

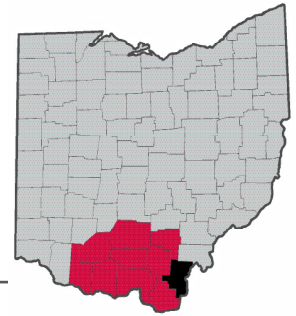
2015 County Highlights

Gallia County

Ohio Valley Extension Education and Research Area

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Gallia County 4-H Clubs donated food, clothing, toys, books, blankets, winter coats and pet supplies to various local food banks, the Snack Pack program, Toys for Tots, the Christmas Angel Tree Project, the Gallia County Dog Shelter, and Relay for Life. Clubs also donated time and volunteer support for community projects including Gallipolis in Bloom and fairground flooding cleanup.
- Eight hundred seventy-one of the county's youth, ages 5–18, are enrolled in 4-H, the largest nonschool youth program in Gallia County. Led by 140 adult volunteers, the county offers 48 clubs, including specialty clubs such as horse clubs, dog clubs, shooting sports clubs and after-school clubs. The 4-H Clubs provide positive adult-youth interactions focused around educational project experiences, and they help youth in the development of life skills, leadership development, healthy living skills and effective communication.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Gallia County has 45 teens enrolled in the 4-H Teen Leaders program. These youth take part in county and state leadership opportunities such as serving as 4-H Summer Camp counselors, serving as Cloverbud Day Camp counselors, teaching county Quality Assurance Training to fair exhibitors who show market animals, and teaching STEM activities to fourth graders attending Ag Awareness Day. In 2015, these teens provided 3,770 hours teaching and leading 4-H events. Teen leadership opportunities build workforce skills in communication, public speaking, leadership, teamwork, teaching and time management.
- Graduating 4-H seniors were awarded with \$24,500 in college scholarships. Another \$2,250 was provided to Gallia County teens attending Washington Focus, State 4-H Leadership Camp, and the State 4-H Teen Conference.
- One hundred eighty-six Gallia County children attended six different 4-H Summer Camps, with 19 teens participating as

teen counselors. All Gallia County teen counselors attend a two-day Counselor College directed by Gallia County 4-H. In 2015, the college included a total of 122 teens from 11 different counties. Evaluations of this year's Counselor College indicated that counselors showed increases in their skill level for 10 assessment areas including risk management, teaching and workforce preparation. Gallia County 4-H received \$2,000 in camp scholarships, which assisted 20 children in attending camp.

- A teen-facilitated driver safety program, 4-H CARTEENS is presented bimonthly by 14 trained teen facilitators, in partnership with the Gallia County Juvenile Court and the Gallia County Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The program reached 102 first-time traffic offenders between the ages of 15 to 18 in 2015. Statistics provided by the Ohio State Highway Patrol show a decrease of seven percent in enforcement stops and a decrease of four percent in crashes from 2014–2015 in Gallia County. CARTEENS participant surveys indicate that 90 percent of teens completing the program plan to change their driving habits to become safer drivers.
- Nine hundred ninety-five students between the ages of 5 and 18 participated in one or more of 13 STEM educational programs provided by Gallia County Extension.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- In 2015, 2,093 4-H projects were completed at the Gallia County Junior Fair. Of these projects, 385 were market projects, which sold for a grand total of \$506,413 (\$374,566 above market value) and 1,708 were general projects. Exhibitors also earned over \$24,000 in fair premiums and prize money from Holzer Health Systems and other community sponsors. Monies from the sale of market projects, fair premiums and awards go directly to the 4-H and FFA families involved in the fair. Over 400 Gallia County youth attended Quality Assurance Training, ensuring that high-quality products are produced and sold in the county.



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- The Ohio Valley Extension Education and Research Area educators, in partnership with the Ohio Agricultural Research Development Center's Jackson Outlying Agricultural Research Station, presented a Forage and Beef Field Night about profitable beef management to 150 clients. Participants heard talks on fencing, cattle handling and weed control. Pre- and post-surveys show that producers have increased their knowledge of beef and forages.
- Twenty-eight clients attended the Gallia County Pesticide Applicator Recertification training on sprayer calibration, personal protective equipment and the latest research in pesticide application and safety.
- A variety of home and garden educational outreaches were conducted, including appearances on WSAZ's *The Saturday Report*. Topics included home and garden, farmers' markets, produce auction, natural resources and pest control. This broadcast has a viewing area that includes southern Ohio, West Virginia and northern Kentucky.
- Thirty-two produce producers attended good agricultural production practices training, ensuring their practices would provide to consumers a safe, wholesome product. As a result, growers are using the training to reach out to buyers who require that they are trained and follow the good agricultural production practices program.
- Ag awareness education programs were provided to 260 fourth grade students, elementary school teachers and adult chaperones. Students were educated on how and where their food comes from, giving them a greater appreciation for agriculture.
- A Quality Assurance/Showmanship Clinic was provided to 62 children from Gallia County. The clinic's goal was to improve the quality of market animal projects and the showmanship skills of the exhibitors. Exhibitors said it really helped them know how to care for and exhibit their animals.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- The Gallia County Agriculture and Natural Resources educator worked with the Gallia County commissioners and the Gallia County Economic Development Office to support the Gallia County Farmer's Market, which provides fresh produce to local residents as well as a marketing opportunity for the area's produce, meat and egg producers.