

# 2015 County Highlights

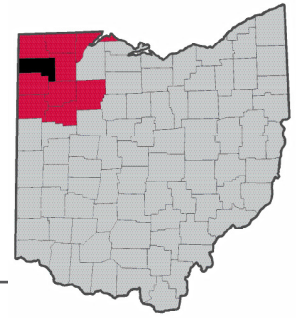
## Defiance County

### Maumee Valley Extension Education and Research Area

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#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP Ed) presented 163 educational sessions with 2,433 people participating. The main objective of Ohio SNAP-Ed is to improve the likelihood that persons eligible for SNAP benefits will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and will choose physically active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and USDA food guidance (MyPlate).
- Ohio Means Jobs, Ravens, Island Parkway Manor, and St. Paul's United Methodist Food Pantry participated in nutrition classes and a variety of food tastings. During the 2014–2015 school year, Head Start Preschool, Defiance Elementary, and Defiance Middle School learned about healthy eating with MyPlate through nutrition lessons and games. Defiance Middle School students reported that 52 percent are now drinking water instead of sugary drinks and 66 percent eat foods from the food groups on MyPlate.
- Over the summer, programming was offered at the Summer Food Service Program through NOCAC. Children learned about healthy eating with MyPlate. Lessons included "Feeding Your Bones" and "Eating Whole Grains," in which the children used popcorn to decorate an ear of corn. They also made collages out of pasta shapes and enjoyed using popsicle sticks to make healthy fruit snacks. In Defiance, 3,685 nutritious lunches were served to 549 children. Seventy-two bags of food went home for weekend meals.

#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- One-hundred sixty-eight teen counselors from northwest Ohio participated in a day of direct instruction in safety, health, behavior management, group leadership, relationship and team-building, program development and implementation, interpersonal skills, and teaching skills. Thirty-four Defiance County 4-H Camp Counselors participated in the regional training. The 4-H educator presented a 90-minute session to 68 first-year counselors

on counselor roles and responsibilities and on flag ceremony etiquette.

- Real Money, Real World is a hands-on experience that gives young people the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to those of an adult. The curriculum builds awareness of the connection between education, occupation, income and financial choices. This program utilizes 15 business and professional volunteers from the community in providing a real-life simulation experience. In May, 268 youth from the Tinora, Fairview, Hicksville and Ayersville school systems participated in the program.
- Defiance County Junior Fair members involved in 4-H Clubs displayed projects and were involved with activities at the county fair. Time and preparation is given by the 4-H educator in getting activities, shows and events organized for fair exposition. Poultry exhibitors were not allowed to exhibit poultry at the 2015 fair due to a ban on poultry exhibits at all Ohio fairs. There were 42 Junior Fair members enrolled only in poultry projects with no other livestock at the fair. The 4-H educator worked with the Livestock Committee to ensure youth were recognized at the county fair through exhibits, videos and participation. Exhibitors completing their project through the livestock Skillathon were able to participate in showmanship, contests, games and more.
- The Junior Fair had 689 exhibitors with 1,812 entries displayed from youth representing both 4-H and FFA. Youth exhibitors demonstrated their knowledge and abilities through Junior Fair events. The community demonstrated their recognition and appreciation of youth work through sponsorships of awards and support at the livestock auction. The 4-H educator worked with the Senior Fair Livestock Committee in raising funds for a new swine barn and poultry annex. Donors were recognized at a dedication at the fair. Work will continue on raising funds for new swine pens.
- Ohio 4-H Camp Palmer participation was at 148 total campers. This number represents 99 youth campers,



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38 teen counselors and 11 adult volunteers. Sixty-eight percent of campers received scholarships totaling \$3,100. Youth participating at camp made friends, developed independence from their family, participated in leadership and skill-building, and had supervised fun with friends. Campers were given new opportunities through 4-H that they might not have yet experienced. With temperatures in the 90s, campers made use of 4-H Camp Palmer's new pool, which was a highlight for all.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- An Ohio Law passed in 2014 requires fertilizer applicators to be certified by September 2017. OSU Extension is the exclusive provider of Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training (FACT). The Defiance County Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) educator taught area FACT meetings reaching 414 applicators with information about water quality, soil sampling, calculating fertilizer recommendations and utilizing plant nutrients. Farmers manage nutrients to reduce production costs, produce responsible crop yields and have a positive impact on water quality.
- The 2014 USDA Farm Bill provides options and program choices to farmers and cropland owners. Defiance County Extension taught 460 area farmers in 13 meetings about the decision process between the USDA's Agricultural Risk Coverage and the USDA's Price Loss Coverage. Participants learned how Farm Bill elections are risk tools for multi-year revenue losses.
- OSU Extension taught a Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) exam preparation class to professionals seeking certification. The Defiance County ANR educator taught one-fourth of a two-day training in the competency area of soil and water management. Twenty-two agronomists used the training to prepare for the exam. A CCA is an agronomy professional that can write and/or certify nutrient management plans described in Ohio's 2014/2015 nutrient management legislation.
- OSU Extension offered a dairy calf workshop to nearly 50 area dairy and beef calf producers. The Bok Jersey Farm hosted the workshop and showcased a new calf barn featuring state-of-the-art sanitation, ventilation and lighting designed to maximize year-round calf health and growth. OSU Extension specialists discussed nutrition, housing, health and economics. Calf management is essential for dairy producers to grow healthy replacement heifers as well as beef producers raising calves for beef production.
- The Defiance County Master Gardener Volunteers hosted a regional educational workshop on April 25 with 105 adults attending. Training topics included new perennials, garden-to-plate, invasive pests, plant propagation, tree pruning and hypertufa. Master Gardener Volunteers earned six hours of continuing education credits toward their annual 10 hours required to be active volunteers. Defiance County has 35 active/certified Master Gardener Volunteers.
- OSU Extension taught farm safety to 450 youth at the Defiance County Public Safety/EMA Open House. The danger points discussed included power take off safety. Body limbs can be entangled in a rotating power take off shaft on any size tractor. Youth learned the importance of the tractor seat, and they learned that adults should never give rides on any tractor, of any size, that has only one seat. Stored grain is a danger zone because youth can be engulfed by flowing grain when a wagon or bin is being unloaded. Youth from farms or nonfarm backgrounds are fascinated by tractors and farm life, but they need to understand the danger points and danger zones on a farm.
- OSU Extension conducts a fall weed survey in 14 western Ohio counties. Defiance County completed its 2015 weed survey by observing nearly 70 pre-harvest fields for weed escapes above the soybean crop. Weeds are identified and rated for population intensity. These observations led OSU Extension in developing education and research about controlling and managing weeds in field crops. Weed escapes are early indications of developing weed problems and can identify herbicide resistance and new weed species to a region.

**Defiance County receives \$43,748 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**