

2014 County Highlights



WARREN County

MIAMI VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Locally grown, healthy food is important to Warren County citizens. OSU Extension works directly with our local growers at the **Southwestern Ohio Fruit and Vegetable Grower School** to provide information on food safety and crop protection. In 2014, more than 20 Ohio growers, representing 881 acres of produce, attended the school. Based upon their evaluations, these growers expected to increase their profits over \$33,500 by utilizing management information taught by OSU Extension professionals at the school.
- Learning to grow food at home was a popular subject of OSU Extension programming and personal consultations. Warren County held a **backyard grower school** to teach individuals how to grow fruit and vegetables at home. More than 30 people attended the school, and 100 percent of the participants indicated that they planned to use something they learned to improve their own gardens. Between personal consultations and public meetings, more than 200 individuals were taught how to grow their own food at home.
- The correct use of pesticides was the primary focus at OSU Extension's **2014 Agronomy Meeting**. Seventeen farmers, representing 15,366 acres, were provided up-to-date, research-based information to better manage their crops while protecting the environment. Evaluations indicated that 82 percent believe they do a better job of protecting soil and water resources because of OSU Extension pesticide education programs.

- Small acreage landowners were drawn to OSU Extension for the development of their new farm enterprises. In 2014, Warren County hosted 34 small acreage landowners for the **Southern Ohio Small Farm College**. This eight-week program is designed to help people who want to development profitable, small farm businesses.
- Working cooperatively with OSU Extension, more than 40 Warren County **Master Gardener Volunteers** donated over 2,150 hours of time to community service projects in the county—a value of more than \$44,000 to the community. The projects included educational gardens, school programs and adult education.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Ohio Works First** clients were provided practical lessons on employability skills, exploring personal values, coping with change and stress, consumerism skills, and communication skills. Eighty-eight hours of classroom training was provided in 2014 to more than 280 clients at Warren County Workforce ONE.
- The curriculum titled **“Tough Work: Understanding and Serving People in Poverty While Caring for Yourself”** was made available through the OSU Extension eStore. Thirty-three copies have been sold. In 2014, 115 individuals were taught topics from the Tough Work curriculum and from three separate workshops.
- In 2014, 10 first-time homebuyers were taught budgeting with homeownership in mind. Twenty clients of the **Transitions Program at Metropolitan Housing** were taught



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the importance of housekeeping skills through a two-hour training. Volunteers with the Court-Appointed Special Advocates for Children were trained regarding working effectively with families in poverty.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- In 2014, 961 youth from 45 **4-H Clubs** participated in 2,492 projects in 176 project areas. Twenty-three newly trained volunteers joined 232 experienced leaders to guide and support club activities and county events promoting leadership, citizenship and character development.
- In partnership with local high schools, businesses and community volunteers, more than 900 high school students from five local schools participated in **Real Money, Real World**. Youth reported an 87 percent increase in gaining a better idea of what is involved in earning, spending and managing money.
- Forty-one youth new to the **4-H Horse Program** developed and improved their knowledge and skills in horse safety and equine nutrition as part of a 4-H safety, ethics and horse management program. In addition, more than 100 youth and adults involved in the 4-H horse project participated in two clinics focusing on showmanship, horsemanship and driving.
- Two hundred thirteen young people from around Warren County participated in three local **4-H Camps**. Campers had the opportunity to engage in individual and group living skills, developmentally appropriate recreational activities and healthy decision-making.
- Fifty-four county teen counselors were involved in the **4-H Camp Counselor Program**, which involved over 30 hours in training in team-building, leadership development and program-planning skills. The training program also enhanced teens' understanding of child behavior and development as well as camp risk-management issues.
- As part of a four-day **4-H Urban Immersion Project**, teenage youth from 4-H programs in Warren, Greene and Geauga counties traveled to Washington, D.C. Service projects included work at local social service agencies and community centers. Participants also shared cultural experiences that took them out of their comfort zone. Many of their activities created opportunities that let them interact with persons experiencing homelessness, mental illness and poverty.
- In cooperation with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and Warren County juvenile court, a team of 14 4-H teen educators provided peer-to-peer instruction to 501 first-time juvenile traffic offenders in Warren County through interactive sessions on seat belt use; defensive driving;

and the consequences of road rage, substance abuse and other irresponsible driving choices. Based on survey results, 98 percent of participants believed the **4-H CARTEENS** program would help them improve their driving skills.

- Ten senior 4-H youth participated in a wide **variety of statewide camps and one national trip opportunity**. Participants received full or partial scholarships to Leadership Camp, Forestry Camp and Citizenship Washington Focus in the amount of \$5,000 from the Warren County 4-H Committee.
- Twelve **graduating seniors were awarded a total of \$6,000** with the support of the Warren County 4-H Committee, Warren County Horse Advisors, 4-H CARTEENS and local 4-H alumni and their families.
- More than 950 4-H youth and over 450 parents and adult volunteers participated in Warren County **Junior Fair** activities. Experts evaluated more than 5,000 4-H projects offering feedback to participants through placings as well as verbal and written evaluations based on performance, knowledge, communication skills and positive attitude.
- Forty-four teens from throughout the county served on the Warren County **Junior Fair Board**. Together, members completed over 3,200 hours of volunteer service as they committed to a yearlong program of training and meetings designed to prepare them to organize and conduct the Junior Fair events and shows.

Warren County receives \$29,946 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.