

# 2014 County Highlights



## ASHTABULA County

### WESTERN RESERVE EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

39 Wall Street, Jefferson, Ohio 44047-1137

Phone: (440) 576-9008 [ashtabula.osu.edu](http://ashtabula.osu.edu)



### ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- In 2014, 1,812 Ashtabula County producers and landowners participated in 25 production **agriculture and natural resources programs**. These programs were held on management issues including animal disease traceability, CAUV taxes, fertilizer nutrient management, hay production, preparedness of agro-terrorism, winter grape damage assessment, pesticide recertification, soybean and corn management, farm succession, and farm taxes.
- Enhancing local foods production** was an emphasis in 2014. Five programs were held for 233 participants to learn how to produce and market local foods in Northeast Ohio. Session topics included marketing to restaurants, good agricultural production practices, mobile processing units, and food safety regulations.
- Sixty-one Ashtabula County farmers who hold a private pesticide applicator license attended **Pesticide Applicator Recertification**. One hundred percent of the attendees reported they have improved practices to protect the environment and have improved pesticide handling practices. Attendees also reported they were better informed about compliance with pesticide and environmental regulations. Purdue University calculates this training to have an economic benefit of \$114,375 to Ashtabula County.
- OSU Extension responded to the 2014 polar vortex and its impact on the grape and wine industry by holding eight events to assist grape growers with the 90 percent or more loss of the 2014 grape crop. Grape damage assessment was

the focal point of the **Winter Grape School** and **Summer Twilight Tour**. The economic damage to the county due to the cold temperatures is estimated to be at over \$15 million dollars.

- OSU Extension conducted **on-farm research** in corn and miscanthus production to benefit Ashtabula County farmers. For the fourth year, Ashtabula County Extension was part of a statewide monitoring program for the western bean cutworm. Four trap locations were placed in strategic locations, with 1,044 adult moths detected during the weekly summer checks. A miscanthus research plot was maintained at the OARDC Ashtabula Research Station in Kingsville.

### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- In 2014, the Ashtabula County **4-H youth development program** had 50 chartered clubs with 903 members guided by 161 adult volunteers. These youth successfully participated in 1,387 projects across the 4-H program. Additionally, 28 new volunteers were screened and trained to work with the Ashtabula County 4-H program. Ninety-five percent of participants agreed or strongly agreed the information presented will help them in working as a 4-H volunteer.
- One hundred eighty-seven youth (155 campers, 33 youth counselors) participated in the **Ashtabula County 4-H Camp Program**. This camping program consists of two main functions: 1) 4-H Camp Counselor Training and 2) 4-H Camp Week. In 2014, 33 teenagers participated in the intensive camp counselor training program and then served as camp counselors during Ashtabula County's 4-H Camp, held



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Empowerment *Through* Education

[twitter.com/dirkeithsmith](https://twitter.com/dirkeithsmith)  
[u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact](http://u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact)  
[extension.osu.edu](http://extension.osu.edu)

in 2014 from June 29–July 4 at 4-H Camp Whitewood in Windsor, Ohio. Ashtabula County had a sold-out camp, with 187 youth at camp.

- Led by two teachers and county 4-H advisors with the support of teen counselors, 40 youth ages 5 to 7 attended **4-H Cloverbud Camp** held in early July. This camp focused on teaching youth social, life and community skills.
- The **Ashtabula County Junior Fair** continues to be a vehicle for youth to learn leadership, social responsibility and service. In 2014, 24 Junior Fair Board members guided by volunteer advisors took on even greater responsibilities and tasks, including the development of the Super Skillathon Challenge. Ten members attended the 2014 Junior Fair Conference with members of the Senior Fair Board. They felt that this year they were able to develop their public speaking skills and take more of a leadership role in the planning of Junior Fair activities. In addition, OSU Extension offered **Quality Assurance Training** sessions to 359 youth who exhibited a market or lactating animal at the fair. These sessions taught the proper and ethical ways to raise a market animal. After attending, one participant remarked that the training helped her realize the importance of raising a quality project for a quality product.

### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)**, which targets SNAP-eligible recipients, presented 86 direct programs, reaching 526 adult participants. In these programs, participants were encouraged to make healthy food choices, practice food safety techniques and manage their food budgets. One hundred percent of participants are now using MyPlate to make food choices for a healthier lifestyle. Also, 85.7 percent of participants reported they are using food labels to make healthier food choices. We reached 3,882 participants through indirect programming. This year, Ashtabula County added youth programs at Ridgeview Elementary School and Pymatuning Valley Elementary School. We reached 3,719 youth through our youth programs and the Summer Food Service Program.
- With support from the Ashtabula Foundation, Ashtabula County Farm Bureau, Ashtabula County Visitor's Bureau and OSU Extension, 1,061 members of the class of 2025 participated in **Ag Awareness Day**. Students accessed 12 interactive stations where they were able to see, touch and smell agriculture. More than 200 volunteers were on hand to make the day a success.
- What makes your garden grow? **Master Gardener Volunteers**, trained by OSU Extension, shared research-

based information with gardeners through workshops, community gardens and one-on-one consultations. In total, the 40 Master Gardeners volunteered over 3,000 hours (valued at \$70,875), reaching over 1,098 residents.

- Ashtabula County's **school enrichment program** held activities in all seven schools. Over 600 students participated in other various enrichment programs. "Science comes alive and is more enjoyable for the students when there are hands-on activities," commented one teacher whose class participated in Rockets Away!

### ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- OSU Extension's **Real Money, Real World** program helps give middle and high school students an understanding of how current income and life choices affect future income. Participants learn how much to expect to pay for housing, transportation and childcare, and how to balance "wants" and "needs." This hands-on program was offered to 1,190 eighth graders, plus the junior class at A-Tech. Teachers involved in this program reported a positive difference in students' study habits. As a result of participation, one of the students commented, "Is this really how much my parents spend?"

**Ashtabula County receives \$75,702 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**