

# 2014 County Highlights



## SHELBY County

### TOP OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **4-H volunteers** are critical to the success of Shelby County 4-H. Ten new volunteers completed the screening and orientation process. In all, 150 volunteers provided leadership to 31 community-based clubs, enabling 953 4-H members (174 of those Cloverbuds) to have positive youth development experiences.
- Young people know **4-H Camp** is fun, and youth development experts know 4-H Camp helps build critical life skills for both campers and youth counselors. 4-H Camp helps build teamwork, communications and leadership, cultivating job readiness skills while connecting campers with nature. 4-H Camp "Survivor" at 4-H Camp 2014 provided the setting for 169 youth (including 40 teen camp counselors) to develop life skills. Five adult volunteers assisted with camp.
- Emphasis on community service projects attracted up to 20 teens to attend **Junior Leadership Club** monthly meetings. Teens were involved from project conception to completion.
- Twenty-eight teens served as **Junior Fair Board** members, which allowed them to demonstrate leadership and communication skills. Members planned, organized and implemented shows and contests at the Shelby County Fair.
- More than ever, youth need a clear understanding of how to manage their finances. Enter **Real Money, Real World**, an OSU Extension signature program that gives middle school and high school students an understanding of how current income and life choices affect future income. Participants learn how much to expect to pay for housing, transportation,

and childcare, and how to balance "wants" and "needs."

This hands-on program was offered to 65 freshmen through seniors at Sidney High School. Students were helped by 15 community volunteers to achieve balanced budgets.

- **Quality Assurance Training**, an Ohio Department of Agriculture-mandated program, educates youth on the proper care of animals and good production practices. A total of 400 youth completed the Quality Assurance Training by attending one of the Shelby (or other) County sessions or by testing out of the program altogether.
- Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are areas of deficiency for many students. In an effort to increase excitement and confidence in these subject areas, **STEM activities were conducted** for students in two afterschool programs. One program was taught at Fairlawn Local High School within an afterschool 4-H Club and the other was conducted through the Salvation Army afterschool program.

### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** is a free nutrition education program serving low-income adults in Ohio. This program is funded by the Food Nutrition Service branch of the USDA. In Shelby County, direct contacts reached 860 adults and 1,009 youths, with a total population of 1,869 participants. Fifteen single lessons and 155 series of two to nine lessons were taught. The total number of participants reached through indirect programming was 11,396. Participants learned to select fruits, vegetables, whole-grains and low-fat dairy products for a healthy diet. They also learned to use limited resources to



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plan, purchase and prepare food for the family. Participants gained knowledge in being physically active every day, and storing and handling food so it is safe to eat.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- A total of 280 people attended **West Ohio Agronomy Day**, supported by 22 agribusinesses. Integrated pest management principles were emphasized, and private pesticide recertification credits were provided to 165 farmers from Shelby and neighboring counties. Sessions emphasized profitable and environmentally sound crop fertility practices. Thirty Certified Crop Advisers earned continuing education credits.
- OSU Extension again planned and hosted the 25-member **Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class Ag Day educational forum**. Multi-agency partners shared agriculture's production efficiency, economic viability, social responsibility and environmental compatibility. A tour of beef and dairy farms and a precision agricultural technology company capped the day.
- **Master Gardener Volunteers** help Extension share research-based information with gardeners through workshops, community gardens and one-on-one consultations. Thirty-two active Master Gardener Volunteers and Master Gardener Interns provided over 1,600 hours of volunteer service, helping over 3,000 clientele address home horticultural concerns in an economic and environmentally sound way. They attained 400 hours of continuing education credits. Sixteen new Master Gardeners were trained. Of these, eleven had earned official Master Gardener status by the annual banquet in October. Master Gardeners also had displays at the Shelby, Auglaize and Mercer county fairs; hosted a series of seminars at Amos Memorial Public Library; were present with displays at the Drive-It-Yourself Farm Tour and Forestry Field Day; and made approximately 20 "house calls" to help clients with horticultural problems. One member serves on the statewide "Ask a Master Gardener" helpline, and one member serves on the State Master Gardener Advisory Committee.
- Two farmers participated in a statewide research project to identify **factors that limit soybean yields**.
- In addition to those that subscribe directly, copies of the **CORN, BEEF, Dairy, and Ohio Ag Manager newsletters** were sent to 69 farmers and landowners in Shelby County from the Shelby County Extension office.
- Over 150 **individual requests for information** were answered on weed identification and land rent/leasing issues.
- About 20 people from Auglaize and Shelby counties participated in **Planning for Life's Transitions**, a four-part series dealing with retirement-planning, business succession and estates.
- Thirty participants from seven counties enrolled in the eight-week, **Small Farm College**. Participants went on a small farm tour and had the opportunity to sign up for various OSU Extension newsletters. Topics for the program included goal-setting; business-planning; family matters; sources of assistance; legal issues and insurance; natural resources; financial and projection records; crops, horticulture and soils; animal production; and marketing alternatives.
- A "**Farm Leasing**" meeting was held in February to discuss the in's and out's of leasing farmland—from both the renter and the landlord perspective. Topics included points to be considered in a lease such as getting "it" in writing, types of leases (e.g., cash versus crop share) and things to discuss/ take into consideration when setting payment amounts. This meeting of 30 participants was held in conjunction with Union County.

**Shelby County receives \$43,099 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**