

2014 County Highlights

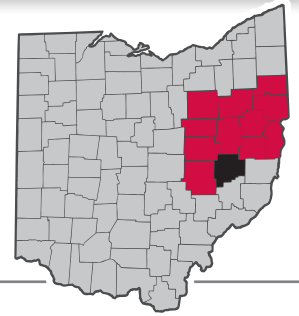


GUERNSEY County

CROSSROADS EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The recent shale gas development has spurred an increased interest in local giving. OSU Extension Community Development provided guidance for a local anonymous donor to develop a plan for long-term giving. This resulted in the establishment of a **\$120,000 endowment for East Guernsey School District**. Endowment proceeds will provide funds for East Guernsey teachers to enhance classroom instruction.
- A **\$19,000 North Central Region Center for Rural Development grant-funded project** partnered OSU Extension Community Development with Guernsey County Planning Commission and Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) to update the county comprehensive strategic plan. The CIC and Planning Commission indicated that a proactive approach was needed in developing economic, social and environmental impacts for long-term sustainability related to shale development in the region. The 12 subcommittees developed action steps in strategies that allows for expansion and support of the shale industry while encouraging diversification.
- A recent **study for projected economic impact related to the development of oil and gas resources** in Ohio indicates \$9.6 billion growth for 2014. OSU Extension Community Development educators provided educational sessions highlighting the economic, social and environmental impact. One of the comments on the evaluations summarized the consensus of the participants: "I learned a lot during these programs because you gave us a big-picture approach by having panel members that included shale industry

representatives, OSU research and lessons learned from other states."

- Budget and volunteer issues are causing many rural fire departments to look at combination or joint fire and EMS services. OSU Extension Community Development received \$4,000 to conduct a **12-month study of options for a local rural fire department**. As a result, the rural fire department is developing a strategic plan to combine fire departments.
- The **Community Action Team (A-Team)** was developed for 4-H youth ages 12–18 who want to volunteer their time in the community. This year, 35 4-H members reported 1,383 hours of volunteer work. Members help with service projects in school, church, library and 4-H Clubs and at many events throughout the community. The A-Team awarded \$605 to 4-H Clubs for community service projects. The team's work has increased the visibility of 4-H while providing a valuable service to the community.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Ag School Days**, a program for third-grade students was held in the spring. Approximately 400 youth attended this two-day program at the OSU Eastern Agricultural Research Station. Youth participated in fifteen stations, covering topics from livestock production to natural resources
- OSU Extension provided **Pesticide Applicator Recertification** to 300 private pesticide applicators from five counties. Participants attending locally represented more than 6,500 acres. Evaluations indicated that 95 percent of participants have improved practices to protect the



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environment, and 90 percent of participants use pesticides more cost effectively as a result of the program.

- Guernsey County currently has 17 active **Master Gardener Volunteers** teaching horticulture and manning displays at the farmer's market and Guernsey County Fair. Volunteers spoke on a variety of topics to service organizations, and taught horticulture topics to students in three Cambridge Elementary Schools. The Master Gardeners volunteered 650 hours.
- Twenty-three area livestock producers attended a three-part **grazing management workshop** involving nine hours of instruction. This program focused on how to implement rotational grazing, water system development and fencing systems to improve farm productivity and protect the environment. These farmers managed over 4,031 acres of hay and pastureland. Ninety-four percent of respondents indicated that they expect to increase forage yield as a result of this program.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Rural communities throughout eastern Ohio are experiencing sudden impacts as a result of drilling practices. Shale development impacts the community's social, economic and environmental structure, challenging existing community dynamics and the ability of existing institutions to meet increased needs. Community Development educators received a **three-year federal grant from the Economic Development Administration for \$227,000 to promote sustainability and economic diversity in a 25-county region of eastern Ohio**. During the first year of the project, OSU Extension Community Development's objective has been to acquire data from businesses in the 25-county region on the strengths, assets and supply chains that support manufacturing advancements related to shale. This will benefit the region by illustrating how reliant the businesses are on continued shale production in the region.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **Guernsey County 4-H** member enrollment totals 1,025 youth, reaching 12 percent of youth. Guernsey County offers 82 community 4-H Clubs led by 193 4-H advisors. Membership includes 857 youth in club groups and 578 in school and special-interest programs. Members completed 1,567 projects to learn about personal development, careers and life skills.
- In all, 94 campers made Guernsey County **4-H Camp** a popular program for leadership and citizenship skill development. Almost \$4,185 was provided for scholarships

from community and 4-H organizations. Over 12 hours of training and planning meetings enabled 22 counselors to develop skills to work with youth in a group setting.

- **Real Money, Real World**, a hands-on financial literacy program, engaged 201 eighth-grade students in learning how education affects income and lifestyle. The six-part curriculum included lessons on deductions and how occupation affects income. Twenty community leaders, business representatives and OSU Extension personnel served as simulation assistants for this activity.
- Three-hundred fifty-two 4-H and FFA members participated in livestock **Quality Assurance Training** to learn how to raise a safe, wholesome food product for consumers. One hundred forty members participated in the livestock Skillathon contest consisting of interviews, evaluation of livestock records and simulation exercises. Over 60 volunteers donated 180 hours to plan and conduct these programs.
- Three hundred seventy-seven kindergarten students celebrated 4-H Week by participating in the **Reading Makes the Best Better** program. 4-H teen volunteers read to students, distributed books and encouraged students to join 4-H. Parents completing the program survey responded that a family member read the book with their child at home.