

Highlights in Paulding County in 2024 3rd Quarter (July to September)

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*In Cooperation with the Paulding County Commissioners
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Welcome to the Paulding County Office



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Who's in our Office



*Katie Jackson,
Office Associate*



*Rachel Cochran,
Water Quality*



*Sarah Noggle,
Agriculture &
Natural Resources*



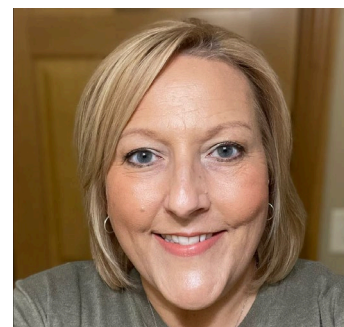
*Emma Horstman,
Family & Consumer
Sciences*



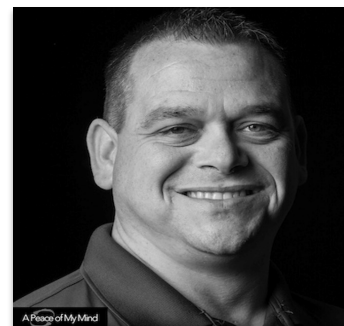
*Sara Zimmerman,
4-H Youth
Development*



*TyAnna Miles,
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*Erika Johanns,
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*Michael
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4-H Youth
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Our Partnerships



Allen County (IN) Master Gardener Volunteers
 American Farmland Trust
 Ann's Bright Beginnings
 Antwerp Chamber of Commerce
 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 Family Foundation
 Cooper Farms
 Cargill
 Defiance County Fairboard
 Divine Mercy Catholic School
 Epsilon Sigma Phi
 Farmers Elevator
 Grover Hill Elementary School
 Haviland Drainage
 Haviland Plastic Products
 Helena
 Hoorman Soil Health Services
 Job and Family Services
 Leadership in Action (Paulding Co.)
 Limitless/PC Workshop
 Little Sprouts Early Learning Center
 Kenn Feld Group
 Mercer Landmark
 Michigan State University
 Midwest Cover Crops Council
 NOCAC/Head Start
 North Central SARE
 NRCS – Defiance County
 NRCS – Paulding County
 NRCS – Van Wert County
 Northwest State Community College

Our Partnerships

Oakwood Arbor
 Oakwood Village Council
 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 Area Foundation
 Paulding County Carnegie Library
 Paulding Co. Economic Development
 Paulding County EMA
 Paulding Chamber of Commerce
 Paulding County Farm Bureau
 Paulding County Jr. Fairboard
 Paulding County Master Gardeners
 Paulding County Senior Center
 Paulding County Sr. Fairboard
 Paulding County SWCD
 Paulding County United Way
 Paulding Exempted Village Schools
 Paulding Elementary School
 Paulding Putnam Co-Op
 Paulding High School Personal Growth Class
 Paulding Village
 Payne Elementary School
 Soil Health Nexus
 Sustainable Ag Research Network (SARE)
 The Nature Conservancy
 Tri-County ADAHMS Board
 Wayne Trace Athletic Boosters
 Wayne Trace Local School District
 Wayne Trace Middle/High School
 Women, Infants, Children (WIC)



4-H Youth Development in Paulding County

- Paulding County 4-H Camp took place from July 9th to 13th at 4-H Camp Palmer, adjacent to Harrison Lake State Park, welcoming a total of 79 campers, 22 counselors, and 7 adult volunteers for an enriching five-day experience. *The supportive environment at 4-H Camp offers children valuable opportunities to learn how to live, work, and play through engaging hands-on activities in nature. By participating in 4-H Camp, campers build self-esteem and self-efficacy, connect with meaningful role models in a safe and inclusive setting, and develop problem-solving skills while establishing guiding values for decision-making.* They enhance independent living skills and forge positive relationships with peers from diverse backgrounds, cultivating teamwork and leadership abilities. Campers also explore activities that promote the wise use of leisure time and gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of their surroundings through programs focused on outdoor learning, creative expression, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math), and leadership and citizenship. This immersive experience fosters personal growth and helps campers develop essential life skills that will benefit them long after camp concludes.
- On September 1st, the 4th Grade Farm Safety Day was successfully hosted, engaging 247 students and teachers from Paulding County. *Throughout the day, participants learned from 10 dedicated volunteer presenters and 4 Extension Office staff members about crucial safety topics, including Farm Equipment, Lawnmower Safety, Chemical Safety, Animal Safety, Electrical Safety, Grain Bin Safety, and First Aid.* The event was further supported by the Paulding County Farm Bureau, which contributed 6 volunteers and provided lunch for all participants and volunteers. This collaborative effort not only educated young learners about essential safety practices but also fostered a sense of community and responsibility regarding farm safety.
- Hosted the kickoff training for Paulding County 4-H Advisors for the 2025 program year. *This essential training is required for all advisors to receive crucial updates on programming needs and to understand the expectations established by Ohio 4-H.*
- Coordinated with teachers to provide programming on Solar Energy in first-grade classrooms at Antwerp Elementary, *enabling 52 students to build solar ovens and enjoy cooking s'mores.*
- Continued a partnership with Miss Remaklus, a teacher at Paulding High School, with bi-weekly programming to work with students on *leadership skills and development.* To date, students have discussed the importance of giving and earning respect as well as identifying strengths.
- *4-H was invited to participate in the Paulding County Child and Family Resources Fair at Little Sprouts, providing an excellent opportunity to showcase the many offerings of 4-H while networking with other community organizations.* The event drew over 60 community members, enhancing awareness and engagement within the community.
- Zimmerman presented at *GREEN Day*, a field day event for all fifth-grade students in Paulding County hosted by Paulding Soil and Water Conservation District. *Students learned about forestry via the many products that are made from trees and why it is important to be good stewards of the land.*
- Zimmerman participated in the Project WET (Water Education Today) workshop on Kelley's Island to become certified in teaching the Project WET curriculum. *This engaging program provides learners of all ages with hands-on, user-friendly activities focused on water education.*



