



Dear Noble Community Development Stakeholders,

This month, Ohio State University Extension celebrates the 100th anniversary of the first educator hired to serve Noble County! Initial services included an Agriculture educator. Over the years, Extension has added Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H, Community Development, SNAP-ed and Family Consumer Sciences. Read more inside!

During the recent COVID-19 pandemic, we have worked diligently “from home” to continue services to the residents and communities of Noble County. The office has resumed hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment only from 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. until further notice. The office will be closed for lunch each day from Noon to 1 p.m. Staff members will rotate days in the office to assist clientele. Some staff are still teleworking, so it is best to call ahead if you plan to meet with a specific person. If you need to pick things up or have something to drop off, you can also call in advance and we can meet you outside the building, if preferred.



Be sure to follow Noble County Community Development on our new LinkedIn page at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/noble-county-ohio-economic-development> and on the county page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/osuenoble>.

We will provide ongoing Community Development program details on these tools.

Ohio State University Extension Program Celebrates 100 Years in Noble County

By Gwynn Stewart, Community Development Educator & Christine Gelley, Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator

According to the official Ohio State University archive, in 1903 Ohio State established a Department of Cooperative Experimentation at its Agricultural Experiment Station. It was later known as Agriculture Extension. In 1914, under the federal Smith Lever Act, cooperative extension services and agricultural experiment stations were created at land grant universities and county offices throughout the United States. This linked federal funding to the already existing Experiment Station and Extension at Ohio State University. County agents at these extension locations work with farmers, ranchers, landowners and other rural community members as well as with the 4-H Youth Development program.

On July 16, 2020, the Ohio State University Extension Program in Noble County Celebrates 100 years since the first professional agriculture educator was hired. The proceedings of the Board of Trustees of OSU indicate that on July 16, 1920, the university engaged Thomas Coe Kennard as the first County Agriculture Agent serving Noble County. He was paid an annual salary of \$2,000 with a \$600 automobile maintenance allowance. Kennard received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1920 from Ohio State University. He served in Noble County from 1920 until Feb. 28, 1925.



Thomas Coe Kennard
(Noble Agriculture Agent:
July 16, 1920 – Feb. 28,
1928)



W. W. Wyckoff
(Noble Agriculture Agent:
April 1925- Feb. 1926)

On April 1, 1925, Noble County engaged Walter Wayne Wyckoff as its second Agriculture Agent. He was also a graduate of Ohio State University earning a degree in 1924. The OSU Extension was known as "Agricultural Extension Service" until around 1965, when it became the "Cooperative Extension Service." By 1994, it was known as the "Ohio State University Extension." From the inception until July 1, 2004, program staff were known as "Extension Agents." In 2004, their titles were changed to Extension Educator.

There have been 16 Agriculture educators serving Noble County in the past 100 years including Christine Gelley, the current Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator who joined on March 7, 2016. In addition to Kennard, Wyckoff and Gelley, the county was served by George L. Brown (1934-1946); Floyd Henderson (1946-1965); Noman L. Burkitt (1965-1972); Kenneth D. Simeral (1972-1976); Ray Wells (1978-1988); Merlin Wentworth (1988- 1992 and again as emeriti from 2008-2009); Rory Lewandowski (1993-1996); Clif Little (1997-1998 and again from 2009-2013); Daryl Clark, Emeriti (1998-2007); Mark Landefeld (2008); and Breanna Pye (2013-2015).

Agriculture in Ohio has changed significantly since 1920. Today, we have fewer farms managing comparable land acreage and producing better yields. In 1920, there were 206,669 dairy farms in the state. In 2017, there were 77,805 farms total (all commodities). At the time, Ohio was 4th in the nation in egg production, 5th in hog production, 5th in wool production, 10th in calves produced for slaughter, and 4th for overall crop value. Ohio ranked 2nd in maple syrup and hemp production, 3rd for buckwheat, 4th for raspberries, and 7th for red clover seed. Top crop commodities by acreage were corn (3,563,352), hay & forage (3,258,082), and wheat (2,922,592). Pooled across all crops, Ohio's average value per acre was \$48.44.

The ANR Educator's job today may serve a fewer number of farmers than in 1920, but the work is still as valuable now as it was then. Ohio has a diverse mix of clientele working to provide Americans more with less- more quality food and fiber products with fewer workers and fewer inputs. Extension now utilizes a variety of advanced technologies to reach and assist clientele along with the tried and true good-old fashioned farm visit and kitchen table talk.

