



WYANDOT County

ERIE BASIN EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- The Wyandot County 4-H Advisory Council determined to revamp the livestock Skillathon offered to 4-H members. This event, designed to test a participant's knowledge of all aspects of an animal species, uses the experiential learning model of exploring, reflecting and applying that knowledge. A prominent, locally based corporate partner made a multi-year commitment to provide \$2,100 annually to be used as prize money for two age divisions in each of seven species competitions. Three new Learning Laboratory Kits were purchased for species with the greatest participation. Youth participation numbered 106, with certificates and awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awarded at the respective species show at the Wyandot County Fair. Five Wyandot County 4-H members who had participated in the **new Wyandot County Skillathon** placed in the top 10 for their age group and species participation at the Ohio State Fair. Those members who competed in Skillathon at the Ohio State Fair identified the Wyandot County Skillathon as invaluable preparation for state fair competition.
- In 2013, 63 adult volunteers made possible the completion of 318 still projects and 559 livestock projects for 517 **Wyandot County 4-H** members. 4-H members presented their project work in face-to-face interviews with volunteer judges who tested members' project knowledge in question-and-answer dialogue. Judges identified 41 still projects to advance to Ohio State Fair competition where four members achieved "Outstanding of the Day" awards in their respective projects. Volunteer livestock judges named 52 4-H members to receive "Outstanding Interview"

certificates. Two volunteer judges from neighboring counties complimented Wyandot County 4-H members on the high quality of the project work and the maturity exhibited during the project interviews. Several 4-H members have recently cited the interview judging process as contributing to their ability to converse with adults and to their self-esteem.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- In 2013, the Wyandot County Extension Community Development educator served as the **Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E)** practitioner for Wyandot County and facilitated the program in conjunction with the Wyandot County Office of Economic Development. In the process, the Wyandot County Extension Community Development educator identified concerning trends while helping public and development officials create a narrative of the local economy. 2013 BR&E surveys also identified information for use by other groups including the Wyandot County Health Alliance and JobsOhio, the State of Ohio's private economic development agency.
- The 2013 BR&E program identified two needed infrastructure projects necessary for the expansion of two local businesses. Through working with local, regional and state-level partners, the Wyandot County Extension Community Development educator thus far helped approve a total of \$695,000 in grant funding toward the two projects. As a result, an estimated total of 50 new full-time jobs and over \$7 million in local machinery and equipment investment has been committed.

Wyandot County receives \$29,101 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.

- In March 2013, the Wyandot **County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)** was approved by the U.S. Economic Development Administration after nearly 1.5 years of planning, developing and updating. This document provides information on Wyandot County's demographics, culture, geography, transportation systems and resources, while providing a structured approach to increasing economic sustainability through specific projects. It also makes Wyandot County eligible to receive assistance for various local economic development projects.
- The **Wyandot County Young Professionals (WCYP)** group was designed and founded at the beginning of 2013 under leadership from the Wyandot County Extension Community Development educator. The WCYP works to develop future, local business and community leaders by providing continuing education and development opportunities, and by acting as a network of resources for its members. The group also serves as a retention tool for younger talent as well as an attraction tool for potential business. In 2013 the WCYP garnered funds to support the group and created scholarships for two local graduating high school seniors.
- The **Wyandot County Regional Planning Commission (WCRPC)** received leadership from the Wyandot County Extension Community Development educator, who serves as WCRPC's executive director. The educator provided daily education to local residents concerning local subdivision regulations and safe and efficient land use planning, which increased local awareness of sound lot development practices.
- In 2013, WCRPC amended various portions of the Wyandot County Subdivision Regulations. The Wyandot County Extension Community Development educator provided awareness to those involved of the procedures necessary to complete this process as identified in the Ohio Revised Code, and successfully amended the local regulations in April 2013. The amendments streamlined the application submittal requirements making the process less burdensome for local land owners and set forth updated survey requirements necessary for new lots, which assisted WCRPC in its ability to carry out its floodplain administration duties.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Wyandot County reached 710 adults directly and 2,302 adults indirectly in 2013 through **SNAP-Ed**, formerly called the Family Nutrition Program. The program was created to teach nutrition, food safety and food shopping to low-income adults. Of those who participated in classes, 99% said they learned a lot or some new information, and 86% said they planned on making some or a lot of changes.