



JACKSON County

OHIO VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Jackson County 4-H** reached 645 4-H members and Cloverbud youth through 31 clubs, which is an 11.6% increase from 2012. Youth learned leadership, citizenship and life skills, and specific subject matter knowledge. These youth were directly impacted by 118 adult volunteers who exhibited the value of volunteerism and provided youth with a positive relationship with a caring adult.
- More than 250 high school students took part in **Real Money, Real World**, where they simulated life experiences while acquiring the necessary competencies for surviving in the real world. Many youth noted that they learned how expensive life in the real world can be and were more appreciative of what their parents went through to provide for them. Youth also commented that they were going to wait to have children after going through this process.
- In 2013, 56 third grade youth participated in school enrichment projects through the **ChickQuest** program. Youth mastered science skills, meeting statewide standards by following the development and hatching of eggs. In addition, 141 youth were involved in 4-H after school programming.
- At the **Westview Science Night**, 97 youth and 34 adults explored fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in collaboration with a number of community organizations. This interactive family activity helped meet a distinct need, as American students are still struggling with science proficiency. OSU Extension worked with the Raccoon Creek Partnership to provide one of six hands-on learning experiences.
- More than 450 second grade and special needs students and more than 60 volunteers participated in the fifth annual **Ag Experience Day** in cooperation with Farm Bureau and OARDC's Jackson research station. Students gained knowledge in science, math, agriculture and natural resources through 16 sessions. Students were able to apply their classroom lessons and increase their awareness of the variety of 4-H projects.
- Thirty-seven older 4-H youth served as **Junior Fair Board** members, which allowed them to demonstrate their leadership and communication skills. These young adults improved their leadership and decision making skills by participating in hands-on training. They applied what they learned by organizing and implementing educational learning experiences for 645 youth who gained valuable learning experiences through 1,058 projects. The county fair allowed 4-H members to develop and demonstrate their leadership abilities through planning and implementation of Junior Fair activities.
- With help from 22 volunteers, 124 non-livestock projects were completed by youth attending **General Projects Judging**. Youth further explored their individual subject matter and gained valuable interviewing skills as they communicated with the judges about their project work.
- Nearly 100 Jackson County youth gained educational experiences by attending overnight **4-H Camp** at Canter's Cave 4-H Camp/Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center. By taking part in one of four resident summer camps and other camps throughout the year, youth learned

about their environment and gained valuable socialization, communication, personal development and team building skills.

- During the overnight camping experiences, 13 teen counselors developed significant life skills while serving as **4-H Camp Counselors** for younger 4-H members. These youth were able to grow and develop while enhancing their leadership, counseling and communication skills through 24 hours of 4-H Camp Counselor Training.
- Nearly 600 youth participated in the **2013 Jackson County Junior Fair** exhibiting educational projects. Of those youth, 295 exhibited a market livestock project and participated in the 2013 Livestock Sale, which totaled \$230,966. Thanks to generous supporters, this was \$64,739 over market value. Much of the income received by these exhibitors goes toward current or future education expenses.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- OSU Extension partnered with OARDC's Jackson research station to host a **Beef and Forage Field Night**. More than 110 producers and landowners participated and learned the latest information on silage, forage seeding and heifer selection. Participants improved the efficiency of their enterprises and increased their knowledge of recommended production practices.
- Nearly 150 people attended the 52nd annual **Farm-City Field Day** at the Jackson County Fairgrounds. Participants learned about horse management, small acreage production and marketing, ODA regulations and current agricultural uses in the county. Many participants noted that they were not aware of the number of unique agricultural programs taking place in the county.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Jackson County is one of 18 Ohio counties funded by The U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide community nutrition education through the **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)**. EFNEP targets low-income youth and low-income families with young children and is fully grant funded. EFNEP helps participants acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and changed behavior necessary to achieve nutritionally sound diets. Jackson County shares an EFNEP program assistant with Vinton County. EFNEP reached a total of 26 low-income adults, impacting 107 people in participants' families, including 55 children. Each adult received an average of eight lessons on how to select more nutritional foods and on skills related to food preparation and food safety. Adults also learned

better methods to manage their food budgets and related resources such as food stamps.

- As a result of participating in EFNEP, individuals improved their skills related to **food resource management**, with 89% of participants showing improvement in one or more food resource management practices. Of participants, 56% more often planned meals in advance, 56% more often compared prices when shopping, 67% more often used a list for grocery shopping and 33% less often ran out of food before the end of the month.
- Individuals also improved their skills related to **nutrition practices**, with 100% of participants showing improvement in one or more nutrition practices. Of participants, 56% more often thought about healthy food choices when deciding what to feed their family, 78% more often used Nutrition Facts labels to make food choices, 33% more often prepared foods without adding salt and 100% of the graduates reported food intakes after the program that were close to the recommended amount.
- Lastly, 44% of participants showed improvement in one or more **food safety practices** such as thawing and storing foods properly.

Jackson County receives \$45,644 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.