

2014 County Highlights



CLERMONT County

MIAMI VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Clermont County Extension taught 179 nutrition education programs in 2014, directly reaching 1,740 residents. Senior citizens, families with/without children and youth participated in interactive classes developed to improve quality of diet, manage food resources, promote food safety and increase physical activity. As a result of **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)**, significant positive behavior change was reported for using MyPlate as a tool to make healthy lifestyle food choices; choosing low-fat, calcium-rich food sources; and increasing food shopping and preparation skills. The dollar value of the 2014 SNAP-Ed grant funded by the USDA and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services was \$100,760. Research indicates that every \$1 spent on nutrition education saves as much as \$10 in long-term healthcare costs. The value of the local benefit was \$100,760.
- Public health assessments conducted within the past three years indicate over 60 percent of Clermont County adults are overweight or obese based on body mass index. If current trends continue, 1 out of 3 residents will develop diabetes. To address this health issue, OSU Extension partnered with Clermont-based Pill Box Pharmacy Owner Robert Westbrook, a certified diabetes educator, to increase knowledge of the role of nutrition in managing diabetes, enhance adoption of behaviors related to nutrition to manage diabetes and increase participant self-confidence to achieve goals to manage diabetes. Postclass evaluation forms from 19 **Dining with Diabetes** participants showed a significant increase in knowledge of the Idaho plate method.

One hundred percent of participants reported a positive change in using herbs and spices instead of sodium, in using heart healthy oils and in label reading.

- To meet the demand for safe home food preservation information, **Preserving the Harvest workshops** are conducted monthly throughout the growing season. Postclass evaluation forms from 25 participants showed increased knowledge in safe food preservation techniques and self-confidence in water bath and pressurized canning.
- Clermont County Extension is identified as a **HUD-Approved Local Housing Counseling Agency** on three topics: prepurchase homebuying, resolving or preventing mortgage delinquency or default, and nondelinquent postpurchase counseling. Twelve families received counseling and qualified for financial assistance through Ohio's First-Time Homebuyer Program, and seven families completed educational requirements to purchase a home through the USDA Rural Development Housing Program. These 19 families added \$1.7 million to the local housing economy.
- Clermont County Extension was the lead agency for the Ohio Department of Public Safety **Safe Communities Grant** during 2014. The goal of the program is to work with local groups and law enforcement to reduce traffic fatalities within the county. All six grant goals were met or exceeded.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Four **Assuring Quality Care for Animals** training were conducted to educate youth and parents/guardians about quality care for animals. Eight peer trainers were educated



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to conduct peer-to-peer presentations along with two agriculture education instructors. The adults were separated from youth participants to have their own session of QA training, all being conducted at the same time. The trainings certified 297 exhibitors with an additional 91 taught through agriculture education coursework.

- Partnering with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, two recertification sessions were held with 36 pesticide applicators attending. Participants who attended **Pesticide Applicator Recertification** received training on core, agronomy and horticulture categories. Additional categories were taught via video. The second session was offered in collaboration with Pioneer Customer Appreciation Field Day at a local producer/dealer.
- The **20th Annual Southwest Ohio Perennial School** had 120 attendees, 13 horticulture vendors, 12 Master Gardeners and 5 presenters with 6 Extension staff members managing the event. Perennial School teaches participants skills and techniques to enhance or increase their perennial garden.
- In collaboration with NRCS and SWCD, a **Soil Enhancement, Nutrient Management and Water Quality** “Cover Crop Demonstration Plot Field Day” was held at a local producer’s farm with 38 total attendees and BioSeed providing the seed for the plots. This was part of the local soil nutrient management and water quality education to teach soil enhancement, nutrient management and water quality to agronomic crop participants. Participants learned valuable aspects of cover crops, soil health, nutrient management and their affects on water quality.
- **Grain C.A.R.T. Rescue Training** was held at the Stonelick Fire Department with 36 fire fighters receiving certification training on grain bin rescue from the OSU Extension Agricultural Safety Team and the Ohio Fire Academy. Representation was from three counties and six departments.
- Providing assistance to **Consumer Horticulture** clientele continues to be a large priority in the county with regards to plants, insects, trees and more.
- **Clermont County Master Gardener Volunteers** contributed 540 volunteer hours with a value of \$12,177 contributed to the county through volunteer education work. They attended 225 hours of continuing education. Nine trainees attended a webinar-based format twice a week over an eight-week period to become interns.
- **Clermont’s Ag Media Services** uses the county Extension website, Facebook, Twitter, news articles and mass emails to inform agricultural producers and homeowners about research-based information and events to assist them in

being more practical in agricultural practices and consumer horticulture.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **Clermont County 4-H** enrolled 921 members in 41 community clubs. This year, 35 new volunteers participated in an orientation and joined 302 experienced adult volunteers. Adult volunteers provide support and encouragement, teach life skills, and help develop leadership and communication skills to make Clermont County youth successful.
- **LOOK to Clermont** is a teen leadership and workforce preparation program that is preparing tomorrow’s leaders today. LOOK to Clermont graduated 28 youth from 13 different school districts. Participants engage in a series of online, classroom and practical learning experiences designed to develop and enhance all dimensions of leadership as well as provide opportunities to practice their leadership skills and instill a lifelong commitment to community service.
- **4-H Camp** provides a unique setting for youth to make new friends, become independent and learn through nature and hands-on activities. There were 86 youth, ages 9 to 14, who attended the Clermont/Hamilton County 4-H Camp at 4-H Camp Graham. The camp was led by 26 camp counselors who received 24 hours of training that included topics such as diversity, bullying, inclusion, risk-management, decision-making, leadership and team-building. Camp counselor training prepares teens for the workforce while instilling responsibility, leadership and communication skills.
- In partnership with the Clermont County probate/juvenile court and the Ohio State Highway Patrol, **4-H CARTEENS** provides traffic safety education to first-time juvenile traffic offenders. Adult volunteers and teen leaders facilitated 20 traffic safety training sessions with 575 participants. The goal of CARTEENS is to help teens become safer drivers and to reduce the number of traffic safety violations and increase teen awareness.
- 4-H youth exhibited 2,848 projects at the **2014 Clermont County Junior Fair**. The county fair provides 4-H members the opportunity to practice animal care, sportsmanship, communication and mentorship. The county nominated 115 youth to exhibit at the Ohio State Fair.

Clermont County receives \$100,760 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.