



SHELBY County

TOP OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **4-H volunteers** are critical to the success of Shelby County 4-H. Nine new volunteers completed the screening and orientation process. In all, 150 volunteers (totaling approximately 1,275 volunteer years) provided leadership to 31 community-based clubs, enabling 956 4-H members (148 of those Cloverbuds) to have positive youth development experiences.
- Young people know **4-H Camp** is fun, and youth development experts know 4-H Camp helps build critical life skills for both campers and youth counselors. 4-H Camp helps build teamwork, communications and leadership, cultivating the job readiness skills employers look for, all while giving campers a chance to connect to nature. Lasso Good Times at 4-H Camp 2013 provided the setting for 141 youth (including 42 teen camp counselors) to develop life skills. Teen camp counselors completed 24 hours of training prior to camp. Five additional adult volunteers also assisted.
- Emphasis on community service projects attracted up to 20 teens to attend **Junior Leadership Club** monthly meetings. Teens are involved from project conception to completion. Teens reported gaining valuable leadership and teamwork skills, plus a sense of pride.
- Twenty-eight teens served as **Junior Fair Board** members, which allowed them the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and communication skills. These young adults improved in their decision making, public speaking and conflict management skills through real-life situations. Members planned, organized and implemented shows and contests at the Shelby County Fair.

- More than ever, the youth of today need a clear understanding of how to manage their finances. **Real Money, Real World**, an OSU Extension signature program, gives middle school and high school students an understanding of how current income and life choices affect future income. Participants learn how much to expect to pay for housing, transportation and childcare, and how to balance wants versus needs. This hands-on program was offered to 187 eighth graders at Sidney Middle School. Students were helped by 15 community volunteers to achieve balanced budgets.
- **Quality Assurance Training**, an Ohio Department of Agriculture-mandated program, educates youth on the proper care of animals and on good production practices. A total of 300 youth completed Quality Assurance Training by attending one of the sessions offered in Shelby County or another county, or by testing out of the program altogether. This year's program was revamped to include more hands-on activities and less lecturing. Many positive reviews were received from the attendees.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The grant-funded **Family Nutrition Program (FNP)** supports a program assistant in reaching individuals who are receiving (or who are eligible for) food assistance benefits. The program teaches about food safety, food preparation, food security and food shopping. Direct contacts reached 1,177 adults and 241 youths, with a total population of 1,418 participants. Thirty-eight single lessons and 118 series of three to nine lessons were taught. Seventy-six percent

of lessons were taught in series. Ninety-seven percent of participants reported that new information was learned, while 84% planned to make changes. The total number of participants reached through indirect programming was 11,195. An Ohio ag researcher's calculations proved that this program more than pays for itself in reduced cases of foodborne illnesses and is a beneficial use of taxpayer dollars, with benefits almost nine times as great as the costs for the food safety component of the program.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Diverse **integrated pest management research** once again surveyed western bean cutworms. Three farmers cooperated to contribute research data to these statewide projects. In addition, trapping for various insects in corn and wheat for Ohio Department of Agriculture research was done.
- A total of 325 people attended **West Ohio Agronomy Day**, supported by 22 agribusinesses. Integrated pest management principles were emphasized, and 209 farmers from Shelby and neighboring counties were provided private pesticide recertification credits. Sessions emphasized profitable and environmentally sound crop fertility practices. Extension specialists from Purdue and OSU Extension taught various segments of the program. Thirty certified crop advisors earned continuing education credits.
- OSU Extension again planned and hosted the 25-member Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class for an **Ag Day Educational Forum**. Multi-agency partners shared agriculture's production efficiency, economic viability, social responsibility and environmental compatibility. A tour of a beef and a dairy farm, an erosion display and a precision agricultural technology company capped the day.
- **Master Gardener Volunteers**, trained by OSU Extension, help Extension share research-based information with gardeners through workshops, community gardens and one-on-one consultations. Nineteen active Master Gardener Volunteers and 10 Master Gardener Interns reported over 989 hours of volunteer service, helping clientele address home horticultural concerns in an economic and environmentally sound way. In addition, 14 new Master Gardeners were trained this spring. Of the 11 trainees for Shelby County, seven had earned official Master Gardener status by the annual banquet in October.
- Four different farmers participated in **Beef Cattle School webinars** and one farmer received his PQA+ certification through training offered at the Extension office. Farmers were provided with up-to-date research-based information

and knowledge to help maximize and strengthen their farming operations.

- Two farmers participated in the statewide research project to identify **factors that limit soybean yields**.
- Seventy-five high school youth were introduced to pasture and grasslands management through **Environthon Training**.
- Over 75 individuals heard about OSU Extension activities during **agricultural presentations** at Anna Young Farmers, Jackson Center FFA, Anna Lutheran Brotherhood and the Shelby County Dairy Banquet.
- **Weekly radio programs** on WCSM reached audiences in Shelby, Mercer, and Auglaize counties. **Periodical articles** in the *Sidney Daily News* were available to both subscribers and online readers. Topics for both included local as well as statewide OSU Extension activities.
- In addition to those that subscribe directly, copies of the **C.O.R.N., BEEF, Dairy, and Ohio Ag Manager Newsletters** were sent to 37 farmers in Shelby county from the Shelby County Extension office.
- Over 120 **individual requests for information** were answered. Most of these dealt with insect/weed identification and land rent/leasing issues.

Shelby County receives \$30,960 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.