

2014 County Highlights

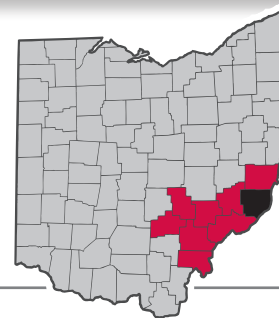


MONROE County

BUCKEYE HILLS EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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In 2014, Monroe County celebrated 100 years of Extension with a variety of outreach efforts. A documentary video capturing the early years of Monroe County Extension's local impact was highlighted at a Centennial ice cream social during the county fair and is currently posted on YouTube at go.osu.edu/monroe100. Monthly news articles and media releases provided a glimpse into the history of local Extension programs, and Monroe County Extension staff created a moveable exhibit—displayed as a float—in six parades throughout the county.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Support with Layoffs:** In response to Ormet's closing and mass layoffs, Monroe County Extension created a two-page "Resources for Families" newsletter. Copies were mailed with the assistance of the transition centers to the 770 families affected. A series of financial management classes were also offered to help families manage between jobs.
- **Successful Co-Parenting:** Monroe County was one of six counties to pilot the new Successful Co-Parenting curriculum in 2014. This court-mandated class guides parents to minimize the negative effects of separation and divorce on children. The 44 participants were better equipped to address co-parenting challenges while becoming more attentive to their children's needs.
- **Food Safety:** Monroe County Extension continues to provide food safety training and resources. More than 40 individuals participated in the ServSafe Food Handler Program, the Occasional Quantity Cook program or canning classes. These individuals also requested free services such as fact

sheets, pressure canner inspections or food safety phone consultations.

- **Grant Funding for Local Projects:** Monroe County Extension prepared a successful grant application to the State of Ohio's Community Development Block Grant Program to fund several local projects totaling \$375,000. Projects, to start in 2015, include road slip repairs, community center repairs, firefighting equipment, sidewalk replacements and street repaving.
- **Broken Timber:** Monroe County Extension secured funding from the Ohio Division of Wildlife for Broken Timber, a nonprofit that encourages youth to fish, hunt, trap and enjoy the outdoors while practicing safety and following state and federal laws. The \$15,000 grant will purchase archery, fishing and trapping equipment.
- **Fair Housing:** Monroe County Extension worked with the Ohio Regional Development Corporation to offer information about residents' rights under state and federal fair housing laws.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed):** Participants in the USDA-funded SNAP-Ed program—formerly called the Food and Nutrition Program—learn how to stretch their food dollars through classes offered by OSU Extension. Educators offer interactive classes on diet quality, physical activity, food safety and food resource management. Nearly 1,732 Monroe County residents participated in one of 124 classes taught by Extension's SNAP-Ed program.



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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **4-H Open House:** More than 200 people attended a 4-H Open House for local youth and families; 68 percent of the participants were families who were seeking more information about 4-H. The evening included 15 stations with games, demonstrations and hands-on learning activities.
- **Safety and Health Series:** Monroe County Extension staff taught the 12th Annual Safety and Health Series to over 280 students at River Elementary School. Topics included ATV safety, sensible snacking, handwashing, poison control, animal safety and shooting sports safety.
- **4-H CARTEENS:** In collaboration with the Monroe County juvenile court, Monroe County Extension began providing a traffic safety education program for first-time juvenile traffic offenders. CARTEENS' goal is to reduce the number of repeat juvenile traffic offenders. With the aid of an adult, teens 16–19 years of age conduct the three-hour program for teen traffic offenders. Local deputies and patrol officers are also involved.
- **College and Career Partnerships:** Monroe County Extension continues to be an active partner with the county P-16 Council. Higher Education Learning Partnership (H.E.L.P.) helps identify transition points in education where students may need additional support. The goal is to significantly increase education or training rates beyond high school through college enrollment and vocational, skills or military training opportunities. The team partnered with over 30 local colleges and trade groups to conduct a College and Career Night for seventh- through twelfth-grade students, parents and adult learners. Over 350 people attended.
- **4-H Camp:** Following Junior Camp, 24 teen counselors indicated they gained leadership skills through their experience as 4-H Camp Counselors. 4-H Cloverbud members and parents attended a 4-H Day Camp at Camp Piedmont, where they explored the outdoors through science, boating, swimming, golfing, recreation and crafts. All Junior Camp participants agreed their counselors had been helpful when they had a problem or question. Eighty percent said they tried something they had never done before; 97 percent said they made new friends at 4-H Camp; and 95 percent said they are looking forward to coming to 4-H Camp again.
- **Financial Literacy for Teens:** Extension's Real Money, Real World program teaches young people principles of financial literacy. River Junior High School had 74 students participate in this simulation in which the students make financial and lifestyle decisions and learn the implications of balancing normal monthly household expenses. Twenty-two volunteers helped with the simulation.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Beef and Forage Production Meetings:** More than 131 people attended a three-session Grazing Workshop, a two-session Beef School, two On-Farm Pasture Walks and a Train-the-Trainer Grazing Meeting in 2014. Evaluations indicated producers learned valuable information and expect to increase farm profitability. Nearly 50 cow/calf producers participated in this year's Barnesville Feeder Calf Association feeder calf sales. Data from 466 calves that have been marketed for local producers to date show higher prices were received by producers who marketed calves through the Barnesville Feeder Calf Association than selling at regular weekly sales.
- **Pipeline and Right-of-Way Easement Meetings:** More than 192 people attended five pipeline and right-of-way meetings in 2014. Evaluations revealed 100 percent of the respondents said the information they learned would help them in pipeline negotiations.
- **Pesticide Applicator Training/Recertification:** Forty-six people attended sessions about proper use of pesticides. The Ohio Department of Agriculture requires private pesticide applicators to pass a test before receiving a permit to purchase restricted-use chemicals. Licensees must attend sessions every third year. When surveyed, participants overwhelmingly indicated the sessions offered by Extension help them better understand the correct use of pesticides and safety issues surrounding restricted-use chemicals.

Monroe County receives \$33,891 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.