

2014 County Highlights

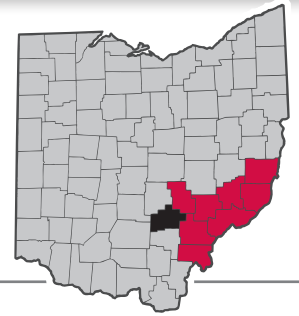


HOCKING County

BUCKEYE HILLS EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- The Hocking Hills Artists and Craftsmen Association partnered with 4-H to teach **marketable skills** to 14 youth. Professional craftsmen taught 4-H members how to turn wood to create a one-of-a-kind fountain pen. Youth also learned to coil pine needles into baskets, hand-craft leather accessories and cut and fuse stained glass.
- Young people know **4-H Camp** is fun. Youth development experts know 4-H Camp helps build teamwork, job readiness, and communication and leadership skills, all while campers connect with nature. In 2014, 33 Hocking County 4-H members and 15 4-H Camp Counselors participated in Beginner/Junior 4-H Camp. Twenty-three Cloverbuds and nine counselors attended Cloverbud Day Camp.
- Two 4-H Camps were held to teach specific skills. **Sewing Camp** attracted 15 participants, and **Horse Camp** attracted 20 participants. The Hocking County 4-H Committee provided six youth with all-expense paid trips to specialty camps, including Citizenship Washington Focus, Leadership Washington Focus, Shooting Sports Camp, Watersports Adventure Weekend, Forestry Camp, and Sea Camp.
- 4-H members enrolled in 909 traditional **4-H projects** and completed 92 percent of them. A total of 129 4-H members achieved honor member status.
- Older 4-H youth learn **leadership skills** through participation in the Hocking County Youth Board (15 youth), Fashion Board (7 youth), 4-H CARTEENS (8 youth), Junior Leaders (21 youth), PetPALS (5 youth) and through service as 4-H Camp Counselors (17 youth).

- In 11 elementary school classes, 284 students participated in **4-H chick embryology classes**, in which 99 percent learned how baby chicks hatch, and 98 percent learned how many days it takes a baby chick to hatch.
- **Real Money, Real World**, an OSU Extension signature program, gives middle school students an understanding of how grades and life choices affect income. A total of 138 students participated in Real Money, Real World during the 2013–2014 school year. In evaluations, 90 percent of students said the program gave them a better idea of what's involved in earning, spending and managing money, and 88 percent believed what they learned would help them in the future.
- The **Hocking County 4-H Committee** sponsors a food booth during the fair to raise funds to support the 4-H program. In 2014, nearly \$10,600 was raised to fund 2015 activities, including postage for all 4-H mailings, fair passes for all 4-H members, registration fees to specialty camps, trophies and ribbons, camp counselor fees, graduation gifts, college scholarships, and volunteer training and recognition.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Hocking County **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** provided 71 direct education classes from October 2013 to September 2014, with 365 adult SNAP recipients and eligible nonrecipients participating. In addition to instruction, participants were given healthy, low-cost recipes and the opportunity to do activities applying the information learned. An additional 1,874 adults were reached with SNAP-Ed newsletters.



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- Logan-Hocking Schools qualify for the **Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program**, which allows SNAP-Ed to provide programming in the schools. For the 2013–2014 school year, the program assistant led 151 youth classes, with 1,963 participants. Topics included physical activity, healthy snacks and drinks, whole grains, vegetables, and fruits.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- The Hocking Hills Chapter of OSU Extension's **Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) Program** continues to thrive. Twenty-two new OCVNs graduated from the program in June. Throughout 2014, volunteers performed monitoring and maintenance at Buckeye Trail, at local state nature preserves such as Boch Hollow and at Hocking Hills State Park. The chapter hosts a booth at Lilyfest where volunteers provide information on natural resources issues such as invasive species identification, control and prevention. The chapter was chosen to host the 2015 state conference.
- Hocking County **Master Gardeners** are involved in community projects including the Logan Community Garden—which provides garden plots for residents—and Logan in Bloom—which involves planting, watering and maintaining the landscape at Worthington Park as well as the downtown flower planters.
- OSU Extension is helping lead the effort to educate landowners and help prevent **invasive species** such as the hemlock woolly adelgid from causing severe environmental and economic damage in Hocking County. OSU Extension has also been a strategic partner in scouting Hocking County for the pest, as hemlock trees are vital to Hocking County's tourism economy. The local Agriculture and Natural Resources educator made presentations to multiple groups, reaching over 90 participants. Also, nearly 300 insect identification cards were distributed at Extension programs.
- OSU Extension hosted two very popular programs in 2014. Partnering with the Laurelville Fruit Farm owner Bob Bowers, 22 participants were treated to a hands-on **fruit tree pruning workshop** in the orchard. Growing shitake mushrooms attracted landowners who own woodlots and are looking for an understory crop.
- OSU Extension hosted **2014 Beef School**, a web-based learning experience with 36 local participants. The local Extension educator facilitated the sessions at which participants were able to interact with and ask questions of presenters. The Hocking County Beef Committee provided funding for the program.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Preparing for a **timber harvest** can be a major decision for landowners, as this opportunity may only happen once in a lifetime. An Extension-sponsored, field-based program allowed 50-plus participants to view a forest being actively managed to meet long-term landowner goals.
- Shoplifting impacts the local economy through higher retail prices, lost sales tax, fewer jobs and costs to prosecute criminals. To help alleviate this drain on the economy, OSU Extension joined with the Hocking County juvenile court to offer **shoplifting prevention classes**. Although a psychological profile showed that five of the 15 participants had a moderate to high risk of repeat offenses, all participants reported on the end-of-class survey that they had no plan to shoplift again.
- **Extension volunteers** make a significant economic impact in our community. A total of 198 local residents volunteer with Extension: 145 in 4-H, 18 in Master Gardeners and 35 in the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists Program. With the value of a volunteer hour in Ohio estimated at \$21.40 (**independentsector.org**) and a conservative estimate of 35 hours a year in volunteer time, the value of these efforts donated to Hocking County exceeded \$148,300 in 2014.

Hocking County receives \$27,152 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.