

# 2014 County Highlights

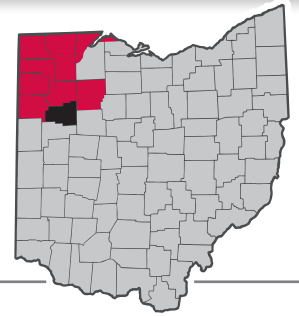


## ALLEN County

### MAUMEE VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **Youth Leadership:** Twenty-four Allen County 4-H Camp Counselors planned activities, sessions, games and a camp schedule for 135 campers, as well as designed career development activities. This year, Allen County's camp theme was "Every Day in 4-H Is a Holiday." Sixteen of the selected counselors went on to assist at the 4-H Cloverbud Day Camp, where 43 campers attended. Forty-two older youth on the Junior Fair Board learned life skills such as problem-solving, communications and confrontation management by assisting at livestock interviews and judging events before and during the fair.
- **4-H Volunteer and Youth Activities:** A total of 207 volunteers developed educational opportunities for 1,118 youth in 40 clubs. Volunteers also assisted youth to help complete 3,946 projects. 635 youth participated in Livestock Quality Assurance training in 2014. Youth who participated in this workshop explored good production practices. Members also completed a sample Drug Use Notification Form. There were zero reported cases of drug residue in the 2014 Junior Fair market livestock program. Our 4-H programming reached 2,313 youth through traditional clubs and school programming. In addition, 4-H volunteers and youth, along with community businesses, continued to raise funds for the 4-H program.
- **Real Money, Real World:** Real Money, Real World is an active, hands-on experience that gives young people the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to those they will make as adults. This experience helped 1,195 Allen County middle and high school students explore

careers and realize the importance of family budgeting and learn how today's consumer economy works. After completing the exercise, students stated, "I need to prepare myself better by doing well in school" and "It costs a lot to raise kids." More were quoted as saying, "I need to work hard in school and plan for my future" and "I didn't know how much everything cost. I need to think about college and what I want to do."

#### ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Master Gardeners:** Allen County Master Gardeners logged 2,232 of volunteer hours of horticulture-related educational activities, serving 3,348 people, over 11,000 visitors to the Children's Garden and 763 hours of continuing educational training in 2014. Projects included The Children's Garden, Art of Gardening Seminar, The Brown Bag Series, The Butterfly Migration Celebration, and the Allen County Fairgrounds Entrance. This fall a new regional Master Gardeners class was held at the OSU-Lima Campus in partnership with Hardin County Master Gardeners. Four Allen County residents will be new volunteers and will be required to give 50 hours of service each in 2015.
- **Horticultural and Environmental Education for Adults:** In March, the Allen County Master Gardeners hosted "The Art of Gardening Seminar" at the OSU-Lima Campus. One hundred fifty-six adults attended six hours of horticultural and environmental training on topics including using rain barrels and growing perennials, among others.



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- **Horticultural Training for Senior Citizens:** Allen County Master Gardeners provided horticultural education to senior citizens. Master Gardeners taught sessions on gardening to 31 students at the Bluffton Library.
- **Public Outreach:** In May, the Allen County Master Gardeners provided a daylong “Ask a Master Gardener” event at DeHaven’s Garden Center. One hundred eighteen customers were assisted by the Master Gardeners, who assisted the customers by helping with proper plant selection, planting and care tips, and recommendations for “best practices” advice regarding landscape and turf questions. Additionally, Master Gardener Rita Thelan presented 10 segments regarding a variety of horticultural topics on WLIO-TV news “Noon Edition” on a monthly basis.
- **Horticultural Science Learning Outdoors:** In June, The Allen County Master Gardeners began three separate outdoor learning programs at The Children’s Garden. The Brown Bag Lunch Series is a seasonlong event providing members of the community an opportunity to learn horticultural and environmental topics. In 2014, 567 adults were served by The Brown Bag Lunch Educational Series.
- **Outdoor Educational Series:** The Allen County Master Gardeners also provide an outdoor educational series for children ages 4–6 for eight weeks during the growing season. This year an average of 11 children per week participated in the program and learned about seed propagation, insects, spiders, where food comes from, plant care, vermiculture and recycling, and the five senses.
- **Hands On Habitats:** A new program for children and their parents was created this year. Hands On Habitats was held at The Children’s Garden with 14 children and 17 parents attending. The children learned about various types of habitats and then created and planted miniature “habitats” to take home and grow as container gardens.
- **Historical Basis for Current Horticultural Practices:** One hundred forty-three Allen County residents attended Pioneer Days at the Allen County Museum, where Allen County Master Gardener Volunteers displayed examples of native plants and discussed the uses for and storage and growing of various herbs, vegetables and fruits. The Allen County Master Gardener Volunteers were asked to repeat this presentation at the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District Apple Butter Festival this year. One thousand nine hundred people were contacted at this event.
- **Science Education Outdoors:** The Allen County Master Gardeners held The Butterfly Migration Celebration at The Children’s Garden in September. Over 310 youth and adults attended this event. Monarch butterflies were released by the children, and the youth could rotate to

various educational stations to learn about the life cycle and migratory habits of the Monarch Butterfly.