SUMMER UPDATE | Lucas County

Ohio State University Extension

The Ohio State University Extension office in Lucas County recognizes that sudden changes can be challenging to navigate. While we were happy to celebrate Amy Stone's well-earned retirement at the beginning of 2026, we share the disappointment that we are not currently moving forward with hiring a new Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Educator.

Our two current educators—Jess Burns in 4-H Youth Development and Patrice Powers-Barker in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)—remain committed to providing high-quality outreach and education.

County Extension Budget Request

All county Extension offices operate on a cost share of federal, state, and local dollars. In Ohio, this agreement is between OSU and the County Commissioners Association of Ohio which provides guidance on the partnership and outlines the funding model.

Extension's annual budget request is submitted to the county commissioners each fall. Although no formal deadline has been set for this year, we anticipate requesting an increase above the current $100,000 funding level appropriated by the Lucas County Commissioners. This additional support would help cover the local match for three Extension educator positions and allow us to plan for hiring a new ANR educator in 2027. As part of our roles, we are required to submit an annual budget. At the same time—as university employees — we must refrain from participating in political activities or encouraging others to do so during work hours or when using university resources.

Extension in Lucas County, has a long-standing tradition of strong collaboration across its three program areas. While each area has its own specialized topics, many programs benefit from shared expertise and coordinated efforts. Our office has relied on the strengths of all three program areas to best serve the community. Operating with only two program areas staffed limits our ability to provide the full range of outreach and education our residents expect and need.

We value the support of volunteers and community members who rely on Extension services. One example from ANR is the horticulture hotline. Your stories about the impact and importance of both the ANR program and the local Extension office help illustrate the value of restoring full staffing and strengthening our service to the county. This information is shared online go.osu.edu/LCfunding

CONNECT WITH US

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Lucas County

Extension Educators

Patrice Powers-Barker

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Favorite flowers: zinnias, peonies, sunflowers

Non work past times: searching for beach glass, cheering on my kiddos' current sports and activities

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), integrates health and wellbeing, healthy relationships, and sustainable household finances. Specific programming in Lucas County:

- Mindful Wellness
- Nature for Health
- Wellness Wheel for Healthy Living
- Wits Workout for Older Adults
- Safe Home Food Preservation—including pressure canner gauge testing
- Food Safety, Person in Charge
- Simplify Your Space: Clutter Free Living
- Universal Design
- Compassion Satisfaction for Caregivers
- Strong Couples Project
- Smart Screens, Smart Families
- Whatever Happened to Home Economics?
- First time Homebuyer Education
- Real Money. Real World. (teen financial literacy program, in partnership with 4-H)

Patrice Powers-Barker | Family and Consumer Sciences
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Jess Burns

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Favorite flower: Sunflower and Dogwood flower

Non work past times: Fishing, Hunting, Gym and hiking

4-H Youth Development Programming

Ohio 4-H is a non-formal educational program that helps youth ages 5-19 to learn by doing. The 4-H program in Lucas County consists of 4-H clubs and volunteers.

4-H Summer Camp
This is an overnight camp opportunity at Camp Palmer for youth ages 8-13. Youth who aren't involved in 4-H are eligible to attend.

School Programs

- Cloverbud Program (ages 5-8)
- ChickQuest (3rd grade classrooms)
- Code Your World Computer Science </> (ages 9-18)
- Real Money Real World (teen program partners with FCS)

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

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