

# OSU Extension ~ Defiance County 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report ~ 2024

## 4-H Youth Development

### **Financial Literacy Program**

Real Money. Real World. (RMRW) is a youth-focused financial literacy program from Ohio State University Extension. It can be used with youth ages 12-18, but it is ideally suited for youth ages 13-16. The curriculum is time-tested and has been highly successful because of the creative community efforts of Extension educators, local school teachers, and community volunteers.

- Hicksville High School, January 2024 - 58 students
- Tinora Middle School, February 2024 - 14 students



### **Youth Leadership Program**

The 4-H Educator took three Junior Fairboard members to the Junior Fair Day sponsored by Ohio Fair Managers Association Conference. Youth attended sessions and brought back many ideas for the 2024 Defiance County Fair. One idea was "Prince/Princess for the Day". Cloverbud members would be given an opportunity to sign up to be royalty for the day and help pass out awards and ribbons. Jr. Royalty will receive sashes and bling. The Junior Fairboard will be sponsoring this event with funds from Stock The Trailer contest.

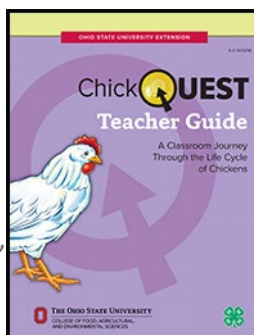


### **Regional 4-H Camp Counselor Training at 4-H Camp Palmer**

Defiance County 4-H Camp Counselors along with counselors from ten other counties participated in a one-day training event. There were 176 teens who participated in various leadership training opportunities. Defiance County counselors participated in a lock-in the night before with 105 other counselors from four counties.

### **In School Programming - ChickQuest**

St. John Lutheran School (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades). What can we learn from a chick? Find out with *ChickQuest*, a Science Alive 4-H School Enrichment program that challenges youth to use science, technology, engineering, and math skills to investigate the life cycle of an embryonic chicken egg. From monitoring living eggs to observing fluffy chicks, these lively activities pique curiosity, encourage collaboration and communication, and provide young scientists with unforgettable experiences.



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### **Teresa M. Johnson**

Educator  
4-H Youth Development  
[johnson.1389@osu.edu](mailto:johnson.1389@osu.edu)

### **Kyle Verhoff**

Educator  
Agriculture & Natural Resources  
[verhoff.115@osu.edu](mailto:verhoff.115@osu.edu)

### **Annie Reynolds**

Program Assistant  
SNAP-Ed  
[crowderreynolds.1@osu.edu](mailto:crowderreynolds.1@osu.edu)

### **Chris Comden**

Office Associate  
[comden.1@osu.edu](mailto:comden.1@osu.edu)

### **Hannah Burroughs**

Office Associate  
[burroughs.119@osu.edu](mailto:burroughs.119@osu.edu)

**OSU Extension  
Defiance County**

**Office Hours:**  
**8:00 am to 4:30 pm**  
**Monday - Friday**  
**(419) 782-4771**  
**Fax (419) 784-3883**

**Website:**  
**<http://defiance.osu.edu>**

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EXTENSION

## 4-H Youth Development

### **MRW Work Ethic Certification**

#### **EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS**

In 2008, Mike Rowe created the mikeroweWORKS Foundation to launch a national PR campaign for skilled labor. When Mike started the foundation, he wanted to find a way to articulate the qualities he values most. He ended up writing the S.W.E.A.T. Pledge, which stands for “Skill and Work Ethic Aren’t Taboo.” The S.W.E.A.T. Pledge consists of 12 statements that outline the importance of four pillars—work ethic, personal responsibility, delayed gratification, and a positive attitude.

Ohio is one of the first 4-H programs to offer this opportunity to high school students in the nation! However, it didn’t start there. Since 2021, The Ohio State University ATI was among the first 20 colleges in the nation to offer the Work Ethic Certification, and the first in Ohio.

The 4-H Educator received certification to teach this program.



