

2015 County Highlights

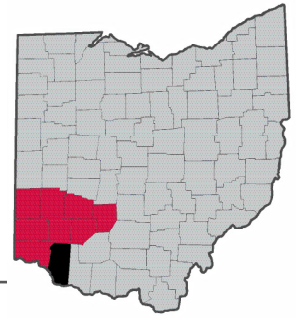
Clermont County

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Public health assessments conducted within the past three years indicate over 60 percent of Clermont County adults are overweight or obese based on body mass index. Clermont County Extension taught 306 nutrition education programs in 2015, directly reaching 5,310 residents. Senior citizens, families with/without children and youth participated in interactive classes developed to improve quality of diet and basic cooking skills, manage food resources by including healthy foods in the family budget, practice safe food preparation, make positive changes in lifestyles, and increase physical activity. As a result of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed), positive behavior change was reported using pre-test and post-test evaluation in nine out of 15 outcome measures.
- Research indicates that every \$1 spent on nutrition education saves as much as \$10 in long-term healthcare costs. The economic value of this local benefit was \$1,226,780.
- Do You Have Food \$ense is the title of a program with the aim of educating participants from Inter Parish Ministries Mobile Food Pantry about the importance of planning and preparing nutritious meals. Participants learn through a dialogue approach to adult learning, including hands-on food preparation and food tastings. The following quote was received in a six-month evaluation self-reporting: "I now eat smaller portions of food because I am a Type II diabetic. I don't use grease and I bake instead of frying. I eat more raw vegetables and less meat. I learned how to budget my money and make healthier food for my family."
- To meet the demand for safe home food preservation information, Preserving the Harvest workshops are conducted monthly throughout the growing season. Post-class evaluation forms from 71 participants showed increased knowledge in safe food preservation techniques and self-confidence in water bath and pressurized canning.

- Clermont County Extension is identified as a HUD-Approved Local Housing Counseling Agency on three topics: pre-purchase homebuying, resolving or preventing mortgage delinquency or default, and nondelinquent post-purchase counseling. Five families received counseling and qualified for financial assistance through Ohio's First-Time Homebuyer Program, and two families completed educational requirements to purchase a home through the USDA Rural Development Housing Program. These seven families added \$1 million to the local housing economy.
- Partnership with Child Focus, Inc., provided financial education training with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's *Your Money, Your Goals: A Financial Empowerment Toolkit for Social Services Programs* for 54 Early Head-Start Teachers. The training reached over 1,000 Clermont County families with preschool-aged children. Evaluation is currently underway.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Six Quality Assurance Training sessions were conducted to educate youth and parents/guardians about quality care for animals raised for food. Two of the sessions focused on 4-H equine safety, ethics and health. Twelve peer trainers were educated to conduct peer-to-peer presentations along with two agriculture education instructors. The adults were separated from youth participants to have their own session of Quality Assurance Training, all being conducted at the same time. The trainings certified 332 exhibitors with an additional 91 taught through agriculture education coursework.
- Partnering with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, two recertification sessions were held with 36 pesticide applicators attending to update their license. Participants who attended Pesticide Applicator Recertification received training on core agronomy and horticulture categories.



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Additional categories were taught via video. The second session was offered in collaboration with Pioneer Customer Appreciation Field Day at a local producer/dealer.

- Fertilizer certifications were conducted with one two-hour session for those with a pesticide license and one three-hour session for those without a pesticide license. One hundred individuals were taught with 36 applying for fertilizer certification.
- The 21st Annual Southwest Ohio Perennial School had 120 attendees, 13 horticulture vendors, 12 Master Gardener Volunteers and five presenters with six Extension staff members managing the event. The school teaches participants the skills and techniques to enhance or increase their perennial garden.
- In collaboration with NRCS and SWCD, a Soil Enhancement, Nutrient Management and Water Quality “Cover Crop Demonstration Plot Field Day” was held at a local producer’s farm with 38 total attendees and BioSeed providing the seed for the plots. This was part of the local soil nutrient management and water quality education to teach soil enhancement, nutrient management and water quality to agronomic crop participants. Participants learned valuable aspects of cover crops, soil health, nutrient management and their effects on water quality.
- A timber marketing workshop was held in conjunction with the SWCD to assist landowners in regards to harvesting and marketing timber in their woodlots. Sixty participants from all over Ohio attended this workshop.
- Clermont County Master Gardener Volunteers contributed 557 volunteer hours with a value of approximately \$12,500 contributed to the county. They attended 213 hours of continuing education. Five trainees are attending a daytime “live” class or a nighttime “webinar” based training session to become volunteers. Clermont partners include Valley View Foundation, library district, garden clubs and youth organizations.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Clermont County 4-H enrolled 935 members in 40 community clubs. This year, 14 new volunteers participated in an orientation and joined 190 experienced adult volunteers. Adult volunteers provide support and encouragement, teach life skills and help develop leadership and communication skills to make Clermont County youth successful.
- LOOK to Clermont is a teen leadership and workforce preparation program that is preparing tomorrow’s leaders today. LOOK to Clermont graduated 18 youth from 12

different school districts. Participants engage in a series of practical learning experiences designed to develop and enhance all dimensions of leadership as well as provide opportunities to practice their leadership skills and instill a lifelong commitment to community service.

- Seventy-three youth, ages 9 to 14, attended the Clermont/Hamilton County 4-H Camp at 4-H Camp Graham. This camp experience provides a unique setting for youth to make new friends, become independent, and learn through nature and hands-on activities. The camp was led by 22 camp counselors who received 24 hours of training that included topics such as diversity, bullying, inclusion, risk-management, decision making, leadership and team-building. Camp counselor training prepares teens for the workforce while instilling responsibility, leadership and communication skills.
- In partnership with the Clermont County Probate/Juvenile Court and the Ohio State Highway Patrol, 4-H CARTEENS provides traffic safety education to first-time juvenile traffic offenders. Adult volunteers and teen leaders facilitated 20 traffic safety training sessions with 602 participants. The goal of CARTEENS is to help teens become safer drivers, reduce the number of traffic safety violations and increase teen awareness through peer-to-peer education.
- Clermont County 4-H youth exhibited 2,445 projects at the 2015 Clermont County Junior Fair. The county fair provides 4-H members the opportunity to practice animal care, sportsmanship, communication and mentorship. The county nominated 113 youth to exhibit at the Ohio State Fair.

Clermont County receives \$124,330 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.