

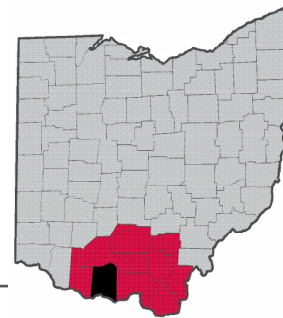
2015 County Highlights

Adams County

Ohio Valley Extension Education and Research Area

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program (SNAP-Ed) is a USDA grant-funded nutrition education and obesity prevention program with the goal of improving the likelihood that those who receive food assistance benefits (FAB) will make healthy food choices and choose active lifestyles. Adams County ranks 87th among the 88 Ohio counties in the official *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps* and has a 30 percent adult obesity rate. Twenty-four percent of the population receives FAB, and 35 percent of the county's children live in poverty.
- In cooperation with more than 20 local agencies and schools, 274 classes were offered by the SNAP-Ed program assistant in 2015. These classes included adults and youths ranging from preschoolers to senior citizens, with more than 4,100 direct contacts. Eighty-four percent of the classes were part of a series. Participants reported increasing the frequency of several behaviors including eating more plant-based proteins, leaner meats and whole grains; making meals from mostly whole ingredients; using smaller plates for portion control; and being physically active for at least 30 minutes most days.
- Adams County was one of 11 Ohio counties to pilot the Cooking Matters program this year. This is a six-week series of classes meeting weekly to teach basic nutrition, food shopping and cooking skills. The program assistant secured \$600 in local donations to provide food for the classes and gift cards for the healthy grocery shopping challenge in week five of the series. Fourteen people participated in the program with 11 of them attending at least four of the six classes. One participant reported the skills learned in class allowed her to help her husband, who previously did all of the cooking, which allowed them to eat less fast food. Another participant lost seven pounds during the six-week class by preparing more balanced meals at home and learning how to use the avocados she often receives from the food pantry.

- The SNAP-Ed program assistant continues to be active with the Adams County Health and Wellness Coalition. In 2015 the coalition worked to complete the paving of a fitness trail at North Adams Schools, install equipment at a fitness trail at Peebles Schools, and continue to make progress toward transforming an abandoned park in Peebles into a skateboard park.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Tobacco producers were required to obtain good agricultural practices (GAP) training in order to market their tobacco in 2015. Five sessions of training were held in the tri-county area of Adams, Brown and Highland counties. Of the 245 growers who received training across Ohio, 93 were from Adams County. Because they attended the GAP training, these producers are able to market their tobacco. Producers reported to the USDA Farm Service Agency a total of 499 acres in tobacco at an estimated yield of 2,000 pounds per acre. If sold at \$2 per pound, the value of the tobacco marketed from the county will approach \$1,996,000.
- The expected payment to farmers for the 2014 corn crop based on electing into the Agricultural Risk Coverage-County Option (ARC-CO) program of the 2014 Farm Bill is approximately \$3,263,400. Statewide, OSU Extension provided Farm Bill education programs and individual consultations for farmers and landowners on the farm bill election decisions. Five of these sessions were held in the Adams, Brown and Highland tri-county area. FSA reports that approximately 98 percent of all farmers elected ARC-CO because it was demonstrated by OSU Extension to be the preferred option based on known information at the time.
- Four Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification sessions were held in the Adams, Brown and Highland tri-county area. A total of 110 private applicators were recertified for the three counties, including 18 from Adams County. Monthly



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testing was offered for both private and custom applicators to obtain a license. One hundred six private and commercial applicators took the exams at the local site. Research done at Washington State University places a \$13,366 value per individual on pesticide certification training based on Extension pest management knowledge, cooperation with ODA, prevention of individual and commercial mishandling of toxic chemicals and potential increases in productivity. In Adams County this translates to an average value of \$400,980 annually.

- Water quality has come to the forefront in Ohio, and part of the solution for improving water quality may also result in financial savings for farmers. In the Adams, Brown and Highland tri-county area, 110 producers attended Fertilizer Education Certification Training, including 23 from Adams County. Producers must have certification starting September 30, 2017, if they produce crops, primarily for sale, on more than 50 acres.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- The 4-H program empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults. Adams County membership included 679 youth enrolled in 28 community-based 4-H Clubs. Thirteen adults completed the volunteer screening process, bringing the number of advisors to 146. Based on a minimum 35 hours contributed annually by each volunteer, the estimated value of their service to Adams County exceeded \$109,660. Members had opportunities to strengthen their project skills at clinics and at the fifth annual Kids College. They also completed required animal Quality Assurance Training and Skillathons, and participated in the fair.
- Research shows that compared to their peers, 4-H youth are four times more likely to make contributions to their communities, and this desire to serve was demonstrated by local 4-H members throughout 2015. Most clubs completed one or more service projects. One teen received a My Hands to Larger Service mini-grant and used the funds to build, paint and install three benches at the fairgrounds. Advisors and members of the Buckeye Barn Busters 4-H Club received a \$500 Ohio 4-H Foundation grant to coordinate the Give a Hand, Give a Can for Hunger countywide service project in which 1,000 canned and dry-goods items were collected and donated to a local foodbank. Members and advisors participated in the fifth annual Baskets of Love service project in which more than 30 Christmas baskets were weaved, filled and donated to area Meals on Wheels recipients.

- Nine Adams County youth and three teens participated in the region's third annual STEM Camp, partially funded by a grant from the Ohio 4-H Foundation. The camp engaged 70 participants from 11 area counties in authentic STEM experiences and opportunities to learn how STEM applies in the real world. Participants reported they learned about STEM-related careers and educational requirements and were challenged to learn more about the topics addressed in the in-depth, STEM-focused sessions.
- Adams County received 4-H National Mentoring Program Year 5 funding in the amount of \$20,500 to continue the 4-H Tech Wizards after-school and summer program at North Adams and Peebles elementary schools. Five adults and six teens mentored 34 youth with the goals of increasing their scores on standardized science tests and encouraging them to pursue post-secondary education and training in the fields of science and technology. Participants were mentored throughout the year, engaging in a variety of STEM activities including an overnight educational field trip to COSI, participating in the annual 4-H National Youth Science Day Experiment and assisting with Cloverbud activities at the fair.

Adams County receives \$56,238 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.