

# 2014 County Highlights



## OTTAWA County

### ERIE BASIN EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

240 West Lake Street, Unit C, Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449-1056

Phone: (419) 898-3631     [ottawa.osu.edu](http://ottawa.osu.edu)



#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **Real Money, Real World**, an OSU Extension signature program, offers hands-on training for younger teens to make lifestyle and budget choices that they will be faced with when they become adults. The program was used in spring 2014 in Ottawa County at Danbury Middle School, Oak Harbor High School and Port Clinton City Schools for their eighth grade classes. The students were taught four in-class lessons to prepare them for a hands-on simulation. These lessons taught the students how occupation affects income, how decisions have to be made based on available funds and how checking and savings accounts work.
- **4-H CARTEENS** is used with first-time juvenile traffic offenders. The program presents factual information to promote safe driving techniques with the intent of reducing the number of teen traffic violations and accidents. When the offenders leave, they have a renewed knowledge of driving laws. A recent comment made by one of the probation officers when asked what was the impact of CARTEENS was, "We have less second-time traffic offenses, and it is our opinion, it is due to their participation in the program."
- The Ottawa County 4-H **school enrichment program** offered 15 different programs and kits to kindergarten through fifth-grade teachers. The programs that are offered meet the Ohio Educational Learning Standards for each grade and incorporate hands-on learning and skills development for youth. When the programs and kits are brought into the classrooms, the students learn in-depth information on the subjects being offered.

- The **Aquatic Visitors Center (AVC)** on Put-in-Bay focuses on place-based education of Lake Erie issues and topics in Ottawa County, with an end goal of increasing stewardship of Lake Erie. The AVC allows youth and adults to view live Lake Erie specimens under a microscope and in aquaria. Visitors also learn about the historic hatchery, Lake Erie food webs, and sustainable sport and commercial fisheries. They can also participate in hands-on science programs. In 2014 over 10,000 youth and adults visited the AVC. According to survey data, visitors indicated that they were very likely to pay more attention to Lake Erie issues and to support efforts to clean up Lake Erie as a result of visiting the AVC.

#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-ED)** is funded through a grant from the USDA Farm Bill. The goal is to help individuals with limited resources gain skills in nutrition, food budgeting and food safety. Ottawa County has partnered with agencies in the county to provide nutrition education lessons. More than 1,200 Ottawa County residents participated in one of 165 nutrition classes taught by Extension's SNAP-Ed program.
- This year the WIC program has moved into the schools to help children make changes in their eating habits. Ottawa County Extension served the **Student Achievement Program** and **Behavioral Management Program**. Students in the class were taught how to make healthy, easy meals and snacks. The students also learned cooking skills. Several students stated they had made the meal at home to share with their families.



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Empowerment *Through* Education

[twitter.com/dirkeithsmith](https://twitter.com/dirkeithsmith)  
[u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact](http://u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact)  
[extension.osu.edu](http://extension.osu.edu)

- During the summer months Ottawa County Extension partnered with United Way to provide **nutrition education** at three meal sites for children. The youth were taught the importance of using MyPlate as a guideline for healthy meals and snacks. The youth made their own MyPlate roll-up after the first lesson, and a personal fruit pizza after another lesson. The children were excited about trying fruit they had not eaten and building their own pizza.
- Participants of the **Sun Safety** program learned the warning signs of skin cancer and protection steps for prevention of damage from the sun. Over 40 people used the DermaScan technology to become aware of their current skin damage.
- Through a **home food preservation program**, 80 students in grades 9–12 were taught the fundamentals of food preservation. Students were taught about the safety, tools and processes of canning, freezing and drying.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Northern Ohio Crops Day**, hosted by OSU Extension, is the largest scale agricultural program in the region with significant participation from Ottawa County farmers. It continues to address timely topics that impact grain producers' bottom line. One hundred sixty participants learned how new technologies and issues could be affecting their operations and management decisions for the coming crop year. Eighty of the participants received private or commercial pesticide recertification credits and 25 Certified Crop Advisers obtained continuing educational credits.
- The **Sandusky/Ottawa County Master Gardener program** continues to have a very strong presence in the community. Eight new Master Gardeners were trained, bringing the active roster to over 50 members. Major projects for the year included the Eighth Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale; the "Planting the Seed" program hosted with OARDC for 225 elementary age youth from Ottawa, Sandusky and Wood counties; the vegetable demonstration garden at the Sandusky County Health Department; and beautification projects around both counties.
- The daily calls and visits about insect problems, lawn, landscape problems, tree problems, property rights and taxes, and many other general topics have been a challenge with no staff directly dedicated to this program area. However, the Ottawa County Extension office has managed to service the clientele by utilizing online OSU Extension resources, state specialists and assistance from the Sandusky County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educator, with a limited amount of homeowner and farm visits being made within the county. This has

included extensive work with the African Safari Wildlife Park on educating the managers about hay production, livestock nutrition, weed management and agricultural economics.

## ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES.

- Over 150 licensed charter captains and exhibitors attended the **33rd Annual Ohio Charter Captains Conference**. The Ohio Sea Grant-led program draws statewide interest, typically reaching 20–25 percent of the licensed captains in the state. Partners include the Lake Erie Charter Boat Association and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife. The conference is designed to support the economic benefits to the region via the charter industry while also enhancing stewardship of the lake by those who use the resource the most. Of captains responding to a post-event survey, 52 percent reported increasing profitability, and 91 percent of respondents in 2014 reported improving their operation based on information presented at the conference.

**Ottawa County receives \$39,710 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**