

2014 County Highlights



CRAWFORD County

ERIE BASIN EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **Crawford County 4-H** enrollment included 25 clubs, 559 project members, 144 Cloverbuds, 137 in-school youth and 13 campers not otherwise in 4-H. Through club work, members learned public speaking, parliamentary procedure, sportsmanship and the importance of completion. Cloverbuds focused on cooperation and social skills.
- Thirty-one teenagers served as **4-H Camp Counselors**. They learned to lead effectively, make decisions and plan responsibly for teaching and for campers. Skills gained are beneficial to the “work world” and life. Counselors commented on learning “the ability to work with others to resolve differences regardless of feelings for the individual.”
- One hundred fourteen participants attended **4-H Camp**. About 11 percent were youth not otherwise involved in 4-H. Participants made significant improvements in trust, teamwork, building and strengthening relationships, caring for others, fitting in and improving confidence.
- Three hundred forty-one Junior Fair exhibitors participated in **Quality Assurance Training**. Evaluations showed an improved understanding of animal husbandry and of responsibilities to animals, to consumers and to the livestock industry.
- With 139 **4-H volunteers** and approximately 100 Junior Fair volunteers, volunteer education is key to providing positive youth development experiences for 4-H members. Over 50 percent of 4-H volunteers participated in volunteer education. Many commented that the information provided “is very helpful.”
- 4-H volunteers reported an average of 75 hours supporting 4-H. Using the \$19.23 private sector value for volunteer time, a total value of \$180,000 was donated to our community.
- One hundred five seventh graders participated in **Real Money, Real World**. Because of this program they will consider financial decisions more carefully. Some of their comments included, “I learned that savings are really important” and “I was surprised how much money kids cost.” Others said, [I will] “think about how many kids I have,” [will] “think about what education I need for a good-paying job,” [will] “start a savings account,” and [will] “pay closer attention to how I spend my money.”
- Findings in a national study showed that **4-H members** are “two times more likely to contribute.” Sixty-one club officers improved leadership skills and gained 4-H knowledge through training, while over 320 youth gained leadership skills through serving on committees, serving as club officers, serving as Junior Fair Board volunteers, or serving as camp counselors.
- **4-H community service** included picking up trash, cleaning tables/trays at events, serving meals, recycling donations for shelters/food pantries/drives and other charities, carrying purchases out from stores for customers, building relationships with lonely seniors, and beautifying landscaping and new benches. Experiences through 4-H community service create an understanding of the importance of community involvement and giving back to the community.



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ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Agronomic research** with Extension education has had a 45 percent rate of return on investment. At the OSU Unger Farm and with cooperating county producers, the following projects were conducted:
 - Effects of Modified Relay Intercropping (MRI) on Wheat Yield
 - Effects of insecticides on MRI soybeans
 - Effects of pre-emergence soybean herbicide on cover crop germination
 - Effects of postemergence herbicide on cover crop germination
 - Effects of fungicides on multiple crops with various drainage classes
 - Effects of crop growth-promoting products on yield
 - Effects of cover crops on yield and soil health
 - Effects of side dressing hog manure on corn yield in Crawford County
 - Economical methods to plant cover crops for a viable stand establishment
 - Benefits of water and nutrient management
 - Statewide soybean yield limiting identification survey
 - Western bean cutworm survey
 - Weed survey in Crawford County and at OSU Unger Farm
- Twenty-one families benefited from **Unger Farm Community Garden** by growing their own vegetables and reducing their grocery bills.
- Forty-five people attended **woodland programs**. They indicated they will be able to manage their woods for higher quality tree and wildlife production. Woodlands contribute over \$60 million dollars to Crawford County's economy
- Over 35 producers were assisted with **farm management information**, land rental contracts and employee management.
- At least 75 plant disease and weed problems were identified, and soil tests were offered to help manage for a better crop and environment.
- The **Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (CORN) newsletter** was edited and distributed by OSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educators. The newsletter saves farmers money through increased crop yields and decreased input costs.
- Eighty-five people in Crawford County and over 1,300 people in the Erie Basin were recertified during **Pesticide Applicator Recertification**—saving an average of \$10 per acre in pest control.
- Over 67 forage producers operating over 10,000 acres indicated that they will be improving forage production operations with information gained at the **2014 Forage Production School**.
- Emergency personnel and farm community members were trained in **grain bin and farm safety**, with 80 people attending.
- Sixty-plus producers and three of the largest companies/cooperatives were educated on the **4Rs of nutrient stewardship**—improving water quality from the time it enters their farm until it leaves.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** is a free nutrition education program serving low-income adults and youth. This program is funded by the Food Nutrition Service's branch of the USDA. The goal is to improve, within a limited budget, the likelihood of families and individuals who are receiving food assistance benefits (formerly known as food stamps) to make healthy food choices and to choose active lifestyles.
 - Using the MyPlate recommendations as a guide, participants learn to select fruits; vegetables; whole-grain, lean forms of protein; and low-fat dairy products for a healthy diet that decreases the risk of chronic disease. Other subjects include lowering sodium intake and understanding nutrition labels, proper portioning, calorie intake and expenditure, and the importance of exercise.
- The **Galion Summer Food Service Program** reached nearly 10 direct contacts once a week for four weeks, plus 24 indirect contacts through newsletters that were sent home. New foods were sampled, and the basics of smart snacking were taught.

Crawford County receives \$48,209 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.