



SENECA County

ERIE BASIN EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- In 2013, Seneca County welcomed one new **4-H Club** with a total of 44 clubs under the guidance of 167 volunteers. Membership totaled 1,008 4-H youth, ages 8–19, in traditional club experiences and 110 youth, ages 5–7, active in the Cloverbud activities. Club activities and project work provided members the opportunity to explore subject matter areas through “learning by doing” experiences. Members also developed life skills in decision making, teamwork, leadership, responsibility, communication, interpersonal relationships and interview techniques. As a result, youth gained self-esteem, the ability to set goals and many more life skills to help prepare them for adulthood.
- In 2013, 138 sixth, seventh and eighth graders from Seneca East, Bettsville, New Riegel and Old Fort Junior High School participated in the OSU Extension signature program, **Real Money, Real World**. Topics included how occupation affects income, calculating deductions, using checking and savings accounts and deciding between wants versus needs. Student comments included the following: “I will change asking my parents for so much money,” “The real world costs a lot of money. Don’t have children ‘till you have lots of money;” “I plan on not buying everything I want,” “I learned that some things are more expensive than I think,” “I will change how I spend my money;” and more.
- One hundred two junior campers, ages 8–13, gained life skills in communication, teamwork, leadership, citizenship and more as a result of their **4-H Junior Camp** experience. In addition to building new friendships, youth experienced group living and learned to get along with others. Campers’

evaluations indicated they gained independent living skills, teamwork experiences, confidence and self-esteem. Parent comments included the following: “My child became more independent,” “ My child has shown more confidence since being home,” “Camp provides a great opportunity for youth to develop relationships outside of school friends;” and “Camp provided opportunities for gaining leadership skills while helping younger campers.”

- Thirty-two older 4-H youth received 24 hours of training to assure roles and responsibilities as **4-H Camp Counselors**. These young people increased their knowledge of topics such as liability issues, developmental characteristics of children ages 8–13, first aid, emergency procedures, managing behavior, identifying child abuse and neglect, conflict management and guidelines for planning a quality camp program. Counselors-in-training were provided the opportunity to develop counselor skills by working side-by-side with experienced counselors. They felt this training experience was helpful in preparing them to be more effective as camp counselors in 2014.
- **Awareness Team programs** were presented to 33 third and fourth grade classes in the Tiffin City, Fostoria City and Seneca County Schools. Programs were developed based on the Ohio Educational Standards for third and fourth graders, and focused on solids and liquids. Teacher comments included the following: “GREAT PROGRAM! I loved that it fit perfectly into the curriculum. They always enjoy the activities!” and “I have been a teacher for 30 years and have heard this program for many of them. It is always fun, interesting and informative. Ann Golden always does a



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terrific job getting the message of 4-H to my students.”

- **4-H CARTEENS** is a new program initiated in Seneca County this year. More than 12 older 4-H youth were trained as CARTEENS instructors to teach the specially designed curriculum to youth ages 16–19 who had received a first-time driving offence. The CARTEENS curriculum addresses the following driving concerns: speeding, the importance of wearing seat belts while driving, the effects of driving while impaired and the effects of cell phone and text messaging use while driving. A total of 68 youth completed the program in 2013. Sixty-four percent of CARTEENS participants rated the program as excellent, and 32% rated it as good. Participant comments included the following: “I relearned a lot of things I had forgotten. I will reduce the amount of distractions in my car” and “I liked the impaired vision because it makes you realize how much alcohol affects you. I will definitely keep my phone in my pocket!”

“Dehydration,” “Honey I Shrunk the Garden,” “Weeds,” “Totally Awesome Annuals,” “Ground Covers” and “Fragrances in the Garden.” For a second year, a \$500 scholarship was presented to a college student majoring in plant science who resided in or graduated from a Seneca County high school.

Seneca County receives \$35,552 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **SNAP-Ed**, formally known as the Family Nutrition Program, provided education on nutrition (based on MyPlate), menu planning, saving food dollars and food safety to many partner agencies within Seneca County including Seneca County General Health Districts Immunization Clinics, WIC Clinics, Healthy Options for Teens and Senior Health Clinics, Senior Housing units such as the Kiwanis Manor and Charles Meadow Apartments, Tiffin and Fostoria Commission on Aging, Attica Food Pantry, Salvation Army and Attica Library. There were a total of 644 adult direct education classes in 2013. As a result of these classes, the 600 program participants learned either some or a lot of new information. They also reported they would be changing behavior as a result of the instruction. Clients have indicated on evaluations that the information has helped them make healthier choices and has helped them save money at the grocery store.
- Seneca County also participates in the **Summer Food Service Program** in which SNAP-Ed travels to food service sites and delivers to school-aged children information regarding nutrition and MyPlate, as well as interactions with physical activity and food safety. This summer the program reached 134 students who took information home to their parents, making it possible to reach more households.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Seneca County has over 40 active **Master Gardener Volunteers**. In 2013, the Master Gardeners planned and hosted for the public the following educational programs: