

2014 County Highlights

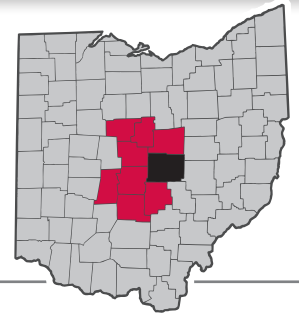


LICKING County

HEART OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Fifty-one private pesticide applicators received initial or continuing education credit as certified applicators during a three-hour **Pesticide Applicator Training**. Eighty-nine percent of participants shared that they gained new knowledge concerning safe pesticide handling and more confidence in their ability to determine when pesticide use was warranted. Review of new invasive insects and herbicide-resistant weeds was included in the program.
- Thirty-four emergency responders and producers received hands on experience during the **Agriculture Emergency Responder Grain Bin Rescue Program**. Emergency responders received four hours of continuing education credits.
- Livestock **Quality Assurance Training** was presented to 1,063 youth members, 425 parents and 129 community club advisors—using 33 adult volunteers and 50 teen leaders. This program educated youth on animal health and the humane care and handling of livestock.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Fifty **Junior Fair Board** members volunteered approximately 10,100 hours total to prepare programs that served 1,750 Junior Fair exhibitors. Evaluations indicated that 92 percent learned program-planning, 90 percent learned conflict management and 98 percent learned time management.
- Through **Junior Fair Board**, **4-H Camp Counselor Training**, **Food and Fashion Board**, and **4-H CARTEENS**, 110 teens

were provided with training in leadership, speaking, program-planning, mentoring, conflict management, community service, evaluation and communications. These youth individually contributed more than 150 hours of volunteer service, valued at \$248,160.

- **4-H Camp** programs involved 241 youth ages 5–18, with 37 teen counselors and 19 adult volunteers. Counselors received an average of 35 hours of training and donated more than 150 hours to assisting other youth while being trained in leadership, speaking and time management.
- Through 74 community 4-H Clubs, 1,634 youth ages 8–19 and 196 Cloverbuds in kindergarten through second grade participated in **Licking County 4-H**. These youth enrolled in 3,182 projects that were supervised by 239 adult club advisors. The service that club advisors contribute is valued at \$449,320.
- **4-H school enrichment programs** helped 20 teachers of 457 students acquire additional science proficiency through hands-on classes and demonstrations from the chick embryology curriculum.
- **4-H Grandletters** concluded its eighth year with 61 fourth-grade students from Cherry Valley Elementary corresponding with their senior citizen “grandpals.” Students improved their writing and literacy skills, and hosted their grandpals at a year-end party.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- A \$10,000 grant was received from Licking County Senior Levy to teach **diabetes education** to over 500 participants.



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As a result, 98.6 percent gained new knowledge and have implemented portion control, carbohydrate-counting and exercise into their lifestyles. Twenty-seven percent reported lowered A1C levels, and 30 percent reported weight loss. One participant noted, “My husband came for the food and to attend with me...and left knowing how to read labels.”

- Over 1,400 citizens participated in **health and wellness education classes** that included reading food labels, using new dietary guidelines, learning appropriate portion sizes, combating stress and applying general nutrition to prevent or fight disease.
- In response to a significant increase in food and community gardens, the **Garden to Plate project** was completed by Master Gardeners and the Family and Consumer Sciences educator. The goal was to educate the general public about turning simple vegetables from local gardens, farmer’s markets or grocery stores into healthy, simple foods that fight and prevent disease. The project completed production of five short YouTube videos, media shots, descriptions and QR codes. It is currently being used by over 40 state, national and local groups in classes, and being viewed by approximately 1,000 viewers.
- Two hundred sixty-eight first-time juvenile traffic offenders participated in **4-H CARTEENS**, learning effective strategies for safe driving. The program was facilitated by 10 4-H teen leaders in partnership with the Licking County juvenile court and local law enforcement.
- Over the course of the year, **Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist members** have assisted organizations in the following: removal of invasive plants, preschool and elementary science programs, educational walks and night hikes, and vernal pool and butterfly monitoring. Volunteers devoted 2,100 hours this year, with a value of \$47,376.
- **Real Money, Real World**, a financial literacy program for youth, was introduced to 267 students at middle schools in Granville and Utica. Students learned the impact of education on their potential income, budgeting and the importance of saving money.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** is funded by the USDA and provides classes to aid clients in stretching their food dollars through classes offered by OSU Extension. A total of 131 adult and 105 youth site visits were made throughout Licking County. Interactive classes on MyPlate were presented to 1,151 adults and 1,769 youth. Over 50 percent of the adults reported improved behavior in choosing the following: vegetables and fruits each day; fruit instead of juice; low-fat dairy instead of higher fat dairy products; seafood instead of some meat; and a variety of protein such as beans, peas, soy, and nuts.
- **Master Gardener Volunteers** witnessed increased numbers of interactions via the following: farmer’s markets, their annual spring conference and demonstration garden open house, and speaker’s bureau requests due to the increased interest in persons raising their own food. Volunteers during Hartford Fair made 943 contacts. Master Gardeners have logged 2,601 volunteer hours with a value of \$58,653.
- The Master Gardeners’ **demonstration garden** produced 3,266 pounds of vegetables and fruit for the local Salvation Army’s food pantry, feeding an average of 485 community members monthly.
- The **butterfly garden**, located in the demonstration garden, became a Certified Monarch Waystation through **Monarchwatch.org**.
- The demonstration garden hosts a **new research garden** dedicated to pollinators in connection with the OSU Bee Lab in Wooster. The mission of the project is to have good scientific data for farmers, beekeepers and gardeners that wish to attract bees for garden pollination.
- Master Gardeners received a **\$10,000 grant** from the Lindorf Family Foundation and a \$5,000 grant from the Energy Co-op Operation Roundup to allow for the construction of a new 24x34 foot storage building.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Over 120 people participated in food safety education classes, including food preservation related to canning and freezing. Food service employees were trained through the nationally certified Level 1 **ServSafe Food Handler Program**, where they showed a significant increase in knowledge.

Licking County receives \$67,510 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.