

2014 County Highlights



ADAMS County

OHIO VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

215 North Cross Street, Room 104, West Union, Ohio 45693-1394

Phone: (937) 544-2339 adams.osu.edu



In 2014, Adams County Extension joined colleagues across the nation in celebrating Extension's centennial. The centennial was acknowledged in May on the courthouse steps and again at the fair, where the Adams County Board of Commissioners, past and present, were recognized as the 2014 4-H VIPs by the 4-H Advisory Committee for their ongoing support of local Extension and 4-H programs.

The Adams County Board of Commissioners again collaborated with their counterparts in Brown and Highland counties to share the services of an Agriculture and Natural Resources educator. In addition to conducting educational programming, this educator makes extensive use of radio and print media to reach clientele across the three counties.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults. **Adams County 4-H** membership included 720 youth enrolled in 29 community-based 4-H Clubs. Nineteen adults completed the volunteer screening process, bringing the total number of 4-H advisors to 157. With an estimated minimum 35 hours contributed annually by each volunteer, the value of their service exceeded \$117,593. Members had opportunities to strengthen their project skills at clinics and the fourth annual Kids College, and 56 attended or were counselors at one of the summer's 4-H camps.
- Thirteen Adams County youth and three teens participated in the region's second annual **STEM Camp**, partially funded by the Ohio 4-H Foundation. In all, 68 participants from 11 counties participated in the camp to learn how STEM

(science, technology, engineering and math) applies in the real world.

- **Real Money Real World**, an OSU Extension signature program that teaches youth financial literacy, was conducted with North Adams and Manchester eighth graders. More than 25 business people and volunteers staffed program stations.
- **Ag Reality**, a farm financial literacy program offered in Adams, Brown and Highland counties, is a spinoff of Real Money, Real World. The simulation brings together junior ag business students and representatives from agri-business including lenders; feed, fertilizer, grain and livestock marketers; insurance providers; and agency representatives. The program was offered twice, with juniors from Peebles and the Ohio Valley Career and Technical Center participating.
- **4-H Tech Wizards** received \$20,500 in year-four funding to continue the STEM-focused afterschool program at North Adams and Peebles elementary schools. Five adults and eight teens are mentoring 32 youth to engage them in hands-on science, technology and engineering activities, with the goals of increasing their scores on standardized science tests and encouraging them to pursue post-secondary education and training in the fields of science and technology.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** is the USDA grant-funded nutrition education and obesity prevention program. Its goal is to improve the



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likelihood that families and individuals who receive food assistance benefits will make healthy food choices and choose active lifestyles. In Adams County, 31 percent of adults are obese, 32 percent are physically inactive and 10 percent have diabetes. With 25 percent of the population receiving food assistance benefits, 63 percent of students receiving free or reduced lunches and 34 percent of the children living in poverty, the need for SNAP-Ed is great.

- In cooperation with more than 20 local agencies and schools in Adams County, 271 classes were offered in 2014, with more than 1,000 adult and nearly 3,500 youth contacts. More than 80 percent of the classes were part of a series in which participants attended two or more **sessions on nutrition-related topics**.
- **Adult participants report a variety of behavior changes.** For example, one month after completing a series of classes on stretching food dollars, one participant, Donna, reported that the program helped her see where she could cut unnecessary spending. She quit buying chips and candy at the convenience store several times a week and spent more time comparing prices at the grocery store. A friend of hers in the group verified that the previous month was the first time in a while that Donna didn't have to "bum" food at the end of the month.
- In the first year of offering school programs, the SNAP-Ed program assistant completed a series of eight lessons with kindergarten through second graders at Manchester Elementary and also reached several groups of third through sixth graders in their afterschool program. A series of three lessons was conducted with all kindergarten through second-grade students at Peebles Elementary, and a single lesson was conducted with all kindergarten through second-grade students at West Union Elementary. Additional youth were reached through the **Summer Food Service Program** and at the local children's home.

tobacco in the 2014 marketing season. Several companies had previously required such training, but all companies required it in 2014. Five training sessions were held in the tri-county area, providing training for 266 area producers including 100 Adams County growers.

- An **agronomy series** was offered for row crop producers, with topics covering crop diseases, insect damage and weed control. OSU Extension state specialists presented these topics in January, February and March.
- **Cow School** was offered for beef producers on three evenings in January, February and March. The program was offered throughout Ohio, with OSU Extension beef specialists providing content via distance learning technologies. Adams County producers attended local sessions, which covered herd health and nutrition, improving herd quality with genetics, and improving forages for hay and grazing. An average of 26 producers attended the three sessions locally.

Adams County receives \$78,654 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Four **Pesticide Applicator Recertification** sessions were held at Southern State Community College in Fincastle, including two daytime and two evening sessions. A total of 99 private applicators were recertified in 2014 from the three counties, including 12 from Adams County. Monthly testing was offered for both private applicators and custom applicators to obtain a license. A total of 93 private and commercial applicators took the exams at the local site.
- Tobacco producers were required to obtain **Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training** in order to market