



HURON County

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **SNAP-Ed**—Families in Huron County continue to struggle with high unemployment, which affects income and available resources. Nutrition, health and finances are important issues that are addressed by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)—formally known as the Family Nutrition Program. In 2013, SNAP-Ed provided over 100 nutrition programs to area participants, reaching almost 1,000 adults representing almost 2,000 people in their households. These programs encourage participants to make nutritional changes, which can improve their health and finances. Program participants reported they are reducing the amounts of saturated and trans-fats, consuming healthier lean protein and increasing consumption of fruits, vegetables and whole grains. Additionally, Huron County was chosen as one of three counties to pilot classes in the elementary schools with at least 50% or more of the children who are receiving free or reduced meals. The health of our children is very important to us, so SNAP-Ed taught 30 lessons to approximately 250 first graders in 2012–13. These classes will continue during the current 2013–14 school year with first and second grade students, as well as with all Head Start classes.
- **Master Gardeners**—Since 2012, Huron County Extension has trained over 30 new Master Gardener Volunteer candidates. Candidates obtain full volunteer status upon completing 50 hours of community service. Huron County Master Gardeners currently consist of 70 members and have documented over 10,000 volunteer hours over the last two years, contributing over \$200,000 to the local community.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **4-H Community Clubs**—4-H Clubs led by adult volunteer advisors are the heart of the 4-H program. Huron County had 53 4-H Clubs with 203 advisors and 1,072 members in 2013. Developing life skills is the overall goal of 4-H Youth Development. Goal setting and following through on commitments are two of the life skills that members gain by completing membership requirements. Of all members who joined 4-H in the spring, 94.5% were still members at the end of the year. Members completed 93% of all projects in which they enrolled.
- **4-H Camp at Camp Conger**—Huron County 4-H has been camping on the banks of the Huron River at Camp Conger since 1925. The Conger Family has graciously allowed 4-H to use their property for the benefit of Huron County 4-H. The Conger Family owns the land but leases it to Camp Conger Inc., on a 99-year lease. Huron County 4-H holds three camps at Camp Conger each year: Intermediate Resident Camp for sixth, seventh and eighth graders; Junior Resident Camp for third, fourth and fifth graders; and Cloverbud Day Camp for kindergarten through second graders. Last year there were 68 campers at Intermediate Resident Camp, 81 campers at Junior Resident Camp and 93 campers at Cloverbud Day Camp.
- **Older Youth Programs**—Older youth (ages 14–18) in 4-H have the opportunity to participate in 4-H activities beyond the club level. In 2013, 24% of all older 4-H youth took advantage of the opportunity to get involved. They served as 4-H Camp Counselors (40), Junior Fair Board members (41), 4-H Committee members (4) and CARTEENS peer teachers (11).

- **4-H CARTEENS**—4-H CARTEENS is a traffic safety program conducted by 4-H teen leaders with the Ohio State Highway Patrol for first-time juvenile traffic offenders. CARTEENS stands for CAution and Responsibility in TEEN drivers. The goal of the CARTEENS program is to increase teens' awareness of traffic/vehicular safety. One hundred eighty-one traffic offenders attended a CARTEENS education program during the past 12 months. A parent/guardian attends with each juvenile. Many parents indicate that this type of program would be beneficial for all teens before they get their driver's license. The teen participants take the program seriously and report plans to change their driving behavior. The program consists of a PowerPoint on texting while driving, safety/accident videos, graphic pictures of actual accidents and a talk by an Ohio State Highway Patrol trooper. The responses from the teens are positive, and many parents and teens thank Extension for presenting the program.

Observation and Recommendation Network newsletter, also known as the C.O.R.N. Newsletter, which is a weekly release from OSU Extension's Agronomic Crops Team. The newsletter has become a trusted tool for thousands of producers and crop advisors alike. In a detailed survey conducted statewide in 2010, users of the newsletter placed the newsletter's overall value at \$21,229,838 per year based on added crop yields and input savings as a result of using this management tool.

Huron County receives \$22,271 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Quality Assurance Training**—4-H members taking livestock as projects are livestock producers. Therefore, they must understand their role in raising animals that perform at their highest level and are a safe, wholesome product for consumers. Youth exhibiting market livestock at the fair must complete Quality Assurance Training. In 2013, 421 youth attended Quality Assurance Training. Following Quality Assurance Training, 71% of participants agreed that they changed their attitude about biosecurity and letting outsiders or other things around their livestock; 90% agreed that they will pay more attention to their animal's water, feed and shelter; and 86% agreed that they will try to use the animal behavior aspects of blind spot, flight zone and point of balance when moving livestock.
- **Cover Crop Education**—Cover crops have long been used as a soil conservation tool. In 2010, Huron County Extension teamed with Huron County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to write and secure a grant through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The Huron County SWCD was awarded \$812,000 to promote cover crops on 15,500 acres to help reduce sedimentation in the Huron and Vermilion river watersheds. Extension has provided education, crop recommendations and evaluation for the program. As of fall 2013, 12,000 acres have been protected by the addition of cover crops. Huron County Extension and Huron County SWCD are taking measurable steps to improve the water quality of Lake Erie.
- **C.O.R.N. Newsletter**—Huron County Extension has taken a lead role in the continued publication of the Crop