

# 2015 County Highlights

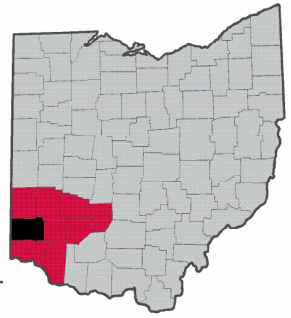
## Butler County

### Miami Valley Extension Education and Research Area

1802 Princeton Road, Suite 400, Hamilton, Ohio 45011-4797

Phone: 513-887-3722

[butler.osu.edu](http://butler.osu.edu)



#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Recipients of the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) learn how to stretch their food dollars through interactive classes. OSU Extension taught 836 individuals in 116 classes on nutrition, food safety, food budgeting and food security in 2015. In addition, 600 youth and adults receiving or eligible for the USDA's SNAP benefits were reached through food pantries, health fairs and nutrition events around the county. As a result, participants were significantly less likely to run out of food at the end of the month, were more likely to make economical and healthier choices when grocery shopping and were more likely to provide healthier meals for their families.
- The Development of Living Skills (DLS) program offers in-home instruction to individuals and families referred by Children Services. Instruction is given in the areas of nutrition, parenting, child development, money management and home economics. DLS provided 990 hours of teaching time to 100 clients. As a result of instruction, 21 children were reunited with their parents from foster care, and seven at-risk children were able to remain in their parent's home, eluding foster care or kinship care.
- OSU Extension partnered with the Butler County Employee Wellness Committee to improve overall health. As a result, workplace wellness programs focusing on stress management increased. One hundred sixty-two people were also reached through sun safety education efforts. Individuals had their facial skin and hands viewed for damage and increased awareness of how the sun and tanning beds damage skin and can lead to skin cancer.

#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- In 2015, 62 Butler County 4-H Clubs represented over 1,245 members. The 4-H program was delivered with the help of 179 adult volunteers. Seven new advisors went through training to become volunteers, and three new 4-H Clubs were started.

- During 2015, 625 teens were mandated to attend one of 40 Butler County 4-H CARTEENS programs accompanied by a parent or guardian. This program is a partnership between OSU Extension, Butler County Juvenile Court, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. This program is staffed by 24 teen volunteers who gave over 3,500 hours to the program.
- During summer 2015, 105 youth participated in the STEM program. STEM is curriculum based on the idea of educating students in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics based on real-world experiences. All of the areas are integrated into a cohesive learning experience based on real-world applications. The programs were conducted at the Girls Inc., at the YWCA in Hamilton, and One Way Farm in Fairfield.
- The Junior Master Gardener program was taught by OSU Extension Master Gardener Volunteers. Over the eight-week program, 18 youth participated in lessons about vegetable garden planning, planting and care, pest control, soil health, and invasive species. Over 1,300 people were reached through educational outreach efforts at farmers' markets and the county fair.

#### ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Master Gardeners are OSU Extension-trained volunteers empowered to educate others with timely, research-based gardening information. Master Gardener Volunteers reached out to people through media, community projects and programming. Working cooperatively with OSU Extension, Butler County Master Gardener Volunteers donated more than 4,800 hours last year, providing horticulture education to the public. Their volunteer efforts resulted in \$94,618 worth of community service contributions throughout Butler County.
- Invasive species—including emerald ash borer and, most recently, the walnut twig beetle with thousand cankers disease—are of concern in Butler County. OSU Extension



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Empowerment Through Education

[u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact](http://u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact)  
[extension.osu.edu](http://extension.osu.edu)

provided 1,200 citizens with the most recent information on insect and tree identification, proper controls, and regulatory laws surrounding invasive species.

- Proper pesticide usage following the integrated pest management method was a main focus for homeowner education. Through the horticulture hotline, newsletters, Home Horticulture Series, community outreach, and one-on-one consultation, Butler County Extension helped 2,336 homeowners make research-based decisions on pest and disease management as well as integrated pest management in their home landscapes and gardens.
- Pressure to limit the use of fertilizers is increasing. Legislative, regulatory and nongovernment organization activities—including legal action pertaining to nutrients in the environment—are taking place on national, regional, state and local levels. OSU Extension provided training to local producers on incorporating the 4Rs of nutrient stewardship into their local nutrient management plans. A total of 92 percent of the participants recorded that they learned valuable information during the program and that they would be able to utilize this information on their farms.
- Increasing yields of agronomic crops/forages as well as correct use of pesticides were the main focus during OSU Extension's Pesticide Applicator Training. Fifty-two participants representing over 13,322 acres in Butler County were provided up-to-date, research-based information on the safe and effective use of chemicals.

## ADVANCING INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- The Centers for Disease Control estimates that there are more than 76 million cases of foodborne illnesses every year. Food safety training for food service professionals is essential to public health and provides potential and current employees the opportunity to market skills and advance income. In 2015, 58 food service professionals completed the ServSafe Manager Program and 60 high school students completed the ServSafe Food Handler Program. ServSafe programming provides food safety education and facilitates certification with the National Restaurant Association and the Ohio Department of Health.
- More than ever, the youth of today need a clear understanding of how to manage their finances. Real Money, Real World, an OSU Extension signature program, gives middle and high school students an understanding of how current income and life choices affect future income. Participants learn how much to expect to pay for housing, transportation and childcare, and how to balance “wants” and “needs.” This hands-on program was offered to

more than 2,000 youth. Fifty-eight volunteers staffed the simulation experience. As a result of the program, students felt it was more important to do well in school, get an education or training after high school, plan family wisely, have a plan for spending that includes both needs and wants, learn how to make wise financial decisions, and start saving money regularly.

- Workplace wellness programs continue to deliver educational messages designed to encourage individuals to make informed choices about healthy eating, active living, stress reduction and overall improved wellness. In conjunction with the Butler County Employee Wellness Committee and local businesses, this program reached 172 employees. In addition, social media delivered online health challenges to 84 working adults.

**Butler County receives \$98,821 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**