

# 2014 County Highlights



## GREENE County

### MIAMI VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Greene County is one of 18 Ohio counties funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to provide community nutrition education through the **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)**. Obesity, poor nutrition and physical inactivity disproportionately affect minority and low-income citizens. In an effort to reduce this disparity and improve the health and well-being of Ohioans, EFNEP teaches an eight-lesson series to low-income families with children. Lessons focus on the knowledge, skills, attitude and behavior changes needed to achieve nutritionally sound diets, food prepared in healthy ways, economical food budgets and food safety. One hundred twenty-nine families were impacted by EFNEP in Greene County. Graduates significantly increased their knowledge and improved their behavior in diet quality (51 percent), food resource management (69 percent), and food safety (41 percent), resulting in 31 percent of graduates running out of food less often each month.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** program assistants carry out a series of interactive presentations to both youth and adult participants to help them to make nutritious, budget-friendly food choices. Locations for these lessons include 15 area schools, a community afterschool program, two Summer Food Service Program sites, an emergency housing site, a drug rehabilitation center, an OhioMeansJobs site, and three senior citizen housing sites. Nearly 328 Greene County residents participated in one of 37 classes taught by Extension's SNAP-Ed program.
- Sixty-two adults were screened by **DermaScan** to identify sun damage, and they received information about staying healthy outside.
- Spending Smartly** money management lessons were offered 33 times with 422 participants. The program focuses on money awareness, budgeting, credit and debt control, and spending money wisely. The 2014 Annual National Survey Assessing Household Savings revealed that while most Americans are meeting immediate financial needs, they are worse off than several years ago. OSU Extension is addressing this need by offering county participants a savings program called **Ohio Saves**, introduced during Spending Smartly. Participants commit to a personal savings goal and receive ongoing support, encouragement and motivation as they progress. Cooperative Extension programs reached 175,726 people with 10,361 people setting a savings goal.
- Thirty-three people attended the Council on Aging-sponsored **Estate Planning Series**. Attendees learned how to handle nontitled assets during the Extension session.
- Live Healthy, Live Well** email campaigns were offered two times. The Spring Challenge, with 27 participants, focused on vegetables and fruit, physical activity, sun safety, local foods, herbs, and gardening. The Fall Challenge, with 25 participants, focused on organic foods, superfoods, gluten-free foods, whole grains and physical fitness.
- Pressure canner testing was conducted during a **food preservation workshop** to ensure the safe processing of fresh fruits and vegetables, usually from home-raised gardens.



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## PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **4-H CARTEENS**, a partnership with juvenile court and local law enforcement, taught safe driving techniques to 216 first-time juvenile traffic offenders.
- One hundred twenty-three youth in grades 3–9 attended **4-H Camp Clifton** along with 20 older youth who served as camp counselors. The counselors had completed 24 hours of training, and had completed a five-day, four-night residential camp. A \$3,500 grant was awarded from the Harmony Family Campership Fund via the Dayton Foundation to provide support for 39 youth to attend 4-H Camp. Five youth, ages 5–8, attended **Cloverbud Day Camp**. Three youth were chosen to attend specialty camps at Citizenship Washington Focus and State Leadership Camp.
- Forty-five **Junior Fair Board** members planned and conducted fair activities for youth. A total of 515 animals were sold at the fair, totaling \$372,517.
- Seven hundred forty-five youth actively participated in **ChickQuest**. In this 4-H program, 26 teachers addressed science standards.
- **Real Money, Real World**, an OSU Extension signature program, hosted 85 youth participants who increased their understanding about the real-life cost of living. Youth also learned more about the relationship between education, career choice and salary.
- Four **Food and Fashion Board** youth members planned and conducted three clinics for 4-H members. Food and Fashion Board members practiced presentation skills during fair.
- In 2014, 738 4-H youth were enrolled in 1,532 4-H projects through 44 **4-H Clubs**. Eighty-five kindergarten through second graders were in Cloverbuds.
- Building relationships with caring adults is one of the measures of effectiveness of positive youth development programs. Two hundred two **adult volunteers** served as organizational leaders by mentoring, caring for and leading youth in projects. The value of these volunteer hours is estimated at \$518,736.
- Older youth learned **21st century skills** such as leadership, communication, and teamwork through participation in Junior Fair Board, Food and Fashion Board, 4-H CARTEENS and camp counselor service.
- Twenty-two youth participated in a weeklong **STEM Camp** at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, thanks to a \$1,000 grant funded by the Ohio 4-H Foundation.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- A **weed survey** of over 80 county soybean fields was conducted, with 5,000 acres surveyed. Twenty-one percent of fields surveyed were rated at a level of infestation that would reduce yield. This survey will be used to inform weed control programs on farms in Greene County.
- Three invasive insect pest species (brown marmorated stinkbug, spotted wing drosophila and kudzu bug) were monitored in Greene County. The timing of pest emergence and infestation level was used to inform growers' **pest management programs**.
- An **on-farm field research trial** was implemented to study the influence of tillage, rotation and placement of fertilizer on phosphorous levels in soil.
- Over 50 people attended a **well water and soil testing event** hosted by Greene County Extension, and Soil and Water Conservation District.
- The 2014 Master Gardener nine-week training class had 14 participants. The Master Gardeners worked on 40 projects, including demonstration gardening, community vegetable gardening, afterschool gardening programs, seminars, lectures and classes for the public. In over 20 years of the program here in Greene County, **Master Gardener Volunteers** have provided nearly 100,000 hours, averaging more than \$2.1 million. There are 150 Master Gardener Volunteers around the county.
- The **Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program (OCVN)** conducted a seven-week class for 25 participants. The participants joined 130 volunteers already in the program. OCVN volunteers dedicate their time and service at local and state parks.

**Greene County receives \$171,113 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**