

Leadership Highland Agriculture and Natural Resources Day
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The Leadership Highland class of 2018-2019 met on October 17, 2018, for the Agriculture and Natural Resources Day. Participants learned more about agriculture, natural resources, and conservation in Highland County and Ohio.

The first tour of the day was to the Fallsville Wildlife Area. Participants met with Kash Adams, the Fallsville Wildlife Area Manager, who discussed the covey of Quail which reside in the wildlife area. Adams described the ideal habitat for Quail and how the Fallsville Wildlife Area staff creates those habitats. Adams led a hike to the Fallsville Wildlife Area waterfall, which has seen an increase in visitors since being featured on social media tourism sites.

The second stop of the day was Davis Farms. Ken and Christa Davis hosted the participants of Leadership Highland in their farm shop to discuss the innovations and technologies used in modern agriculture. Participants then met with Evan Davis in one of the family's corn fields, where they gained first-hand experience on the process of harvesting with a combine, grain cart, and semi-trucks. The final stop of the Davis Farm tour was of their grain bin facility, where Leadership Highland participants learned about the importance of drying and storing grain to maintain grain quality.

David Daniels, the Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, spoke before lunch about his career in agriculture and trends in agriculture throughout the state. Daniels stated that one of the main challenges facing agriculture is the public perception of agricultural practices and being able to effectively communicate with consumers. Dr. Andy Londo, Assistant Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources of Ohio State University Extension, Dr. Greg Davis, Assistant Director of Community Development of Ohio State University Extension, and Kathy Bruynis, Highland County 4-H Youth Development Educator and Extension Area Leader, also joined the Leadership Highland class for lunch and Daniels' presentation.

The final tour of the day was of The Ohio State University South Centers in Piketon. Dr. Tom Worley, Director of OSU South Centers, provided a tour that highlighted all areas of South Centers programs and research. Leadership Highland participants learned about the CFAES Center for Cooperatives, Direct Agricultural and Food Marketing, Family Nutrition and Wellness, the Soil and Water laboratory, aquaculture, and aquaponics programs housed at South Centers. Participants were given a wagon tour of the small fruits and horticulture research test plots. These test plots included viticulture, blueberries, and research on water required to efficiently produce corn and soybeans in inhospitable climates on Earth and potentially Mars. The final portion of the tour was of the Endeavor Center, where participants were able to view the television studio used to produce many Extension television programs.

Special thanks to Bagshaw Enterprises Inc. who provided a passenger van for the Agriculture and Natural Resources Day tours, and to all of the guests, speakers and hosts who made the day possible. For several Leadership Highland participants, this was their first time to tour a farm during harvest, see the Fallsville waterfall, or to tour South Centers. The next meeting of Leadership Highland will be Health and Public Safety Day in November.

Beef Quality Assurance Training:

- Thursday, October 25, 2018, 6:30 P.M., Producer Stockyards, Hillsboro, Ohio

Call your local Ohio State University Extension Office to register for the BQA training. The Highland County Extension Office can be reached at 937-393-1918.