

2015 County Highlights

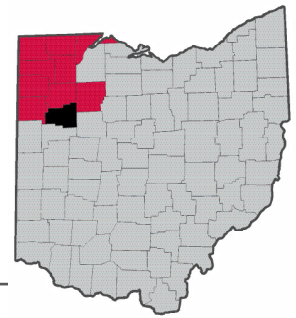
Allen County

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Twenty-five Allen County 4-H Camp Counselors planned activities, sessions, games and a camp schedule for 130 campers, as well as designed career development activities. This year, Allen County's camp theme was "4-H Camp Palmer Goes Back to the Future." Twenty of those counselors went on to assist at the 4-H Cloverbud Day Camp, where 47 campers attended. Forty-five older youth on the Junior Fair Board learned life skills such as problem-solving, communications and confrontation management by assisting at livestock interviews and judging events before and during the fair.
- A total of 185 volunteers provided educational opportunities for 1,193 youth in 44 clubs. Volunteers also assisted youth to help complete 4,116 projects. A total of 603 youth participated in Livestock Quality Assurance training in 2015. Youth who participated in this workshop explored good production practices. Members also completed a sample Drug Use Notification Form. This Ohio Department of Agriculture form is used to ensure quality care for animals that are going to market. There were zero reported cases of drug residue in the 2015 Junior Fair market livestock program. Our 4-H programming reached 3,088 youth through traditional clubs and school programming. In addition, 4-H volunteers and youth, along with community businesses, continued to raise funds for the 4-H program.
- Real Money, Real World is an active, hands-on experience that gives young people the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to those they will make as adults. This experience helped 995 Allen County middle and high school students explore careers and realize the importance of family budgeting and learn how today's consumer economy works. After completing the exercise, students stated, "I need to prepare myself better by doing well in school" and "It costs a lot to raise kids." More said, "I need to work hard in school and plan for my future" and "I need to think about college and what I want to do."

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- The Allen County Master Gardener Volunteer program had 61 active volunteers in 2015. Allen County Master Gardener projects included The Children's Garden, Art of Gardening Seminar, The Brown Bag Series, The Butterfly Migration Celebration and the Allen County Fairgrounds Entrance. A regional training for new Master Gardener Volunteers was held at the OSU-Lima Campus in partnership with Hardin County Master Gardener Volunteers. Three Allen County residents completed their 50-hour volunteer commitment and became certified Master Gardener Volunteers.
- In March, the Allen County Master Gardener Volunteers hosted "The Art of Gardening Seminar" at the OSU-Lima Campus. One hundred fifty-four adults attended six hours of horticultural and environmental training.
- Allen County Master Gardener Volunteers provided horticultural education to senior citizens. Master Gardener Volunteers participated in the Healthy Living Fair at the Luther Pines Senior Citizens apartments in Lima. Forty-seven residents, 18 guests and 11 staff members learned information about successful container gardening techniques.
- In May, the Allen County Master Gardener Volunteers provided a daylong "Ask a Master Gardener" event at DeHaven's Garden Center. One hundred thirty-two customers were assisted by the Master Gardener Volunteers, who assisted the customers by helping with proper plant selection, planting and care tips, and "best practices" regarding landscape and turf questions. Additionally, in October the Allen County Master Gardener Volunteers participated in the Farm to Table event, sponsored by the Keep Allen County Beautiful campaign. One hundred twenty-six guests at this dinner event were provided information regarding native plants and the benefits of growing natives plants to support the pollinators needed in our food chain. The Master Gardener Volunteers



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presented 12 video segments regarding a variety of horticultural topics on WLIO-TV *Noon Edition*. Viewership for each of the *Noon Edition* episodes is estimated to be 12,600 people in the region.

- In June, the Allen County Master Gardener Volunteers began three separate outdoor learning programs at The Children's Garden. The Brown Bag Lunch Series is a seasonlong event providing members of the community an opportunity to learn horticultural and environmental topics. These 30-minute segments are held at The Children's Garden each Tuesday afternoon for 13 weeks of the growing season. Topics are presented by Allen County Master Gardener Volunteers and vary weekly. In 2015, 468 adults were served by The Brown Bag Lunch Educational Series. The Allen County Master Gardener Volunteers also provide an Outdoor Educational Series for children ages 4–6 for eight weeks during the growing season. This year an average of 11 children per week participated in the program and learned about seed propagation, insects, spiders, where food comes from, plant care, vermiculture and recycling, and the five senses.
- Hands on Habitats was held at The Children's Garden with 17 children and 15 parents attending. The children learned about various types of habitats and then created and planted miniature "habitats" to take home and grow as container gardens.
- One hundred fifty-seven Allen County residents attended Pioneer Days at the Allen County Museum, where Allen County Master Gardener Volunteers displayed examples of native plants and discussed the uses for and storage and growing of various herbs, vegetables and fruits.
- The Allen County Master Gardeners held The Butterfly Migration Celebration at The Children's Garden in September. Over 340 youth and adults attended this event. Monarch butterflies were released by the children, and the youth could rotate to various educational stations to learn about the life cycle and migratory habits of the monarch butterfly.

foods and activity keep your body strong and healthy. Eight classes were also offered to the parents of Head Start children.

- Lessons were presented at 48 of the Job and Family Service SNAP/Job readiness classes. These classes with over 70 in attendance each session covered diet quality, food resource management, physical activity and food safety. Many of the participants shared how they used the skills in their own situations to make it through the month.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) offered 152 classes to Allen County residents. Interactive classes teach skills in healthy eating, food budgeting and active lifestyles. These classes targeting food stamp-eligible recipients gave participants the skills to provide nutritious food to their families within their resources.
- Eight Head Start classrooms with at least 12 children each received a series of 14 lessons. Children learned that good