

# 2014 County Highlights

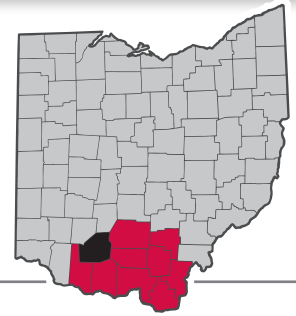


## HIGHLAND County

### OHIO VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

119 Governor Foraker Place, Hillsboro, Ohio 45133-1092

Phone: (937) 393-1918 [highland.osu.edu](http://highland.osu.edu)



*The Highland County Commissioners continued to collaborate with Brown and Adams County Commissioners in 2014, sharing an Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Extension educator. The ANR educator makes extensive use of area radio and print media to reach and educate clientele across the three counties. Highland County also maintains a 4-H youth development educator, a part-time program assistant with SNAP-Ed and part-time support staff in the county office.*

#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- In 2014, 840 youth ages 5–18 participated in traditional **4-H programs**, with the assistance of 312 adult and youth volunteers. 4-H prepares youth for success by providing life skills such as interviewing skills, teaching responsibilities and time-management skills. Based on an estimated minimum of 35 hours contributed annually by each volunteer, the value of their service to Highland County exceeded \$246,246.
- Youth development experts know **4-H Camp** helps build critical life skills for both campers and youth counselors. 4-H Camp helps build teamwork, communication and leadership, cultivating job readiness skills while giving campers a chance to connect with nature. In Highland County, 44 youth campers ages 5–18 and 16 counselors ages 15–18 attended either Canter's Cave 4-H Camp for overnight camping or Cloverbud Day Camp held at the Highland County Fairgrounds.
- In **Real Money, Real World**, middle and high school students gain an understanding of how current income and life choices affect future income. Participants in this OSU

Extension signature program learn how much to expect to pay for expenses such as housing, transportation and childcare, and how to balance “wants” and “needs.” In 2014, this hands-on program was offered to 206 eighth-grade youth from Hillsboro City School District. Students stated they were unaware of how much they cost their parents.

- An additional 589 youth participated in short-term 4-H youth development activities such as **rural safety education** and **4-H awareness programming**. Students who attended the rural safety presentation stated they would change their risky behavior around animals, especially at the Highland County Fair. Risky behavior includes screaming and running around the animals. The students said they would ask for permission before touching any animals. They didn't want to get hurt or hurt the animals.
- Forty-four high school students from four school districts participated in **Agriculture Reality**, a “Preparing Youth for Success and Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment” program. The simulation allowed students to act as landowners and make business decisions about their farm. Twenty-four farm-related business professionals volunteered to help with the simulation, making student decisions more realistic. Eighty-eight percent of the students participating in this program increased their knowledge of accepted business practice involving production agriculture.

#### ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Four **Pesticide Applicator Recertification** sessions were held at Southern State Community College in Fincastle, with



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Empowerment *Through* Education

[twitter.com/dirkeithsmith](https://twitter.com/dirkeithsmith)  
[u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact](http://u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact)  
[extension.osu.edu](http://extension.osu.edu)

two daytime and two evening sessions. A total of 99 private applicators were recertified in 2014 for Highland, Adams and Brown counties, including 52 from Highland County. Monthly testing was offered for both private applicators and custom applicators to obtain a license through testing. A total of 93 private and commercial applicators took the exams at our local site.

- Tobacco producers were required to obtain **good agricultural production (GAP) practices training** in order to market tobacco this coming marketing season. Some companies had required this in previous years, but all companies required it in 2014. Five sessions of the training were held in the tri-county area for local producers. Twenty-three Highland County growers attended one of these local sessions that provided GAP training for 266 producers.
- A cow school called **Beef Producers** was offered in Adams County on three nights in January, February and March. The program was offered throughout the state of Ohio via the use of technology, with OSU Extension beef specialists providing training on herd health and nutrition; improving herd quality with genetics; and improving forages for hay and grazing. An average of 26 producers attended the three sessions locally.
- The Highland County **Master Gardener Volunteers** are not only an asset to the county, but also to the OSU Extension offices. In an effort to help the Master Gardeners expand their ability to assist and teach others, a computer training program was conducted in summer 2014 at a local school's computer lab. An average of 11 Master Gardeners from Highland and Brown counties attended the seven sessions covering the use of social media and word processing. Also covered were the use of email for utilizing local newspapers and the creation of PowerPoint presentations for face-to-face teaching.
- An **agronomy series** was offered for row crop producers, with topics covering crop diseases, insect damage and weed control utilizing OSU Extension state specialists. These topics were presented during the months of January, February and March.

choices. Eighty-four educational sessions were conducted at five local elementary schools to 2,045 kindergarten through second-grade students. The primary content of the youth programming was MyPlate, fruits and vegetables, and the importance of physical activity. Thirteen programs were delivered at Summer Food Service locations, with 119 children learning basic nutrition and the importance of physical activity.

**Highland County receives \$62,014 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The USDA grant-funded **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** conducted 113 educational sessions to 677 low-income adults. Of those, 59.4 percent use food-assistance benefits. The primary content of direct education was MyPlate, food shopping, whole grains and dairy foods. In retrospective surveys, 50 percent of the participants in the three program series on MyPlate showed improvement in reading food labels to make better food