



## CLERMONT County

### MIAMI VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

1000 Locust Street, P.O. Box 670, Owensville, Ohio 45160-0670

Phone: (513) 732-7070      clermont.osu.edu/



#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Clermont County Extension taught 220 Family and Consumer Sciences nutrition education programs in 2013, reaching 1,962 residents. Senior citizens, families with/without children and youth participated in interactive classes developed to improve quality of diet, manage food resources, promote food safety and increase physical activity. As a result of the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program (SNAP-Ed)**, positive behavior change was reported for using MyPlate as a tool to make healthy lifestyle food choices, choosing low fat calcium-rich food sources and increasing food shopping and preparation skills. The dollar value of the 2013 SNAP-Ed grant funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services was \$75,532. Research shows that every \$1 spent on nutrition education saves as much as \$10 in long-term health care costs. The value of the local benefit was \$755,320.
- Clermont County Extension partnered with Clermont-based Pill Box Pharmacy owner Robert Westbrook (who is also a certified diabetes educator) to provide nutrition education and food preparation strategies focused on diabetes management to residents and family members. Post-class evaluation forms from the **Dining with Diabetes** participants showed that, after attending the classes, 100% experienced positive results and planned to use the information to make changes in their diet.
- Balancing budgets and protecting assets continues to impact family well-being in Clermont County. **Counting Your Money** budgeting classes, **financial coaching** sessions and

the **America Save\$** campaign offered in partnership with various county organizations moved participants to change behaviors. High demand for this education led Clermont County Extension to reach more than 300 individuals in 2013. Post-class participant evaluations show they plan to use the tips offered, and that after the classes, participants had the skills to make a measurable difference in their ability to manage financial and food resources.

- Clermont County Extension is identified as a **HUD-Approved Local Housing Counseling Agency** on three topics: pre-purchase/home buying, resolving or preventing mortgage delinquency or default and non-delinquent post-purchase counseling. Thirty-nine families received counseling and qualified for financial assistance through **Ohio's First Time Homebuyer Program**. These 39 families added \$3.6 million to the local housing economy. **OSU Extension Housing Corps** has worked with more than 40 organizations to help educate Clermont County about the "Save the Dream Ohio" foreclosure prevention effort.
- Clermont County Extension was awarded the **Safe Communities Grant**, a program under the Ohio Department of Public Safety, for 2013–2014 at a value of \$50,000. The goal of the program is to work with local groups and law enforcement to reduce traffic fatalities within the county. The grant touches upon safety, well-being, youth and adult education and community development.

#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- The **Clermont County 4-H** enrolled 758 members in 40 community clubs. This year, 11 new volunteers were trained,

and they joined 316 experienced adult volunteers. Adult volunteers provide support, guidance and encouragement to help make 4-H members successful.

- **LOOK to Clermont Leadership Development Program** graduated 19 youth. LOOK to Clermont is a 4-H program, “Preparing Tomorrow’s Leaders Today.” The recipient of a \$7,000 OSU Innovative Grant for 2013–2014, this program builds a foundation for the development of leadership skills, provides opportunities to practice what is learned, instills a lifelong commitment to community service, teaches the history and dynamics of Clermont County and assists the county with retention of youth talent.
- The **Clermont County 4-H Camp Program** was led by 30 4-H Camp Counselors who received 24 hours of training that included topics such as diversity, bullying, inclusion, risk management, decision making, leadership and team building. Camp Counselor Training prepares teens for the workforce while instilling responsibility, leadership and communication skills. There were 93 youth, ages 9 to 15, who attended the Clermont/Hamilton County 4-H Camp at 4-H Camp Graham, located in Clarksville, Ohio. Camp provides a unique setting for youth to make new friends, become independent and learn responsibility through experiential learning.
- **4-H CARTEENS** provided 20 traffic safety training sessions to 682 first-time juvenile traffic offenders. The CARTEENS sessions are facilitated by volunteer teen leaders in partnership with adult volunteers, Clermont County Probate Court and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The goal of CARTEENS is to help teens become safer drivers and to reduce the number of traffic safety violations.
- 4-H youth exhibited 2,981 projects at the **2013 Clermont County Junior Fair**. The county fair provides 4-H members the opportunity to practice animal care, sportsmanship, communication and mentorship. The county nominated 81 youth to exhibit at the Ohio State Fair.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Four **Quality Assurance Trainings** were conducted to educate youth and parents/guardians about quality care for animals. Ten peer trainers were educated to conduct peer-to-peer presentations. The adults were separated from youth participants to have their own version of Quality Assurance Training, all being conducted at the same time. The trainings certified 314 exhibitors.
- Partnering with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, 24 pesticide applicators needing recertification attended **Pesticide Applicator Recertification** to receive training

on core, agronomy and horticulture categories. Additional categories were taught via video.

- Clermont County Extension hosted an eight-week **New and Small Farm College** course for landowners wishing to learn how to maximize their land’s potential. The 39 participants of 25 Southwest Ohio farms studied topics including legal issues of farming, natural resource assessment and agritourism marketing. The course concluded with a Small Farms Tour, a hands-on learning experience where participants visited successful local farming operations.
- The **19th Annual Southwest Ohio Perennial School** had 86 attendees, 17 horticulture vendors, 11 Master Gardeners and five presenters with six Extension staff members managing the event. Perennial School teaches participants skills and techniques to enhance or increase their perennial garden.
- In collaboration with NRCS and SWCD, a **Soil Enhancement and Nutrient Management “Cover Crop Field Day”** was held at a local producer’s farm, with 117 total attendees and eight seed and equipment vendors. This was part of the Conservation Innovation Grant to teach soil enhancement and nutrient management to agronomic crop participants. Participants learned valuable aspects of cover crops, soil health and nutrient management.
- Clermont County’s **Ag Media Services** used the county website, Facebook, Twitter, news articles and mass emails to inform agricultural producers and homeowners about research-based information and events to assist them in being more practical in farming and caring for home landscapes.

**Clermont County receives \$52,528 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.**