

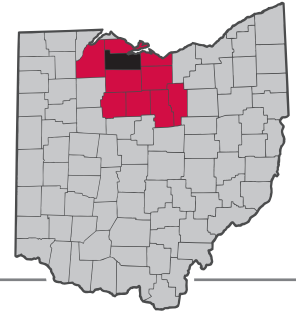


## SANDUSKY County

### ERIE BASIN EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Seven hundred forty-nine youth ages 5–18 took part in the **4-H Community Club Program**, where they had the opportunity to build leadership and communication skills, provide service to their community and learn about topic areas of their choice. 4-H Clubs are comprised of youth members who work together to hold business meetings, participate in educational activities and complete community service projects under the direction of screened and trained adult volunteer advisors. A total of 133 adult volunteers served as club advisors for 34 different 4-H Clubs in 2013. Community clubs include both project member and Cloverbud programs, designed specifically to meet the age-related interests and abilities of the youth. Program evaluations indicate that the two most significant impacts of youth participating in the program are building communication skills and developing a sense of responsibility for one's own actions.
- At **4-H Junior Camp** on Kelleys Island, 117 youth campers and counselors participated in five days of outdoor educational activities lead by Extension staff, adult volunteers and teen counselors. Campers ages 9–13 learned about environmental issues, healthy outdoor recreation, independence and communication.
- Twenty-six teen leaders served as **4-H Camp Counselors** at Cloverbud Day Camp, Junior Camp, or both. Teens planned and led camp sessions and supervised campers. Counselors built leadership skills and learned about child development, behavior management, handling emergencies, teaching effectively and dealing with stressful situations. These teens

dedicated more than 2,000 volunteer hours to create an excellent experience for young campers.

- **4-H CARTEENS**, a teen driving safety program provided through a partnership between OSU Extension, Sandusky County Juvenile Court and the Ohio State Highway Patrol, reached 151 teens in 2013. Program participants complete hands-on, interactive stations where they learn about laws, speeding, distracted driving and other driving-related topics. Program evaluations indicate 92.7% of the participants plan to change their driving habits to be more cautious, limit distractions or be more aware when they are behind the wheel.
- **“Exploring Your Backyard” Sandusky County Natural Resource Day** was held in September for the fourteenth year. This two-day program introduces fourth graders to the different natural and agricultural resources present in Sandusky County. Over 675 students from 13 different schools participated in 2013. The program is made possible through the help of over 100 teen and adult volunteers who teach sessions, lead activities and serve as student guides. Evaluations from both teachers and presenters found the program to be an excellent teaching and learning experience for the students. This program is a collaboration between Extension, Sandusky County Soil and Water District, Sandusky County Parks District and Farm Bureau.

#### ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Northern Ohio Crops Day** continues to be our largest and best-attended agricultural program. This program has



continued to address timely topics that can have a positive impact on producers' bottom line. One hundred eighty participants learned how these issues could be affecting their operations and management decisions for the coming crop year. Of the participants, 80 received either private or commercial pesticide recertification credits, and 27 certified crop advisors were able to obtain continuing educational units for their certification. The program is sponsored by seventeen local ag businesses, the Erie Basin EERA and fees paid by participants.

- The Sandusky/Ottawa County **Master Gardeners** continue to have a very strong presence within the two county communities. The Master Gardeners participated in the following major projects: the 7th annual Master Gardener Plant Sale, the Plant the Seed Program for Cloverbuds, a vegetable demonstration garden at the health department and the Sandusky County Juvenile Court's Youth Works Program (where they beautified the Sandusky County Court House and other county facilities).

## **STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES**

- As of September 2013, 7,263 people in Sandusky County received **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** benefits. The OSU Extension SNAP-Ed program provided nutrition-related education to 1,111 of these program participants in 2013. These educational programs are offered through collaboration and partnerships with many county organizations and agencies, including Homes Casas, Inc.; Corporate Anointing Ministries; Delaware Acres Apt; Fremont City Schools (Summer Food Service Program and GRADS); the food pantry; Job Store; Job and Family Services; Liberty Center; Ohio Migrant Education Parents; Quarry Village Apt; Sandco Peak Industries; local seniors centers; Share and Care; the local soup kitchen; and WIC. Approximately 2,400 people were also reached through other educational communications and events in the form of newsletters, fact sheets and calendars. The Midwest Region Food and Nutrition Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have been the funders for Extension's SNAP-Ed program for 18 years.

**Sandusky County receives \$31,375 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**