

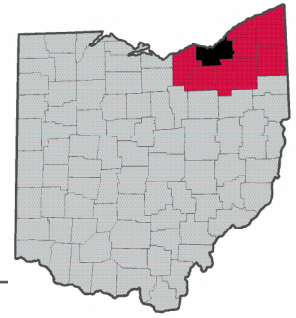
2015 County Highlights

Cuyahoga County

Western Reserve Extension Education and Research Area

5320 Stanard Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103

Phone: 216-429-8200 cuyahoga.osu.edu



ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Twenty-seven urban agriculture workshops were held, with topics ranging from growing in high tunnels to sharing the harvest.
- Twenty-nine residents completed the Dig In! Community Gardener Training Program, impacting 24 projects. Participants gained a better understanding of asset mapping, pest management and healthy soil practices. For the seventh consecutive year, 100 percent of participants agree that they would recommend this training.
- One hundred ninety Summer Sprout community gardens in the city of Cleveland were supported by OSU Extension. Also, nearly 60 acres of vacant land was repurposed, providing fresh, healthy produce to residents.
- Three thousand feet of row cover, 250 pounds of cover crop seed and 40 pounds of garlic were distributed to more than 100 community gardens in 19 communities—extending the growing season and improving soil quality.
- This summer the Summer Sprout program coordinator and two interns completed 140 site visits to Cleveland Summer Sprout gardens.
- During the 2015 gardening season the Summer Sprout program distributed over 11,300 vegetable seed packets and 55,800 vegetable starter plants.
- The Summer Sprout program has accepted 22 new community gardens into the program for the 2016 gardening season.
- Thirty-three food service professionals from nine school districts and nine child care centers completed a two-day training in culinary skills, food preparation, food safety and incorporating fresh and local foods into curricula. One hundred percent of the participants agree that the training, facilitated in partnership with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, improved their job performance.

- Farm to School and Early Childhood Mini Grants of up to \$2,000, impacting 1,100 youth, were distributed to start or enhance projects using gardens, and to increase knowledge of food, agriculture, and gardening.
- Thirty-three new Master Gardener Volunteers were trained to provide the public with research-based horticulture information.
- Master Gardener Volunteers completed over 8,000 hours of service through community gardening mentoring, after-school programs and addressing horticulture inquiries through the Master Gardener Volunteer hotline.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Over 300 middle school and high school students participated in Real Money, Real World, a financial literacy program. Over 80 percent of participants said they increased their knowledge significantly about household costs and the need for postponing parenthood until they could afford having children.
- Thirty-six Cleveland Central neighborhood youth participated in the AgriScience in the City Summer Day Camp, which was offered in partnership with St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Campers cared for chicks, rabbits, red worms and a garden. They also participated in farm-themed food and craft activities.
- Over 400 students at Cleveland's George Washington Carver STEM K–8 school participated in agriculture-themed activities during the school year. One hundred percent of the classrooms visited the science lab weekly, and 100 percent of the teachers gave the program its highest rating of "Excellent." Student surveys showed positive gains on all 11 indicators, including 53 percent of students who chose science as their favorite subject.
- Fifty-three percent of AgriScience students now list science as their favorite subject (compared to 10 percent in 2014). Eighty-three percent gave the program an "A." Fifty-seven



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Empowerment Through Education

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

percent agree that they are likely to select the AgriScience track at East Tech High School.

- Youth Outdoors, an Extension partnership with Cleveland Metroparks, provided leadership for 492 outdoor adventure experiences for 38 urban youth groups in Cleveland. Youth and adults participated in outings and special events, and 518 youth were engaged in ongoing clubs.
- Eighty-two teens preparing to age out of the foster care system participated in critical life skills workshops on 10 topics in partnership with the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services.
- One hundred forty-seven male and female residents of the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Center took part in career planning, gardening and health nutrition experiences to inspire creating positive alternatives for their futures.
- Members of the Youth Advocacy and Leadership Coalition (YALC) provided educational workshops to over 2,500 teens on topics such as bullying, human trafficking, financial literacy, teen dating violence, drug prevention, STEM, poverty and homelessness.
- In partnership with the Community Awareness and Prevention Association and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Cuyahoga County Extension provided drug prevention and awareness to students and seniors and led the “We Are the Majority” rally in downtown Cleveland with over 200 teens.
- One hundred percent of senior YALC members graduated high school and are enrolled in degree programs. Ninety-five percent of members stay committed to community service and advocacy beyond high school, and 20 percent of previous members donate time to YALC when they are home from college.
- For the eighth year in a row, YALC members facilitated a youth summit for over 250 teens at Cleveland State University. They also presented to over 700 teens during the Ohio 4-H Teen Conference.
- Over 3,000 hours of community service hours were completed by Cuyahoga County 4-H members.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Produce Perks EBT Incentive Program increased to 20 farmers’ markets and farm stands in 2015. EBT sales surpassed 2014 totals, reaching over \$40,000. During the 2015 season, Produce Perks brought almost 500 new food assistance customers to farmers’ markets for the first time.
- The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) taught nutrition education to low-income families

with children. Six hundred fifty-four adult participants showed improvements in diet quality, food resource management and food safety, resulting in some of the graduates running out of food less often each month. Chronic diseases are largely preventable through a healthy lifestyle involving a balanced diet and regular physical activity. Many EFNEP graduates increased their physical activity levels and fruit and vegetable consumption. Two-thousand three hundred sixty-two youth also participated in EFNEP. They reported significant increases in knowledge and positive behavior changes in diet quality, food safety, food resource management and physical activity.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Twenty-two residents completed the 12-week Market Gardener Training Program. Participants received education and training in developing an agricultural enterprise. One participant has established a micro-farming enterprise.

Cuyahoga County receives \$464,782 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.