Farm Safety Day 2024

4-H Camp 2024

 4-H GROWS HERE



Agriculture & Natural Resources

- Noggle, alongside intern Katy Williamson, conducted weekly crop scouting across Paulding County, thoroughly evaluating the growth stages of key agronomic crops. Their assessments included *monitoring for diseases, insect and weed pressures, the effects of weather, and identifying nutrient deficiencies*. Through their diligent observations, they documented varying growth stages in corn, soybeans, wheat, and alfalfa, offering crucial insights to improve crop health and productivity in the county.
- As a board member and Ohio's state representative for the Midwest Cover Crops Council, Noggle played a key role in *advancing cover crop education*. She presented on critical topics at seven in-person different events, and four virtual events, reaching a broad audience. Additionally, Noggle provided expert guidance through 52 email and phone consultations, addressing a wide range of cover crop-related questions. Her efforts helped promote sustainable agricultural practices and supported the successful adoption of cover crops across the region.
- Through comprehensive research on Western Bean Cutworm (WBC) and Fall Armyworm in Paulding County, Noggle monitored two catch traps from June to September. WBC caterpillars pose a significant threat by damaging pods and reducing yield. *More critically, the damaged beans are difficult to separate from whole beans, leading to increased economic losses due to the additional time required for handling*. This research provides crucial insights into pest management strategies to protect crop quality and ensure higher marketable yields.
- Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) actively engaged the community by holding meetings in July, August, and September, while also operating the weekly Tuesday Hotline/Helpline from July through September. During these sessions, *two dedicated volunteers weekly provided expert advice on horticulture to local residents*. Additionally, the MGVs maintained 17 landscaping projects across the county, ensuring continued beautification and environmental stewardship. The Hotline, which began in mid-May, runs every Tuesday from 9 AM to 12 PM, offering consistent support to address the community's gardening and landscaping needs. The top questions were about *Tar Spot on Maple Trees, Bed Bug Identification, and Tree diseases*.
- Presented critical lawnmower safety guidelines during the Farm Safety Day in Paulding County, engaging 218 fourth-grade students and 29 adults. Participants were informed of the alarming statistic that over 8,490 children under 18 are treated for lawnmower-related injuries annually in emergency departments. While most victims are older children or teens, one in four injuries occur in children younger than six. This session *aimed to raise awareness and promote safe practices to significantly reduce the risk of these preventable injuries*.
- In her role as Ohio's State Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Co-Coordinator, Noggle continued her monthly online training and partnership efforts throughout 2024. In July, she completed specialized training in Grand Rapids, Michigan, *focusing on securing grant opportunities for Ohio through a partnership with Central State University under the NIFA grant*. During this period, Noggle presented SARE program information at seven events, including the Ohio/Michigan Soil Health Field Day, furthering the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices across the region.
- Noggle hosted a spotlight 'Ask the Expert' session at the 2024 Farm Science Review, highlighting the significant contributions of Ohio women working in agriculture. Seventeen individuals attended this impactful session, which was recorded for future dissemination to broader audiences. As of 2024, women account for nearly 37% of the total agricultural workforce in Ohio, reflecting their vital role in the industry. Noggle's session *provided valuable insights and fostered discussions on the unique challenges and opportunities faced by women in agriculture, further empowering this essential demographic*.

