

2014 County Highlights

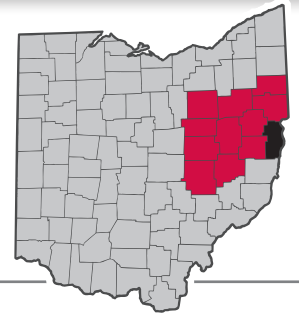


JEFFERSON County

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- The **4-H youth development program** reached 538 Jefferson County youth through 30 4-H Clubs in communities throughout the county, including a new club in Steubenville housed at the Urban Mission. 4-H Clubs provide a learning environment that is safe and nurturing, and the 130 adult volunteers provide members with a caring relationship that is a great predictor of success as they go through the difficult teen years. Members of 4-H Clubs learn leadership, decision-making and problem-solving skills. Members learn responsibility by completing their 4-H projects. All of this is accomplished through hands-on learning opportunities that are both educational and fun.
- Twenty-five teens attended the first **4-H Teen Leadership Camp** in Jefferson County. Teens learned basic leadership skills, and each teen had the opportunity to put his/her leadership skills into action by taking turns leading group activities. Teens were very positive about the camp, and it will become a regular event in the county 4-H program.
- Sixty-five 4-H members attended the three-day **Horse Camp** at the Jefferson County fairgrounds. Members learned basic riding and showmanship skills. This camp continues to be a point of pride in the county 4-H program. It offers both new and old members a chance to improve their horsemanship skills.
- For the second year, Rosebud Mining presented the 4-H Committee with a check for \$5,000 to be used on events for county 4-H members. Once again, the committee was able to reduce the price of **4-H Camp** by \$30. The camp continued to draw members who had never camped before

who would not have been able to attend camp without that financial assistance.

- One hundred twenty-three members attended the **2013 Iron Chef Clinic** and prepared dishes using bacon as the required ingredient. Judges from local restaurants rated the offerings based on taste, appearance and creativity. While judging took place, Junior Leaders taught classes focusing on nutrition, serving sizes and bacon art. Once again, student evaluations reported that they are becoming more confident in the kitchen because of their participation in Iron Chef.
- Over 200 4-H members attended **Quality Assurance Training**, where they learned about the importance of a quality veterinarian-client-patient relationship as well as the importance of proper drug administration for livestock. Two hundred seventy-three members completed a Skillathon for their animal projects. One hundred ninety of those scored 90 or above and were named "Most Outstanding Skillathon Youth."

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- In 2013, **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** in Jefferson and Harrison counties facilitated 145 programs with 12 agencies and partners. These include both Jefferson and Harrison County Job and Family Services agencies, two food pantries, four elderly sites, one homeless shelter, one Head Start parents' group and two schools. The majority of these programs were direct programming, meaning that the participants were in the program participating for at least 45 minutes. In addition,



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most of the direct programs were also part of a series where the same participants came back at least three times to get more information on a certain topic.

- Jefferson County SNAP-Ed was part of a pilot program in 2013. The purpose of the pilot program was to talk to students about nutrition. The grant for the following year had the opportunity to shift to a focus on **childhood obesity**, and this provided a chance to see how it would work. SNAP-Ed was able to get into Buckeye West Elementary School and talk to students in grades K–5. We were also able to get into Wintersville Elementary in the Indian Creek School District. Because of the success the pilot program had in all the counties, it was presented when the 2014 grant was written, and a shift was made to focus more on childhood obesity.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Nearly 70 farmers and agency representatives participated in **Tri-County Agronomy Day**. Participants learned how to identify and manage pests, how to protect the environment when using pesticides and how to minimize pesticide use. Most of the program participants noted that they would likely improve their practices and save money based on the training.
- Nineteen **Master Gardener Volunteer interns** were given 50 hours of horticultural training. The participants of the program gained knowledge in soils, lawn care, entomology, insect and disease identification, growing vegetables, and much more. Each participant is required to give a 10-minute presentation at the end of the training on a garden-related topic that is of interest to the individual gardener. Over 1,000 volunteer hours have been given to the community by 35 local Master Gardener Volunteers and interns. Master Gardener Volunteers have taught free gardening education sessions at several schools, an assisted living facility, a senior center, community gardens, farmer’s markets and several libraries.
- Over 50 participants learned about the benefits of purchasing local foods, how to grow grapes, and/or how to make wine at the **Friendship Wine and Food Festival**.
- More than 400 county residents are increasing their knowledge about various **farm management topics** through a bimonthly OSU Extension educational newsletter.
- Sixty-eight individuals participated in two **oil and gas development presentations**. Two Agriculture and Natural Resources educators discussed current oil and gas development, including hydraulic fracturing, water quality, water testing, pipeline easements and leasing.
- Approximately 90 people participated in the first annual **Sustainable Living Field Day**. Program attendees heard sessions on solar and geothermal energy, water conservation, and small-scale gardening. A state senator and a state house representative attended the event.
- Approximately 140 students, including three schools, participated in **Farm To School**. Students were taught the basics of horticulture and how to produce their own vegetables.
- Approximately 80 county residents attended one of three **invasive species management program sessions** offered by the Agriculture and Natural Resources educator.
- The Agriculture and Natural Resources educator supported **local foods education** by teaching various free gardening sessions throughout the community, including the following venues: a social service agency, a farmer’s market, a senior center, several libraries, a radio show and a woman’s club.

Jefferson County receives \$25,599 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.