

2014 County Highlights



BROWN County

OHIO VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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The Brown County Commissioners collaborated with their counterparts in Adams and Highland counties to share the services of an Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension educator. Funding of OSU Extension in Brown County was also made possible through a partnership with the Brown County Solid Waste Authority.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **Brown County 4-H** is the largest youth organization in the county with 841 members involved in 35 community clubs. Community clubs provide positive adult/youth interactions focused around educational project experiences, which include the development of life skills, leadership development, healthy living skills and effective communication. Youth were directly impacted by 216 caring adult volunteers. Based on an estimated 35 hours contributed annually by each volunteer, the value of their service exceeded \$200,000.
- Two high school youth attended **Citizenship Washington Focus** and two middle school youth attended **Leadership Washington Focus**. These programs allow youth to travel to Washington D.C. to learn how they can become better citizens and leaders. One teen who attended said, "I realize that we are all part of a world that is much bigger than ourselves. Individually, we may not have much opportunity to make much difference on a national level, but we can make a huge difference on the local level, especially if we leave our comfort zone."
- Two teens applied for and received an **Our Hands to Larger Service Mini-Grant** from the Ohio 4-H Foundation to support a community service project. Both teens used the funds to implement a service project with their entire 4-H Club. One organized sending care packets to troops overseas; the other organized cleaning up and planting flowers in their community.
- Three teens attended the **Shooting Sports Instructors Certification workshops** to become Junior Leaders within the shooting sports program. These Junior Leaders worked with 13 certified adult volunteer instructors to help the 90 youth enrolled in shooting sports program complete their projects. Program members attend shooting ranges to participate in discipline-related workshops that emphasize firearm and range safety.
- **Quality Assurance Training** educates youth on the proper care of animals and good production practices. A total of 375 youth completed the Quality Assurance Training by attending one of six classes or by successfully testing out. The classes were taught in collaboration with the AgriScience teachers in five local high schools.
- **4-H CARTEENS** reached over 110 teen drivers in 2014. The goal of the program is to teach first-time traffic offenders, ages 15–18, how to make cautious and responsible decisions and how to drive safer. Five youth volunteered as CARTEENS instructors to make the peer-to-peer teaching aspect successful. The program is a collaborative effort between 4-H, the Brown County juvenile court and the Ohio State Highway Patrol.



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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Reestablished in 2014, the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** is a free nutrition education program serving low-income adults and families in Ohio. It is estimated that 18 percent of Brown County residents are currently receiving SNAP benefits. This program is funded by the Food Nutrition Service's (FNS) branch of the USDA. Programs are offered through partnerships with community organizations and the local school systems.

included a weekly article in at least seven local newspapers in the three counties and multiple weekly local radio spots.

Brown County receives \$48,155 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, with two daytime and two evening sessions. A total of 99 private applicators were recertified in 2014 for the three counties, including 35 from Brown County. Monthly testing was offered for both private applicators and custom applicators to obtain a license through testing. A total of 93 private and commercial applicators took the exams at a local site.
- Tobacco producers were required to obtain **good agricultural production practices training** in order to market tobacco for the 2014 market season. Some companies had required this in previous years, but all companies did in 2014. Five sessions of the training were held in the tri-county area, providing training for a total of 266 producers, including 108 Brown County growers.
- **Cow School** was offered for beef producers on three nights in January, February and March. The program was offered with the use of technology throughout the state of Ohio. OSU Extension beef specialists provided training on 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.
- **Master Gardeners** in Brown and Highland counties are assets to the counties, but also to the OSU Extension offices. In an effort to help them expand their ability to assist and teach others, a computer training program was conducted in the summer of 2014 at one of the local school's computer lab. An average of eleven Master Gardeners attended the seven sessions covering the use of social media; the use of word processing; the use of email for utilizing local newspapers; and the creation of PowerPoint presentations for face-to-face teaching.
- With the OSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) educator being shared between Brown, Adams and Highland counties, much of the **ANR programming** was done as joint programming across the three counties. This