

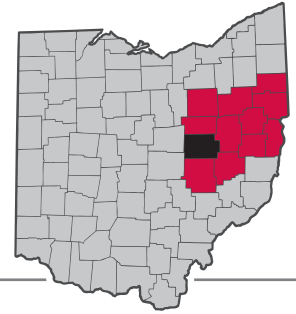


COSHOCTON County

CROSSROADS EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- This year 743 youth completed projects in the **Coshocton County 4-H** program, which teaches life skills, problem solving and wise decision making. Also, 263 volunteers serve as 4-H Club advisors, key leaders and more. Twenty-six adults have applied this year to become new 4-H volunteers.
- **Outdoor Adventures** was a brand new program this year. It is open to all youth interested in exploring nature. Eight different weekly evening sessions covered topics from hiking safety to Dutch oven cooking to owl studies. The program was held at Lake Park, which offers multiple nature trails to hike and habitats to observe. OSU Extension staff instructed the sessions along with cooperation from the county wildlife officer and Boy Scouts leaders.
- **4-H Camps** are a fun way to develop life skills. This year three camps were available for youth.
 - While connecting with nature at **4-H Camp Ohio**, 144 youth learned good decision making, social skills, and expression of self, outside the family nurturing environment. Twenty-nine older youth served as 4-H Junior Camp Counselors, cultivating the job readiness skills employers look for including leadership, communication and teamwork. The 4-H Advisory Committee awarded \$1,040 worth of 4-H Camp scholarship money.
 - Thirty-four youth attended **Giddy-Up-Go Horse Camp**, where they learned proper grooming and handling, safe riding, got to play games and make a stick pony craft.

- Twenty-one youth attended **Cloverbud Camp**, which had an “Around the World” theme. Youth learned about geography by making crafts “in Mexico,” taking a nature hike “in Australia” and eating lunch “in Italy” among other stops.
- Over 130 fourth grade students at Coshocton Elementary School enhanced their science learning through the **ChickQuest** program taught by OSU Extension staff. The children learned about the life cycle of a chicken while incubating eggs to hatch. Students also learned about the properties of eggs, scientific observation and how to conduct experiments.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Fifty-three local farmers and produce growers learned to make better management decisions in their agricultural operations at **Agronomy School** and **Good Agricultural Practices training**. During these programs producers were equipped with research-based, best management practices related to nutrient management and on-farm food safety.
- OSU Extension collaborated with Coshocton County Soil and Water Conservation District and Coshocton County Recycling and Litter Prevention to present “**Scraps Away! A Composting Workshop.**” Twenty-seven people participated in the educational program and received a compost bin, countertop scrap container and biodegradable bags. After six months, surveyed participants indicated that 94% were utilizing the compost bin, and 82% reported a noticeable decrease in their household trash being sent to the

landfill. This program was made possible through an Ohio Department of Natural Resources Watershed Education Mini-Grant.

- What makes your garden grow? **Master Gardener Volunteers**, trained by OSU Extension! The volunteers help Extension share research-based information with gardeners through workshops, community gardens and one-on-one consultations. In Coshocton County, 17 active Master Gardener Volunteers have given over 900 volunteer hours to educate and beautify the community. These total volunteer hours equate to more than \$25,000. Data was also collected for the Phenology Garden Network that is used statewide and nationally.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- OSU Extension helps adults with limited resources make healthy, safe and budget-friendly food choices through the **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)**. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In Coshocton County, EFNEP reached 131 participants in 2013, which impacted a total of 460 family members, including 189 children. One father who completed the program has stopped buying soda for his family. This dad also took the time to teach his children the differences between healthy and unhealthy food choices. The changes this father is making with his children now will help them for the rest of their lives.
- Through a collaborative effort with OSU Extension Holmes County, a series of five **home food preservation workshops** were offered. Nearly 70 participants learned safe methods of canning and freezing fruits, vegetables and meats. Food safety concerns were explained, and six people also took the opportunity to have their pressure canners tested. Ninety percent of participants plan to make changes to their home food preservation processes as a result of the classes.
- Coshocton County served as host for two AmeriCorps members as part of the **OSU Housing Corps Initiative**. The goal of this program is to improve the long-term security of economically vulnerable homeowners in rural Ohio with the Ohio Housing Finance Agency Save the Dream program. The members invested 2,770 service hours conducting outreach events to educate community agencies, churches and other civic groups about the program as well as working one-on-one with 90 homeowners to explain eligibility and the application process.
- OSU Extension and Local Bounty Coshocton partnered to offer a series of **Local Foods Cooking Classes for Kids**. Twenty-four children learned to plant a kitchen garden. They used the vegetables and herbs that were grown, along

with other local foods, to cook yummy recipes. These 3- to 10-year-olds learned to make simple meals and treats. Many parents agreed a positive outcome of the class was that their child was now more willing to try different foods. This program was supported through a grant from the Columbus Foundation.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- The mission of **Annie's Project** is to empower farm women to become better business partners through networks and through managing and organizing critical information. Twenty area women completed this six-week program focused on these risk management areas: financial, marketing, production, legal and human resources. One participant stated, "I believe I can make a positive change in our business with the knowledge I gained these six weeks."
- Twenty-five local entrepreneurs learned the importance of branding and pricing and how to start a home-based food business during a **Direct Marketing and Cottage Foods Development workshop**. The participants were able to use this new knowledge to start and expand their small local foods businesses and increase their participation in local farmer's markets.