



## WARREN County

### MIAMI VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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#### ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Locally grown, healthy food is important to Warren County citizens. OSU Extension works directly with local growers at the **Southwestern Ohio Fruit and Vegetable Grower School** to provide information on food safety and crop protection. In 2013, more than 20 Ohio growers, representing 1,993 acres of produce, attended the school. Based upon their evaluations, growers expected to increase their profits over \$40,358 by using management information from the school.
- Learning to grow food at home was a popular subject of OSU Extension programming and personal consultations. Warren County Extension held a **backyard grower school** to teach individuals how to grow fruits and vegetables at home. More than 40 people attended the school, and 97% of the participants indicated they planned to use something they learned to improve their own gardens. Between personal consultations and public meetings, more than 200 individuals were taught how to grow their own food at home.
- Increasing agronomic crop and forage yield through the correct use of pesticides was a primary focus at **OSU Extension's 2013 Agronomy Meeting**. During 2013, 27 farmers, representing 25,964 acres, were provided up-to-date, research-based information to better manage their crops. Evaluations indicated farmers expected to see a profit increase of \$31.97 per acre based upon recommendations from the training.
- Warren County has the fourth largest number of horses in Ohio, and the equine industry is a significant contributor to the local economy. OSU Extension provided **free**

**consultations for horse owners** to help them improve their hay and pasture field management. More than 20 horse farms were helped by Warren County Extension in 2013.

- Working cooperatively with OSU Extension, more than 40 **Warren County Master Gardener Volunteers** donated over 2,100 hours of time—a value of more than \$43,000—to community service projects in the county. The projects included educational gardens, school programs and adult education.

#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Ohio Works First** clients were provided practical lessons on employability skills, exploring personal values, coping with change and stress, consumer skills and communication skills. Over 90 hours of classroom training were provided in 2013 to more than 180 of these clients.
- **Tough Work: Understanding and Serving People in Poverty While Caring for Yourself** curriculum was published in fall 2013. Trainings continue to provide volunteers and staff at non-profit organizations practical information on poverty, working with people in poverty, caring for yourself as a volunteer/staff member and how to link those in need with community resources. One hundred twenty individuals were taught topics from Tough Work curriculum in 2013.
- Thirty-three first-time homebuyers were taught **homeownership budgeting**, and over 20 clients of the **Transitions Program at Metropolitan Housing** were taught budgeting and housekeeping skills. Also, volunteers with the **Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children** were trained regarding working effectively with families in poverty.

## PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- In partnership with local high schools, businesses and community volunteers, more than 1,100 high school students from six local schools participated in **Real Money, Real World**, an interactive financial literacy program that teaches youth about the costs of maintaining a household and the interrelationships between education, jobs and money.
- Two hundred two young people from around Warren County participated in three local **4-H Camps**. Campers had the opportunity to engage in individual and group living skills, developmentally appropriate recreational activities and healthy decision making.
- Sixty-one Warren County teen counselors were involved in **4-H Camp Counselor Training**, which involved over 30 hours in team building, leadership development, and program planning skills. The training also enhanced teens' understanding of child behavior and development as well as camp risk management issues.
- **Warren County 4-H** is built on the premise of "learning by doing." In 2013, 978 youth from 47 4-H Clubs participated in 2,480 projects in 176 project areas. Twenty-nine newly trained volunteers joined 223 experienced leaders to guide and support club activities and county events, promoting leadership, citizenship and character development.
- In cooperation with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and Warren County Juvenile Court, a team of 14 4-H teen educators provided peer-to-peer instruction to 526 first-time juvenile traffic offenders in Warren County through interactive sessions on seatbelt use; defensive driving; and the consequences of road rage, substance abuse and other irresponsible driving choices. Based on survey results, 97% of participants believed the **4-H CARTEENS** program would help them improve their driving skills.
- Eleven senior 4-H youth participated in a wide **variety of statewide camps and one national trip opportunity**. Participants received full or partial scholarships to Sea Camp, Leadership Camp, Forestry Camp and Citizenship Washington Focus in the amount of \$6,000 from the Warren County 4-H Committee.
- Ten **graduating seniors were awarded a total of \$5,000** with the support of the Warren County 4-H Committee, Warren County Horse Advisors, 4-H CARTEENS and local 4-H alumni and their families.
- More than 950 4-H youth and over 450 parents and adult volunteers participated in **Warren County Junior Fair** activities. County fair participation is designed to showcase project knowledge, leadership, citizenship and sportsmanship through exhibits, interviews and contests.

Experts evaluated more than 5,000 4-H projects, offering feedback to participants through placings as well as verbal and written evaluations based on performance, knowledge, communication skills and positive attitude.

- Forty-two teens from throughout the county served on the **Warren County Junior Fair Board**. Together, members completed over 3,000 hours of volunteer service as they committed to a yearlong program of training and meetings designed to prepare them to organize and conduct the Junior Fair events and shows.
- Forty-eight youth, new to the **4-H Horse Program**, developed and improved their knowledge and skills in horse safety and equine nutrition as part of a 4-H safety, ethics and horse management program. In addition, more than 225 youth and adults involved in the 4-H Horse Program participated in two clinics focusing on showmanship, horsemanship, reining, show ring etiquette, show attire and helmet safety.