

# 2014 County Highlights

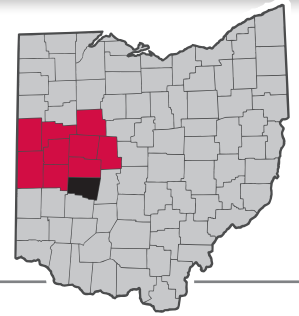


## CLARK County

### TOP OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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### ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Foodborne diseases cause approximately 76 million illnesses, 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,200 deaths in the United States each year. Most cases can be prevented through education on proper cooking or processing of foods to destroy bacteria. Taught in collaboration with the Clark and Champaign County Health Departments, the **ServSafe Food Handler Program** for Managers was taught four times. A total of 42 owners, managers, supervisors and culinary instructors participated in 16 hours of training, and 85 percent passed the certification examination with an average score of 85 percent. ServSafe Food Handler Program for Employees—a four-hour class—also served 126 food service employees, including school personnel, foodbank employees and two classes taught to inmates at the Clark County jail.

### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Obesity, poor nutrition and physical inactivity disproportionately affect minority and low-income citizens. In 2012, an estimated 1.8 million Ohioans lived in poverty. In an effort to reduce this disparity and improve the health and well-being of Ohioans, the **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)** teaches an eight-lesson nutrition education series to low-income families with children. Lessons focus on the knowledge, skills, attitude and behavior changes needed to achieve nutritionally sound diets, food prepared in healthy ways, economical food

budgets and food safety. In 2014, a total of 160 families were impacted by this program. Graduates significantly increased knowledge and improved behavior in diet quality (22 percent), food resource management (55 percent) and food safety (47 percent).

- Research shows that community gardens provide tangible benefits such as fresh vegetables, and intangible benefits such as fostering communication among neighbors, which can lead to building neighborhoods and developing a sense of community. Staff with the **SEEDS community garden program** along with Master Gardener Volunteers partnered with 28 neighborhood and organization community gardens consisting of more than 500 individuals. Workshops, one-on-one coaching sessions, and site visits to the community gardens led to all of the gardens completing a successful harvest at the end of the season. The Master Gardener Volunteers also raised more than 8,000 pounds of fresh produce, which was donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Clark and Champaign Counties.
- Seventy-five people attended our **First Annual Local Foods Summit**, which was the initial effort in our community to develop a network of growers, consumers, educators, restaurants and others. Our goal was to start the conversation regarding local foods and to challenge our community to identify and attempt to break down barriers to growing, purchasing and utilizing local foods. The response to the event was positive; a committee has been established to pursue the creation of a local foods network. In addition, monthly programs will be held with the purpose of introducing a local producer to attendees.



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## PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Participating in the county's 74 **4-H Clubs** were 1,914 Clark County 4-H members "learning by doing the 4-H way" with 3,946 projects. When members were asked about what they had learned and put into practice, 100 percent of project completion responders focused on a specific skill needed for success with their project. The top life skills listed were responsibility, patience, hard work and time management.
- It would take 30 full-time, paid employees to equal the time contributed by 599 **Clark County 4-H volunteers**—a priceless investment into the positive development of young people. Volunteers' knowledge and skill expertise lead 4-H members to 4-H project success as well as to developing lasting friendships through engaging, fun learning experiences.
- Camperships totaling \$5,487 from the Dayton Foundation and Send a Kid to Camp sponsors helped one-third of Clark County's campers attend **4-H Camp**. These 187 youth developed critical thinking skills through STEM-based and outdoor adventure camp programs designed and led by 60 trained counselors. Postcamp evaluations of campers indicated that nearly every camper made new friends, learned something new, and became more responsible. Ninety-eight percent felt camp provided them with positive role models, with more than 85 percent indicating an interest in becoming a 4-H Camp Counselor someday.
- **Clark County 4-H** directly contributes to economic development throughout the county. Hundreds and thousands of dollars are pumped into our communities through 4-H families' purchase of animals, feed, equipment and supplies. In turn, community support of the county's 4-H market livestock projects surpassed \$1 million. Record sales for the more than 1,100 projects brought some 2,300 buyers to the auction. Youth will use this money to support future education and career goals, and to finance next year's projects—continuing to fuel both economic and positive youth development.
- "Tell me and I'll forget. Show me and I may remember. Involve me and I'll understand." This quote describes the Clark County 4-H approach to **STEM programming**, with more than 3,000 youth. The STEM Pathways Signature Program Challenges and the 4-H Ag Innovators Fish Farm Challenge engaged youth in both the engineering design process and scientific inquiry. Two hundred fifty teen and adult volunteers were trained to facilitate these challenges at club meetings, 4-H Camp, the Clark County Fair, Farm Science Review and OSU Extension centennial events.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Master Gardener Volunteers** performed 11,017 hours of volunteer service valued at \$242,374 to the community. Projects included the five-acre demonstration Gateway Learning Gardens, demonstrations at the farmer's market, public presentations, community service projects and more. Master Gardener Volunteers answered gardening questions and provided information on topics such as emerald ash borer, storm water, invasive species management, and plant selection and maintenance to more than 300 homeowners.

**Clark County receives \$1,980 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**