tour Overview

Stop #1 - Denny Person, Williams...

Stop #2 - Don Hammersmith,...

Stop #3 - Ed Wurth, Putnam County

Stop #4 - Ron Snyder, Wood County

Stop #5 - Les Seiler, Fulton County

Stop #6 - Leon Klopfenstein, Paulding County

Stop #7 - Don Johnson, Paulding County

Soil Health Tour StoryMap landing page. Two of the seven farmers showcased (circled) are Paulding County farmers. The StoryMap had a total of 416 views between November 15th and December 31st, 2023.

OSU Extension Mission: We create **opportunities** for people to explore how **science-based knowledge** can **improve social, economic, and environmental conditions**.