

2014 County Highlights

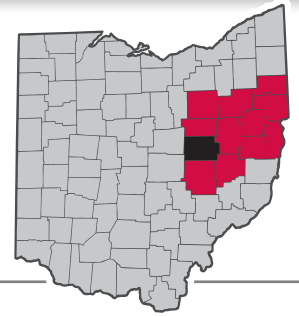


COSHOCTON County

CROSSROADS EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

724 South Seventh Street, Room 110, Coshocton, Ohio 43812-2392

Phone: (740) 622-2265 coshocton.osu.edu



PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- This year 694 youth completed projects in the **Coshocton County 4-H** program. These projects taught life skills, problem-solving and wise decision-making. There are also 197 volunteers who serve as 4-H Club advisors, key leaders and more.
- **4-H Camp** is a fun way to develop life skills. This year four camps were available for youth.
 - While connecting with nature at **4-H Camp Ohio**, 146 youth learned good decision-making, social skills and expression of self, outside the family nurturing environment. Twenty-one older youth served as Junior Camp Counselors, cultivating job readiness skills such as leadership, communication and teamwork. The 4-H Advisory Committee awarded \$7,795 worth of 4-H Camp scholarship money.
 - Twenty-nine youth attended **Giddy-Up-Go Horse Camp**, where they learned proper grooming, handling and safe riding, and got to play games and make renaissance-inspired crafts.
 - Thirty-nine youth attended **Cloverbud Camp**, with a theme of "The Wacky World of Science." Sessions educated youth about physical science, kitchen science, backyard ballistics and mad science.
 - **Summer Science Camp** was a new weekly program this year that offered sessions to youth on electricity, rockets, chemistry, butterflies, weather and eggs. Twenty-three youth participated in the programming.

- Over 130 fourth-grade students at Coshocton Elementary School and over 30 fifth-grade students at Union Elementary enhanced their science learning through the 4-H school enrichment program **Rockets Away!** Youth learned about the laws of motion while building and launching bottle rockets.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Twenty-nine local farmers learned information to make better management decisions in their agricultural operations at **Agronomy School**. Producers were equipped with research-based, best management practices related to weed management and nutrient management. Forty-five percent of the participants indicated that they intend to adjust or change an agronomic management plan for this coming growing season because of what they learned during the day. Participants estimated that the new information would save them an average of \$600 during the next growing season.
- During the **Pasture for Profit Grazing School**, 23 livestock producers learned about the principles of management-intensive grazing. Ninety-three percent of the participants agreed that they would increase their forage yield per acre and eighty-seven percent indicated that they expect to increase the net profit of their operation as a direct result of this program.
- **Worm composting**, or vermiculture, is catching on with gardeners and fishermen locally. Close to 100 people have learned about worm composting for the worms' ability to



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Empowerment Through Education

twitter.com/dirkeithsmith
u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact
extension.osu.edu

break down food scraps quickly and provide “black gold” compost, which is nutrient-rich for seed-starting, houseplants or garden plants. They are also excellent fish bait. The Coshocton Herb Society, Clary Gardens, the Coshocton Public Library and First Farm Friday events have been the venue to educating the community on vermiculture.

- What makes your garden grow? **Master Gardener Volunteers**, trained by OSU Extension! The volunteers help Extension share research-based information with gardeners through workshops, community gardens and one-on-one consultations. In Coshocton County, 17 active Master Gardener Volunteers have given over 750 volunteer hours to educate and beautify the community. These total volunteer hours equate to nearly \$17,000. Data was also collected for the Phenology Garden Network that is used statewide and nationally.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- OSU Extension helps adults with limited resources make healthy, safe and budget-friendly food choices through the USDA-funded **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)**. In 2014, a total of 76 families were impacted by EFNEP in Coshocton County. Ninety-five percent of graduates significantly increased knowledge and improved behaviors in diet quality, and as a result 46 percent of the graduates ran out of food less often each month. Also over half of graduates increased their physical activity levels and consumption of fruit and vegetables upon completing EFNEP.
- Through a collaborative effort with OSU Extension Holmes County, a series of five **home food preservation workshops** were offered. Over 30 participants learned safe methods of canning and freezing fruits, vegetables and meats. Food safety concerns were explained, and six people had their pressure canners tested. Ninety percent of participants plan to make changes to their home food preservation processes as a result of the classes.
- OSU Extension and Local Bounty Coshocton partnered to offer a series of **Local Foods Cooking Classes for Kids**. Sixteen children ages 3 to 10 years old learned to make simple meals and treats using locally produced vegetables, herbs, cheeses, honey and baked goods. Many parents agreed a positive outcome of the class was that children were more willing to try different foods as a result of participating. This program was supported through a grant from the Columbus Foundation.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Coshocton County ranks 13th in Ohio for the total number of female farm operators. The mission of **Annie’s Project** is to empower farm women to become better business partners through networking, and managing and organizing critical information. Sixteen area women completed a six-week program focused on financial risk management and recordkeeping. This “Moving Beyond the Basics” course was one of three pilot programs offered in Ohio and Iowa.
- A majority of farmland will change ownership in the next 20 years. As the average age of farmers increase, the topic of farm transition is becoming more critical for many farm families. Two **Farm Transition, Estate and Retirement Seminars** have provided 60 members of 37 farm families with tools and resources to plan for the transition of their family farms and farm businesses. The program included attorneys, taxation specialists and financial advisors. Seventy-eight percent of participants planned to implement a family business meeting within the next six months.

Coshocton County receives \$31,577 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.