

2014 County Highlights

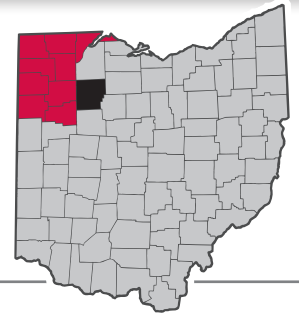


HANCOCK County

MAUMEE VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

7868 County Road 140, Suite B, Findlay, Ohio 45840-1898

Phone: (419) 422-3851 hancock.osu.edu



ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Thirty-four teens were selected to serve as **4-H Camp Counselors** for Hancock County 4-H Junior Camp. The teens practiced and completed an application, resume and interview. They completed over 24 hours of training in youth protection, program-planning, child development, team-building and teaching skills. The counselors planned and conducted a resident camp for 185 Hancock County youth. In self-assessments, 100 percent of the counselors reported gaining a better understanding of becoming employed and developing skills in leadership, communication and/or teaching.
- OSU Extension, in partnership with local businesses and community volunteers, facilitated **Real Money, Real World** in area schools. The program teaches participants about the value of education in relation to future employment, how paychecks work and basic budgeting. The simulation portion teaches youth the value of money and managing a household budget as an adult. From seventh grade through college-age, 1,150 young people participated.
- Seventy future leaders learned about the economic importance of agriculture to the local community at **Agriculture Day**. The youth component of the program stressed career opportunities in agriculture. Evaluations showed a score of 4.8 on a 5-point scale that assessed how much participants learned and benefitted from the program.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- During **Pesticide Applicator Recertification**, 324 producers received 1) the latest safety and research information on pesticides, 2) information on crops and livestock to benefit their farm operation, 3) environmental stewardship by learning the proper use of pesticides, and 4) educational training to fulfill their private applicator recertification requirements.
- During **Agricultural Fertilizer Certification Training**, 250 producers received 1) best management practices for nutrient stewardship, 2) information on soil fertility to benefit their farm operation, 3) information about phosphorus management in the reduction of algal blooms in Lake Erie, and 4) educational training to fulfill their private certification requirements.
- Hancock County **Master Gardener Volunteers** contributed \$54,000 in donated time and service to the community. Major activities stressed local foods via community seminars and community gardens. Over 3,000 consumer questions were answered via monthly radio call-in programs, eXtension, web page interaction, Hancock County Fair and individual assistance. Sixteen new residents completed 50 hours of horticultural training to become Master Gardeners.
- **Soil fertility research** has provided results to better manage phosphorus and nitrogen in crop production systems.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Empowerment Through Education

twitter.com/dirkeithsmith
u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact
extension.osu.edu

- A **fall soybean weed survey** has been used to reduce the spread of weed resistance to current herbicide programs and identify weeds that limit yields.
- A **western bean cutworm survey** has been used to prevent unnecessary applications of pesticides.
- Twenty thousand individuals were informed weekly of **agricultural communication alerts** including new practices, emerging issues and pest concerns facing the agricultural industry via radio, newspaper and newsletters.
- Producers and consultants (1,325 individuals) were provided the latest **agricultural educational and research information** at two regional meetings (the Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference and the Crops Field Day); nine production workshops (agronomy, beef and sheep); and six county meetings (Agrability Workshop; Farmland Lease Workshop; Forestry Tax School; Pond Management; and Soil Fertility for Corn, Soybeans and Wheat).

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- A **new STEM program** was created this year, serving 81 youth participants. Middle school-aged youth gained skills in problem-solving and teamwork as they worked together to explore chemistry, electricity, rocketry and robotics. The program was sponsored by dollars from the Ohio 4-H Foundation.
- OSU Extension, in partnership with area businesses and organizations, conducted a variety of **youth safety programs**. Youth were taught about safety regarding bicycling, farming, horseback riding, pet care, electricity, poisonous plants, emergencies and car seats through hands-on activities. Events included a bicycle rodeo, Danger Zone simulations, a Safe Kids Day during the county fair, and presentations to 4-H members with horse projects about the proper fitting and use of riding helmets. Over 500 people participated in these programs.
- Eight hundred eighty-five youth participated in 39 **4-H Clubs**, with 181 volunteers providing local support. The volunteers combined 6,560 hours of service were valued at \$126,148 in support of local youth.
- Local, regional and national research indicates concern for the financial literacy of our youth. **Hancock Saves** taught a financial education series to seventh graders in the Hancock County and Findlay City Schools. Assessments indicated that 90 percent of students increased their knowledge and skills in money management, and 75 percent planned to make a behavior change in personal finances and/or spending habits.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Nutrition and healthy cooking skills** were taught to 39 adults through two Dining with Diabetes classes, and two basic cooking classes. As a result of these classes, 90 percent of participants made behavior changes in eating and cooking methods. Over 1,300 students from Findlay City Schools (kindergarten through twelfth grade) participated in nutrition activities. Five hundred parents and children participated in eight health and nutrition displays at a YMCA Healthy Kids Day event. Two hundred forty-eight adults participated in nutrition activities at four health fairs, and 31 adults participated in Buckeye Wellness activities.
- Eighty-four adults participated in nine classes on **food preservation safety**. Afterwards, 95 percent indicated they would change their food preservation procedures as a result of new knowledge and skills gained. Thirty-five students received instruction in food safety.
- Due to research indicating a need for **financial education** in our community, Hancock Saves educated adults on money management topics such as homeownership, basic budgeting and debt reduction. As a result, assessments indicated 94 percent learned new information, and 95 percent planned to make a change in managing their finances. Our program was highlighted and praised in the United Way of Hancock County campaign video this year (<http://vimeo.com/103917217>).
- Received from Halt Hunger Initiative through United Way was a \$25,000 grant. Monies were used to hire a **new Family and Consumer Sciences educator** to coordinate and teach nutrition and life skills to food-insecure audiences.
- Through 84 **nutrition education** classes, 801 people received direct education and 1,212 received indirect contacts. Also, 1,233 youth were reached at the Summer Food Service Program through 26 classes. Food and nutrition classes held at Head Start and in second and third grades of qualifying schools reached 127 classrooms and 2,712 youth.

Hancock County receives \$70,370 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.