

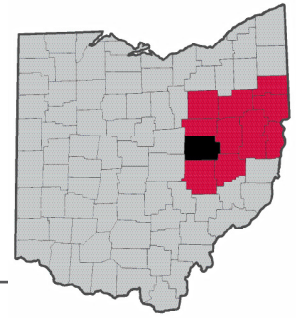
# 2015 County Highlights

## Coshocton County

### Crossroads Extension Education and Research Area

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#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Coshocton County 4-H membership continues to grow, with 753 members this year (including Cloverbuds) and 206 volunteers involved with 42 clubs.
- This summer, 110 youth participated in 4-H Junior Camp. Seventeen youth also participated in Summer Science Camps, including Candy Science for children ages 5–8 and ChickQuest for children ages 9–12.
- Coshocton County 4-H school enrichment programs challenge youth to use science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills in a variety of learning experiences.
  - Over 120 fourth graders at Coshocton Elementary School participated in Rockets Away!, a Science Alive 4-H school enrichment series. The students investigated forces and motion while building and launching 2-liter bottle rockets.
  - At Ridgewood Middle School, over 100 sixth graders participated in ChickQuest, a 4-H school enrichment program that challenged youth to use STEM skills to investigate the life cycle of an embryonic chicken egg, including monitoring living eggs to participating in engaging embryology activities.
  - Close to 100 students at River View High School participated in a Real Money, Real World simulation. The simulation provided students an opportunity to make lifestyle and money management choices similar to those made by a 27-year-old adult. As a result of the simulation, many participants became aware of how education level and lifestyle choices influence personal income.
  - Thirteen home-schooled students completed the LEGO robotics program. Youth learned what a robot is, how to build one using a LEGO NXT kit and how to program a LEGO robot to interact with its environment via touch, sound, light and ultrasonic sensors. For their final class, the youth presented to family and friends about programming that they learned for their robots.

- Coshocton County 4-H has received \$2,600 in grants from the Ohio 4-H Foundation to expand the LEGO robotics program and to make improvements to the youth building.

#### ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Through the Coshocton Muskingum Agronomy School and Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training, 44 farmers learned about the benefits of cover crops, best management practices for phosphorus application and quality soil sampling. Participants estimated they would save an average of \$1,875 in the upcoming season based on knowledge gained. More than 75 percent of participants intend to adjust or change their agronomic management plans for the 2015 season based on knowledge they gained at the school. More than 100 farmers earned their Fertilizer Applicator Certification in Coshocton County in 2015.
- As more people investigate ways to launch into small-scale agriculture, there has been an increased interest in backyard poultry. A “Backyard Chicken” series was offered to address the rearing of chicks, caring for chickens, egg and meat production, and marketing. This first-time program had seven participants.
- What makes your garden grow? Master Gardener Volunteers, trained by OSU Extension! The volunteers help Extension share research-based information with gardeners through workshops, community gardens and one-on-one consultations. In Coshocton County, 17 active Master Gardener Volunteers have given over 750 volunteer hours to educate and beautify the community. These total volunteer hours equate to nearly \$17,000. One new program the Master Gardener Volunteers offered this year was a three-part Beat the Winter Blahs series in January, February and March. Topics included how to collect and prepare spring-blooming branches to bring indoors to bloom; forcing narcissus bulbs for indoor bloom; making seed balls; and learning to read seed packets and plant labels.



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- OSU Extension partnered with Coshocton SWCD and Coshocton County Recycling and Litter Prevention to present Composting: From Garbage to Gold. The 25 workshop participants received a 65-gallon composter, counter-top scrap pail and biobags. Participants were able to receive this program in part by support from the OSU Extension Robert M. Thomas Fund.
- According to data from the 2012 Census of Agriculture, Coshocton County ranks number 12 in Ohio for total women farm operators. The mission of Annie's Project is to empower farm women to become better business partners through networking and managing and organizing critical information. Sixteen area women completed a six-week program focused on managing the five risk areas associated with agriculture, including financial, marketing, production, legal and human resources.

### **STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES**

- OSU Extension helps adults with limited resources make healthy, safe and budget-friendly food choices through the USDA-funded Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). In 2015, 66 families were impacted by EFNEP in Coshocton County. Graduates significantly increased knowledge and improved behaviors in diet quality (91 percent), food resource management (75 percent) and food safety (63 percent), resulting in 25 percent fewer graduates running out of food before month end.
- Through a collaborative effort with OSU Extension Holmes County, a series of five home food preservation workshops were offered. Twenty-nine participants learned safe methods of canning and freezing fruits, vegetables and meats. Food safety concerns were explained, and six people had their pressure canners tested. Ninety percent of participants planned to make changes to their home food preservation processes as a result of the classes.
- For the third consecutive summer, OSU Extension and Local Bounty Coshocton partnered to offer a series of local foods cooking classes for youth. Twenty-four children ages 3–10 years old learned to make simple meals and treats using locally produced vegetables, herbs, cheeses, honey and baked goods. Many parents agreed a positive outcome of the class was that children were more willing to try different foods as a result of participating. This program was supported through a grant from the Columbus Foundation.

**Coshocton County receives \$32,408 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**