

2014 County Highlights



JACKSON County

OHIO VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- With the help of 15 teen volunteers who served on 4-H awareness teams, nearly 2,300 youth were introduced to **Jackson County 4-H**. Youth who were involved in afterschool programs and awareness visits were asked, “What is 4-H all about?” Students responded with a variety of answers such as “science,” “team-building,” “computers” and “STEM programs.” Overall, answers indicated that students now realize there is more to 4-H than just livestock.
- More than 250 youth in preschool through third grade—as well as 52 special-needs students—participated in **school enrichment projects** through the ChickQuest program. Three additional schools added this program in 2014. Youth mastered science skills, meeting statewide standards by following the development and hatching of eggs. An additional 132 youth participated in 4-H Science Afterschool programming.
- Jackson County 4-H involved 626 4-H members and Cloverbud youth in 34 **4-H Clubs**, including five new clubs. Members learned specific subject-matter knowledge as well as leadership, citizenship and life skills. Leading these groups were 126 adult volunteers who provided youth with a positive relationship with a caring adult.
- More than 300 high school students took part in **Real Money, Real World**, a financial literacy simulation program. Many participants said they learned how expensive life in the real world can be, and many said they were more appreciative of what their parents went through to provide for them. Youth also commented that they were going to wait to have children after going through this process.
- Monthly **kindergarten programs** were implemented in two schools. Programs focused on topics that matched the schools’ curriculum, such as sound, recycling, cultural diversity and science fun. Programs reached 133 kindergarteners.
- Nearly 600 second-grade and special-needs students—along with more than 60 volunteers—participated in the sixth annual **Ag Experience Day** in cooperation with Farm Bureau and the OARDC Jackson Outlying Agricultural Research Station. Students gained knowledge in the areas of science, math, agriculture and natural resources through 17 unique sessions. Students were able to apply their classroom lessons and increase their awareness of agricultural products.
- Thirty-six older 4-H youth served as **Junior Fair Board** members, which allowed them the opportunity to practice leadership and communication skills. After participating in hands-on training, they applied what they learned by organizing educational learning experiences for 626 youth who gained valuable learning experiences through 810 projects. The county fair allowed 4-H members to develop and demonstrate their leadership abilities through planning and implementation of Junior Fair activities.
- More than 600 youth exhibited educational projects at the **2014 Jackson County Junior Fair**. Of those youth, 305 exhibited a market livestock project and participated in the 2014 Livestock Sale, which garnered a total of \$271,758. Thanks to many generous supporters, this amount was \$96,848 over market value and was an 18 percent increase from 2013. Much of the income received by these exhibitors



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goes towards current or future education expenses.

Through their 4-H projects, youth gained important life skills in the areas of financial management, leadership development and personal responsibility to help prepare them for the workforce as contributing citizens of our communities.

- With the help of 24 volunteers, 127 nonlivestock projects were completed by youth attending **General Projects Judging** at the fair. Youth further explored their individual subject matter and gained valuable interviewing skills as they communicated with the judges about their project work.
- More than 100 Jackson County youth gained educational experiences by attending overnight **4-H Camp** at Canter's Cave 4-H Camp/Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center. By taking part in one of four resident summer camps as well as other camps throughout the year, youth learned about their environmental surroundings and gained valuable skills in socialization, communication, personal development and team-building.
- During the overnight camping experiences, 17 teens served as **4-H Camp Counselors** for younger 4-H members. The experience enhanced their leadership, counseling and communication skills after participating in 24 hours of camp counselor training sessions.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Jackson County is one of 18 Ohio counties funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture to provide community nutrition education through the **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)**. EFNEP targets low-income families with children and is fully funded by this federal grant. Through a series of eight lessons, EFNEP assists participants in acquiring the knowledge, skills, attitudes and changed behavior necessary to achieve nutritionally sound diets, prepare food safely, manage food budgets and be more physically active. In fiscal year 2014, Jackson County shared an EFNEP program assistant with Vinton County. EFNEP reached a total of 32 low-income adults with children in Jackson County, impacting 125 people in participants' families, including 58 children. As a result of participating in EFNEP, 81 percent of participants showed improvement in one or more food resource management practices (planning meals, comparing prices, using a grocery list). In all, 94 percent of participants improved one or more nutrition practices (healthy food choices, reading food labels, preparing foods without added salt). In addition, 81 percent showed improvement in one or more food safety practices (thawing and storing foods properly), and 44 percent increased their physical activity.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- OSU Extension partnered with the OARDC Jackson Outlying Agricultural Research Station to host **Beef and Forage Field Night**. Nearly 140 producers and landowners learned the latest in beef cattle handling, facilities design and controlling the troublesome weed, spiny amaranth. Participants improved the efficiency of their enterprises and increased their knowledge of recommended production practices.
- Nearly 200 people enjoyed the 53rd annual **Farm-City Field Day** at the Blakeman farm. Participants learned about heifer breeding programs, fence construction, alfalfa production, wetland wildlife management and more.