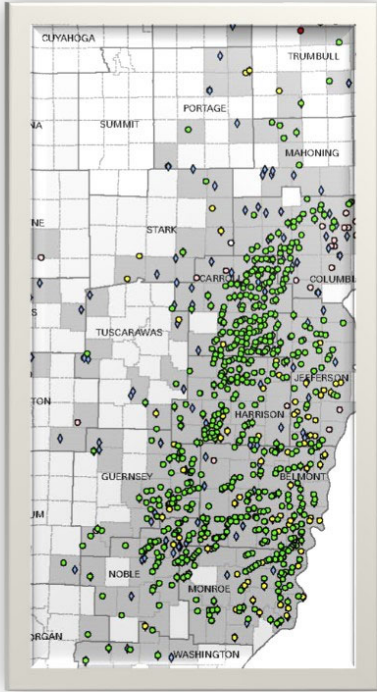
Current day Noble County Extension programs include Agriculture and Natural Resources, Community Development, Family and Consumer Sciences, SNAP-ed and 4-H. The Noble County Extension office currently employs seven staff, four educators (Agriculture and Natural Resources, Community Development, Family and Consumer Sciences and 4-H), a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program assistant and two office associates. Combined, they have a total of more than 98 years in combined Extension service.

Across all disciplines since 1920, Noble County Extension has employed 50 professional agents/educators, associate educators and one "agent in training." To learn more about Noble County Extension programs and services or for staff contact information, visit <https://noble.osu.edu>. The Ohio State University also celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2020!



The Ohio State University Extension Noble County Office team: front row from left: Lori Harris, SNAP Ed Program Assistant; Nancy Snook, 4-H Educator IV; Christine Gelley, M.S., Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator II; and back row, from left: Carla Wickham, Office Associate; Gwynn Stewart, M.S., Community Development Educator III; Samantha Schott, 4-H/FCS Educator and Tracy Blackstone, Office Associate.

References: July 23, 1920 – *Record of Proceedings of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio State University*; *The Ohio State University Libraries - Guide to the Ohio State University Extension Records, 1914-2017* RG.22.O Historical note; 1920 *Ohio State University Makio Yearbook*; 1924 *Ohio State University Makio Yearbook*; and 1920 *Census of Agriculture- USDA, Chapter X*.



IF YOU MISSED IT:

The May 15 program, “Ohio’s Oil & Gas: Who is Doing What, Where and How It Is Going”

co-hosted by The Ohio State University Extension - Noble County Community Development and Agriculture & Natural Resources programs was led by Mike Chadsey of the Ohio Oil & Gas Association followed by Noble updates from OSU Extension.

Click here to view the program materials and video.

<https://noble.osu.edu/news/recap-ohio%E2%80%99s-oil-gas-who-doing-what-where-and-how-it-going>



Ohio State COVID-19 Resources Provided

A website with science-based information and research on COVID-19 from The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences launched April 7th. The KX COVID-19 Hub is a collaboration between The Knowledge Exchange, Ohio State University Extension, and the CFAES statewide

network of researchers and faculty. Visit <http://kx.osu.edu/covid-19> for a collection of resources, tools, and links to help Ohio communities weather the crisis. Founded in 2019, The Knowledge Exchange (KX) is a support platform in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences bringing research to the public in an unbiased and interactive way.

JobsOhio Provides Small Business PPE Kits

***Does your Noble County small business need PPE?
Call our office at 740-305-3177!***



OhioSE, the Noble County JobsOH partner, is offering small business PPE kits to Noble County. The kits are free and each will contain 3 ply masks (100), KN95

masks (10) and one 24 oz. bottle of liquid sanitizer. The goal is to get all of them out to OhioSE businesses with 100 employees or less.



Appalachian Ohio Byway of Ohio Wins National & Regional Awards

In June, The Appalachian Byway of Ohio was submitted to the Federal Highway Administration with support from the Ohio Department of Transportation for National Byway designation.

The Appalachian Byway of Ohio was also recently honored by the National Scenic Byway Foundation with an Honorable Mention award for Public/Private Partnerships. In addition, it was recognized with the 2020 Tourism award from the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance (EODA). The sixteen counties of the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance are strategically located within a day's drive of nearly 90% of major U.S. and Canadian markets. Over half of the population of the

U.S.A. resides within this perimeter.

The Appalachian Byway of Ohio is also featured in Ohio Magazine this month!

<https://www.ohiomagazine.com/travel/article/heritage-road-trips-2020>

Ohio State University Extension - Noble County Coordinates First Impressions Program for Caldwell

In an effort to promote community self-awareness and provide tools for community planning and goal setting, and as a member of the Appalachian Byway of Ohio, the Noble County Chamber of Commerce and CVB requested that Ohio State University Extension, Noble County Community Development program assist with the Caldwell First Impressions program. The program helps community leaders assess the impact of their efforts to be an attractive community to shoppers, tourists, business travelers and to potential employers.



First Impressions provides an opportunity to discover a first-time visitor's image of a community. A visitation team from another community tours your community and reports their impression based on a number of criteria that includes cleanliness, access to and availability of services, physical appearance and friendliness. The Caldwell project was completed in cooperation with West Virginia University Extension, and the city of New Martinsville, WV.