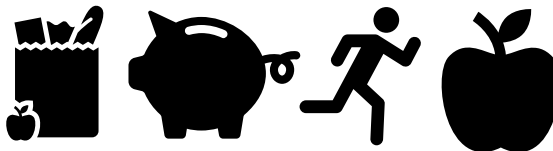
ANR mission: Ohio State University Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources empowers Ohio's agriculture and natural resources communities, provides outreach and education based on unbiased research, and cultivates relationships to strengthen the economic viability and quality of life for Ohioans.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

- As part of her leadership role with the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) grant and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) subcontract on Farm Stress, Noggle has significantly expanded her impact by presenting research and educational content on farm stress management beyond county and statewide levels. From July to September, she delivered a national presentation at the National Association of Agricultural Extension Educators (NACAA) conference in Dallas, Texas. Additionally, Noggle collaborated with intern Baylee March to develop the Farm Stress Certified Curriculum, a comprehensive 3-part module currently under review for nationwide adoption. Noggle also filmed four educational videos addressing farm stress, one of which will be featured on RFD-TV to reach a broader audience. In Ohio, *the need for such initiatives is pressing, as the state experiences one of the highest suicide rates among farmers, with data showing 90 farmer suicides between 2016 and 2021*. Noggle's work is critical in supporting mental health and providing essential resources to reduce stress and improve well-being in farming communities.
- Partnered with Mercer Landmark for two days at the AGrow event. Contacts were made with *farmers on research findings in Paulding and surrounding counties*. Additionally, general community agriculture questions were answered.
- Noggle was honored as the featured 'I Am Extension' key leader for July 2024, representing Ohio Extension. Her selection reflects *her dedication and commitment to the core principles of Extension, including Trust, Inclusion, Care, Adaptability, and Efficiency*. Through her caring attitude and positive demeanor, she exemplifies the impact that Extension professionals can have on their communities. You can view her inspiring feature in the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYv-ufnjbu4&t=132s>.
- Noggle, in collaboration with Paulding County Master Gardener Volunteers, partnered with the Paulding Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for their annual GREEN Day, engaging 5th graders from Paulding County Schools. The program was designed to align with Ohio's 5th-grade science standards, specifically focusing on Earth and Space Sciences (Earth's Systems: ESS2) and Life Sciences (Ecosystems: LS2), which emphasize the interdependence of organisms and their environments. During the event, students participated in a 'Nature Scavenger Hunt,' *a hands-on demonstration highlighting the significance of their daily actions through the lens of nature and conservation practices. This interactive activity empowered students to problem-solve and develop real-world solutions for protecting their local ecosystems*. Many students were introduced to the Paulding County Black Swamp Nature Trails for the first time, fostering a deeper appreciation for their natural surroundings. Additionally, students learned about the historical context of sugar beet production and processing in Paulding County, which thrived in the early 20th century. At its peak, sugar beet farming was a vital part of the local economy, with several processing facilities contributing to the community's growth. *This knowledge enriched the student's understanding of local agricultural history and its impact on the environment and economy*.
- The Green Thumbs Youth Gardening and Cooking Program successfully concluded its summer season with seven enthusiastic participants from Paulding County. Under Noggle's guidance, *the youth developed essential skills in soil science, pest management, companion planting, and herb production*. Collaborating with Family and Consumer Sciences Educator Emma Horstman and 4-H Program Coordinator Sara Zimmerman, the program also provided hands-on education in food safety and cooking techniques. *Participants cultivated an impressive variety of 84 different types, varieties, and species of plants in the garden, fostering a deeper appreciation for horticulture and healthy eating*. Research shows that youth who engage in gardening programs are 50% more likely to consume fruits and vegetables regularly, highlighting the positive impact of such initiatives on dietary habits and overall well-being. This program not only equipped participants with valuable skills but also encouraged lifelong healthy eating practices.

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Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)



- From July to September 2024, SNAP-Ed successfully delivered 48 indirect programs, reaching a diverse range of participants. Key recipients included the Caring and Sharing Food Pantry, the Antwerp Community Food Pantry, and the Paulding County WIC program, as well as parents of students engaged in direct education. *Through these initiatives, informational handouts from the USDA on MyPlate topics and 'Celebrate Your Plate' recipe cards were distributed, providing valuable resources to promote healthier eating habits.* This outreach not only enhances nutritional knowledge among community members but also empowers families to make informed food choices that support their overall well-being.
- From July to September 2024, SNAP-Ed delivered impactful classes to 627 youth and 30 adults through 48 direct education programs. These lessons emphasized the *MyPlate guidelines, covering all five food groups and incorporating engaging food tastings. Participants learned about how food grows, the importance of eating a rainbow of colors, the benefits of whole grains, lean proteins, and dairy, as well as the significance of breakfast, drinking more water, and maintaining physical fitness.* Notably, new partnerships were established at Grover Hill Elementary School, expanding the reach of our nutrition education initiatives and fostering healthier habits within the community.

