

# 2014 County Highlights

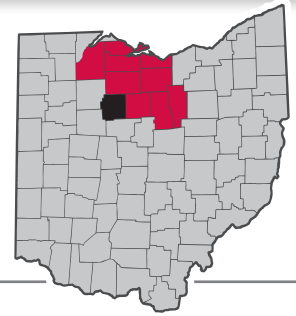


## WYANDOT County

### ERIE BASIN EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

109 South Sandusky Avenue, Room 16, Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351

Phone: (419) 294-4931 [wyandot.osu.edu](http://wyandot.osu.edu)



### ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

#### • **Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) Program:**

In 2014, the Wyandot County Extension Community Development educator served as the BR&E practitioner for Wyandot County, facilitating the program in conjunction with the Wyandot County Office of Economic Development. In the process, the Wyandot County Extension Community Development educator identified concerning trends while helping public and development officials create a narrative of the local economy. 2014 BR&E data also identified information for use by other groups including the Wyandot County Health Alliance and JobsOhio, the State of Ohio's private economic development agency.

- **Business Expansion and Attraction Projects:** The BR&E program led to the identification of a business expansion project requiring infrastructure. The Wyandot County Extension Community Development educator also worked with a prospective business, offering it the information and resources necessary to place a location in Wyandot County. Through working with local, regional and state-level partners, the educator helped assist these two manufacturing operations in securing a combined \$150,000 in workforce training grants as well as state and local tax incentives. As a result of the two projects, these companies invested over \$20 million in the Wyandot County community. The projects also led to combined commitments for the creation of 90 full-time jobs over the next three years as well as the retention of 585 existing positions.

#### • **Federal Grant Funding for Local Infrastructure:**

Throughout the first half of 2014, the Wyandot County Extension Community Development educator authored, developed, revised and submitted a grant application package to fund roughly half of the cost to construct a new municipally-owned electrical substation in the Village of Carey, Ohio. The new substation was required to provide increased electrical capacity to a local manufacturing facility ready to expand its operations. In September 2014, the U.S. Economic Development Administration awarded a \$1.5 million grant to the Village of Carey, providing the municipality with the gap funding necessary to carry out the project and allowing the local manufacturer the ability to expand operations.

- **Economic Impact Analysis:** The first Economic Impact Analysis for Wyandot County was compiled by the Wyandot County Extension Community Development educator in 2014. This formal report compared growth events in the county's top five industry sectors, which gave public leaders and community stakeholders an overview of how the local economy as a whole is impacted by changes in these areas. The report provides local leaders and development officials with solid data on which to base future strategy for enhancing the economic viability of Wyandot County.

- **Wyandot County Regional Planning Commission:** The Wyandot County Regional Planning Commission received leadership from the Wyandot County Extension Community Development educator who serves as the agency's executive director. The educator provided education to roughly 100 local residents concerning local subdivision



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Empowerment *Through* Education

[twitter.com/dirkeithsmith](https://twitter.com/dirkeithsmith)  
[u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact](http://u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact)  
[extension.osu.edu](http://extension.osu.edu)

regulations and safe and efficient land-use planning, among a number of other topics. These individual educational sessions—as well as organizing and leading regular meetings of the planning commission—increased local awareness of sound lot development practices among not only residents but public officials as well.

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed):** Wyandot County reached 355 adults and 300 youth in 2014 through SNAP-Ed, a federally funded program created to teach nutrition and food safety to low-income youth and adults. Of those who participated in 170 classes, 99 percent indicated that they had learned a lot or some new information, and 86 percent indicated that they planned to make many or some changes.

## PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- **Wyandot County 4-H Camp Counselor Training:** In 2014, 27 youth camp counselors were selected to receive in excess of 24 hours of training and instruction in skill development to prepare them for serving in a supervisory and caring capacity for 101 Wyandot County youth attending Kelleys Island 4-H Camp. Eleven adult volunteers assisted in providing training on the following topics: making good decisions, improving communication skills, recognizing age and developmental differences, program-planning and teaching, risk management, weather safety and protection of minors. Representatives of local law enforcement and EMS units made special presentations dealing with appropriate use of social media and emergency medical protocol. Upon completion of this training, counselors indicated that they felt better prepared to teach, lead and act as positive role models for campers. In addition, counselors indicated that the training and skill-building provided opportunities for 27 individual counselors to grow into a cohesive corps committed to providing a safe and enjoyable camping experience for Wyandot County 4-H campers. An informal survey suggested that, of the 95 campers age-eligible to return to camp in 2015, nearly 75 percent planned to attend again in 2015. Counselors reported after camp that the training and the opportunity to serve as teachers, leaders and caring role models for children helped them mature and develop self-esteem and skills which would serve them well in the future.
- **4-H for Older Teens:** In 2014, eight high school seniors were awarded \$3,300 in academic scholarships to enhance their pursuit of post-secondary education. These scholarships were provided by Wyandot County 4-H Endowment, which,

since its inception in the mid 1970s, has awarded over \$91,300 to 245 Wyandot County 4-H members. The August 2014 Benefit Auction and Dinner provided a marvelous evening of food, fun and fellowship for nearly 200 in attendance and raised over \$9,000, which will continue to be a source for scholarship and programming support for Wyandot County 4-H. Wyandot County 4-H Advisory Council contributed \$1,600 in the form of scholarships for two 4-H members to attend Citizenship Washington Focus and two 4-H members to attend Leadership Washington Focus. A local service group generously provided full scholarships for another two Wyandot County 4-H members to attend 4-H Leadership Camp, held at Camp Ohio. The thank you notes received by these 14 young persons are indication that Wyandot County 4-H has made a positive difference in their lives.

**Wyandot County receives \$53,988 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**