

2014 County Highlights



MONTGOMERY County

MIAMI VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Networking with more than 250 agencies and organizations through nine Montgomery County Coalitions provided countless opportunities for OSU Extension to share research and resources to strengthen families. Over 406 participants viewed **OSU Extension displays** at various health fairs and conferences held in Montgomery County.
- **Successful Co-Parenting** programs reached 260 parents, agency representatives and youth. Seventeen classes were conducted. Participants reported increased awareness of the impact of divorce and separation on their children.
- OSU Extension staff, coach and facilitate the **Parenting Education Dialogue Circle** in which 78 agencies and parent and youth educators share programs, knowledge and gaps in service in our communities.
- **Universal Design** is smart home design to increase convenience and comfort of the home for all ages and abilities. More than 1,418 people viewed displays and learned about modifications at five Montgomery County events and at the 2014 Farm Science Review.
- Thirty-five **workshops** were held on food safety, food preservation, finances, parenting, mindful stress reduction, Universal Design and coaching. Over 170 **phone consultations** on these and other topics provided research-based responses and recommendations.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)**, made possible by a USDA grant, connected with 1,098 adults who attended at least one of 135 SNAP-Ed classes offered at over 35 sites throughout the county.

- The **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)** teaches an eight-lesson nutrition education series to low-income families with children, as well as a six-week series for low-income youth. The program is funded by USDA in cooperation with OSU Extension.
- In 2014, a total of 399 Montgomery County families were impacted by EFNEP. Graduates significantly increased knowledge and improved behaviors in diet quality (97 percent), food resource management (83 percent) and food safety (52 percent). Over 50 percent of the graduates increased their physical activity levels, and 60 percent improved their consumption of fruits and vegetables.
- A total of 1,788 youth participated in EFNEP in 2014. After completing six lessons, 1,524 youth reported increases in knowledge and positive behavior changes in diet quality (87 percent), food safety (49 percent), food resource management (55 percent) and physical activity (37 percent).
- **4-H Night** with the Dayton Dragons involved over 650 youth and families from 13 counties in the Miami Valley with active hands-on involvement with our local baseball team and exploration of the Head, Heart, Hands, Health and home runs of 4-H opportunities.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- 4-H youth learn and practice **21st century workforce skills** such as critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork and leadership, communication, ethics, lifelong learning, and technology use.



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- **4-H youth programs** touched the lives of 5,729 youth in Montgomery County. This included 458 youth in community 4-H Clubs; 1,585 youth with 4-H in the Classroom; 1,788 youth in EFNEP nutrition programs; and 73 youth in overnight camping programs. Participating in special interest 4-H programs such as Real Money, Real World financial education, 4-H science and technology, and Quality Assurance Training were 1,744 youth.
- During 2014, 168 youth participated in 4-H programs and activities at **Wright-Patterson Air Force Base**. 4-H involvement included robotics, archery, science and technology, canoeing, visual arts, food and fitness, plus a trip to the Ohio State Fair.
- **Real Money, Real World** increased the awareness of 734 teens at five schools and one 4-H afterschool program. Evaluations showed that teens learned the cost of maintaining a household and a family. Teens realized that how you do in school can impact which jobs you can have and the correlating differences in salary. Student comments included, “Who knew child care would cost so much! I’ll be spending my money more wisely. I’m saving for college now!”
- One hundred twenty-eight adults volunteered as **4-H Club leaders**, working directly with youth year-round focusing on the essential elements of positive youth development: belonging, independence, mastery and generosity. There were 27 new **4-H volunteers** in 2014.
- **Teen leadership development trainings** focused on teamwork, communication skills and problem-solving skills. Sixty-two teen leaders participated in these sessions and volunteered as 4-H Camp Counselors, Counselors-in-Training and Junior Fair Board members. One teen served on the Ohio 4-H Fashion Board. Two teens attended the Ohio Capitol Challenge, sponsored by 4-H, FFA and Ohio Farm Bureau. These teens won a grant for their community project for implementation in 2015.
- **Master Gardener Volunteers** staffed the Home Horticulture Helpline at the local OSU Extension office between April and October and responded to over 200 requests for information and assistance. An additional 700 consumer requests were handled by Extension’s Natural Resources and Agriculture staff.
- One hundred seventy youth and 112 adults received training in good production practices in regards to caring for their 4-H animal projects through three 4-H **Quality Assurance Training** seminars.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- The “**Vacant to Vibrant**” **Urban Agriculture Project** was in its sixth year in 2014. It focused on economic viability, environmental sustainability and social responsibility. Fourteen adults representing five agriculture sites developed skills in business planning, growing strategies and production practices to increase food security in an identified “food desert” in the city of Dayton.
- **Educational workshops** were held on the following topics: good agricultural production practices for selling produce to local markets (35 producers); the economic viability of growing hops on small acreages (45 participants); and increasing knowledge and skills in grape and berry production (16 participants).
- The **Master Gardener Volunteer Program** trained 29 adults in 50 hours of horticultural education, and each will complete 50 hours of volunteer service in 2015. There were 126 returning volunteers who provided service to various projects and county residents throughout the year.

Montgomery County receives \$308,447 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- “**Tree-mendous Tree Day**” at Cox Arboretum taught over 500 Harold Schnell Elementary School youth and teachers about the benefits of trees and their relationship to the environment and to humans. Teaching stations were staffed by 12 Master Gardener Volunteers.
- **Pesticide Applicator Training** was held for 64 private applicators. Assistance was provided to two green industry workshops, providing over 130 commercial applicators license recertification credits.