



ASHLAND County

ERIE BASIN EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Ashland County offered 15 **Quality Assurance Training** sessions, reaching almost 500 youth. The program educates youth about the humane care and handling of livestock, appropriate record keeping practices, and proper production methods. Of those surveyed, 94% indicated they learned something new and 98% could describe one good production practice they were going to focus on for the year. Youth also were instructed on how to properly complete a Drug Use Notification Form. The Senior Fair Board reported 100% compliance with this mandatory paperwork at the county fair. At interview judging, 77% of the youth quizzed on filling out a Drug Use Notification Form could spot the errors and complete the form properly.
- Educators from the Erie Basin collaborated to provide nearly 100 private pesticide applicators a four-hour **Pesticide Applicator Recertification** to maintain their license. The training provides information and updates on pesticides currently available and their proper use and application. Ashland County farmers appreciate this local training.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- One hundred eighty-six **adult volunteers** provided leadership to 33 community clubs and 11 subject matter committees, serving over 700 traditional club members this past year. The value these volunteers bring to Ashland County is worth over \$411,000. Over 20 new volunteers were recruited and 94% of the volunteers attended a two-hour training to remain certified.

- The **Family Nutrition Program** of Ashland County serviced 714 adult and 177 youth participants in 127 direct education classes. Recipients of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) learned how to stretch their food dollars and eat according to MyPlate standards through classes offered by OSU Extension. Of the adult participants, 98% self-reported they learned something new from programming, while 90% planned to make changes in their health habits. OSU Extension also offered Summer Food Service programs for youth, with 100% of participants self-reporting plans to make positive changes in their nutrition and physical activity habits. In addition, new youth guidelines have allowed for the expansion of nutrition and physical activity education into schools, including current programming at Head Start and Tri-County preschools. Youth learn the importance of exercising, eating breakfast, trying different fruits and vegetables, choosing healthy snacks and choosing foods from MyPlate food groups.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- In July, 118 youth attended **4-H Junior Camp**, a five-day, four-night event. Teens were responsible for planning and conducting the camp under the guidance of nine adult staff members. 4-H Camp Counselors received a minimum of 24 hours of training and, in turn, donated more than 150 hours of their time to the younger members. Ninety-four percent of the 4-H Camp Counselors said they learned how to better take care of emergencies at camp and how to recognize and understand bullying, and 100% could name at least two ways to successfully handle bullying at camp.



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- Twenty-six children in grades three through five attended one of four **science camps** held in 2013. Participant comments included, “I didn’t know science was so much fun” and “I want to come back again to this camp!” Thirty-four children, led by nine trained counselors, attended **4-H Cloverbud Day Camp**, an eight-hour, two-day experience for youth ages 5 and in kindergarten through age 8.
- Two grants totaling \$2,841 from the Ohio 4-H Foundation enabled Ashland County 4-H to expand its **Shooting Sports Education Program** by purchasing safety equipment for all participants. Six large archery targets were also purchased.
- Nine volunteers, including one Junior Leader, were trained in seven shooting sports disciplines at **Adult Leader Certification Training** in 2013. Currently the county has adults with teaching certifications in pistol, rifle, archery, shotgun, coordinator and living history. A countywide club met weekly from January through April to provide youth with the opportunity to learn shooting sports in a safe and educational manner. Thirty members completed this program and plan to enroll again in January 2014. Pheasants Forever donated over \$5,000 to the group to purchase equipment and to send youth to the statewide Junior and Senior Shooting Education Camps in the summer.
- **4-H CARTEENS** is a traffic safety program conducted by 4-H Junior Leaders working in conjunction with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The goal of CARTEENS is to help teens become safer drivers. Eighty-nine first-time juvenile traffic offenders attended a CARTEENS program in 2013. The sessions are led by trained teen and adult instructors, state troopers, and guest speakers including EMTs and insurance agents. Teen participants report plans to change their driving habits: “I plan to buckle up all the time now” and “Texting and driving don’t mix.” This year Ashland County was one of several counties to benefit from a state grant to purchase learning materials including a driving simulator for use in the monthly classes.
- A total of 24 **Junior Fair Board** members provided leadership for a successful 2013 Ashland County Junior Fair. During the year, members spent time learning how to work better as a team, how to speak in front of groups, how to organize events and proper ways of interacting with the public when answering questions or handling complaints.
- The six-session Cloverbots program for youth ages 5 to 8 was offered in the spring. Three volunteer coaches led the groups through the LEGO Super Seniors Challenge using simple LEGO building parts. Group members met with and interviewed two senior citizens to learn about what life was like when they were their age. The groups then designed a LEGO representation, illustrating some aspect of what they

learned. All three groups sent representatives to the **Ohio 4-H Cloverbot Challenge** held in May at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center in Columbus.

- Thirty-six boys and girls took part in one of two Kids’ Cooking Schools put on by the Ashland County **4-H Food and Fashion Board**. This year’s theme was “Travel the World.” The nine board members researched international foods and preparation methods in order to present the workshop to the third- through sixth-grade members.

Ashland County receives \$27,611 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.