

2014 County Highlights

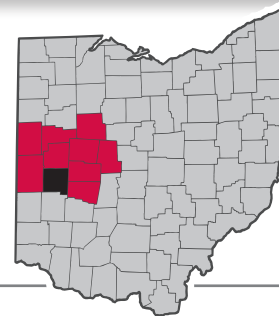


MIAMI County

TOP OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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The Miami County Extension team generated over \$600,000 in additional funds from other local, state and federal dollars, and from grants, contracts and volunteer contributions of both time and dollars. This does not include contacts/outreach that the other Extension educators are doing.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Miami County boasts 43 **4-H Clubs** with 824 members led by 169 adult volunteers. Members commented, “We all have different personalities, but we all fit together because of our love for 4-H” and “4-H friends are an extended family. I’m also the fourth generation of my family to be involved in 4-H, and I will always cherish this!”
- Over 600 kindergarten through third-grade students in 29 classrooms participated in **4-H school enrichment programs**. Classes focused on aerospace science, natural resources, animal science and nutrition. Through answering questions, completing worksheets and conducting experiments, students demonstrated increased knowledge.
- Ninety-four youths attended the Miami County **4-H Junior Camp** at Indian Hills 4-H Camp in Pleasant Hill. This five-day camp provided youth with activities to develop leadership skills, team-building, interpersonal skills and lasting friendships. This year campers took part in the 4-H Ag Innovators Experience Fish Farm Challenge, a new program sponsored by Monsanto and the National 4-H Council that connects students, STEM education and agriculture.
- Twelve youths (grades K–2) participated in the **4-H Cloverbud Day Camp**. They experienced hands-on activities, outdoor recreation, crafts and nature.
- Thirty-four youth volunteers served as **4-H Camp Counselors** for 4-H Junior Camp. They completed 24 hours of training on program-planning, risk management, emergency procedures, first aid and bullying.
- One hundred seventy-six youths who were enrolled in food and nutrition, clothing and other **4-H projects** participated in 4-H project judging, during which members gained confidence with interviewing and articulated the learning experiences and work involved in their projects.
- Approximately 330 sixth-grade students participated in **Real Money, Real World**, a hands-on lifestyle and budget simulation experience designed to help young people understand personal finance. Comments included, “You don’t have a lot of money after taxes” and “Saving your money is very important.”
- Miami County **4-H CARTEENS** reached approximately 150 teen drivers and their parents. Participants learned about driving distractions, traffic laws and the importance of wearing safety belts. Comments included, “It really makes you think about what can happen” and “It’s taught me to be more aware.” One participant stated, “The program should be legislated into law for all teen drivers and parents to complete before initial licensure at age 16.” The program collaborates with Miami County juvenile court and Ohio State Highway Patrol.
- Four hundred youth livestock producers learned about the 10 good production practices, animal welfare and ethics during five **Quality Assurance Training** programs. They learned ways to improve care and well-being for their animals to ensure safe food production.



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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The Family Nutrition Program began the **Summer Food Service Program** at Garden Manor and Richards Chapel, which saw over 100 children each week for eight weeks. The children received nutrition lessons, sampled healthy snacks and participated in physical fitness activities.
- Nearly 75 Miami County adult residents participated in one of 13 classes taught by Extension's **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** throughout 2014. SNAP-Ed is now attending the Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) Workforce Meeting every Thursday to recruit more participants. DJFS agreed to allow the SNAP-Ed program assistant to speak about the free programs that are offered at DJFS weekly.
- **New school programs began** in October 2014 and are now the bulk of SNAP-Ed programming. This change required the phase-out of some programming for seniors. SNAP-Ed has been going to Sunrise Center for eight years. Here, a few seniors expressed how much they will miss the programming and the program assistant. They were all given an OSU Extension reusable grocery bag, as it was the end of a series. Two of the seniors asked the program assistant, Lisa Goodall, to autograph the bag! That's how much they valued the programming. That bag will serve as a reminder of everything they have learned over the last eight years.
- Over 328 individuals attended **Successful Co-Parenting**, a court-mandated program for divorcing couples with children under the age of 18. The program's main video was developed by Miami County Family and Consumer Sciences educator Jamie Seger with local 4-H youth; it has received over 15,000 views on YouTube and is being utilized nationwide.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Thirty individuals were recertified at **Pesticide Applicator Training**. Trainees learned safeguards for both health and the environment while handling pesticides. Proper spray timing, proper application rates and proper methods of application all minimize negative impacts and help protect the environment.
- Twelve new Master Gardener interns were trained in 2014, bringing the county total to over 70 active **Master Gardener Volunteers**. Master Gardeners donate 20–30 hours per year (nearly 1,800 hours of volunteer service) back to the communities in Miami County. This service is valued at over \$33,000. Master Gardeners undertook projects on the Helpline, Habitat for Humanity, Miami County Fair booth and flower beds, Forest Hill Arbor Day School, Head Start Little

Gardeners Garden Program, Tipp City Library Garden and Pruning Classes. Also, the 2014 Garden Tour showcased eight gardens in Troy, Tipp City and New Carlisle. More than 500 attendees participated in the tour.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- The **Miami County Extension Community Development educator** conducted over 45 consultations with individuals interested in business start-ups, small business expansions, farming, local foods and nonprofit management. He assisted three organizations with strategic planning and conducted two major surveys to help businesses or groups understand market conditions.
- The **Miami County Local Food Council** committees met individually and identified opportunities for expanding commerce in the farming and food business sectors. A Local Food Summit is planned to expand more local foods business in Miami County.

Miami County receives \$49,121 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.