

2014 County Highlights

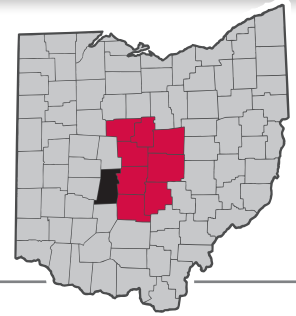


MADISON County

HEART OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Collaborative programming continues between OSU Extension and **Action for Children (AFC)**, which is housed at the Madison County Extension office. AFC has enjoyed a collaborative working relationship with the Madison County Extension office for over twenty years. AFC continues to provide families with quality early learning resources and up-to-date childcare referrals through phone consultations, emails, publications, etc. AFC also provides technical assistance to early childhood educators in need of advice or support with programmatic concerns. AFC hosts workshops throughout the year that focus on a variety of educational domains. AFC liaises with multiple agencies in the county: Department of Family and Children First, Department of Job and Family Services, Head Start, Early Childhood Collaborative Committee, Tolles Technical School, Community Action, Madison County Health Department, and others.
- Emphasis on **Step up to Quality (SUTQ)** training continues to be a priority initiative this year for Madison County. SUTQ is a voluntary quality rating system administered by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services; the system recognizes and promotes early care and education programs that meet quality benchmarks over and above minimum health and safety licensing standards. Currently, our Head Start programs are 4-star rated. A center in London has one star, and two Type A programs have one star each. Our goal is to help all centers and licensed childcare providers to achieve quality status over the next few years.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- The **Madison County Junior Fair** was organized and managed by 33 older youth volunteers and 25 adult volunteers. Members were provided educational lessons on communication, sportsmanship, evaluation and dealing with people. Members utilized skills prior to and throughout the fair that related to leadership, responsibility, decision-making and customer service in the management and operation of a county fair.
- Participating in **Madison County 4-H** were 960 youth between the ages of 5 and 18, with 159 adult volunteers providing leadership to 40 county 4-H Clubs. Due to their involvement in the Madison County 4-H Program, adults, youth and communities learned about leadership, citizenship, life skills and the philosophy of "To Make the Best Better."
- **4-H Cloverville** was conducted and invited the community and 4-H Club members, friends and families for an afternoon of fun, prizes, make-it-and-take-it, hands-on activities and recognition. Approximately 250 individuals visited the "4-H Cloverville Stores" and participated in educational opportunities which highlighted how 4-H has been "Making the Best Better" for 113 years.
- Sixty-four youth experienced outdoor educational activities at the five-day "A Walk Through Time" at **4-H Camp Clifton** in 2014. Guided by 16 trained camp counselors and 7 adult staff volunteers, campers developed self-esteem, learned new crafts and demonstrated life skills through a variety of hands-on activities.



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- The **4-H Cloverbud program**, for youth ages 5–8, used the “Cloverbud Activity Manual” for hands-on educational purposes. One hundred-five Cloverbud members participated in the county fair “Show-n-Tell” event and received participation ribbons and Cloverbud rosettes.
- The Dorothy Lewis, Freda and Roy Barnhart and Mary and Frank Jenkins **4-H Fund** provided \$738 of grant money to help promote nutrition projects, healthy living skills, leader training, opportunities and recognition.
- **4-H CARTEENS** is a bimonthly program offered through the juvenile court system to help first-time traffic offenders receive a reduced sentence by attending a two-hour educational program. Directed by one adult key leader and 10 youth volunteers, the program taught 85 youth and worked toward the goals of reducing the number of repeat juvenile traffic offenders, decreasing the number of teen traffic offenders and increasing teen awareness of traffic/vehicular safety. Here are some of the responses to the program: “I will be more aware on the road” and “I’ll be more cautious about my speed” and “[I will] think before doing.”
- **Why Trees Matter/Heritage Tree Program** continues its annual program to recognize one of the county’s historic trees. Now in its sixth year, the Heritage Tree Program names a historic tree of significance each year as the honoree and places a permanent plaque on the tree. Photos of the six Heritage Trees were displayed as part of an educational exhibit at the Madison County Fair.
- Delaware, Union and Madison County Master Gardeners planned and hosted the **Master Gardener State Conference** at Ohio Wesleyan University in October 2014. A significant contribution to the conference was the Madison County bus tour coordinated by a core group of our Master Gardeners. The tour’s focus was the Darby Creek Watershed, based on comprehensive conservation practices throughout Madison County with stops at Smith Cemetery Prairie State Nature Preserve, Gwynne Conservation Area, Historic Red Brick Tavern, Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park and the Beach Road Bridge.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Twenty adult volunteers participated in the **Master Gardeners** program. The program provides volunteerism, continuing education and service to Madison County residents, totaling 1,341 hours. This includes monthly meetings (89 hours), continuing education (246 hours), Gwynne Conservation Cabin/Farm Science Review (212 hours), Horticulture Hotline (29 hours), London school projects (68 hours), community workshops (73 hours), written horticultural articles (29 hours), speakers bureau/speaking engagements (82 hours) and the 2014 State Master Gardener Convention (513 hours).
- The Masters Gardeners taught, promoted and assisted several **public workshops**. The Master Gardeners participated in the Chamber of Commerce Community Expo at London Elementary. Children created and planted seed “bombs” to take home.
- The **London Elementary Butterfly Garden** is in the sixth growing season and was created by the Master Gardeners. Over 1,000 students at London Elementary utilize the 30x40 foot garden year-round as a hands-on outdoor learning environment where they study natural habitats, soils, insects and plants. Each year the third-grade classes raise painted lady butterflies from caterpillars. Once the butterflies are hatched from the chrysalides, they are released into the garden.