

# 2014 County Highlights



## FRANKLIN County

### HEART OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

2105 South Hamilton Road, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43232-4145

Phone: (614) 866-6900 [franklin.osu.edu](http://franklin.osu.edu)



### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP):** EFNEP helps adults with limited resources make healthier, safer and more budget-friendly food choices. The program teaches youth about nutrition, food preparation, food safety and physical activity. In 2014, Franklin County EFNEP reached 269 participants and impacted 1,213 family members. Eighty-six percent of the participants improved food resource management skills. Eighty-nine percent improved nutrition practices, and 51 percent developed better food safety practices. Youth EFNEP reached over 550 youth through school enrichment and summer programs.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed):** Franklin County SNAP-Ed reached 26,000 residents through nutrition education public service announcements. Another 1,161 participants were reached through indirect programming. Thus, 27,161 participants were reached through indirect programming. The total number of direct contacts for SNAP-Ed was 1,415 at 354 direct education classes. Franklin County SNAP-Ed target audiences for 2014 included 223 families with children and 166 elderly residents.
- Senior Series:** Through a partnership with the Franklin County Office on Aging, 1,100 senior citizens attended 140 educational programs designed to strengthen their health and improve their mental outlook. Ninety-five percent of the participants reported that they learned new information, and 94 percent reported that they were confident that the choices they make based on the information provided will help them maintain an active lifestyle.

- Financial Literacy and Homeownership Education:** OSU Extension/University District provides financial literacy and homebuyer education to Franklin County residents. In 2014 OSU Extension assisted 10 families with the purchase of homes in Weinland Park.
- Building Assets for Fathers and Families (BAFF):** OSU Extension/University District, in collaboration with Ohio CDC Association and Ohio Child Support Enforcement Agency, are working together to help noncustodial parents ordered by Franklin County courts to pay child support through the BAFF initiative. OSU Extension has trained 75 individuals, and 90 percent of those served reported that they found the program helpful and plan to use the information and resources to improve the quality of their lives in order to greatly benefit the lives of their children.
- Computer Classes:** Through collaboration with Connect Ohio, OSU Extension offers free, basic computer/Internet classes, and affordable, advanced computer classes to residents. In 2014, OSU Extension educated over 1,400 adults at 10 sites in Columbus.

### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Real Money, Real World:** OSU Extension professionals have developed a curriculum that simulates real-life experiences to help youth achieve financial literacy. In Franklin County, 2,200 youth participated in and were impacted by the program.
- 4-H Camp:** Young people know 4-H Camp is fun, and research shows that 4-H Camp helps build critical life skills for both campers and teen counselors. 4-H Camp helps



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build teamwork, communications and leadership—cultivating the job readiness skills employers look for, all while giving campers a chance to connect to nature. In Franklin County, 168 campers and 39 teen counselors spent five days sharpening these important life skills in “nature’s classroom” at 4-H Camp Ohio.

- **4-H CARTEENS:** This is a program managed by OSU Extension personnel in Franklin County, along with collaborative partners and student volunteers from Franklin County. The goal of 4-H CARTEENS is to reduce the number of second-time traffic offenders in Ohio by having driver safety information taught to teens by teens. Professionals in the field also share information. Participants are generally court-ordered to attend with their parents. Six hundred youth and their parents participated in 2014.
- **4-H Cloverbuds:** This program is designed as a nonformal approach to developing the confidence, social skills, decision-making abilities, subject matter knowledge, and physical skills of kindergarten through second-grade youth. As youth begin their 4-H Cloverbud experience, they take part in a unique blend of noncompetitive activities and opportunities specially designed for their age level. In Franklin County, 50 kindergarten through second-grade youth participated in activities throughout the year including Cloverbud Day Camp, 4-H Discovery Day, Ohio 4-H Cloverbot Challenge, club field trips, service activities and much more.
- **4-H Enrichment Programs:** These programs are designed to bring 4-H to youth in schools, afterschool programs, libraries and other settings. Franklin County Extension personnel also spearheaded and coordinated the first-ever School Garden Conference, which drew participants from Franklin County and across the state. In 2014, youth in over 120 classrooms, afterschool programs, libraries and special events were impacted by Franklin County Extension enrichment programs, impacting approximately 7,000 youth.
- **4-H Projects:** Ohio 4-H offers over 200 different 4-H projects. Each project book contains information and activities for members to explore as an organized group project or individually at home under the guidance of a parent or interested adult. Project topics range from aerospace to zoology. In Franklin County, 782 youth acquired new skills while completing 1,654 4-H projects.
- **Quality Assurance Training:** This training program teaches 4-H youth how to use best practices that guarantee quality, safe, food animal products for consumers and responsible animal-handling, care and welfare. In Franklin County, 120 youth participated in five livestock Quality Assurance Trainings and horse safety and ethics programs.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Master Gardener Volunteers:** A total of 106 active Master Gardener Volunteers in Franklin County performed more than 8,260 hours of volunteer service at 53 different sites and projects in Franklin County. This volunteer service was valued at \$179,985 at the current rate of \$21.79 per hour of volunteer labor.
- **Soil Testing:** Twenty-five community gardeners learned how to take soil samples in the fall and how to interpret fertilizer recommendations contained on soil test reports, when they participated in a fall gardening workshop. Soil testing services were instituted by Franklin County Extension in 2014.
- **Master Gardener Training:** A total of 41 new Master Gardener Volunteer interns were trained in 2014 to become active Master Gardener Volunteers. These interns received 50 hours of specialized training, passed a competency test and performed 50 hours of volunteer service in order to complete their training.
- **Gardening Hotline:** In 2014, more than 500 Franklin County residents increased their knowledge about gardening by calling the Gardening Hotline, staffed by Franklin County Master Gardener Volunteers during the growing season.

## ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- **Master Urban Farmer Workshops:** One hundred nine Franklin County residents completed a nine-week course to become Master Urban Farmers. As a result of participating in the course, 39 percent of participants planned to start a new business; 72 percent planned to produce more food from existing operations; 12 percent planned to increase family income; and 84 percent planned to produce higher quality or safer food from existing operations.
- **Farm to School Conference:** More than 47 local leaders learned how to locate foods from local/regional farms and food producers and how to cultivate market partnerships with farms and food producers at a daylong Farm to School Conference held in Columbus.

**Franklin County receives \$279,514 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.**