



BROWN County

OHIO VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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The Brown County Commissioners collaborated with their counterparts in Adams and Highland counties to share the services of a Family and Consumer Sciences Extension educator and an Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension educator.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **Brown County 4-H** is the largest youth organization in the county with 832 members involved in 37 community clubs. Community clubs provide positive adult-youth interactions focused around educational project experiences, which include the development of life skills, leadership development, healthy living skills and effective communication. Youth were directly impacted by 261 caring adult volunteers. Based on an estimated 35 hours contributed annually by each volunteer, the value of their service exceeded \$202,000.
- Eighteen 4-H Clubs participated in a **4-H Recycling Community Service** project. Clubs collected over 12,200 AA, AAA, C, D and 9-volt batteries that, in partnership with the Grange Organization, were sent to the Ida Sue School and Nick Amster Workshop in Wooster. This is a school for special needs children who sort the batteries before sending them for recycling. The money earned is then used to buy school supplies. This project was completed as part of the ongoing relationship with the Brown County Solid Waste Authority, which provided \$40,000 in funding to Brown County Extension in 2013.
- **Quality Assurance Training** educates youth on the proper care of animals and good production practices. A total

of 389 youth completed the Quality Assurance Training by attending one of six classes or by successfully testing out. The classes were taught in collaboration with the AgriScience teachers in five local high schools.

- **4-H CARTEENS** reached over 100 teen drivers in 2013. The goal of the program is to teach first-time traffic offenders, ages 15–18, how to make cautious and responsible decisions and how to drive safer. The program is a collaborative effort between 4-H, the Brown County Juvenile Court and the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Each year, 1 in 6 Americans gets sick from foodborne illness. Education and training about proper food handling and food preservation practices at worksites, community functions and in the home can prevent severe illness and high medical costs. Of the 32 total participants, eight Brown County residents working in the food service industry completed the **ServSafe Food Handler Program**. Ninety-two percent of participants improved their food safety knowledge and indicated they will make changes in their worksite to support safe food handling practices such as wearing gloves when handling food and cooking foods to proper internal temperatures. To ensure safe food preservation practices and prevent illness, 15 pressure canner dial gauges were inspected and tested for accuracy; testing was accompanied by individual education.
- Diabetes directly affects 1 in 10 adult Ohioans, and it continues to be a health issue for residents of the tri-county area. Diabetes impacts family and friends of



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persons with diabetes, healthcare in the community, and work productivity. Brown County residents attended **Take Charge of Your Diabetes**, a one-hour diabetes education class. Eighty-nine percent of participants reported being more aware of health complications of diabetes and related prevention strategies, and 78% of participants now plan to eat smaller portions. Lastly, 72% plan to cook at home more often to prevent or manage diabetes.

- Balancing budgets impacts family and personal well-being. **Basic Budgeting**, held for individuals at a residential care facility, helped prepare participants to manage their financial resources and be successful as they transition to living on their own. Eighty-five percent of participants indicated they learned something new to help them budget. Over 70% of participants said that when they live on their own, they will identify their wants and needs to plan their purchases accordingly and to track their income and expenses.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's grant-funded **SNAP-Ed** reached over 782 low-income adults through 160 direct education classes with 11 different community agencies. Ninety-eight percent of participants learned new information about basic nutrition, meal management, food safety and food budgeting. Ninety-five percent of participants planned to make changes to improve personal and family nutrition. In retrospective surveys, participants reported significant increases in the frequency of the following behaviors: using food labels to make better choices, practicing portion control at mealtime, drinking water instead of sugar-sweetened beverages, eating more whole grains and comparing prices before buying food.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Ag Reality** is a program offered to several schools in Adams, Brown and Highland counties. This is a spinoff from Real Money, Real World with an agricultural twist. High school juniors enrolled in agribusiness classes participate in the exercise, where they get to interact with agriculture industry professionals including grain and livestock marketers, banks and government agencies. Thirty-two youth from Brown County participated in one of three offered sessions.
- With the OSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educator being shared between Brown, Adams and Highland counties, much of the **ANR programming** was done as joint programming across the three counties. This included a weekly article in at least seven local newspapers in the three counties and multiple weekly local radio spots.
- Four **Pesticide Applicator Recertification** sessions were held at Southern State Community College in Fincastle,

with two daytime and two evening sessions. A total of 206 private applicators were recertified in 2013 for the three counties, including 59 from Brown County. Five sessions were offered for both private applicators and custom applicators to obtain a license through testing. A total of 55 private and 52 commercial applicators were tested.

- **Tobacco production** continues to be a major source of revenue for many farmers in Adams and Brown counties. Several producers at the Annual Tobacco Growers Meeting attended a tobacco education meeting to discuss prices, improved production practices and disease and insect control. A new experimental variety of tobacco was also grown on a Brown County Farm in 2013.
- **Master Gardener Volunteers** continue to be a vital part of OSU Extension in Brown and Highland counties. Training requires a minimum of 50 hours for new volunteers. Five new volunteers were trained in spring 2013. Volunteers conduct workshops throughout the year and have weekly office hours in Brown County to answer questions for anyone who stops in.

Brown County receives \$29,704 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.