

2015 County Highlights

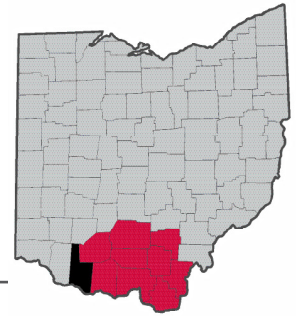
Brown County

Ohio Valley Extension Education and Research Area

325 West State Street, Building B, Georgetown, Ohio 45121-1124

Phone: 937-378-6716

brown.osu.edu



The Brown County Commissioners collaborated with their counterparts in Adams and Highland counties to share the services of an Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension educator. Funding of OSU Extension in Brown County was also made possible through a partnership with the Brown County Solid Waste Authority.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Brown County 4-H is the largest youth organization in the county with 800 members involved in 34 community clubs. Community clubs provide positive adult/youth interactions focused around educational project experiences, which include the development of life skills, leadership development, healthy living skills and effective communication. Youth were directly impacted by 200 caring adult volunteers. Based on an estimated 35 hours contributed annually by each volunteer, the value of their service exceeded \$200,000.
- Recycling is the process of collecting materials that would otherwise be thrown away and turning them into something else. Through the partnership with the Brown County Solid Waste Authority, Brown County 4-H provides environmental education and promotes recycling within its community clubs. Thirteen clubs participated in a countywide aluminum can recycling project. The goal was to encourage recycling in the community and to keep cans out of the landfill. From April 1 to October 6, participants recycled 2,959 pounds or 1.48 tons of aluminum cans. Members encouraged family members, parents' workplaces and other businesses to participate in the project. According to the EPA, recycling one ton of aluminum cans conserves the equivalent of 26 barrels of oil, or 1,234 gallons of gasoline.
- The focus of the 4-H shooting sports program is on developing youth's skills through the safe use of firearms and archery equipment. Through the program, youth develop skills in areas such as sound decision making, self-discipline, concentration and sportsmanship. In 2015, three

teens attended Shooting Sports Instructors Certification workshops to develop their leadership skills and become Junior Leaders within the shooting sports program. Junior Leaders worked with 14 certified adult volunteer instructors to help the 92 youth enrolled in the shooting sports program complete their projects. Members attend shooting range meetings to participate in discipline-related workshops that emphasize firearm and range safety.

- Summer camp experiences give youth the opportunity to develop skills in a safe, fun environment while making new friends, discovering new interests and exploring the outdoors and connecting with nature. Thirty-eight youth participated in the 2015 Brown County Residential Camp; this is a 50 percent increase from 2014. Twenty-four youth participated in the second annual Cloverbud Day Camp with a focus on the environment and STEM activities. Nine teens served as camp counselors to provide oversight to campers, lead sessions and also develop their own leadership and life skills; an additional eight Junior Leaders assisted with planning Cloverbud Camp, leading groups and teaching sessions.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) is a USDA grant-funded nutrition education and obesity prevention program serving low-income youth and adults. It's goal is to increase the likelihood that families and individuals who receive food assistance benefits will make healthy food choices and choose more active lifestyles. Current statistics show that 14.13 percent of Brown County residents are currently receiving SNAP benefits and 4,141 students are receiving free or reduced lunches. The adult obesity rate for Brown County is 37 percent in comparison to the state rate of 30 percent. Within Brown County, 35 percent of residents are inactive, while the state rate is 26 percent. Of the restaurants in the county, 52 percent are fast food restaurants. With statistics such as these, there is a huge need for SNAP-Ed in Brown County.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Empowerment Through Education

u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact
extension.osu.edu

- In collaboration with several local agencies and public school systems in Brown County, 246 direct education programs were offered, reaching a total of 3,897 participants in 2015. Of those programs, 36 were offered to adult audiences while 39 included teen programs. The key topics addressed included MyPlate, vegetables and fruits, dairy, whole grains, protein and food shopping. There were 171 direct education programs offered to youth audiences. The programs included key topics such as the importance of eating breakfast, eating different vegetables and fruits, eating healthy snacks, drinking water, eating from most MyPlate food groups and being physically active. All of the classes were part of a series in which participants attended three or more sessions, with 51 percent of that total attending 10 or more sessions. Through indirect programs containing information from the key topics addressed above, an additional 895 participants were reached, which consisted of families with children.
- In retrospective surveys completed by SNAP-Education programming participants, statistics showed an increase in healthier food behaviors such as eating more vegetables daily, choosing lean or low fat meat choices, choosing whole grain products, drinking water instead of sweetened drinks and being physically active for at least 30 minutes a day most days of the week. One senior adult participant reported, that due to SNAP-Education programming, her and her husband purchased exercise equipment to increase their daily physical activity. Teachers in the public schools have reported that, when talking with parents, parents say that while at home their children have mentioned information addressed during SNAP-Education programming sessions.
- Tobacco Producers were required to obtain good agricultural practices (GAP) training in order to market tobacco this marketing season. Some companies had required this in previous years, but all companies did in 2015. Six sessions of the training were held in the tri-county area for local producers. There were 94 Brown County growers who attended one of these local sessions that provided GAP training for 235 Ohio producers. The 94 Brown County producers reported 566 acres to the USDA Farm Service Agency in 2015. Using an estimated 2,000 pounds per acre at an estimated \$2 per pound, that calculates out to \$2,264,000.
- The Master Gardener Volunteers in Brown County are an asset to the county, but also to the OSU Extension offices. Master Gardener Volunteers meet monthly April through October with residents at the Ohio Veteran's Home. The volunteers assist with raised beds with the veteran gardeners. The Master Gardener Volunteers also offer a free gardening series at Southern State Community College in Mt. Orab one evening a month, September through May. In 2015 a training class to train new volunteers was offered and three new volunteers are now in the Brown County program.
- Water quality has come to the forefront in Ohio, and part of solution for improving water quality may also be a financial savings for farmers. In 2015, 53 Brown County farmers were certified through the fertilizer education certification training. Producers will need certification starting September 30, 2017 if they produce crops, primarily for sale, on more than 50 acres.
- Six fields with different levels of soybean cyst nematode and charcoal rot fungus were identified in Ohio during three growing seasons (2012–2014). One field was in Brown County. The analysis revealed a significant interaction effect between *H. glycines* and *M. phaseolina* on soybean yield for fields with high inoculum levels. These data will be used to establish damage thresholds, which are essential for cultivar selection and long-term disease management in infested fields and evaluation of pathogen interaction in reducing crop production.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Four Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification sessions were held in the tri-county area of Adams, Brown and Highland counties. A total of 110 private applicators were recertified in 2015 for the three counties, including 41 from Brown County. Monthly testing was offered for both private applicators and custom applicators to obtain a license through testing. A total of 106 private and commercial applicators took the exams at the local site. Washington State University placed 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 Brown County this translates to an average of \$797,505 annually when calculated by multiplying the 179 private applicators by \$13,366 divided by a three-year training cycle.

Brown County receives \$47,160 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.