



## OTTAWA County

### ERIE BASIN EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- 4-H teens from Ottawa County helped promote 4-H to third grade classrooms in area schools during **4-H Awareness Week** in February. The teens were able to teach the third graders about the agricultural process of how popcorn is grown and produced. The teens who helped administer the program gained public speaking and demonstration skills when presenting to the students. The third graders were able to take home brochures highlighting 4-H Clubs and activities to raise awareness with their families of all that 4-H has to offer.
- **Real Money, Real World**, an OSU Extension signature program, offers hands-on training for younger teens to make lifestyle and budget choices that they will be faced with when they become adults. The program was used in spring 2013 in Ottawa County at Danbury Middle School and Oak Harbor Middle School for their eighth grade classes. The students were taught six in-class lessons to prepare them for a hands-on simulation. These lessons taught the students how occupation affects income, how decisions have to be made based on available funds and how checking and savings accounts work.
- **4-H CARTEENS** is used with first-time juvenile traffic offenders. The program presents factual information to promote safe driving techniques with the intent of reducing the number of teen traffic violations and accidents. The Ottawa County Juvenile Court and Sheriff's Department issues the offenders to the program. When the offenders leave, they have a renewed knowledge of driving laws.

- The Ottawa County **4-H school enrichment program** offered 15 different programs and kits to kindergarten through fifth grade teachers. The programs that are offered meet the Ohio Educational Learning Standards for each grade and incorporate hands-on learning and skills development for youth. When the programs and kits are brought into the classrooms, the students learn in-depth information on the subjects being offered. These programs and kits help not only the students, but they also help the teachers teach the content required by the Ohio Educational Learning Standards.

#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- One hundred forty-four nutrition, food shopping and food safety programs were presented through **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** to 1,339 participants in 2013. Of participants, 97% indicated they learned new information, and 91% stated they planned to make changes. There were 64 single lessons, 62 series programs that consisted of three lessons taught in each series and 14 series programs that consisted of five lessons in each series.
- Ottawa County SNAP-ED partnered with United Way to provide nutrition education to 87 children at three **Summer Food Service Program** sites. The youth were taught the concept of MyPlate and the importance of eating more fruits and vegetables.
- Ottawa County Department of Jobs and Family Services and Ottawa County SNAP-Ed partnered to offer **Spending Less, Living Better**, a class for limited-income families. The class



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emphasized the importance of planning a nutritious meal, shopping from a grocery list and resisting buying extras.

- Thirty **senior programs** were presented at six senior centers in the county. These programs were prepared with the specific nutrition and food safety needs of 357 senior participants in mind.
- Ottawa County SNAP-Ed also reaches out to over 950 families who benefit from the **Holiday Bureau**. The families receive a packet with a SNAP-Ed newsletter, a 2013 nutrition and fitness calendar and USDA MyPlate tips on how to eat healthier.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Ohio Sea Grant has conducted a variety of **learn-to-fish programs and activities** to expand beneficial impacts to Lake Erie's fisheries, economy and people by increasing sustainable sport fishing participation. Programming includes information on basic gear, organism identification, skills and regulations, and it often culminates in children catching their first fish. All programming is ecosystem-based so that lessons learned are applicable outside the world of fishing. In 2012, 361 people enrolled in Ohio Sea Grant sport fishing programs. Programs were delivered in collaboration with Stone Laboratory, Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, Baldwin-Wallace University and OSU Extension. A conservative estimate based on observation and verbal feedback shows that 75% of participants had a positive outdoor experience and learned at least one new skill applicable to sport fishing.
- Aquatic invasive species (AIS) pose substantial threats to Ohio's environment, industries and economy. The current Ohio Comprehensive Management Plan (OCMP) for AIS was drafted in 1995. **Ohio Sea Grant** developed a partnership with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife (ODW) and OSU Extension to co-chair the state's AIS advisory committee and provide public, academic, industry and inter-agency input to AIS policies and the OCMP.
- Professional fishing tournaments are untargeted venues that may exacerbate the invasion risk posed by aquatic invasive species (AIS), including zooplankton and pathogens. Many professional anglers are unaware of simple activities that may reduce that risk. Tournament anglers/directors need a set of best management practices to incorporate AIS prevention steps into operations. In 2011–2012, a \$25,966 **subcontract from Wisconsin Sea Grant on a Great Lakes Networkwide project** enabled Ohio Sea Grant to work with tournament organizers and identify where AIS prevention steps may be applied. An additional \$20,309 subcontract

secured in 2012 will continue this work through 2014. The second year of this regionwide effort showed a marked increase in the use of best management practices, and influential professional tournament anglers were more aware of AIS as a result of outreach efforts.

**Ottawa County receives \$29,876 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**