

# 2014 County Highlights

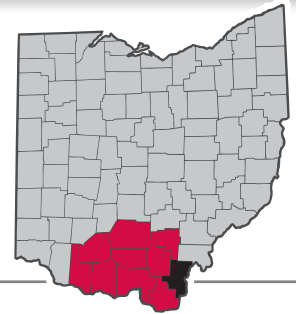


## GALLIA County

### OHIO VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **4-H Community Service:** Gallia County 4-H Clubs donated food, clothing, toys, books, blankets, winter coats and pet supplies to various local food banks, the Snack Pack program, Toys for Tots, the Christmas Angel Tree Project, the Gallia County Dog Shelter and Relay for Life. Clubs also donated time and volunteer support for community projects.
- **Real Money, Real World:** Youth need a clear understanding to manage their finances. Real Money, Real World is a school enrichment program that provides financial education to eighth through twelfth graders through hands-on simulations. This unique program was provided for 50 teens who participated in the 2014 Transitions Fair. Evaluations indicated that 89 percent had been unaware of the cost of child care. After completing the simulation, 82 percent are considering education beyond high school to obtain a better-paying position.
- **Gallia County 4-H:** Nine hundred twenty-three of the county's youth, ages 5–18, are enrolled in 4-H, the largest nonschool youth program in Gallia County. Led by 175 adult volunteers, the county offers 56 clubs, including specialty clubs such as horse, dog and afterschool clubs. 4-H Clubs provide positive adult-youth interactions focused around educational project experiences. The clubs help youth in the development of life skills, leadership development, healthy living skills and effective communication.

#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **4-H Workforce Preparation and Higher Education:** One mission of Gallia County 4-H is to introduce eighth through

twelfth graders to the opportunities provided by higher education. Gallia County 4-H currently has 61 trained Teen Leaders. These youth take part in county and state leadership opportunities, and in 2014, they provided 2,407 leadership and teaching hours to the county's 4-H programming. In addition to the skills these teens have learned, our local 4-H program provided over \$24,500 in college scholarships to graduating senior 4-H members. Another \$2,070 was provided to Gallia County teens to attend state and national 4-H trips such as Washington Focus, Sea Camp and State Shooting Sports Camp.

- **4-H Camp:** 4-H Camp builds critical life skills for both campers and counselors. Two hundred twelve Gallia County children attended six different summer camps, and 18 teens participated as counselors. All Gallia County teen counselors attend a two-day Counselor College directed by Gallia County 4-H. In 2014, the college included a total of 101 teens from 13 counties. This training is part of an award-winning workforce prep program that has been shared nationally. In evaluations of this year's program, all of the counselors reported an increase in their skills for risk management, teaching and workforce preparation. Gallia County 4-H also received \$4,680 in camp scholarships, which assisted 41 children in attending camp. In surveys, campers indicated that camp counselors served as positive role models; camp activities introduced STEM education; and the camping environment increased the campers' personal independence.
- **4-H CARTEENS:** A teen-facilitated driver safety program, CARTEENS is presented bimonthly in partnership with the



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juvenile court and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Currently we have 13 trained presenters who offered the program to over 100 teen traffic offenders in 2014. Statistics from 2013 and 2014 show a seven percent decrease in the crashes that occurred in Gallia County involving teen drivers ages 15–20.

- **STEM Education:** Three hundred eighty grade school students took part in STEM school enrichment programming, and 19 grade school science teachers were trained to use STEM educational kits developed for Rockets Away! and ChickQuest.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Gallia County Junior Fair:** In 2014, over 1,200 4-H projects were successfully completed. Of these projects, 395 were market projects, which sold for a grand total of \$474,995 (\$317,759 above market value). 4-H exhibitors also earned over \$24,000 in fair premiums and prize money from Holzer Health Systems and other community sponsors. Monies from the sale of market projects, fair premiums, and awards go directly to the 4-H and FFA families involved in the fair. Over 500 Gallia County youth attended Quality Assurance Training, assuring that high-quality products are produced and sold in Gallia County.
- **Ag Awareness and Farm City Educational Programs:** More than 600 elementary school children, teachers and adult volunteers participated in agricultural education programs provided by Gallia County Extension.
- **Forage and Beef Field Night:** The Ohio Valley Extension Education and Research Area educators, in partnership with the Ohio Agricultural Research Development Center's Jackson Agricultural Research Station, presented a summer meeting to 150 clients on profitable beef management. Participants heard talks on fencing, cattle handling and weed control.
- **Pesticide Applicator Recertification:** Twenty-three clients attended the Gallia County training on sprayer calibration, personal protective equipment and the latest research in pesticide application and safety.
- **Home and Garden:** A variety of educational outreaches were conducted, including appearances on WSAZ's "The Saturday Report." Topics included home and garden, farmer's markets, produce auction, natural resources and pest control. This broadcast has a viewing area that includes southern Ohio, West Virginia and northern Kentucky.
- **Good Agricultural Practices:** Twenty-four produce producers attended good production practices training, ensuring their practices would provide to consumers a safe, wholesome product to feed their families.

## ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- **Gallia County Farmer's Market and Produce Auction:** The Gallia County Agriculture and Natural Resources educator worked with the Gallia County Commissioners and the Gallia County Economic Development Office to support the Gallia County Farmer's Market, which provides fresh produce to local residents as well as a marketing opportunity for the area's produce, meat and egg producers.
- **Sixth Annual Gallia County BEST Preview Show:** In partnership with the Ohio Cattleman Association, Gallia County Extension hosted the two-day Sixth Annual Gallia County BEST Preview Show. Numerous steers and heifers were exhibited by youth from several surrounding states. Visitors boosted business at local hotels and restaurants during the event.