

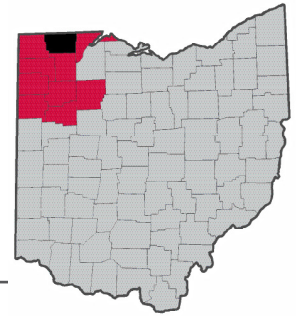
# 2015 County Highlights

## Fulton County

### Maumee Valley Extension Education and Research Area

8770 State Route 108, Suite A, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-8607

Phone: 419-337-9210 [fulton.osu.edu](http://fulton.osu.edu)



#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Fulton County 4-H served 1,057 youths who completed a total of 1,740 educational projects through forty-one 4-H Clubs led by trained adults who provided safe, inclusive environments for youth to develop into productive and contributing citizens in their communities. Members develop leadership and interviewing skills as part of being club members and officers. The program encourages youth and parents to work as a team to learn the skills needed to complete 4-H project work. Parents are involved in participation at club events and are encouraged to learn beside their children.
- Two hundred volunteers work directly with youth, ensuring positive youth development experiences. Volunteers provide leadership in the 4-H program, and each volunteer donates approximately 100 hours per year. At the current Ohio rate of \$22.14 per volunteer hour, this equates to \$447,228 worth of volunteer support to our county's future leaders. Support for their efforts includes their initial screening/background check, fingerprinting, orientation to the role and continuing training.
- One hundred percent of the eligible Fulton County 4-H Junior Fair exhibitors with livestock projects completed Quality Assurance Training. The five training sessions were a collaborative effort of the Fulton County 4-H educator, Senior Fair Board members, FFA advisors and 4-H advisors/volunteers. A total of 519 youth learned about animal ethics, animal husbandry and raising quality food-chain animals.
- Two hundred eighteen youth (including 39 teen counselors) and 12 adult volunteers, (one of whom is a registered nurse) participated in 4-H Camp. Participants learned cooperative living in a natural environment, focusing on social, spiritual, mental and physical development.

#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Three hundred ninety-seven Fulton County residents participated in one of 83 classes taught by Extension's

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) program. One of these classes was a series of six lessons over a six-week period. The series was conducted in conjunction with Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission's (NOCAC) Summer Food Service Program. The Summer Food Service Program provided meals at two sites in the Wauseon area: West Elm Apartments and Reighard Park's Potawatomi Lodge. Over 456 children were served, which is an increase of 192 children from 2014. NOCAC's community partnership coordinator Heidi Keween said, "The children at each site really lit up."

- Woman's Day at the Fulton County Fair, which was co-hosted with the Ohio Homemakers and Community Educators (OHCE) was a huge success. More than 150 attendees, both male and female, enjoyed informative programming including a home safety presentation and a fashion show.
- Individuals working at Triangular Processing under the Fulton County Board of Developmental Disabilities learned new information during monthly lunch and learn sessions. The goal of the lunch and learn programs was to improve the participants' overall health and wellness. In addition, each month employees learned about a new topic such as healthy snacks or stress management through a visual bulletin board display and an educational lesson.
- Seventy-seven individuals participated in a six-week Manage Your Money email challenge. Participants received two emails each week, which taught skills on personal budgeting and setting goals for financial security. Additional videos and materials were also available for the participants to utilize in reaching their financial goals. Goals included creating a budget, tracking spending and setting savings goals.
- Weekly classes were provided to Fulton County Jobs and Family Services clients who were in the job seeking process. The focus of the classes was to help job seekers improve their personal and life skills as well as develop



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Empowerment Through Education

[u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact](http://u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact)  
[extension.osu.edu](http://extension.osu.edu)

their workforce abilities, with the ultimate goal of successful employment and self-sufficiency.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Managing nutrients to improve water quality is a very important impact area for Fulton County. Four Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training programs were held over the last year to address these concerns since the passing of Senate Bill 150. Over 960 attendees learned best management practices for assessing and regulating nutrient levels and applying nitrogen and phosphorus. Nutrient management practices were researched through several on-farm research trials throughout the county including more than a dozen water quality monitoring stations. Through Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification programs, over 160 farmers were educated on how to manage their herbicide sites of action for resistance prevention.
- The new USDA Farm Bill provided some new opportunities and challenges for agricultural producers. Nearly 500 producers participated in a program entitled “Decision Tools for the 2014 Farm Bill” in order to make better decisions for their personal farms and risk management for the next five years. The February NextGen Farmer series goal was to ensure a smooth transition of the farm from one generation to the next.
- To keep commercial farmers informed of the latest precision farming concepts, the Northwest Ohio Precision Agriculture Technology Day was held in August with a focus on precision nutrient management. To help protect and ensure high yields and Ohio’s water’s quality, farmers learned new tips for best management of nutrient application timing, placement and rate to apply on their own farms, with an emphasis on yield monitor calibration and data management. Producers representing 50,000 acres and consultants serving over 440,000 acres were impacted by this program.
- Intensive Soybean Management School was held for over 30 producers to learn up-to-date, research-based information to guide their soybean production. Producers used hands-on activities to learn about weed control, nutrient management and disease prevention.

## ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Youth need a clear understanding to manage their finances. The school enrichment program Real Money, Real World provided financial education to 175 Fulton County twelfth graders through hands-on simulation. Participants

gained financial knowledge during a real-life simulation based on their possible future occupation, salary, family-lifestyle expenses and budget management. Participants were surprised to learn how unrealistic their previous expectations for their financial futures had been.

- Breakfast on the Farm (BOTF) was a free public event to help people learn about modern food production practices and introduce them to the farm families who work hard to produce a wholesome, safe food supply for Ohio communities and the world. It was a collaborative effort through multiple agencies, and multiple OSU Extension educators in both Fulton and Lucas counties. The goal of the event was to engage and educate the general public about modern farming, local foods and animal management practices to fill the public knowledge gap on modern food practices. The event consisted of a free breakfast, 17 educational stations staffed by trained volunteers, a farm tour and the opportunity to converse with local farmers including the host farm family. This family-friendly event welcomed nearly 3,000 visitors. Participants’ response to a post-program survey indicated that they learned a great deal about modern farming practices that increased their understanding and trust in farming, animal care and the safety of our food systems.

**Fulton County receives \$54,285 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.**