

2014 County Highlights

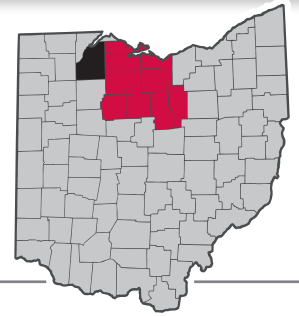


WOOD County

ERIE BASIN EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- In 2014, over 125 women with age ranges from 17 to 80 years, participated in **Women in Agriculture**, a one-day workshop for farm women. Over 91 percent reported that the knowledge gained at the workshop increased family communication, can be applied to their farm operation, and will be applied to their personal life.
- A total of 150 **public food servers** (workers in restaurants, schools, hospitals, childcare centers and nursing homes) were taught to avoid cross contamination and to measure and log food temperatures from delivery and storage to cooking, holding, cooling and reheating.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Nearly 1,200 people attended over 200 presentations on USDA's MyPlate Food Guidance System, Dietary Guidelines for Americans, food safety and nutrition. Afterward, 73 percent indicated they made changes in their nutritional choices for a healthy lifestyle with a limited budget. Almost 100 percent of the classes taught were part of a series, which research verifies, increases the amount of knowledge gained.
- In 2014, OSU Extension's **Dining with Diabetes** partnered with Meijer Stores' Healthy Living Program and Bowling Green State University's Dietetics Program to offer classes to 65 attendees. Following the classes, participants reported reading labels more often, working harder to control their diabetes, an overall feeling of better health and improvements in clinical health outcome.

- Wood County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences staff provided food and nutrition programming via email health challenges and face-to-face, six-week programs called **Healthy Habits for Life**.
- A total of 587 individuals became more aware of their personal skin characteristics and gained knowledge of **sun safe practices**, including changing habits to help reduce the risk of cancer related to sun exposure.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **4-H CARTEENS** taught 140 first-time juvenile traffic offenders valuable safety information. Twenty teen facilitators utilized a "teens teaching teens" approach to traffic education while also building offenders' self-esteem and interpersonal skills. Ninety-seven percent of participants said they will drive more cautiously, will avoid texting and driving and will slow down while operating a vehicle.
- **Wood County 4-H** offered educational experiences to 5,200 youth, 390 volunteer advisors and 301 teen leaders. In 2014, there were 55 community 4-H Clubs, with an enrollment of 1,300. Ninety-five 4-H in-school units instructed 1,700 4-H projects. Wood County 4-H teen involvement is ranked among the highest in Ohio. Eighty-five Leadership Board members conducted judging events and were involved in community service; 57 4-H members were involved in the planning of the Junior Fair; and 100 4-H teens were camp counselors.
- Volunteers dipped 15,000 milkshakes at the county fair. This fundraising effort, along with local donor gifts, funded more than **\$43,000 in camp scholarships, awards and programs**.



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- **4-H Camp** had 209 campers in 2014, and 45 camp counselors received training to enable them to design a camp program that incorporated many of the critical elements needed in a positive 4-H experience. Over 98 percent of the counselors felt better prepared to lead campers, and 89 percent learned new techniques in dealing with campers with special needs and preparing for emergency situations.
- Through a USDA grant and Wood County Extension's collaboration with Bowling Green State University and Virginia Tech University, professors from around the nation taught 125 area youth **valuable STEM concepts** on the Bowling Green State University campus.
- 4-H collaborated with the Wood County Historical Society by opening a **permanent room exhibiting the highlights of the Wood County 4-H program**. Twenty 4-H Clubs conducted business meetings and participated in a scavenger hunt exploring the grounds. Over 90 percent of the participants had never been to the museum before, and 100 percent discovered historical facts about 4-H and Wood County to share with their families and local communities.
- The **Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (CORN) newsletter** was distributed to farmers and agribusiness. The newsletter provides crop scouting, integrated pest management, cultural practice and other practical information during the growing season. It also offers updated research results during the winter months. This timely information has increased yields and reduced herbicide costs for thousands of acres of crops.
- **Pesticide Applicator Recertification** was conducted for over 150 local farmers. Participants gained information about using pesticide management practices to protect water supplies. **Pesticide Applicator Training** was also offered to Wood County Township employees. This training gave the employees the tools to pass exams administered by the Ohio Department of Agriculture.
- The **Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program** is a cooperative effort between Wood County Park District and OSU Extension. This collaboration has significantly impacted the knowledge of the participants in the area of natural resources. The volunteer naturalists have been involved with planning and conducting educational seminars.
- Approximately 2,000 residents gained **information on horticultural subject matter** via telephone calls, email and horticultural seminars. Pond management, tree and small fruits, general outdoor landscape questions, and pest problems prevailed. Eighty percent of clients adopted practices taught resulting in savings upwards of a thousand dollars.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- The **Wood County Master Gardener Volunteer program** certified 18 new Master Gardener Volunteers and has 22 Master Gardener Volunteer interns. There are currently 134 active volunteers. Volunteer efforts continued with the City of Bowling Green Parks and Recreation and Wood County Parks District, Wood Lane Schools, The 577 Foundation, The Daughter Project, the Wood County Public Library and other projects. In 2014, the Master Gardeners also held their Annual Plant Exchange, where 300 people received free plants and information on invasive plants, native plants and pollinators.
- **Agricultural research projects** conducted by Extension sought to increase knowledge for producers, consultants and agriculture professionals in the areas of nutrient management, soil and water quality improvement, integrated pest management, and production efficiency. Specific projects focused on cover crops, soil compaction, soil quality, pest scouting, soybean population comparisons, crop rotation, and sustainable cropping systems. Results were shared at local agronomy updates at the Conservation Tillage Conference, Northern Ohio Crops Day, Northwest Ag Research Field Crops Day, and other events. As a result, producers improved farm income and reduced pesticide and fertilizer use by following Extension recommendations.

Wood County receives \$71,620 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.