

2014 County Highlights



WAYNE County

CROSSROADS EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Working with the Wayne County local United Way Agency and the Child Support Enforcement Agency, Wayne County Extension has received part of a \$50,000 grant to provide **financial education** to noncustodial, noncompliant parents. A series of four one-hour classes titled “Money 101: Keys to Financial Stability” were planned. Topics included goal-setting, creating a budget, financial decision-making, and debt and credit repair. To date, four series have been offered to 43 individuals, with 18 completing the series. Evaluations indicate at least a 25 percent knowledge gain in the areas of budgeting, recordkeeping and savings.
- Smart Start: Teaching Preschoolers About Money** is an educational curriculum developed by OSU Extension educators designed to teach children ages 3–5 about the beginning concepts of money. It is intended to be used as train-the-trainer material for childcare providers. It explores such questions as “What is money?” and “What do we do with it?” Smart Start has been piloted with 18 Type B (in-home) childcare providers, reaching about 90 families. Ninety-three percent of providers who were trained reported they learned how to teach children financial basics using children’s literature, familiar materials, and real-life, everyday examples.
- Working with The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute, Wayne County Extension planned a Real Money, Real World event for incoming first-generation college freshmen. While the students were completing the simulation, parents learned about **helping their children**

become financially ready to live away from home. More than 80 percent of the parents indicated gaining insight about having conversations to prepare their student to manage their money away from home. More than 56 percent of the students indicated gaining useful information during the event.

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)** continued to grow during fiscal year 2014, with additional requests for programming from both youth and adult organizations and a growing waiting list. This validated the need for the hiring of two additional SNAP-Ed program assistants. This year’s obesity prevention SNAP-Ed grant has been focused on youth and young family nutrition education, with more than 4,500 youth contacts and nearly 1,000 adult contacts made nearly 400 classes throughout the county.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- In 2014, 1,221 preschool through fourth graders in eight different area schools participated in a six-month **Character Counts program**. Of those school teachers surveyed, 97 percent said that their students increased their understanding of the six pillars of character, and 80 percent felt that the Character Counts program produced better student behavior in their classrooms.
- 4-H Awareness Teams** visited 12 elementary schools where we were able to speak to 752 third-grade students about 4-H and the opportunities that are open to them through the program. Thirty-two 4-H teens were trained in and then able to practice public speaking at the school visits.



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- **Real Money, Real World** youth financial literacy program was conducted for five local middle and high schools as well as for the Wayne County Children's Services Independent Living program and for first-generation college freshman as part of the orientation program at The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute. More than 416 youth and 55 volunteers learned about personal finance through the program's classroom lessons and hands-on budget simulation.
- Put together 68 Cloverbuds, 23 counselors, four adult staff, circus-themed science experiments, fingerpainting crafts, and some great games, and what do you get? Big fun at **Cloverbud Day Camp 2014!** For three days the Wayne County Fairgrounds was alive with activity as the Cloverbuds of Wayne County came to participate in our "Under the Big Top" camp. One of the highlights was the presentation by Dr. Weirido from Mad Science.
- In July, 136 youth participated in **4-H Junior Camp** at Camp Ohio. 4-H members had opportunities to try activities such as ziplining, kayaking, archery and riflery. When youth try new activities outside their normal realm, they learn how to work together, develop leadership skills, become responsible for their actions and improve their self-confidence.
- More than 1,200 4-H and FFA members participated in three **Skillathon and Quality Assurance Training events** for the completion of 1,535 livestock projects! These events were made possible by more than 400 volunteers each night.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- After attending the 2014 **Pesticide Applicator Recertification**, 90 to 94 percent of the private applicators agreed or strongly agreed that they had learned how to control pests, weeds or diseases more effectively; they were better informed about how to apply pesticides safely; and the program had brought them up to date on current pesticide-related topics, issues and regulations.
- The **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) scouting program** provides weekly scouting visits and timely pest management recommendations to subscribed growers. One important aspect of the scouting program involves the use of traps to monitor insect pests. In July, the spotted wing drosophila (SWD) was detected in traps in three county locations. As a result, a spray advisory was issued to growers enrolled in the scouting program as well as to produce auctions in Mount Hope and West Salem. Timely spraying will literally save thousands of dollars of fruit crops in the area. In 2014 the scouting program also worked with a start-up

UAV (drone) company to help them understand the type of scouting information and service needed by growers. As a result of participating in the IPM scouting program, 86 percent of the growers make more timely application of pesticides; 71 percent say they have increased their knowledge of pests; and 73 percent said they have had an increase in net farm income.

- The **2014 Ohio Manure Science Review** was hosted in Wayne County at the Rupp-Vue Dairy Farm. Approximately 180 persons attended the event. Participants were asked to rate their level of knowledge after hearing presentations. On a scale of 1–5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, the average participant response to five of the presentations was over 4, and was 3.5 or higher for the other two topics. Ninety percent of the respondents rated the program "good to excellent."
- The Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) educator worked with Farm Credit Mid-America to host a regional **Farm Bill Commodity Crops Meeting**. The Ohio State University agricultural policy expert Carl Zulauf and University of Illinois farm bill policy specialist Jon Coppess were the featured presenters. Close to 300 people attended, and according to evaluations, 92 percent agreed or strongly agreed that they will use the information they learned at the program. Eighty percent agreed or strongly agreed that they were better informed about the 2014 farm bill decisions they will make in the future.
- The Extension ANR educator set up and hosted a regional 2014 farm bill **Dairy Margin Protection Program (DMPP)** in Wooster. Approximately 130 attended, and according to evaluations, 97 percent of the participants agreed or strongly agreed with the statements that by attending they improved their knowledge about the 2014 farm bill and that they would use the information they learned. Ninety-three percent of the participants agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that they were better informed about 2014 farm bill decisions they would be making in the future.
- Working with ODA, the Extension ANR educator coordinated an **Agriculture Pesticide Collection Day** at the Kidron Livestock Auction. The total of unwanted pesticides collected was 32,698 pounds. Pesticides collected ranged from currently used pesticides—some in unopened containers—to outdated pesticides such as DDT and lead arsenate. Many farmers expressed appreciation for holding the collection day.

Wayne County receives \$144,803 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.