

2015 County Highlights

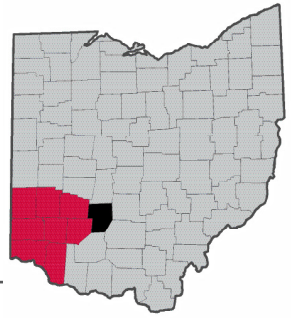
Fayette County

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) in Fayette County has taught 2,178 people in over 179 programs in the areas of MyPlate, vegetables and fruits, dairy, whole grains, food shopping and food safety. Those attending classes showed more than a 20 percent increase in checking food labels and eating at least one vegetable daily. A 15 percent increase was seen in choosing low-fat or fat-free dairy with a 13 percent increase in those being physically active at least 30 minutes most days.
- In other nutrition classes, 87 percent of 197 youth plan to eat more fruits and vegetables. Thirty-seven people learned about portion size and plan to eat only the correct portion size. Forty-eight seniors have used the stretchy bands given to them in class to improve their physical activity and help them maintain a healthy weight.
- One hundred ten people participated in three Live Healthy Live Well email challenges. Ninety-three percent learned new information. Eighty-five percent have adopted practices to reduce chronic diseases.
- One hundred percent of the participants in Dining with Diabetes classes reported better understanding food portions of carbohydrates. Seventy-one percent are using labels when buying foods and using more herbs and spices instead of salt.
- In parenting classes, 56 parents wrote that they were using at least one of the discipline techniques learned and are using encouragement more.
- Twenty-one people increased their money management skills by participating in a six-week Manage Your Money email challenge.
- In food safety classes for volunteers, 126 people showed improvement in their food safety knowledge in the post-survey. In food preservation classes, 12 people learned correct procedures for canning and freezing food at home.

- Ten participants were enrolled in Leadership Fayette 2015. Ninety percent of the participants gained personal leadership knowledge, and 86 percent gained skills related to public speaking, presenting, relationship-building, and teamwork. Participants completed projects in “Community Clean Stream” and set up a county historical geocaching.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Real Money, Real World provided 245 seventh and eighth graders from the two local school districts with hands-on experience in personal finance. During a simulation where community volunteers staffed booths representing real-life businesses, the students spent their “salaries” on items in a typical monthly budget. Comments at the booths included, “I need to get good grades to get into college” and “Now I know what my parents go through.”
- Seven hundred seventy-three youth participated in 4-H Clubs. Coordinating 4-H Club work and activities for youth were 130 4-H adult volunteers. Thirty-five teens served on Junior Fair Board, where they represented youth organizations and were responsible for planning Junior Fair activities for over 1,200 Fayette County Junior Fair members. Junior Fair Board members learned life lessons such as leadership skills, team-building, program-planning, decision making, conflict management, Junior Fair policies, money management, ethics, communication and workforce development skills.
- One hundred forty-nine campers, third through twelfth grade, enjoyed a five-day overnight 4-H Camp planned and conducted by 37 teen camp counselors. A two-day Cloverbud Camp for youth ages 5–8 was conducted with the assistance of 15 teen counselors for 37 Cloverbuds.
- One hundred percent of the 37 teens serving as 4-H Camp Counselors learned about program-planning, conflict management, decision making, communication, leadership, team-building and workforce development through bimonthly meetings and post-camp interviews.



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- After reviewing state 4-H achievement forms, a committee of state 4-H educators selected six Fayette County teens as state winners, the highest number in the state. Recipients received an all-expense paid trip to National 4-H Congress.
- Thirty-six students ages 14–29 participated in OSU Extension Community Reconsidered Conversation to discuss Extension’s role in rural communities to address community social and economic concerns. Students gained knowledge about OSU Extension and their community resources and strengths.
- Thirty-two students participated in a youth leadership development program. Students gained knowledge about peer leadership, character-building, careers and responsible decision making.
- Over 150 students in tenth grade commemorated this year’s National Manufacturing Day by visiting five local manufacturing companies in the community. A post-survey revealed that students learned about job skills and available jobs.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- The annual field day at the Fayette County Demonstration Farm hosted 400 attendees representing 33 Ohio counties and seven additional states as far west as Colorado and as far east as Maryland. Included in the attendance numbers were 22 Certified Crop Advisers who received credit toward continuing certification. Demonstration and speaker topics included the new trait technology of 2, 4-D and glyphosate resistant crops, herbicide drift, phosphorus applications, nutrient timing and applications, nitrogen uptake, precision agricultural technology, water quality, unmanned aerial vehicle demonstration and producer networking with other producers and agricultural business personnel. Exhibiting at the field day were 40 different agricultural businesses, which included agricultural equipment, services, financing, technology and products.
- Both OSU Extension and Fayette County agriculture were promoted during talks with local groups and schools. Work with local clients included farm visits for field scouting and diagnostics, along with determining client programming needs. Approximately 50 calls were answered on cash rents, CAUV, organic agriculture, custom rates and pasture management.
- Collaboration with the Fayette County SWCD began this year with a multiyear project on the Fayette County Demonstration Farm researching the effects pollinators will have on the production of soybeans. The pollinator strip has been seeded but may not be able to measure results until next year. Other collaborative projects at the Fayette County Demonstration Farm included six agricultural businesses with research on 2, 4-D and glyphosate resistant crops, foliar fertilizer applications, seed population rates and tillage practices.
- Roughly 200 horticulture and turf questions (plant and weed identification, turf grass fertilization and weed control) were answered through Horticulture Hotline calls and Extension office visits.
- Eleven Master Gardener Volunteers volunteered over 600 hours of community service, providing Fayette County with \$13,074 in volunteer work. Master Gardener Volunteers educate and beautify our community with projects such as planting and maintaining the Washington Courthouse flowers, Fayette County Museum flowers, and Sponsor-a-Flower Pot program.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Seventy-two people completed and passed the ServSafe Food Handler Program. These individuals are now eligible to be managers-in-charge in the food service industry.
- Twenty-six local businesses participated in a community Business Retention and Expansion strategic program. Eight business retention and expansion roundtable discussions were held with the community’s large employers, providing knowledge on accessing state and regional resources to enhance their expansion and investment needs.
- Twenty-five participants from various economic organizations participated in a Community and Economic Development Forum to discuss economic development prospects and challenges of the region. Participants worked to identify some solutions for community and economic prosperity along with sharing opinions on development issues.
- Over 100 people participated in a Business Anniversary Appreciation Luncheon. The event honored local businesses for their socioeconomic contribution to the community with information on current county, regional and state social and economic trends. Awareness was gained about products and services produced and available locally.

Fayette County receives \$59,386 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.