

2014 County Highlights

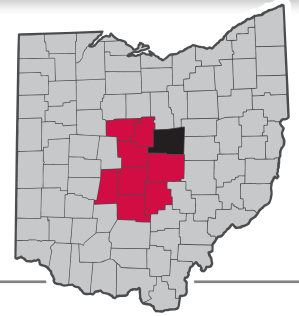


KNOX County

HEART OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

160 Columbus Road, P.O. Box 1268, Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050

Phone: (740) 397-0401 knox.osu.edu



ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Farmers from Knox and seven surrounding counties attended the six-week, in-depth **2014 Central Ohio Agronomy School** to learn about critical agronomic production topics. These producers reported production of more than 12 million bushels of corn, 3.5 million bushels of soybeans, 1.6 million bushels of wheat and 1.2 million tons of alfalfa. These producers were responsible for adding more than \$108 million in annual sales to their local economies. One hundred percent of the respondents would recommend this school to others. This school has been offered five times since 2006 (every other year). Fifty-eight percent of this year's participants have attended the five previous schools. Sixty percent have attended four previous schools, while 65 percent and 74 percent have attended three previous and two previous schools, respectively.
- Fifty-two farm families participated in an **estate planning workshop** sponsored by the Delaware, Knox and Morrow Extension offices. Topics included the effect of the new estate tax laws on farm estate settlement costs, distribution options for heirs, options for farm heirs to purchase farm assets, LLCs to protect farm assets and personal assets, and ways to protect assets from long-term care issues.
- Technology is changing many production practices on Central Ohio grain farms. Two hundred fifty-three producers attended a series of **farm technology meetings**. Topics for this series included GIS software, data collection and management, yield monitor calibration, variable rate applications, zone management, and unmanned aerial systems (drone) use in Ohio agriculture. Participants at these workshops estimated a savings of \$10 to \$35 per acre based upon knowledge gained.
- Eighteen county beef producers attended the three-session **2014 Ohio Beef School** that was held via broadcast technology. The school provided producers across the state with education on various topics including improving breeding herd efficiencies.
- OSU Extension and the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association sponsored the four-session **2014 Sheep and Goat Web Series**. Around 26 producers through Knox and surrounding counties participated and learned how to improve their recordkeeping skills, parasite management and breed selection for market.
- Efforts to ensure that safe and wholesome foods are grown in Knox County and across the state continued by educating 64 individuals on **good agricultural production practices** through two county trainings. Areas of focus this year were directed towards better recordkeeping, tracking produce and water quality/management.
- The Knox County Master Gardener Volunteer program conducted training for 17 new interns, bringing our county membership up to 26 **Master Gardener Volunteers**. Volunteers help Extension share research-based information with gardeners throughout the county by conducting workshops and assisting in community gardens and one-on-one consultations. The 26 Master Gardeners Volunteers and interns have given a combined 780 volunteer hours. These hours equate to more than \$20,000.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Empowerment *Through* Education

twitter.com/dirkeithsmith
u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact
extension.osu.edu

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- One hundred fifty-four Mount Vernon High School seniors, 310 eighth-grade students from Mount Vernon Middle School, 56 Knox County Career Center juniors, 38 East Knox Middle School students and 44 Fredericktown Middle and High School students completed **Real Money, Real World**. The participants documented learning in a variety of areas related to money matters, family-planning, education and planning for their future in the workforce.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- In Knox County, 1,087 youth participated in 62 traditional community **4-H Clubs** and activities, completing 1,510 4-H projects. They demonstrated a gain in life skills at judging, speaking contests and through club leadership and citizenship. The program was supported by 184 volunteers. After surveying 920 4-H members in July (during livestock interview judging) regarding various aspects of their 4-H experiences, we found the following:
 - Ninety-two percent indicated that they had improved their leadership skills.
 - Ninety-seven percent indicated that they had increased their knowledge in their project areas.
 - Eighty-six percent noted they had increased their recordkeeping skills.
 - Eighty-eight percent improved their social and/or presentation skills.
 - Ninety-four percent had more confidence in attempting new tasks.
- Twenty-four fourth-grade classrooms participated in **Agriculture Awareness Day**, with over 425 youth attending 20 different stations related to the following: the history of agriculture in Knox County, sources of food, and animals and plants. More than 60 volunteers and 28 Junior Fair Board members assisted in this educational program.
- **School enrichment experiences** were presented to youth in five different school districts. Go Plants was presented to two classrooms (45 youth); Team up for Good Nutrition was presented to five classrooms (110 youth); Choose It! Use It! was presented to two classrooms (42 youth); and ChickQuest was presented to 17 classrooms (272 youth).
- The **Acres of Adventure** afterschool program at St. Vincent De Paul School provided 25 prekindergarten through eighth-grade students an introduction to the world of agriculture and life sciences through a two-part curriculum. Partners from OSU Extension and St. Vincent De Paul continued this one day each week during the 2013–2014 school year.

- One hundred nineteen campers (ages 8 to 14) and 31 counselors (ages 14 to 18) from Knox County attended a five-day **Junior Camp** at 4-H Camp Ohio with Holmes County campers and counselors. They participated in adventure activities, crafts, shooting sports, living history and nature study. Eighty-eight percent of the survey respondents could list at least one thing they had learned at camp, and 72 percent could list at least one skill they had enhanced through their camp experience.
- The before-school **Jump Into Foods and Fitness** program at Pleasant Street Elementary provides kindergarten through fifth-grade students with information on nutrition and with the opportunity to exercise before entering the classroom. Partners from OSU Extension and Pleasant Street Elementary continued this one-day each week during 2014. Eighty-eight participants had attended one or more sessions. The program started its 12th year with more than 50 students.
- The afterschool **Power to the Sixth** program for sixth-grade students at Mount Vernon Middle School provided a total of 65 students with positive leisure activities on Wednesdays. In its 12th year, the program utilizes 4-H and community teen and adult volunteers, and started the new school year with 15 students.