



## LICKING County

### HEART OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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#### ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Quality Assurance Training** was presented to 913 youth members, 424 parents, and 141 community club advisors, using 32 adult volunteers and 51 teen leaders. This program educated youth on animal health and humane care and handling of livestock.
- Eighty-four private pesticide applicators received initial or continuing education credit as certified applicators by participating in a three-hour **Pesticide Applicator Training**. Ninety-four percent of the participants shared that they had gained new knowledge concerning pesticide safe handling and were more confident in their ability to determine when the use of a pesticide was warranted. A review of new invasive insects and herbicide-resistant weeds was included in the program.
- **Dairy Field Day**, which included a tour and industry updates, was held at Valley Run Farms, and 46 producers attended. This newly constructed facility can house 150 cows.

#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Fifty-one **Junior Fair Board** members volunteered approximately 10,200 hours to prepare programs that served 1,750 Junior Fair exhibitors. Evaluations indicated that 90% learned to better plan programs, 96% learned to deal with conflict more effectively and 95% learned to better facilitate events.
- Through programs such as Junior Fair Board, 4-H Camp Counselor Training, and 4-H CARTEENS, 117 teens were

provided training and skills development in leadership, public speaking, program planning, conflict management, community service, program evaluation and effective communications. Each youth contributed more than 150 hours of **service to community-based events**. Their service is valued at \$330,000.

- **4-H Camp** involved 178 youth ages 5–18, with 51 teen counselors and 29 adult volunteers participating in two camps (Cloverbud Day Camp and Summer Residential Camp). Youth counselors received an average of 35 hours of training and donated more than 150 hours to assisting other youth in their community. Youth gained training in leadership and public speaking, and they had the opportunity to interact with peers from throughout the county.
- Participating in Licking County's **74 4-H Clubs** were 1,566 youth ages 8–19 and 179 Cloverbuds in kindergarten through second grade. These youth enrolled in 3,071 projects that were supervised by 241 adult club advisors. The service that club advisors contribute is valued at \$454,800. Through community-based clubs, youth established a positive relationship with an adult, mastered a set of skills and engaged in service opportunities.
- **SNAP-Ed** served the Summer Food Service and Freedom School programs by providing 40 nutrition and physical activity programs to 903 children.
- **4-H school enrichment programs** helped 39 teachers of 2,164 students acquire additional science proficiency through classes/demonstrations from the Science of Sound, Chick Embryology, Go Plants, Invent, and Weather Together.



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- **4-H Grandletters** concluded its seventh year with 50 fourth grade students from Cherry Valley Elementary corresponding with their senior citizen “grandpals.” Students improved their writing and literacy skills.

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- A \$10,000 grant was received from the Licking County Senior Levy to teach **Dining with Diabetes** education classes to over 700 participants. As a result, participants reported weight loss, lowered A1C levels and lowered blood pressure. Also, 100% gained new knowledge and have implemented portion control, counting carbohydrates, exercising and cooking more.
- A **childhood obesity training and curriculum** was presented to 16 Licking County school nurses and piloted in May. Participants reported that 90% will eat more fruits and vegetables daily and 93% will be physically active every day.
- Over 1,200 Licking County citizens participated in **nutrition education classes**.
- Participating in **4-H CARTEENS** were 363 first-time juvenile traffic offenders who learned effective strategies for safe driving. The program was facilitated by 22 4-H teen leaders in partnership with the Licking County Juvenile Court.
- **Real Money, Real World**, a financial literacy program for youth, was introduced to 205 students in Granville and Johnstown. Students learned the impact of education on potential income, budgeting and the importance of saving money. The program included a simulation where community business partners and volunteers assisted students in meeting monthly expenses from a net income.
- **Master Gardener Volunteers**, 2013 State Platinum Award Winners, focused on backyard and local foods due to continued interest from the community in these areas. Methods of outreach included the Four Seasons of Gardening spring conference and the Fall Partnership Conference with Dawes Arboretum (Ohio Sustainable Landscape Symposium). The main topic was edible landscapes. Master Gardener Volunteers devoted 3,664 volunteer hours with a value of \$69,140.
- Master Gardener Volunteers created **awareness of the emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle and other insect pests** at the Hartford Fair to a record-breaking 924 contacts and visitors.
- The **2013 State Award-Winning Food Pantry Garden** produced 2,949 pounds of produce that was given to the Salvation Army of Newark. The cooks there used the produce in their meal plans to feed an average of 350 community members in need daily.
- **Horticulture-related questions** received by the Extension office consisted of 131 calls, 46 walk-ins and 10 emails between April and October.
- The **Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists (OCVN)** completed a new training in May. Seven participants reached their goals and will become certified this year. OCVN members have worked with individuals through Dawes Arboretum, in addition to presenting programs at Boy Scouts meetings, the Hartford Fair, two middle schools and Central Ohio parks. OCVNs devoted 2,023 hours this year with a value of \$38,052.63.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and provides classes to aid clients in stretching their food dollars. A total of 159 site visits were made throughout the county.
- Interactive classes on MyPlate, food safety and thrifty food shopping were offered to 1,281 residents. After participating in the classes, 633 participants indicated that they learned at least some new information and 586 reported that they learned a lot of new information. Eighty-five percent planned to make changes in their nutrition and food purchases.

## ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- The ServSafe Food Handler Program and the Person-in-Charge program trained over 120 people in **food safety education**, and 45 food service employees were trained. Of those, 100% passed the National ServSafe Certification Exam.

**Licking County receives \$42,142 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**