

# 2014 County Highlights



## CLINTON County

### MIAMI VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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### ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Soybean College:** The 2014 Soybean College was an intensive soybean management workshop designed for producers wanting to be on the “cutting edge” of soybean production for their operations. This program helped producers realize management strategies that could improve their yields and, in turn, increase profits. The workshop was attended by 30 soybean producers, reaching over 33,000 acres of cropland. As a result of this program, all producers agreed they improved their management skills knowledge in at least one management area.
- New and Small Farm Colleges:** The 2014 Small Farm College surpassed 500 participating farms. The New and Small Farm Colleges were hosted by Warren and Shelby counties, with 46 farms and 62 individuals. Since the program’s inception in 2005, 693 individuals and 522 farms representing 52 Ohio counties and one Indiana county have participated. Participants represented 15 counties, with 51.6 percent of participants being female and 67.9 percent as new clientele to Extension programming. The average farm size was 35.8 acres owned, with average ownership of 12.8 years. Postsurveys indicated 65.8 percent of the participants developed or changed their farm use plan after attending these colleges. The participants rated the overall program an 8.7 out of a 10-point scale, with 10 being best. One hundred percent of all participants responding would recommend this program to others, and 89.7 percent felt the program met or exceeded their expectations.

- Small Farm Conferences:** In 2014, 200 small farm owners and enthusiasts participated in two conferences held in Wilmington and Canfield, Ohio. Participants represented 35 Ohio counties and the states of Kentucky and Pennsylvania. Average farm size reported was 86.3 acres. Responses to postconference surveys indicated 40.7 percent of the attendees were women and another 6.5 percent were socially disadvantaged or minority farmers. Forty-seven percent of respondents considered themselves part-time farming operators, and 18.8 percent were not yet engaged in an agricultural operation. Also, 90 percent indicated they learned something new from attending the conference. As a result of attending, 80.0 percent of the survey respondents indicated they would make changes to the management of their operations that could positively impact their economic bottom line. Eighteen percent of respondents indicated they would add acreage to their production based on what they learned at the conference, and 55.8 percent of the respondents would add more livestock into their operation as a result of what they learned at the conferences.

### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Junior Fair:** The Clinton County Junior Fair reaches almost 700 members each year plus families, advisors and community members.
- Junior Fair Coordinator:** By designing a unique partnership with the Clinton County Commissioners, direct funding was provided in 2013 and continued into 2014 to establish a Junior Fair coordinator. The Junior Fair coordinator works



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with 180 4-H volunteers, over 800 4-H members, 750 Junior Fair buyers, 225 award donors and several county committees and boards. The Junior Fair coordinator has proven to be invaluable to Clinton County Extension, as over 1,600 hours of time have been saved because of the position. The Junior Fair coordinator provides support to livestock and nonlivestock shows and sales, prefair events, exhibits, awards programs, contests, horticulture and farm displays, and cooking and sewing contests.

- **Real Money, Real World:** The Real Money, Real World signature program reached over 550 students in three county public school systems. Over 55 trained community members came together to partner with Wilmington City Schools, Clinton Massie Middle School and Blanchester Middle School students this year. The coalition included Wilmington College, teachers, the Kroger Company, Clinton County Commissioners, the sheriff's office, juvenile court, Bennett Real Estate, OSU Extension state and county staff, Nationwide Insurance Wilmington and Blanchester, National Bank and Trust, Cole Taylor Mortgage Company, Clinton County Health Department, County Homemaker Members, and many 4-H volunteers. The students' comments included, "I learned it's not so easy at times, and we all should be thankful for what we have" and "Real Money, Real World is a very important thing to participant in, and you learn tons."
- **Clinton County Junior 4-H Camp:** An outstanding team of adults and teens provides excellent educational planning, counselor instruction and two successful camps. The camp program has grown between 1–4 percent annually. Some of the fun activities packed into a four-night camp include archery, swimming, canoeing, fishing, recreational sports, flag ceremonies, nature hikes, team games, dancing, movies, special guest speakers, bowling and cabin fun.
- **Cloverbud Camp:** To meet the needs of our county Cloverbud membership, an overnight Cloverbud Camp was implemented in 2013 to provide a safe precamp experience for youth ages 5–8 years old. Over 25 youth with teen counselors participated in the 2014 Cloverbud Camp.
- **Clinton County 4-H:** The 4-H program has started to think outside of the box to reach new audiences to promote, educate and grow the 4-H program. Today, the program is partnering with Tractor Supply Company to educate families on dog training and small animal care. Members are riding down Main Street on a 4-H float during the holiday parades to promote the program. Drivers even got a glimpse of Junior Fair members on billboards as they drove on five county highways. With a state foundation grant, a county design team is taking a fresh look at impacting new audiences by designing new member packets to help educate new and potential members and families on the 4-H program.