### **Assuring Quality Care for Animals**

This program teaches 4-H and FFA youth how to use best practices that support the production of quality and safe animal products for consumers, as well as responsible animal handling, care and welfare in not only farm animal production, but also with companion and performance animals. The 4-H Educator worked with Fairview FFA in conducting an in-person training in February. The Educator also conducted a Zoom session in March.

- Feb. Session: 115 members
- March Zoom Session: 214 participants from NW Ohio



## Agricultural & Natural Resources

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### **Research Update**

The research plan for the ACRE Farm plot is starting to ramp up as we get closer to planting season. One plot is planted into a cover crop comparison trial testing winterkill and non-winterkill cover crop mixes, for which we will be looking at first-year yield impact. The other plots (including the DARA animal shelter plot) will be used for presence-absence trials of the Biostim product produced by EnviroKure out of the Hicksville area. Two small plots will be drone-applied to wheat and soybeans. The animal shelter plot will be ground rig applied with a wheel track control. The infrastructural work for DARA will move forward as planned. Local on-farm research planned are soil health studies, soybean nematode population studies, and insect pest monitoring.



### **Ag Outlook**

Ag Outlook is an educational program focused on grain marketing, global trade conditions, and other farm business management points. There were 49 attendees to listen to 3 specialists from OSU on the aforementioned topics.

### **Ag Appreciation and Hall of Fame Breakfast**

The yearly Ag Appreciation and Hall of Fame Breakfast was held on March 19th. The program was a collaboration between OSU Extension, Defiance County SWCD, and the Defiance Chamber of Commerce. There was a total of 168 attendees, 22 of which were FFA/4H members who participated in the induction ceremony and at table conversations. Dr. John Fulton was the keynote speaker, presenting on agricultural technology and the future of agriculture.



### **Pesticide and Fertilizer Recertification**

Two pesticide and fertilizer recertification classes were held in Defiance County this winter. These classes fulfill the educational requirements to stay licensed for agricultural applicators. These two classes recertified 41 pesticide licenses and 51 fertilizer licenses. Applicators recertify every 3 years so this is a great opportunity to reconnect with farmers and discuss changes in laws, herbicide tolerance, etc. Due to some ODA changes more people are testing for their license, so in 3 years when they recertify, I expect there will be a jump in applicators.

### **Small Ruminant Tour**

Defiance and Williams County are hosting on-farm tours of sheep farms around the counties during May. The goal is to give youth, beginning farmers, and the local communities, the opportunity to talk to and visit different farms around the counties.

**SNAP - Ed**



**CFAES**

**Biweekly classes** have continued in January – March for the Head Start students in both Defiance and Hicksville, as well as for the KinderStart students at Defiance Elementary and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Program at Hicksville Elementary. Head Start harvest items of the month have included corn, peppers, beans, broccoli and cauliflower. Students had the opportunity to compare stoplight peppers, taste hummus, and sample broccoli and cauliflower. There are 3 classes remaining for these groups this school year. The Hicksville Elementary students have been focused on learning about nutrition labels, lean proteins, locally grown and in-season produce, and the importance of physical activity.

**Eighth grade Health** students at Defiance Middle School had a 3-class series in February covering MyPlate, the importance of eating breakfast, drinking water, and including physical activity, and some food budgeting basics. One of the tasks included using Ohio SNAP-Ed's website, Celebrate Your Plate, to pick out a breakfast recipe. They then determined the cost difference between of making it at home, buying it from a grocery store, or ordering it from a restaurant. The students were shocked at the price mark-up of many of their favorite breakfast foods.

### **New Partnerships**

There have been several new partnerships developed in the last few months. These include the 21<sup>st</sup> Century programs at Defiance Middle School, "Beyond the Bell", and Defiance Elementary School, "DAWG Pound", as well as with Mercy Defiance Hospital and Independence Education Center. Approximately 35 students from Beyond the Bell participated in classes in January and February. Now, approximately 30 students from the DAWG Pound are participating in a 4-class series.

**In Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE)** Change initiatives, we're currently working with the Hicksville and Defiance Farmers' Markets about the possibility of having SNAP/ EBT payments as accepted forms of payment to increase access to fresh, local produce for those participating in the SNAP program. This project is in its early stages, but we're hopeful that it will come to fruition.