Led by OSU Extension Community Development Educator, Gwynn Stewart, Caldwell developed a project team that included Allen Fraley, Noble Chamber & CVB; Commissioner Brad Peoples; Caldwell Village Councilman, Jeff Minosky; Business owner Richard Rutherford, who is also a member of the Noble Co. CIC & Chamber Board and Riley Clark, a 4-Her and a Junior at Shenandoah High School.

The Caldwell team visited New Martinsville, WV, and provided photos and a written report. The New Martinsville, WV, team visited Caldwell and did the same. The two groups finalized the program recently with a virtual recap conversation and information sharing session.

“The Noble Chamber and CVB wanted an absolutely honest and unbiased view of our community from an outsider coming in for the first time,” said Chamber Executive Director Allen Fraley. “We wanted to take what they saw and use it for the future betterment of the community.” This is already beginning to occur with support from the Mayor of Caldwell, Misty Wells and from the Noble County Historical Society volunteers.

“Our New Martinsville team enjoyed Caldwell’s historic look and feel, and that the history hasn’t been forgotten or destroyed,” said Valerie Piko, a team volunteer. “We felt like it was straight out of a Hallmark movie.” Piko added they enjoyed visiting the True Value store, the Chamber, and learning more about the area’s “Big Foot” sighting – adding that some signage explaining the story would help future guests.

While there are many positive take-aways for Caldwell, there are also many ideas for improvement such as needed wayfinding signage, storefront updates, painting, clean up and seeing the downtown vacant buildings as a future opportunity for a coffee or ice cream shop, brewery, loft apartments and more.

For more information on the First Impressions program, contact Gwynn Stewart at 740-305-3177 or stewart.1818@osu.edu.



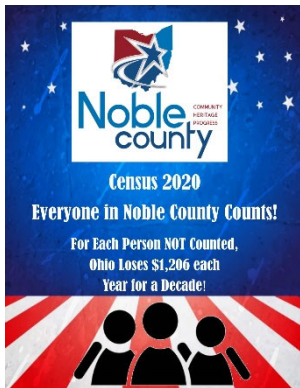
Asset Mapping of County Water, Sewer and Storm Water Resources Continues

Water lines, sanitary and storm sewers, and other infrastructure are usually hidden from plain sight in most communities. But if this infrastructure was not there, no community could sustain economic growth needed to help people live, work and thrive.

The Noble County Commissioners are working with Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) through a USDA-funded project opportunity to provide geographic information systems (GIS) mapping to all of the county’s various water, sewer and storm water system assets. Current maps are more than 15 years old and were not based on digital mapping through collection of resources. Ohio (RCAP) provides consulting services to help rural communities address their drinking water and wastewater treatment needs.

The program launched last June and will be completed by October 2020. It will include training of water systems to continue updates as expansions and changes occur. In addition, the final data will be housed by the Noble County Engineer’s office who has a GIS Coordinator.

Census 2020 – There is Still Time to Respond!



We continue to promote the US 2020 Census. Noble Co. is currently only at a 60.70% completion rate. Locality details as of July 6 are below. Note: Many homes in Dexter City and Summerfield have PO Boxes. These homes did NOT receive a mailed survey and with COVID the door-to-door canvassing is limited. Encourage these residents to CALL 1-844-330-2020 to complete! “Like” & Share the Noble Co. Census page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/noblecocensus>

<u>Locality</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>↑/↓</u>
Noble County	60.70%	62.50%	-1.80%
Batesville	60.50%	72.10%	-11.60%
Belle Valley	45.90%	52.80%	-6.90%
Caldwell	68.90%	75.40%	-6.50%
Dexter City	19%	65.30%	-46.30%
Sarahsville	60.90%	72.30%	-11.40%
Summerfield	47.20%	55%	-7.80%



Noble County Project Honored by Ohio NACDEP Chapter

The Caldwell Family Clinic won a 2020 Ohio partnership award from the Ohio Chapter of the National Assoc. of Community Development Extension Professionals. The project was submitted by Noble OSU Extension for the partnership with Noble Co. Health Department & Ohio Hills Health Services.

NACDEP is an organization dedicated to improving the visibility, coordination, professional status and resource base of community and economic development Extension programs and professionals.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**Reach out to the members of the Noble County
OSU Extension team directly by phone or email.**

Extension Office Main Line: (740) 732-5681 (Carla & Tracy)

Email: Wickham.15@osu.edu or Email: Blackstone.14@osu.edu

Nancy Snook, 4-H Youth Development: (740) 305-3176 Email: Snook.9@osu.edu

Sami Schott, 4-H Youth Development/FCS: (740) 305-3175 Email: Schott.77@osu.edu

Christine Gelley, Agriculture & Natural Resources: (740) 305-3173

Email: Gelley.2@osu.edu

Gwynn Stewart, Community Development: (740) 305-3177 Email:

Stewart.1818@osu.edu

Lori Harris, SNAP-Ed: (740)305-3174 Email: Harris.2346@osu.edu