OSU Extension and the Master Gardener Program: A Primer for MGV Trainees

Franklin County MGV Training
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Objectives

• OSU’s land-grant mission
• What is OSU Extension?
• How does the Master Gardener Volunteer Program operate?
• Time for discussion
What Defines OSU as a Land Grant Institution?
Land Grant History

• President Lincoln signed the Morrill Act of 1862 to create land grant colleges

• Provided grants of land to states to establish colleges of “agriculture and the mechanic arts….in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes…”
Land Grant History - *Teaching*

- The Ohio State University was founded in 1870 as Ohio’s land grant college
- Founded as Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College
Land Grant History - Research

• In 1887 Congress passed the Hatch Act which created agricultural experiment stations at land grant colleges

• OARDC on the Wooster Campus is today the largest agricultural bio-sciences research facility in the country
Land Grant History - Research
Land Grant History - Outreach

• In 1914 Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act creating Cooperative Extension Service at land-grant colleges
Land Grant History - Outreach

- Smith-Lever Act defined Cooperative Extension as “…instruction and practical demonstrations in agriculture and home economics to persons not attending or resident in said colleges…..
OSU Extension

- Unit in the College of Food, Agriculture, & Environmental Sciences
- OSU Extension Office and faculty and staff located in each of Ohio’s 88 counties
- Front door to OSU for most citizens
OSU Extension

- Large, complex organization
- 685 FTE faculty and staff
- 481 FTE of those faculty & staff in counties
OSU Extension

- Funded Cooperatively
  - Federal – USDA NIFA
  - State – Ohio General Assembly
  - County – County Boards of Commissioners
  - Grants, gifts and contracts
OSU Extension Mission

• Engage people to strengthen their lives and communities through research-based educational programming
OSU Extension Vision

- OSU Extension is a dynamic educational entity that partners with individuals, families, communities, business & industry, and organizations to strengthen the lives of Ohioans.
OSU Extension Values

• Unbiased research-based information

• Grassroots programs that engage local people in solving problems & addressing challenges

• Practical education that helps people to help themselves
OSU Extension Values

- Inclusive programming
- Engage people in lifelong learning
- Timely responses to clientele concerns
- Flexibility and adaptability in local programming
OSU Extension Values

- Focus on critical economic, environmental, leadership, youth, and family issues
- Practical, applied research in local communities
- Extending the resources of the university
OSU Extension Values

• Excellence in teaching using cutting-edge strategies and technologies

• Recruit and develop volunteers to multiply Extension’s efforts and develop leadership
OSU Extension Volunteers

• Volunteers critical to achieving our mission
• Nearly 25,000 volunteers statewide
• Value of volunteer service in the millions
OSU Extension Program Areas

• Agriculture & Natural Resources

-Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment
OSU Extension Program Areas

• 4-H Youth Development
  - Preparing Youth for Success
OSU Extension Program Areas

- Family & Consumer Sciences
  - Strengthening Families and Communities
OSU Extension Program Areas

• Community Development

  -Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities
Master Gardener Volunteer Program

• Volunteer program first and foremost
• Leadership & community development critical
• Volunteers receive intensive training and continuing education
Master Gardener Volunteer Program

• Research-based
• Unbiased, non-commercial
• Statewide and national program
• Encompasses all three components of the land grant mission (teaching, research, outreach)
Master Gardener Volunteer Program

- Leadership for program provided by Extension Educator and leadership team
- Franklin County has one of the largest MGV programs in the state and was the first county program in Ohio (1979)
Master Gardener Volunteer Program

• To maintain membership:
  - pay annual dues
  - complete 10 hours of continuing education
  - donate 25 hours of approved volunteer hours
Master Gardener Volunteer Program

- MGV Trainees complete minimum 50 hours of training and then become MGV Interns
- MGV Interns donate 50 hours of approved volunteer service before end of calendar year
- MGV Interns graduate and become certified Franklin County Master Gardener Volunteers!
- Not affiliated with Jerry Baker!
Mission Statement – *OSU Extension trained volunteers are empowered to educate others*

**Four Statewide Initiatives:**

- Backyard and Local Foods
  - Community gardens
  - Demonstration or school gardens
  - Public education seminars
- Environmental Horticulture
  - Rain gardens
  - Tree inventories
  - Storm water management
  - Plant selection
Mission Statement – *OSU Extension trained volunteers empowered to educate others*

**Integrated Pest Management**
- Plant trials
- Garden information line
- Demonstration gardens not related to food production

**Invasive Species**
- Education/removal of invasive plants or pests
So What Defines OSU as a Land Grant Institution?
So What Defines OSU as a Land-Grant Institution?

• Teaching, Research, and Outreach

• Statewide responsibility, resources, and reach

• Access to all citizens of Ohio
  
  the state is our campus!
For More Information

www.mastergardener.osu.edu

www.franklin.osu.edu

www.extension.osu.edu

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Questions??