

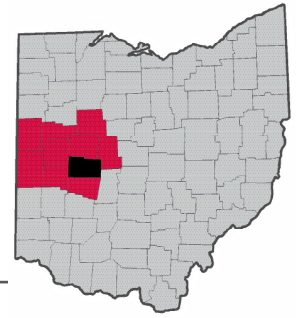
2015 County Highlights

Champaign County

Top of Ohio Extension Education and Research Area

1512 South US Highway 68, Suite B100, Urbana, Ohio 43078

Phone: 937-484-1526 champaign.osu.edu



PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Champaign County had 1,720 youth participating in 83 community 4-H Clubs led by 301 volunteers. Youth increased life skills related to responsibility, leadership, communication and organization by completing 3,268 projects and exhibiting them at the county fair. Volunteers invested over 38,000 hours to Champaign County youth.
- Champaign County 4-H members have multiple leadership opportunities by participating in Junior Fair Board, Junior Leadership Club, specialized junior species committees, Food and Fashion Board and camp counseling. Over 150 older teens participate in these groups, learning workforce preparation skills, leadership skills, public speaking and team-building skills.
- The county program enabled 353 youth to increase self-confidence, social skills, patience, and teamwork. The youth were also able to conquer fears and be responsible while attending one of the two, five-day 4-H Camps or a four-day Cloverbud Day Camp.
- Five local schools conduct 4-H awareness assemblies each year, reaching over 2,000 elementary students. Further, 189 local elementary schools participate in the 4-H school enrichment program, where students learn science, math, history and language arts in the 4-H hands-on learning way.
- Real Money, Real World financial literacy program is geared toward youth in middle school. This four-day, in-school program teaches youth to budget money and allows them to experience what it would be like to be on their own while managing a monthly budget. The program highlights the importance of a good education and how education relates to future earning potential. Three of the five school districts in the county participate in the program.
- Quality Assurance Training educated 732 youth about good production practices and about responsible animal care of their 4-H projects. Based on a post-survey, 99 percent of the youth said they increased their knowledge for best practices of animal care.

STRENGTHENING FAMILY AND COMMUNITIES

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (formerly the food stamp program) targets SNAP-eligible individuals and families. SNAP-ED in Ohio is a \$6.5 million grant funded by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service in partnership with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The grant brings over \$40,000 in federal funds to Champaign County. The program encourages SNAP participants and eligible nonparticipating individuals and families to eat a healthy diet, prepare food with food safety measures in mind and manage their limited resources effectively. Fifty-four classes offered during fiscal year 2015 reached more than 450 individuals on topics including but not limited to MyPlate, food shopping and physical activity.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Forty farmers attended a Pesticide Applicator Training and Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training held in January. New this year, a local farmer hosted a field day for pesticide and fertilizer applicators, with 39 farmers in attendance. Eighty-four percent of attendees agreed that they learned how to control pests, diseases and weeds more effectively. Forty percent of producers agreed that they would change their nutrient management practices as a result of the meeting. Another new program was the Precision Ag Day: Combine and Drone Technology. The program was attended by 100 farmers and ag industry professionals. Of those reporting, farmers estimated the meeting would save them anywhere between \$1 and \$100 per acre.
- Farm Bill educational meetings were a collaborative effort between the Extension office and Farm Service Agency. There were four meetings held in Champaign County, and 242 farmers and landowners attended. Individual consultations on topics such as agronomy, farm management and livestock are also common in the county. This year over 35 teaching events occurred with these individual issues.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Empowerment Through Education

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

- The Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (CORN) newsletter is read by more than 25,000 farmers in Ohio. This weekly newsletter communicates directly to Champaign County farmers current crop conditions as well as alerts and solutions to potential cropping problems. Champaign County Extension served as editor and website committee chair for this publication during the 2015 growing season. Champaign County Extension also provided local information and updates during weekly conference calls. In addition, Champaign County Extension helped collect the primary data necessary for CORN newsletter to remain a timely resource for corn, soybean, and wheat disease scouting; nutrient management; planting, tillage, and harvest decisions; and monitoring updates on the progress of eastern bean cutworm, wheat head scab, and county weed survey data.
- On-farm research projects this year included three soybean yield limiting factor plots with two different farmers. This project examined the agronomy practices of the farmer and involved collecting soil and tissue samples as well as scouting information to contribute to the statewide research project funded by the Ohio Soybean Council. An emergence study was also conducted with the help of two more Champaign County farmers to look at planting date and weather patterns.
- In 2015, the Champaign County Master Gardener Volunteers answered over 35 phone hotline and walk-in questions from May through September. They also offered to the public at the Champaign County Library a spring garden lecture consisting of two programs. The first program was very well attended and taught participants how to plant and prepare vegetable container pots. The second program taught participants how to plant drought-loving plants; attendees got to make and then take home their own succulent pot. One of our members also hosted from her own garden a program that taught participants how to prune spring-blooming shrubs and trees. Mike Epp was the guest speaker. He demonstrated how to prune correctly, and everyone who attended said they increased their knowledge in the one-hour program. Fall programs provided by the Master Gardener Volunteers included “How to Become a Master Gardener” and “Putting Your Tools Away for the Winter.”
- Along with providing butterfly larvae to all second grades in the county, the Master Gardener Volunteers also distributed the ODNR publication *Butterflies and Skippers of Ohio* and the magazine *Wild Ohio* to 576 second grade students in Champaign County. Seven Master Gardener Volunteers also went to Paws Animal Shelter to help weed and clean up the sign outside of the building.

Champaign County receives \$74,454 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.