

2014 County Highlights



HENRY County

MAUMEE VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)**, funded by the USDA's Food Nutrition Service, is a free nutrition education program serving low-income adults. In Henry County, the program provided direct education programming for 535 people in 110 classes. The following topics were covered: MyPlate, vegetables and fruits, dairy, protein foods, food shopping, and food safety. Fifty percent of participants reported positive behavior changes after attending these classes.
- SNAP-Ed is working with the county's Family and Consumer Sciences educator to offer either **budgeting or debt management classes** each month. These classes are coordinated with individuals needing education requirements for the Henry County FISH program, Together We Can Make a Difference Initiative, Northwest Ohio Community Action, and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.
- Nutrition newsletters continued to extend **nutrition education** to over 1,350 households; visiting government commodity food pickup sites in Napoleon, Deshler, Liberty Center, Holgate, and McClure; the Department of Job and Family Services; senior sites; 22 Henry County food banks; Project We Care; WIC; the Henry County Hospital; the Henry County Health Department; and more.
- For the fifth year, the **Summer Food Service Program** was offered in Henry County, partnering with Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission, St. Paul Lutheran Church and the Campbells Soup Foundation. On 48 summer days, the Jump Into Foods and Fitness program offered

both physical activities and nutrition education for children receiving free lunches. SNAP-Ed was able to reach 180 different children ranging in age from 2–19 years, with an average daily attendance of 39 children. Working together with a variety of local organizations, 20 youth and adult volunteers contributed 174 hours of their time.

- For the first time, **SNAP-Ed entered the local classrooms** with a four-part series of programs for Head Start and grades 2–3 at West Elementary in Napoleon. Additional programs will be offered in the 2014–2015 school year.
- **Family Nutrition Program** participants are now able to attend a weekly program that supports the families' needs in shopping, selecting and recording food purchases. This program is offered in the morning and in the afternoon, allowing for participant flexibility.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- In 2014, **Henry County 4-H** enrolled 772 youth members with 121 adult volunteer advisors assisting them in 27 community clubs throughout the county. In terms of value, the volunteer efforts total \$164,721 for 4-H programming in Henry County. Additional volunteers provide services to the 4-H Endowment Committee, 4-H Advisory Council and special events.
- **Northwest Ohio 4-H CARTEENS**—offered through the 4-H programs in Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams counties—is a first-time traffic offenders re-education course that served 161 teen drivers in 2014. Of this total, 48 youth were referred by the Henry County court system. Through this program, the youth refresh their driving knowledge



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and skills of the road while rebuilding their self-esteem and interpersonal skills. Statistics show that those who attend 4-H CARTEENS programs are less likely to re-offend as teenagers than are teen traffic offenders who do not participate in the program.

- The **Strengthening Knowledge in Youth (SKY) Afterschool Program** celebrated its sixth anniversary in 2014. The program's existence is possible through the partnership between United Way of Henry County and the Henry County 4-H program. SKY evolved into a strong mentoring program in which local teens are able to complete required volunteer hours while developing strong workforce skills. Elementary students discover positive leisure time use, receive academic assistance and have an opportunity to bond with a positive role model. In 2014, 14 teens completed more than 40 hours of volunteer service to the program. Funding for this program, provided by United Way, totaled \$8,000.
- Henry County **4-H Camp** features cooperative living, new activities for positive leisure time use, nature education and more. In Henry County, 4-H Camp is tradition. In 2014, 177 youth participated in this residential camp program. For our youngest 4-H members, 4-H Cloverbud Camp, a three half-day camp, included 42 kindergarten through second graders and 14 teen counselors. Activities the campers participate in assist in the development of fine and large motor skills while introducing the concept of camping. Nine first- through fourth-grade girls attended the 2014 4-H Princess Camp at 4-H Camp Palmer. The 4-H youth development professionals of Henry, Fulton and Defiance counties work collaboratively to provide an opportunity for campers to learn about proper table etiquette, inner and outer beauty, and creativity.
- **Henry County 4-H Endowment Committee** continued its efforts to increase the value of the Henry County 4-H Endowment. Through the annual giving program and spring fundraiser, the committee was able to add an additional \$4,500 to the principal that is over \$200,000. Induction of Henry County 4-H Hall of Fame nominees was conducted at the annual fundraiser. This year, Sunday (Andrew) Griffith, Colleen (Chambers) Wilson, Nicole (Phillips) Giesige and the late John Rohrs were named as inductees. Inductees are nominated with regard to their Henry County 4-H membership, current community involvement and contributions in the area in which they reside, and the impact of that involvement. Seventy-seven former Henry County 4-H members have been inducted into the Hall of Fame since 1996. Interest money in 2014 totaled \$9,400 and was used for recognition, trainings, trips, camp scholarships and academic scholarships.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- There are 15 active Master Gardener members. They regularly cooperate with four local events in Henry County to educate local residents. In connection with the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, the **Master Gardener Volunteers** help with the Life Skills program in April. In May, the Master Gardeners help promote the plant sale for Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Also in May, Master Gardeners plant flowers for the Napoleon Chamber of Commerce's Downtown Beautification program. In August, Master Gardeners regularly contribute to the county fair by hosting a program at the Farm Bureau Tent.
- Over 350 youth in Henry County that enrolled in and completed a livestock project through 4-H and FFA, completed Livestock **Quality Assurance Training**. Focus topics for 2014 were Good Production Practice (GPP) #1: Use an Appropriate Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship (VCPR) as the Basis for Medication Decision-Making; GPP#3: Use Antibiotics Responsibility; and GPP#6: Establish Effective Animal Identification, Medication Records and Withdrawal Time. Quality assurance education is a step toward livestock project members raising and caring for their animals in a positive manner, thus reassuring the public that they are receiving wholesome food products.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Forty-three people attended food safety training in one of the following: the 20-hour **ServSafe Food Handler Program for Managers**, the four-hour Person-in-Charge Training, or a basic food preservation class. Participants reported an increase in their knowledge of the causes of foodborne illness, as well as ways to reduce the risk of illness.
- Four families completed **homebuyer education**. This eight-hour course supports the loan process for first-time homebuyers to obtain a mortgage. Each participant learns to manage a budget and a net worth statement, and learns to be a better consumer. The completion of this course develops confident consumer decisions and decreases the probability of foreclosure.

Henry County receives \$85,839 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.