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

- In the third quarter of 2024, Cochran and the Water Quality Team hosted *a highly informative field day, highlighting the research, economics, and benefits of cover crops*. The event attracted approximately 80 attendees from across the region, with half being agricultural producers. Cochran's presentation on cover crop research in Paulding County sparked multiple in-depth, one-on-one conversations afterward. The field day provided attendees with valuable *connections to resource professionals, cost-share programs, and research data, equipping them with the tools needed to successfully implement cover crops in their operations*.
- Cochran collaborated with the Farm Business Analysis Program at OSU to create a mini-series focused on the economics of conservation practices. The series consists of 15-minute videos covering key topics such as cover crops, tillage, nitrogen management, and other agricultural conservation strategies. *Set in an informal, conversational format, Cochran and her counterpart, Clint Schroeder, discuss the economic impacts of various management practices using national and state-level data*. These informative videos are available on the OSU Agronomy Team's YouTube channel, providing accessible, data-driven insights for farmers and stakeholders..
- Cochran and Noggle hosted a Student Spotlight Ask the Expert session at the 2024 Farm Science Review, focusing on soils and soil health. The session attracted 19 attendees and was recorded for broader future use. *Given that soil-related careers are growing, with over 40,000 positions expected in agriculture and environmental sectors by 2025, this session provided valuable insights into the critical role of soil health in sustainable farming and conservation practices*.
- Cochran partnered with Paulding SWCD for their annual GREEN Day, engaging 5th graders from Paulding County Schools in a hands-on water quality lesson. She led the 'Lake in a Bag' demonstration, *which highlighted the impact of their daily actions through the lens of water quality. Students participated in problem-solving activities, exploring real-world solutions to protect and improve water quality where they live*.



2024 Water Quality Team Field Day:
Cochran co-presented with Madelyn Celovsky, a Conservation Agronomist with Michigan State University Extension. They discussed cover crop research conducted in the Western Lake Erie Basin of Ohio and Michigan and shared results that will help producers make decisions on cover crop implementation.

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

Family & Consumer Sciences

- The Green Thumbs Youth Gardening and Cooking Program wrapped up its summer season, engaging seven eager participants from Paulding County. This year, the program introduced a cooking component led by Horstman, focusing on healthy eating habits and practical cooking skills. Collaborating with ANR Educator Sarah Noggle and 4-H Program Coordinator Sara Zimmerman, the youth received hands-on gardening education. *The program concluded with a final session where participants showcased their culinary skills by preparing a nutritious snack for their peers with produce grown in the garden.*
- Completed pressure canner testing for Paulding County citizens to ensure safe and effective canning practices for the upcoming season. *Regular testing of dial gauge pressure canners is essential for safe food preservation, as the calibration can become inaccurate over time due to handling, wear, or regular use. This routine check is crucial, not only for older canners but also for new units and replacement gauges, to guarantee optimal performance and food safety.* By emphasizing the importance of proper calibration, we help ensure that community members can preserve food safely and confidently.
- Horstman proctored a ServSafe exam for a local food service worker. ServSafe certification demonstrates to *employers and customers that you have the knowledge and skills to prevent foodborne illness and ensure safe food handling practices.* In Ohio, ServSafe certification is required by many employers, including restaurants, hotels, and catering companies.
- As food preservation season comes to a close, Horstman provided *invaluable guidance to local citizens on safe canning practices through phone consultations.* By educating them on proper techniques, she helped ensure that food is preserved safely, preventing the growth of harmful bacteria that can lead to spoilage and foodborne illnesses. Horstman's efforts not only enhance food safety but also empower community members to enjoy their home-preserved foods with confidence.
- Horstman conducted a lesson at the 4th Grade Farm Safety Day, where she taught essential first aid skills to Paulding County students. *By equipping them with knowledge on how to respond in emergencies, Horstman empowered the fourth graders to feel more confident and prepared to handle potential accidents.* This interactive session not only provided crucial safety information but also fostered a sense of responsibility and awareness among the young participants regarding their own well-being and that of others.
- Real Money, Real World is a youth-focused financial literacy program designed to enhance participants' understanding of how income, lifestyle choices, and career decisions impact financial security. *Horstman volunteered at the Allen County Real Money, Real World simulation, gaining valuable experience to inform future programming initiatives in Paulding County.* Her involvement not only contributes to her professional development but also positions her to bring essential financial education resources to local youth, empowering them to make informed decisions for a more secure financial future.



HEALTHY FINANCES



HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS



HEALTHY PEOPLE

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

