



## CLARK County

### TOP OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The **ServSafe Food Handler Program** is aimed at reducing foodborne illnesses through proper cooking or processing of foods to destroy bacteria. Presented in collaboration with the Clark and Champaign County Health Departments, ServSafe for Managers was taught four times. A total of 106 owners, managers, supervisors and culinary instructors participated in the 16 hours of training, and 98% passed the certification examination with an average passing score of 90%. ServSafe for Employees, a four-hour class, served 112 food service employees including two classes taught to inmates at the Clark County Jail. An average 12% increase in knowledge was achieved by these participants, as determined by their scores on pre- and post-tests.
- Since 1999, more than 1,500 people have been given guided tours of the Gateway Learning Gardens, the teaching and demonstration gardens established by Clark County Extension and the **Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs)**. MGVs of Clark County have dedicated more than 30,000 hours of service to the gardens. They give volunteer time in developing and maintaining the gardens as well as teaching others about good gardening practices. Their commitment to this valuable community resource results in more than 27,000 visitors, providing an economic impact to the region of more than \$4,057,500 since the gardens' inception. Of these visitors, more than 45% are from out of town, and many cite the gardens as their reason for visiting Springfield. They visit other tourist attractions and eat lunch in our community. More than 75% of them have never been to Clark County before.
- The Gateway Learning Gardens serve as a host site for educational programs. The gardens also host one of 10 National Ornamental Grass Trial research plots, a partnership between universities to evaluate panicum and schizachryum cultivars. Each year MGVs host an annual Gateway Garden Jubilee that brings people to enjoy the gardens and the festive atmosphere. Since 1998 OSU Extension has hosted 22,250 visitors for this event, with approximately 45% of them from out of town.
- MGVs and staff worked with 25 sites to establish and maintain community gardens in addition to a 10,000 square foot vegetable garden managed by the volunteers. More than 500 people participated in one of the neighborhood community gardens, and more than 7,000 pounds of fresh vegetables were raised and donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Clark and Champaign counties.
- Employers in just about every industry are starting to offer **workplace wellness programs**. Offering evidence-based wellness and education reduces health care costs and increases employee wellness and productivity. The estimated return on investment is about a \$2.71 savings in health care costs for every \$1 invested in such programs.
- Numerous programs have been offered as part of an employer's wellness education for employees. These programs have focused on a financial management series, eating well, diabetes care, gluten-free eating, and planning a holiday budget. A popular addition to traditional health screenings is sun safety programming. Participants can "scan their tan" by viewing the ultraviolet ray-damaged



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areas of their facial skin. Of the nearly 200 people scanned in 2013, 25% had received this same information in a previous year. Of those, 51% reported using sunscreen more often, 43% reported wearing hats (for sun protection) and 43% reported consulting a dermatologist as a result of the scan.

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed)** targets individuals and families eligible for this program. The program brings over \$40,000 in grant funds to Champaign and Clark counties. Goals are met through either direct (face-to-face, classroom setting) or indirect (health fair) programming. The programming reached more than 150 adults and 35 youth directly and an additional 700 individuals indirectly via such measures as health fairs and information relay from classroom participants to their families. Through these measures, significant behavioral changes can be noted in several different categories: general MyPlate practices, incorporating more fruits and vegetables in the diet and food safety.

## PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- The service that 509 Clark County **4-H volunteers** contribute is valued at \$1 million. When asked what was their favorite part of 4-H, the common response from more than 1,800 of these volunteers was, “the people.”
- Community support of **youth market livestock project experiences** surpassed yet another all-time high in 2013. Record sales for 1,225 projects totaled \$919,732 from some 2,363 buyers. Youth will use this money to support future education and career goals as well as finance next year’s 4-H project experiences. 4-H is at the heart of positive youth development, and it contributes to the economic development of our local communities. Dollars spent on the initial animals purchased, and the feed and supplies to care and raise those animals to project completion, add value to local businesses, supporting the 4-H efforts.
- “Tell me and I’ll forget. Show me and I may remember. Involve me and I’ll understand.” This quote describes the Clark County 4-H approach to **STEM programming**, with 1,877 youth in 64 school classrooms. More than 4,500 Clark County youth are engaged in the scientific inquiry and engineering design process via some 6,810 STEM-based projects and programs through clubs, camps, special events and after school and classroom sites. Fifty Global Impact STEM Academy ninth grade students cultivated their STEM abilities through OSU Extension’s inaugural STEM Pathways signature program challenges, then served as peer-to-peer instructors with Farm Science Review participants to sharpen their communication, teamwork and leadership abilities.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Master Gardener Volunteers** presented 10 programs to more than 400 people on topics including invasive species, backyard and local foods, integrated pest management and environmental horticulture. These volunteers were trained to be part of the Speaker’s Bureau, and they extended OSU Extension outreach to the service clubs and organizations in the community. Efforts are aimed at raising the awareness of the potentially devastating effects that invasive species can have on a community; teaching residents how to develop community gardens and backyard vegetable gardens; and teaching best management practices in the landscape in order to reduce the use of pesticides.

**Clark County receives \$65,644 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.**