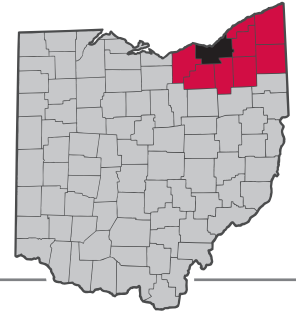




CUYAHOGA County

WESTERN RESERVE EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Kinsman Farm**, OSU Extension's six-acre incubator farm in Cleveland's Urban Agriculture Innovation Zone, welcomed five new farm microenterprises in 2013, bringing the total to 13 new businesses. Five hundred pounds of produce from Extension's demonstration area were donated to assisted housing communities and schools.
- Nearly 43 acres of vacant land were repurposed for farming endeavors via Extension's **U.S. Department of Agriculture Beginning Farmer Program**, resulting in \$98,870 in sales.
- Four thousand feet of row cover and 180 pounds of cover crop seeds were distributed to 55 community gardens and urban farm sites to extend the growing season, making **healthy produce** available year-round.
- Twenty-five **urban agriculture workshops** were held and attended by 520 residents. Topics ranged from cover cropping, composting, growing mushrooms, agrAbility, seed saving and pest management.
- In its fifth year, the **Dig In! Community Gardener Training Program** helped to start or improve 14 community gardens. Evaluation responses showed that 100% of participants improved their knowledge of all topics presented and would strongly recommend this program.
- In conjunction with the Greater Cleveland Neighborhood Association, OSU Extension developed and delivered a series of **children's gardening classes**. Seventy-five third through fifth graders learned about growing vegetables, soil quality and eating local and healthy.

- **Master Gardener Volunteers** performed 9,733 hours of service (valued at \$205,755). Projects included community garden mentoring, horticultural therapy, plant-a-row efforts and school gardening programs.
- **In-depth data collected by site visits** to 229 community gardens throughout the county informed the creation of a community map with several data layers that will be available to the public in 2014.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **4-H Youth Outdoors**, a partnership with Cleveland Metroparks, provided leadership for 446 outdoor adventure experiences for 29 urban youth groups in Cleveland. Youth and adults (8,894 in all) participated in outings and special events, and 605 youth were engaged in ongoing 4-H Clubs. Ninety-six youth provided service to others through volunteering a total of 1,374 hours.
- Thirty-two members of the Youth Advocacy and Leadership Coalition traveled to Washington D.C. to attend the **44th Presidential Inauguration**. One hundred percent of participants reported gaining a greater insight into presidential traditions and a better understanding of diversity.
- Eighty-one teens aging out of the county's foster care system expanded their knowledge of **basic living skills** to prepare for success in adulthood. Seventy-two percent of the participants indicated gaining useful information on all topics including workforce preparation, nutrition, financial literacy and healthy relationships.

- Teen members of the Youth Advocacy and Leadership Committee **wrote and received two fitness grants** that provided youth with pedometers, which logged over two million steps (900 miles).
- Five teen leaders of the Youth Advocacy and Leadership Coalition **presented “United in Our Rights, Equal in Our Abilities” and an “Interactive Poverty Awareness Showcase”** to 2,000 participants from around the world at the National Service Learning Conference.
- One hundred percent of seniors who are members of the Youth Advocacy and Leadership Coalition **graduated from high school and are enrolled in degree or certification programs.**
- **4-H workforce preparation programs** assisted 185 teens, 50 of whom were in custody at the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Justice Center, in identifying potential careers, selecting career goals, developing a personal career plan and becoming familiar with worksite expectations.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Produce Perks EBT Incentive program** increased to 20 farmer’s markets and farm stands in 2013. EBT sales surpassed 2012 totals, reaching over \$27,729. During the 2013 season, Produce Perks brought 467 new food assistance customers to farmer’s markets for the first time.
- The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Food Policy Coalition (convened by OSU Extension), in partnership with Cuyahoga County Board of Health and Case Western Reserve University’s Prevention Research Center, piloted a **Produce Prescription program** to connect expectant mothers to farmer’s markets. Eighty expectant participants redeemed \$2,240 in vouchers, purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Nine focus groups, three state-level convenings and two stakeholder roundtables were conducted as a part of a **healthy food access and equity research project** in conjunction with the newly formed Ohio Regional Convergence Partnership.
- In a survey by **community gardeners**, 90% of respondents agreed with this statement: “Because I work in the garden, I eat less fast food.” Seventy-eight percent of these respondents agreed with this statement: “Because I work in the garden, I spend less money on food.”
- Nine hundred families, representing 3,400 individuals, benefited from the **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)** by learning how to prepare healthy, safe meals and how to achieve better health through good nutritional practices and physical activity. Eighty-eight percent of participants showed improvement in

nutrition-related behaviors, and 82% showed improvement in food resource management practices. Forty percent of participants increased their levels of physical activity.

- One thousand two hundred fifty school-aged youth participated in the **Youth Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program**, which promotes healthy lifestyle behaviors. Eighty-two percent of youth showed improvement in their knowledge and skills related to choosing healthy food options.
- OSU Extension served as lead partner to Cleveland Metropolitan School District’s (CMSD) **Farm to School** efforts to develop a farm to school implementation plan with community partners. The CMSD Farm to School Advisory Committee is finalizing an assessment of the district’s current efforts related to local food procurement, school gardening, and curriculum and instruction and will be developing a detailed three-year plan for 2014 implementation.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- In conjunction with Cleveland Crops (an agriculture endeavor for individuals with developmental disabilities), OSU Extension facilitated a series of **applied training classes**. As a result of this training, 42 participants were offered and accepted employment with the Cleveland Crops program.
- Thirty-five residents completed the 12-week **Market Gardener Training Program**. Participants received education and training in developing an agricultural enterprise. Ten participants developed or expanded an agricultural business as a result of this program.
- Fourteen residents completed the **Refugee and Immigrant Farmer Training Program** in partnership with Asian Services in Action, Catholic Charities and The Refugee Response. The training program provided a series of classes and hands-on workshops in small business development, marketing and vegetable production. Participants have collaborated to develop four small-scale commercial farms that offer fresh produce for sale.

Cuyahoga County receives \$426,071 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.