

# 2015 County Highlights

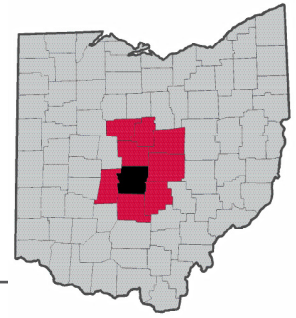
## Franklin County

### Heart of Ohio Extension Education and Research Area

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#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) helps adults with limited resources make healthier, safer and more budget-friendly food choices. In 2015, Franklin County EFNEP reached 228 participants and impacted 1,244 family members. Eighty percent of the participants improved food resource management skills. Ninety-two percent improved nutrition practices, and 53 percent developed better food safety practices. Youth EFNEP reached 1,353 youth through school enrichment and summer programs. Youth improved their ability to choose healthy food by 85 percent, improved their physical activity practices by 41 percent, and improved their knowledge of handling food safely by 41 percent.
- Franklin County Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) reached 1,415 Franklin County residents through direct education. Franklin County SNAP-Ed target audiences for 2015 included 384 families with children, 192 senior citizens and 616 young children. An additional 26,000 residents were reached through local radio programming.
- Through a partnership with the Franklin County Office on Aging, 334 senior citizens attended educational programs designed to strengthen their health and improve their mental outlook. Eighty-two percent of the participants reported that they learned new information, and 86 percent reported that they were confident that the choices they make based on the information provided will help them maintain an active lifestyle.
- OSU Extension/University District provides financial literacy and HUD-certified homebuyer education to Franklin County residents. In 2015 OSU Extension trained 164 prospective homebuyers, nearly 40 percent of whom are now homeowners.
- OSU Extension, in cooperation with the Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency, Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, Central Ohio Workforce

Investment Corporation and the Ohio Department of Commerce, provided financial literacy workshops to 250 Franklin County adults, with an emphasis on noncustodial parents and youth. These parents are also connected to other education, employment and asset-building opportunities.

- OSU Extension offered free basic and affordable intermediate computer classes to 81 residents in 2015. Bridging the digital divide helps individuals learn how to use a computer to gain access to employment.

#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- OSU Extension professionals have developed a Real Money, Real World curriculum that simulates real-life experiences to help youth achieve financial literacy. In Franklin County, 2,000 youth learned how to pay monthly expenses on a fixed income.
- Young people know 4-H Camp is fun, and research shows that 4-H Camp helps build critical life skills for both campers and teen counselors. Camp helps build teamwork, communications and leadership—cultivating the job readiness skills employers look for, all while giving campers a chance to connect to nature. In Franklin County, 212 campers and 49 teen counselors spent five days sharpening these important life skills in “nature’s classroom” at 4-H Camp Ohio.
- Managed by OSU Extension and collaborative partners and student volunteers from Franklin County, 4-H CARTEENS seeks to reduce the number of second-time traffic offenders in Ohio by having driver safety information taught to teens by teens and other professionals. Participants are generally court-ordered to attend with their parents. Five hundred youth and their parents participated in 2015.
- The 4-H Cloverbuds program is designed as an informal approach to developing the confidence, social skills, decision-making abilities, subject matter knowledge and physical skills of kindergarten through second-grade youth.



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As youth begin their 4-H Cloverbud experience, they take part in a unique blend of noncompetitive activities and opportunities specially designed for their age level. In Franklin County, 126 kindergarten through second grade youth participated in activities throughout the year including Cloverbud Day Camp, 4-H Discovery Day, Ohio 4-H Cloverbot Challenge, club field trips, service activities and much more.

- Ohio 4-H enrichment programs are designed to bring 4-H to youth in schools, after-school programs, libraries and other settings through STEM education and other methods. Franklin County Extension personnel also coordinate and facilitate teacher education programs, including the third annual School Garden Conference, which drew educators from Franklin County and across the state. In 2015, 10,000 Franklin County youth were impacted by 4-H enrichment programs, including over 1,000 youth who followed the life cycle of a chick through the ChickQuest program.
- Ohio 4-H offers over 200 different 4-H projects. Each project book contains information and activities for members to explore as an organized group project or individually at home under the guidance of a parent or adult. Project topics range from aerospace to zoology. In Franklin County, 820 youth acquired new skills while completing 1,700 projects.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- A total of 171 Master Gardener Volunteers in Franklin County performed more than 8,300 hours of volunteer service at 51 different sites and programs throughout Franklin County. This volunteer service was valued at \$180,857 at the current rate of \$21.79 per hour of volunteer labor.
- In 2015, more than 780 Franklin County residents increased their knowledge about gardening by contacting the Garden Information Hotline staffed by Franklin County Master Gardner Volunteers.
- Two new community gardens were initiated in 2015 as a result of a daylong community gardening workshop taught for 23 leaders of faith-based communities in Columbus.
- More than 1,245 youth learned about plant science through hands-on STEM educational activities taught by OSU Extension at COSI Farm Days and at the Franklin County Fair.
- In an effort to reduce harmful algal blooms in surface waters in Ohio, 30 Franklin County farm managers became certified fertilizer applicators by completing a three-hour Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training.

- Nearly 40 farm managers recertified their private pesticide applicator license by completing a three-hour Pesticide Applicator Recertification workshop. Participants learned how to reduce pesticide use, reduce production costs, and safeguard the environment through proper use of pesticides.
- Thirty-nine consumers learned how to reduce and recycle food waste at a workshop co-sponsored by OSU Extension.

## ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Forty-three Franklin County residents completed an 11-week Master Urban Farmer course where they gained the knowledge and skills to produce food in an urban environment and became certified Master Urban Farmers. As a result of participating in the Master Urban Farmer program, two participants started new food businesses in Franklin County; 46 percent of participants planned to start new food-based businesses; 68 percent planned to produce more food from existing operations; 21 percent planned to increase family income; and 81 percent planned to produce higher quality or safer food from existing operations.
- More than 235 Franklin County residents learned about the potential for urban agriculture to serve as an economic engine in the city of Columbus at a series of four urban farm tours conducted in Columbus.
- Nearly 2,000 Franklin County residents learned about the benefits of local foods by participating in 10 different local foods programs conducted during Columbus Local Foods Week. Franklin County commissioners supported this initiative by proclaiming Local Foods Week in Columbus.
- More than 10,000 Franklin County residents learned how to find and utilize local foods with the help of the new Columbus Local Foods Guide developed by OSU Extension.
- Twenty-nine Franklin County residents learned the basics of raising poultry and the laws and regulations governing poultry by participating in an urban poultry workshop.
- More than 100 individuals learned about the benefits of urban agriculture and community gardening at a daylong Urban Agriculture Conference co-sponsored by OSU Extension.
- Thirty-one urban growers learned how to assure food safety by participating in an urban food safety training.

**Franklin County receives \$287,963 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**