

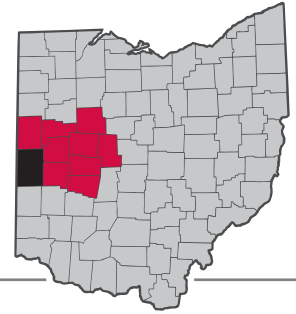


## DARKE County

### TOP OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- A total of 1,171 youth participated in 46 community **4-H Clubs**. Youth improved life skills related to organization, time management, responsibility, financial management, communication and leadership.
- Two hundred thirty-nine **adult volunteers** served as advisors for these youth. Volunteers provided leadership in project-related work, community service activities and served as mentors and positive role models for youth.
- Ninety-nine campers, ages 9–14, participated in a 4-day residential **4-H Camp**. Campers learned leadership skills, life skills and the value of working together to achieve goals.
- Twenty-eight teens volunteered as **4-H Camp Counselors**. Counselors completed a minimum of 24 hours of training. They developed personal skills related to supervision and management, leadership, communication and teamwork.
- Forty-four **Junior Fair Board** members planned and conducted Junior Fair activities for over 3,000 exhibitors, thus reporting an increase in life skills related to conflict management, organization and communication.
- Forty-eight youth, ages 5–8, attended **Cloverbud Day Camp**. Campers participated in sessions designed to increase their environmental awareness.
- Darke County 4-H and the Darke County ESC offered **Real Money, Real World** to 34 special needs students. Participants learned the importance of setting/obtaining career and educational goals, as well as financial management skills. Sixteen local businesses donated their time to enrich this educational program.

- The livestock **Quality Assurance Training** program instructed 504 youth about animal welfare, good production practices, ethical farming and basic livestock management. Youth participants learned the importance of properly caring for their animals and presenting a positive image to the public in regards to animal care.
- Students in grades K–5 (1,265 in all) participated in 4-H **school enrichment projects**, learning science- related concepts. Students could explain key science concepts such as pollination, germination, life cycle, the importance of earthworms in soil and the basic needs of plants.
- One hundred twenty-seven teens and their parents participated in **4-H CARTEENS**, which consists of classes for first-time traffic offenders. Participants reported an increase in the awareness and the importance of not drinking and driving and the need for safety belts. Parents reported an increase in the awareness of risks related to teenage drivers as a result of attending CARTEENS.

#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- One hundred ninety-three divorcing parents learned how to communicate with their children about divorce and learned the importance of minimizing conflict with their child's other parent in our monthly **Successful Co-Parenting** program.
- One thousand adults participated in several **health fairs** where they received information pertaining to healthy foods and keeping foods at the correct temperature.
- **Preschool Vision Screening** was provided as a service to one area preschool. A total of 82 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds



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- were screened to see if they would benefit from a visit to an eye doctor.
- Over 940 youth, ages 5–12, participated in hands-on learning through **school enrichment and after school programs**. Lessons focused on bread making and MyPlate. Teachers stated the students understood and enjoyed learning much more with hands-on experience rather than lecture only.
  - The **SNAP-Ed** program (formerly known as the Family Nutrition Program), which targets people who are eligible to receive food assistance benefits, reached approximately 1,500 individuals, the majority with children, through educational classes and indirect programs. Around the county, close to 200 direct education classes were taught at local food pantries, senior meal sites, WIC agency, Council on Rural Services and Job and Family Services. Hands-on activities, along with preparing simple recipes, were included to emphasize the ease and cost effectiveness of eating healthy. Participants learned basic nutrition from MyPlate, how to stretch their food dollars and food safety. The consumption of healthy foods, along with daily physical activities, was encouraged for a healthy lifestyle.
  - In addition, 300 **nutritional newsletters** were distributed monthly through various county agencies to continue educating citizens in the community who may have limited resources about the benefits of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. A **SNAP-Ed Facebook page** was established for community members who could obtain additional educational information on healthy eating and physical activity, along with class schedules at the local pantries.
  - OSU Extension collaborated with Darke County Soil and Water Conservation District to offer a **Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management Workshop Series**. Twenty-six residents participated in the four-session series. Participants were able to identify basic agronomy principles and nutrient sources and collect soil samples from their farms. Their soil samples were analyzed, and they learned how to interpret their soil tests and to identify the requirements of their crops. Each farmer, using the information learned, built field and application plans with nutrient retention objectives.
  - **Agricultural research projects** sought to increase knowledge for producers, consultants and agriculture professionals in the areas of nutrient management, soil and water quality improvement, integrated pest management and production efficiency. Specific projects focused on western bean cutworm scouting at seven sites, five corn swine manure side-dress replicated plots, and two soybean fields for the Yield-Limiting Factors in Ohio Soybean Production study.
  - Fifty-two residents of Darke County attended the **Darke County Agriculture Bus Tour**. Six modern agriculture operations were highlighted. Attendees were able to learn factual information about alternative fuels and feed byproducts; precision agriculture; animal health, comfort and care; swine farrow to weaning; egg processing and manure management; and dairying in the 21st century.

**Darke County receives \$28,336 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- During the 2013 re-certification season, 244 Darke County farmers who hold a private pesticide applicator license attended a **Pesticide Applicator Recertification** session. Of the attendees, 91.5% reported they were better informed about compliance with pesticide and environmental regulations, 88.8% reported that they have increased the efficiency of their applications and 95.6% reported that they had improved personal safety practices as a result of their last training. Purdue University places a \$625 value per-hour on pesticide certification training based on Extension pest management knowledge, cooperation with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, prevention of individual and commercial mishandling of toxic chemicals and potential increases in productivity. In Darke County, this translates to \$457,500 of economic benefit.