

2015 County Highlights

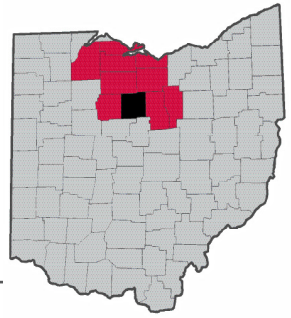
Crawford County

Erie Basin Extension Education and Research Area

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Crawford County 4-H enrollment includes 24 clubs, 533 project members, 128 Cloverbuds and 26 youth involved in other activities. Through county club involvement, members learned or improved skills in public speaking, parliamentary procedure, sportsmanship, time management and the importance of perseverance and completion. Cloverbuds focused on developing cooperation and social skills.
- Community service has always been a point of pride for 4-H. Club community service projects included trash pickups, monthly recycling dropoffs, donations to local community organizations and charities, building relationships through aid at local nursing home facilities, beautification projects such as flower gardens and painting fences throughout the county, food drives, and more. Making a difference in the local community helps youth create an understanding of community involvement and encourages the continuation of giving back to the community.
- At 4-H Camp, 30 teens served as weekend counselors. With over 24 hours of training, these counselors learned effective leadership, decision making and responsibility. These skills gained are beneficial to the work world and life. Nine teens had the opportunity to participate in statewide events, and three of them represented Crawford County nationally through Citizen Washington Focus in Washington D.C.
- At 4-H Camp, 116 youth were current 4-H members and 16 were youth who were not active in 4-H. Throughout the weekend program, youth worked on improving their team-building skills, self-confidence and interpersonal relationships.
- Throughout the year, over 80 Cloverbuds and 10 non-4-H youth participated in one or more of the kindergarten through second grade specific programs. Several short programs were offered throughout the year, and one all-day event was hosted in June. Evaluations from the all-day event showed that youth enjoyed the activities.

- Through officer training, 50 county club officers improved their leadership roles and gained additional officer role knowledge such as parliamentary procedure.
- Quality Assurance Training was provided for 328 Junior Fair exhibitors. Evaluations completed by youth participants showed an overall improved understanding of animal husbandry and meat safety.
- Almost 250 adult volunteers helped to make all these county youth development programs a success. The majority of these adults were trained 4-H volunteers, and approximately 100 other adults helped specifically with the Junior Fair.
- Crawford County adult volunteers reported an average of 100 hours supporting 4-H this year. Using the \$23.07 value from private sector volunteer time, \$2,307 per volunteer or a total of \$592,500 was donated to the Crawford County community.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Agronomic research with Extension education has had a 45 percent rate of return on investment. At The Ohio State University Unger Farm and with cooperating county producers, 10 projects were conducted that provided needed information to local producers and beyond: Effects of Modified Relay Intercropping (MRI) on Wheat Yield, Effects of Planting Date on MRI Soybean Yield, Effects of Soybean Maturity on MRI Soybean Yields, Effects of Soybean Seeding Rate on MRI Soybean Yields, Effects of fungicides on Multiple Crops With Various Drainage Classes, Effects of Side Dressing Hog Manure on Corn Yield in Crawford County, Effects of Nitrogen Rates on Twin Row Corn Yields, Effects of Corn Seeding Rate in Twin and 30-Inch Rows Over a Standard and High Nitrogen Rate, Economical Methods to Plant Cover Crops for a Viable Stand Establishment, Benefits of Water and Nutrient Management to Crops and Soils.



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- Twenty-one families benefited from The Ohio State University Unger Farm Community Garden by growing their own vegetables and reducing their grocery bills.
- Over 75 producers were assisted with farm management information, land rental contracts and employee management. Horticultural information was provided to homeowners, agricultural businesses and commercial horticultural businesses. At least 100 plant disease and weed problems were identified, and soil tests were offered to help Extension clientele manage resources better, improve environmental health, and home landscape.
- The Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (CORN) newsletter was edited and distributed by OSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educators. The newsletter saves farmers money through increased crop yields and decreased input costs, and it reaches over 4,000 producers.
- Seventy-five people in Crawford County and 1,000 in the Erie Basin were recertified during Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training—saving an average of \$10 per acre in pest control.
- One hundred thirty people in Crawford County and more than 1,200 people in the Erie Basin were certified as agricultural nutrient applicators. These people learned how to use crop nutrients to protect the environment and maximize yield.
- Over 25 cow calf and beef feedlot producers attended beef production webinars in Crawford County to improve productivity. The county webinars were part of statewide webinars, with over 550 producers attending.
- Over 15 producers who have not practiced modified relay intercropping were helped to start this practice, which may increase profits by \$20 per acre over corn and soybeans.
- Weed management was a challenge this year. OSU Extension worked to help producers identify weeds that had not been a problem for years. Extension also helped the producers develop a plan to control the weeds.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program (SNAP-Ed) is a free nutrition education program serving low-income adults and youth. SNAP-Ed is a federally funded grant program that supports an OSU Extension program assistant to provide free nutrition education programming to low-income adults and youth throughout Crawford County.
- Using MyPlate as a guide, participants learn how to select fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean forms of protein and low-fat dairy products for a healthy diet. These behavioral

choices decrease the risk of chronic disease. Other subjects include understanding nutrition labels, lowering sodium, proper portions, calories in and out, and the importance of exercise.

- Around 53 adults met once a week at Jobs and Family Services and the Jericho House for a series consisting of four lessons on food shopping with a limited budget using MyPlate.
- Cooking Matters was taught once a week for six weeks at the Bucyrus United Methodist Church. The lessons covered basic nutritional cooking skills and provided groceries to make the meals learned in class at home. The funding for the groceries was from the county Farm Bureau.
- The once-weekly Summer Food Service Programs in Galion and Bucyrus addressed healthy snacking, the importance of breakfast, the basics of healthy drink choices, healthy servings, and active play.
- The YMCA Summer Day Camp participants learned about MyPlate, with five lessons on active play, “drink think” and “snack smart.”
- All Bucyrus City School second graders learned the importance of physical activity, eating breakfast, smart snacking and meal appeal (making choices about what they eat at meal time) while using MyPlate and sampling new foods.
- Crestline and Bucyrus preschoolers learned to eat, play, grow and try new foods using MyPlate.
- All kindergarteners of Crestline Elementary are discovering MyPlate and trying new foods for the 2015–2016 school year.
- The second graders of Crestline Elementary are learning how to be active, snack smart and make good choices about what they eat at meal time.

Crawford County receives \$55,920 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.