

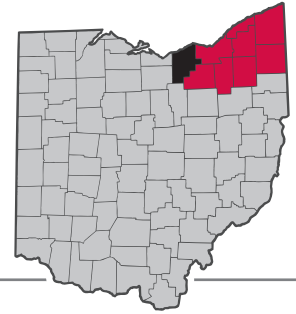


## LORAIN County

### WESTERN RESERVE EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

42110 Russia Road, Elyria, Ohio 44035-6813

Phone: (440) 326-5851    lorain.osu.edu/



#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- 4-H Youth Development**—This program reaches more than 1,873 Lorain County youth through 4-H Clubs and research-based educational programming. 4-H programming includes school enrichment, agricultural awareness, environmental education, after school programs, Cloverbud Day Camp and Junior Camp. Ninety-two community clubs provide youth with positive relationships with caring adults. During 2013, 331 volunteers assisted youth with developing life skills, communications activities, interpersonal relations, decision making and understanding responsibility.
- 4-H CARTEENS**—Driving accidents are the number one cause of fatalities for teenagers. In cooperation with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, the Lorain County Juvenile Court and a team of 11 4-H teen educators, OSU Extension's 4-H CARTEENS program offers peer education on risky driving behaviors to first-time driving offenders and their parents. During 2013, the CARTEENS educators provided peer to peer instruction to 483 first-time juvenile traffic offenders in Lorain County through interactive sessions on driving distractions, defensive driving, substance abuse and other irresponsible driving choices. Based on survey results, 100% of participants believed CARTEENS would help them improve their driving skills and make better choices when getting behind the wheel of a motor vehicle.
- Real Money, Real World**—In partnership with Wellington High School, 18 local business representatives and community volunteers, more than 100 high school students participated in Real Money, Real World. This program is an interactive financial literacy program that

provides youth a real look into the cost of maintaining a household and the interrelationships between education, jobs and money. Students learn the impact of education on their potential income as adults and the importance of budgeting and saving money. The program culminates with real-world simulation where community business partners and volunteers assist students in meeting their monthly expenses from a net income. The participants' self-assessment, which is compiled after the program, showed that 100% learned more information about the cost of supporting themselves and a family as well as the importance of education in financial stability.

- Quality Assurance Training**—Six Quality Assurance Training sessions were conducted for Lorain County Junior Fair exhibitors. This training is required in order for Junior Fair youth to exhibit market animals at Lorain County Fair. Best practices in production as recommended by the Ohio Department of Agriculture are taught to the youth. Over 200 Lorain and Cuyahoga County youth participated in livestock Quality Assurance Training taught by the Lorain County 4-H educator and county volunteers. Participants learned how to raise their 4-H livestock projects in a humane manner while safely contributing their market animal to our wholesome food supply. Proper animal care, nutrition, reading feed tag labels and the correct use of antibiotics were some of the topics addressed.
- Youth and Families of Promise (YFP)** is a prevention program designed to enhance the developmental assets of youth ages 10–14. This program targets youth and families who have below-average school performance, poor social

skills, and/or weak family bonds. Fifty-four fifth through eighth graders and their parents participated in the YFP after school program. Three family night events were held where parents and youth participated in a variety of family-friendly activities aimed at strengthening their families.

- **Junior Camp Counselor Training**—The Junior Camp experience provides valuable opportunities for teen leadership development and for building positive social relationships in a safe learning environment. This year 18 youth were trained to become 4-H Camp Counselors. As a result of the 4-H Camp Counselor Training, 98 campers enjoyed a safe, educational and fun camp. Of the counselors, 100% improved their knowledge of safe program planning, educational theory and human development characteristics.
- **Partnerships and Collaborations**—OSU Extension works with many local agencies and groups to deliver educational programming and research vital to clientele interest and needs. Some of the partnerships include the following:
  - Lorain County Commissioners
  - Lorain County Juvenile Court
  - Lorain County Senior and Junior Fair Boards
  - Lorain County Department of Jobs and Family Services
  - Lorain County Visitors Bureau
  - Leadership Lorain County
  - Local Food Pantries
  - Elyria City Schools (K-8 Classrooms and After School Care)
  - Family and Children First Council
  - Public Service Institute
  - Lorain County Soil and Water Conservation District
  - Farm Services Agency
  - Farm Bureau
  - Lorain County Metropolitan Parks
  - Friends of Junior Fair Board
  - Horizons Activity Centers
  - Ohio State Highway Patrol
  - Lorain County Community College
  - Lorain County Prosecutors Office
  - Boys & Girls Club of Lorain County
  - Salvation Army
  - We Share We Care
  - Catholic Charities
  - Family Nutrition Program

- The **Family Nutrition Program (FNP)** reached over 1,200 adult and youth residents of Lorain County during the 33 programs offered. The goal of this program is to improve the nutrition and food security of SNAP-Ed participants and eligible non-participants. As result of these programs, 93% of the participants reported that they learned new and useful information, and 82% of the participants reported that they plan to make changes in their behavior.
- More than 600 children took part in Lorain County's Family Nutrition Program at summer feeding sites. The children attending the six different sites learned a different nutrition or physical fitness activity each week. They made healthy snacks, learned about different fruits and vegetables and discovered new exercises.
- Weekly programs are conducted for Lorain County residents through Catholic Charities, Boys & Girls Club of Lorain County, LCADA, Lorain County Department of Jobs and Family Services and the Salvation Army. Program topics include nutrition, food safety and food shopping.
- **Master Gardner Helpline**—The Master Gardner helpline operated from mid-May to early October. During that time, 427 calls and walk-in clientele were assisted with home horticulture questions and challenges spearheaded by 23 Master Gardner Volunteers.

**Lorain County receives \$29,429 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**