

2014 County Highlights



ASHLAND County

ERIE BASIN EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Educators from the Erie Basin collaborated to provide nearly 100 private pesticide applicators a four-hour **Pesticide Applicator Recertification** to maintain their licenses. The training provides information and updates on pesticides currently available and their proper use and application. Ashland County farmers appreciate being able to attend this training locally.
- Ashland County offered 14 **Quality Assurance Training** sessions for county youth. The program educated youth on the humane care and handling of livestock, appropriate recordkeeping practices, and proper production methods. Almost 500 youth attended these trainings in order to be able to show their market animal at the county fair. Of those surveyed, 97 percent indicated they learned something new, and 96 percent could describe one good production practice they were going to focus on for the year. Youth also were instructed on how to properly complete a Drug Use Notification Form. The Senior Fair Board reported 100 percent compliance with this mandatory paperwork at the county fair.
- Eleven youth enrolled in this year's **Tractor Safety Certification**. This training was done as a home study course this year in order to accommodate the large number of youth who wanted to do this class but did not have open evening times for class meetings. Successful completion of this course enables youth who are 14 and 15 years old to use tractor equipment while working for area farmers.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- One hundred seventy-eight **adult volunteers** provided leadership to 33 community clubs and 11 subject matter committees, serving over 730 traditional club members this past year. According to "The Independent Sector Report," the value these volunteers bring to Ashland County is over \$393,300. Twenty-three new volunteers were recruited and 89 percent of the volunteers attended a two-hour training to remain certified.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** serviced 344 adult participants in 63 direct-education classes, and 1,228 youth participants in 92 direct-education classes. Regular classes are conducted at Job and Family Services, Salvation Army, Tri-County Preschool, Head Start in Ashland and Sullivan, Mill Run Place, Essex House, Good Shepherd, and DR Services. All of these sites have requested education on a monthly, and sometimes biweekly, basis. Interactive classes are offered in the areas of nutrition, physical activity and food resource management. Overall, program participants reported they are increasing consumption of fruits, vegetables and whole grains, as well as making better choices about economizing their food dollars.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Two "**My Hands to Larger Service**" grants, each worth \$150, were received from the Ohio 4-H Foundation for county youth to use on projects. The first, "Cloverbud Reading Adventures," was headed by a junior leader who



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designed a four-session reading and activity program for 5- to 8-year-old members. At the end of each session, the children could pick out a free age-appropriate reading book to keep. The second grant was used by the Ashland County 4-H Food and Fashion Board to purchase fleece and make 15 blankets to donate to Akron Children's Hospital.

- Nineteen 5- to 8-year-olds participated in the six-session Cloverbots program this past spring. Four volunteer coaches led the groups through the LEGO Disaster Blaster Challenge using simple LEGO building parts. Group members learned about various weather disasters and talked with Ashland County Emergency Management Director Mark Rafeld about how people respond to emergencies such as these. The groups then designed a LEGO representation, illustrating some aspect of what they learned. All four groups participated in the **Ohio 4-H Cloverbot Challenge** held in May at the Ohio 4-H Center in Columbus.
- In July, 123 youth attended **4-H Junior Camp**, a five-day, four-night event. This is a 4 percent increase from last year. Teens were responsible for planning and conducting the camp under the guidance of 10 adult staff members. Twenty youth counselors received a minimum of 24 hours of training and, in turn, donated more than 150 hours of their time to the younger members. Ninety-five percent of the camp counselors said they learned how to better take care of emergencies at camp and how to recognize and understand bullying, and 100 percent could name at least two ways to successfully handle bullying at camp.
- Eleven volunteers, including two Junior Leaders, were trained in seven shooting sports disciplines at **Adult Leader Certification Training** in 2014. A countywide club met weekly from January through April to provide youth with the opportunity to learn shooting sports in a safe and educational manner. Seventy members completed this program, and most of them plan to enroll in additional shooting sports opportunities in 2015. Currently, we have about 100 youth interested in joining for the third year of the club.
- Eighteen children in grades 3–5 attended one of two **science camps** held in 2014. Participant comments included, "This is more fun than school" and "The experiments were cool." Thirty-four children, led by nine trained counselors, attended **4-H Cloverbud Day Camp**, an eight-hour, two-day experience for youth ages 5 and in kindergarten through age 8. This year's theme was "Road Trip Across the USA" and included 10 hands-on, experiential activities relating to the 50 states.
- Thirty boys and girls took part in one of two **Kids' Cooking Schools** put on by the Ashland County 4-H Food and

Fashion Board. This year's theme was "Holidays," and the 11 board members researched holiday foods, traditions and preparation methods in order to present the workshop to the third- through sixth-grade members.

- Over 40 first-time juvenile traffic offenders attended a **4-H CARTEENS** program in 2014. The sessions are led by trained teen and adult instructors, state troopers, and guest speakers including EMTs and insurance agents. Teen participant comments included, "Slow down, it makes a difference," and "I liked the fact that an actual state highway patrolman came and talked."
- A total of 25 **Junior Fair Board** members provided leadership for a successful 2014 Ashland County Junior Fair. During the year, members spent time learning how to work better as a team, how to speak in front of groups, how to organize events and proper ways of interacting with the public when answering questions or handling complaints.

Ashland County receives \$38,124 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.