



## PIKE County

### OHIO VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

313 Mill Street, Piketon, Ohio 45661  
 Phone: (740) 289-4837     [pike.osu.edu/](http://pike.osu.edu/)



#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **Pike County 4-H** continued growth with 2,334 youth participating in activities led by 250 adult volunteers. Fifty-seven organized community clubs provided positive and sustaining relationships that provided safe, inclusive environments for youth to determine goals, make decisions and envision their future. Members developed leadership and interviewing skills as part of being club members and officers, as well as completing their selected projects.
- There were 833 students involved in **educational opportunities** through Breads of Harvest, Critters in the Classroom, Fishy Science, Go Plants!, Splash 2 O, Beans about Water, Rockets Away! and Incredible Egg. Through school enrichment, students acquire independent learning skills, group processing and information that help them attain state proficiency standards. The Pike County 4-H Committee provides support and materials for these programs held in the schools.
- More than 520, third graders from Pike County and surrounding areas and nearly 50 volunteers participated in the annual **Agricultural Experience Day** in cooperation with the local Farm Bureau Organization. Students gained knowledge in the areas of science, math, agriculture and natural resources. Students were able to apply their classroom lessons and increase their awareness of the variety of 4-H programming.
- **4-H Camp** remains one of our main youth development programs in the county, with 238 children attending five overnight summer camps, and 20 area teens working as counselors to ensure all participants have a safe and fun

camp. Teens are required to attend a two-day **4-H Camp Counselor Training**, which enhances their leadership and workforce development skills. A total of 175 teens from 11 different counties attended this year's training.

- The **Pike County Fair** is the largest event in the county and gives 4-H members the opportunity to exhibit their projects. The positive relationships among the Pike County County Commissioners, Pike County Agricultural Society, OSU Extension, 4-H volunteers and parents brings the community together for a week of social activity, health and well-being.

#### ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Agricultural resource assistance** is provided to Pike County producers in farm management topics such as developing farm leases, negotiating cash rents, enterprise analysis and budgeting and explanation of Current Agricultural Use Value property tax changes. Agronomic production topics include pesticide training and recertification, planting recommendations, and weed identification. Livestock producers receive assistance with ration balancing, developing herd health programs, Quality Assurance Training and marketing strategies. Many farm visits help horticultural producers resolve crisis situations relative to plant disease, spray drift and insect control. Pike County has had an increase in the number of farms, and total agricultural sales are \$19.3 million.
- In 2013, the Pike County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educator planned and taught at two **Small Farm Colleges** that were attended by 63 people. Participant

surveys indicated that 42% of the participants were female, 3% were minority or economically disadvantaged farmers and 78% were new clientele to Extension programming. The average farm size was 76 acres with average ownership of 12 years. Post-program surveys indicated 74% of the participants developed or changed their farm-use plan after attending these colleges.

- **Increasing Profitable Crop Yields Above Trendline** is an OSU Extension signature program. Local programs help producers improve their yields and adopt management strategies to improve profitability. A “Forages for Horses” school was attended by 23 producers; educators provided information on forage utilization, hay quality and matching forage resources to animal needs. Emphasis within the Ohio Valley Extension Education and Research Area has focused on forage production and management. A field night at OARDC’s Jackson Outlying Agricultural Research Station was attended by 120 persons. According to pre- and post-surveys, participants indicated they increased their knowledge 14% on 10 topics relative to forage seeding, preservation and beef cattle management.
- Working with community volunteers, **Pike Gardeners Unlimited** reached 38 participants in its third year. The project promotes community gardening as a method to educate people in raising their own food supply. Educators provided technical expertise to volunteers and participants and coordinated the newsletter. Monthly meetings at the garden helped participants learn planting and cultural practices, identify and control pests and learn about food preservation. The need for food assistance in Pike County has doubled in the last three years, so promotional efforts target Bridgehaven residents and food pantry recipients.

- In May 2013 in Columbus, Ohio, the Pike County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educator was the guest speaker for 100 health professionals at **Appalachia Community Cancer Network Research Seminar**. The presentation was titled, “Cooking Matters: Empowering Families in Appalachia to Eat Healthy.” As a result of speaking, the educator was contacted by the Susan G. Komen Foundation in Columbus to talk about Cooking Matters for possible grant funding.
- The Pike County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educator partnered with Pike Adena Medical Center, YMCA and Pike Healthy Lifestyles Initiative Coalition to conduct an eight-week series titled, “**Pike County Tackles Diabetes.**” Twenty-five people who have diabetes and/or who are at risk for diabetes are enrolled in the program.
- The Pike County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educator provides leadership for the **Family and Nutrition Program (FNP)**. Between 2012 and 2013, FNP reached 1,738 participants during 209 scheduled classes. The Pike County FNP 2012–2013 budget was \$40,334, and the total FNP funding in Pike County from 1994 to the present is \$672,748.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** targets SNAP-eligible recipients, teaching basic nutrition, food safety, meal management, food security and food budgeting.
- Twelve **Summer Food Service Programs** provided nutrition education to 28 school-aged children in summer 2013.

**Pike County receives \$40,334 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.**

## **STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES**

- The **Pike Healthy Lifestyles Initiative (PHLI)** serves to identify, address, improve and educate Pike residents regarding healthy lifestyles. The Pike County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educator, three PHLI members and the Pike County SNAP-Ed program assistant were trained as facilitators for Cooking Matters at the Grocery Store, which has had over 50 people participate in grocery store tours in Pike County. Family and Consumer Sciences educators taught portion control, taste testing, recipe demonstrations and Cooking Matters at the Grocery Store, and a poster abstract was accepted for the All FCS EFNEP and SNAP-Ed Conference in November 2013 for Cooking Matters at the Grocery Store. Family and Consumer Sciences educators also taught portion control, taste testing and recipe demonstrations.