

# 2014 County Highlights

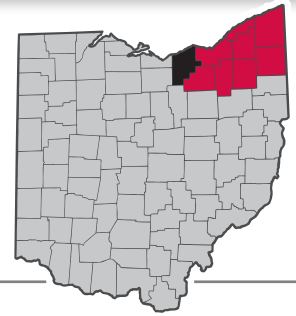


## LORAIN County

### WESTERN RESERVE EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- 4-H Youth Development:** This program reaches more than 1,873 Lorain County youth through 4-H Clubs and research-based educational programming. 4-H programming includes school enrichment, agricultural awareness, environmental education, afterschool programs, Cloverbud Day Camp and Junior Camp. Three hundred twenty-eight volunteers assisted youth with developing life skills, communications activities, interpersonal relationships, decision-making and understanding responsibility.
- 4-H CARTEENS:** OSU Extension—in cooperation with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Lorain County juvenile court and a team of six 4-H teen educators—offers 4-H CARTEENS, a peer education program on risky driving behaviors. The CARTEENS educators provide peer-to-peer instruction to first-time juvenile traffic offenders in Lorain County through interactive sessions on driving distractions, defensive driving, substance abuse and other irresponsible driving choices. Based on survey results, 100 percent of participants believed CARTEENS would help them improve their driving skills and make better choices when they get behind the wheel of a motor vehicle.
- Real Money, Real World:** In partnership with Wellington High School, 16 local business representatives and community volunteers participated in a financial literacy simulation. More than 100 high school students participated in the Real Money, Real World program. The program is an interactive financial literacy program that provides youth with a real look into the cost of maintaining a household and into the interrelationships between education, jobs and money. Students learn the impact of education on their potential income as adults, and the importance of budgeting and saving money. The program culminates with real-world simulation, where community business partners and volunteers assist students in meeting their monthly expenses from a net income. The participants' self-assessment, which was compiled after the program in 2014, showed that 100 percent of the participants learned more information about the cost of supporting themselves and a family, and about the importance of education in financial stability.
- Quality Assurance Training:** Six Quality Assurance Training sessions were conducted for Lorain County Junior Fair exhibitors. This training is required in order for Junior Fair youth to exhibit market animals at Lorain County Fair. Best practices in production as recommended by the Ohio Department of Agriculture are taught to the youth. Over 250 Lorain and Cuyahoga county youth participated in livestock quality assurance programs taught by the Lorain County 4-H Extension educator and county volunteers. Participants learned how to raise their 4-H livestock projects in a humane manner while safely contributing their market animal to the food supply. Proper animal care, nutrition, reading feed tag labels and the correct use of antibiotics were some of the topics addressed.
- Youth and Families of Promise (YFP):** This is a prevention program designed to enhance the developmental assets of youth, ages 10–14. This program targets youth and families who have below-average school performance, poor social skills and/or weak family bonds. Sixty-four fifth-



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through eighth-graders and their parents participated in the afterschool program. Three family night events were held, and parents, mentors and youth participated in a variety of family-friendly activities aimed at strengthening their families.

- **Junior Camp Counselor Training:** The Junior Camp experience provides valuable opportunities for teen leadership development and for building positive social relationships in a safe learning environment. This year 17 youth were trained to become 4-H Camp Counselors. As result of the counselor training, 98 campers enjoyed a safe, educational and fun camp. One hundred percent of the counselors improved their knowledge of safe program-planning, education theory and human development characteristics through the training process.
- **Partnerships and Collaborations:** OSU Extension works with many local agencies and groups to deliver educational programming and research vital to clientele interest and needs. For example, weekly programs on nutrition, food safety and food shopping are offered to Lorain County residents in conjunction with Catholic Charities, Boys and Girls Club of Lorain County, LCADA, Lorain County Jobs and Family Services, and the Salvation Army. Some other partnerships include the following:
  - Lorain County commissioners
  - Lorain County juvenile court
  - Lorain County Senior/Junior Fair Boards
  - Lorain County Visitors Bureau
  - Leadership Lorain County
  - Local food pantries
  - Elyria City Schools (K–8 and afterschool programs)
  - Family and Children First Council
  - Public Service Institute
  - Lorain County Soil and Water Conservation District
  - Farm Services Agency
  - Farm Bureau
  - Lorain County Metropolitan Parks
  - Friends of Junior Fair Board
  - Horizons Activity Centers
  - Ohio State Highway Patrol
  - Lorain County Community College
  - Lorain County Prosecutors Office
  - We Share We Care
- **Master Gardner Helpline:** The Master Gardner helpline, operated in 2014 from mid-May to early October, was spearheaded by 12 Master Gardener Volunteers. During that time, 227 calls and walk-in clientele were assisted with their home horticulture questions.