

2014 County Highlights



SCIOTO County

OHIO VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- In 2014, **Scioto County 4-H** had 1,128 youth participating in 57 4-H community clubs, through which they enrolled in 2,470 projects. A total of 37 adults completed new volunteer training to bring the total number of adults working with Scioto County youth to 323. Based on a minimum 35 hours contributed annually by each volunteer, the value of this service exceeds \$248,710. Members strengthened their skills by attending clinics, judging and exhibiting. They also gave back to the community through service projects.
- With a \$20,500 grant from the National 4-H Council and Department of Juvenile Justice, Scioto County 4-H provided mentoring and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) training. In the **“Tech Wizards” program**, eight adult mentors provided support and education to 30 fourth- and fifth-grade youth in the New Boston school system. The youth increased their understanding of science and technology and also developed a stronger belief in themselves and their ability to succeed in the future.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- In 2014, 187 participants completed **Successful Co-Parenting**, a program offered in partnership with Scioto County domestic court. Based on evaluations, 93 percent of participants indicated they learned helpful information such as “kids are the top priority” and “I understand the games we as adults can play; I affirm my own use and realize I need to stop now.” Additionally, 94 percent plan to implement changes such as “allowing my daughter to make choices” and “communicating more with my former spouse.”

- To fund the early childhood program, **Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP)**, \$20,600 was received from the Scioto County Family and Children First Council through Scioto County Ohio Children’s Trust Fund during 2013–2014. The 22 parents who participated learned to respond appropriately depending on the goal of the child’s behavior (86 percent); use the child’s interest to involve them in family activities or chores (41 percent); and accept the idea that parents and children make mistakes (41 percent).
- As one of 18 Ohio counties funded by the USDA’s **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)**, Scioto County is able to offer nutrition education to low-income families with children. Last year, EFNEP reached 220 adults in our county, impacting 949 family members including 387 children. Of those graduating from the program, 84 percent improved in one or more food resource management practices; 52 percent less often ran out of food before the end of the month; 31 percent increased their physical activity; 89 percent improved one or more nutrition practices such as reading labels; and 97 percent reported improved food intakes.
- Scioto County **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)**, also funded by the federal government, teaches basic nutrition, food safety and food security skills to food stamp-eligible audiences. In the 2013–2014 fiscal year, we increased the number of programs by 121 and the number of participants by 1,232, reaching a total of 4,399 participants in 453 programs. Many participants reported improved nutrition practices such as increasing lean protein by substituting tofu 2–3 times per week.



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ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- In 2014, 1,528 school youth took part in **outdoor and agricultural education programs** provided in partnership with OSU Extension. Programs included natural science activities at Shawnee State Park, Ag Adventures Day, and Earth Day. Youth learned how to explore and appreciate their natural environment. They also learned the importance of agriculture and natural resources.
- Four hundred twenty-eight youth representing eight counties and five species attended five 4-H livestock **Quality Assurance Training** clinics in 2014. The events were multicounty efforts involving a variety of educators, agencies and volunteers. The events allowed participants to gain Quality Assurance Certification. By working with other counties, offices were able to provide participants with increased programming, and educators reported more efficient and effective use of programming at a reduced cost.
- The USDA provided \$2,000 to conduct the **Scioto River Valley Sustainable Agriculture Youth Day**, which will provide 125 students with an opportunity to examine the way geography, weather and history has shaped Scioto County agriculture. This program will form the basis for the students' search into the community's sustainable farming systems and practices incorporating lessons with OSU Extension, Soil and Water Conservation District, and USDA NRCS staff and farmers. Focus is on the importance of pollinators, agriculture production, soil and water.
- A 10-week youth **education and community garden project**, "It Takes a Community to Grow a Garden," is a collaborative effort among all Extension program areas, the Soil and Water Conservation District, the Portsmouth Inner-City Summer Recreation Program, and a neighborhood adult assisted living facility. Ninety under-served youth participated in the intergenerational program. Three times a week for 10 weeks educators taught children at the garden site, where the children planted, weeded, watered and tended to the garden. Children were also taught nutrition and healthy eating. Over 500 pounds of produce was harvested and donated to the Pleasant Green Baptist Church community food pantry.
- To serve clientele that are not able to participate in Master Gardener training during the workweek, we offered a **pilot webinar Master Gardener training series**, in which 15 participants were trained by logging in from their homes two evenings a week for 10 weeks.
- Partnering with the Scioto County Family Assistant Center Readiness Program of the Ohio National Guard, a **market**

garden program was established to benefit service members and their families and to encourage a positive impact on the unit's morale and readiness.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- **Financial education topics**—including the use of credit, tracking expenses, making a budget and organizing financial records—were included in classes attended by 43 people. Following a class on credit reports, three individuals stated they had never reviewed their report because they thought they had to pay for it. They got their credit reports and were able to begin improving their credit score.
- As a result of **4-H youth participation in livestock projects** at the county fair, 316 market projects sold in 2014 for a total of \$296,848.32. A large portion of these funds are spent locally as youth prepare for the upcoming school year or to purchase supplies and animals for their 4-H projects.

Scioto County receives \$142,472 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.