

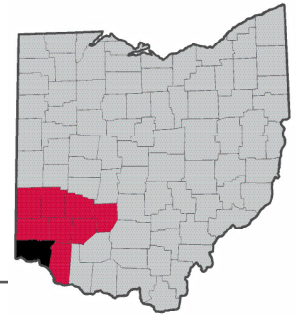
2015 County Highlights

Hamilton County

Miami Valley Extension Education and Research Area

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- The 4-H Agri-Science in the City program, sponsored by Representative Buchy, completed its first full year at Rothenberg Preparatory Academy in 2015. Four hundred ninety-six students participated in the program at Rothenberg and at the events held in partnership with 4-H and Cincinnati Public Schools. Students received over 1,355 hours of programming and studied the life cycle, space, applications of agriculture and aquaculture. Eighty-five percent of teachers indicated they are likely to incorporate agriculture into their curriculum, and there was a 20 percent increase in the number of students who believe that growing food is possible in an urban environment.
- To improve 4-H youth development, volunteer and advisor training programs reached 58 youth and adult volunteers and enrolled 205 members. Volunteers work with youth to establish sound programming through clubs and activities.
- Through livestock Quality Assurance Training, judging and Skillathons, 25 youth experienced friendly competition, success in completing projects and a better knowledge of interviewing skills, public speaking and team work.
- The Innovation Station Summer School Enrichment Day provided outreach to youth through innovative agricultural activities at the Innovation Station at the Hamilton County Extension office. Sixty-five youth rotated between five stations and received education on healthy eating options, physical activity through play, gardening at home, the importance of water in their diet and respect for plant and animal life.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Obesity, poor nutrition and physical inactivity disproportionately affect minority and low-income citizens. In 2012, an estimated 1.8 million Ohioans lived in poverty. In an effort to reduce this disparity and improve the health and well-being of Ohioans, the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) teaches an eight-

lesson nutrition education series to low-income families with children. EFNEP, funded by USDA-NIFA, contributed \$201,607 this year to our county, funding 4.5 FTE staff in the OSU Extension office. In 2015, a total of 136 families were impacted by EFNEP. Graduates significantly increased knowledge and improved behaviors in diet quality (97.8 percent), food resource management (82 percent), and food safety (71 percent), resulting in 50 percent of graduates running out of food less often each month. Additionally, more than 50 percent of EFNEP graduates increased their physical activity levels and fruit and vegetable consumption.

- A total of 1,143 youth participated in EFNEP in 2015. After completing six lessons, 24 percent of youth reported significant increases in knowledge and positive behavior changes in the areas of diet, food safety (12 percent) and physical activity (21 percent).
- Home food preservation workshops were conducted with Hamilton County residents through four hands-on sessions. Participants learned how to safely preserve food products through water bath canning, freezing, pickling, drying, pressure canning and fermenting. Home canner gauge testing was also made available to the public to ensure the safety of residents' home canning equipment.
- Sun safety education was presented to over 100 participants as their facial skin was viewed for damage using a DermaScan machine. Every individual who reported not wearing sunscreen prior to the viewing indicated they planned on doing so after participating in the assessment.
- Real Money, Real World was conducted with 160 eighth grade students in two Hamilton County junior high schools. Students select an occupation, are assigned a family and receive a monthly salary to "spend" on real-life categories of expenses such as housing, transportation, food, clothing and child care. Teens learned the level of education needed to get the job they desired; how the type of job affects how much income can be earned; the amount of money deducted from paychecks (for taxes, other withholdings,



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health insurance and retirement); and the cost of maintaining a household, childcare and a family. At the end of the spending simulation, 97 percent of the students realized the level and type of a person's education greatly impacts his or her job type and earning potential. Ninety-four percent of the students understood the importance of having a spending and savings plan.

- OSU Extension offers several nutrition programs for Ohioans. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) reached more than 3,748 adults and youth in Hamilton County. The program helps SNAP recipients make healthier choices. SNAP-Ed continues to focus on low-income adults and seniors throughout Cincinnati and the county. Adults receive an average of three lessons of 60-minutes each in a three-week or longer series. Evaluations showed that more than 85 percent reported "a lot of new information was learned." SNAP-Ed federal funds brought \$56,352 to Hamilton County in 2014.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Multiple vendors and educators came together for the Tri-State Green Industry Conference (GIC) on February 5, 2015. The GIC is a collaborative effort between OSU Extension, Hamilton and Clermont counties, University of Kentucky, Boone County, Purdue Extension, and Dearborn County. A total of 29 educational sessions involving 22 speakers provided up-to-date research-based information in the areas of annuals and perennials, greenhouse and nursery management, tree and shrub care, turfgrass management, green infrastructure, emerging ideas and issues, and general pest and disease management. Participants earned 484 Ohio pesticide recertification credits as well as CEUs for International Society of Arboriculture-Certified arborists and landscape architects. The GIC Trade Show featured 29 for-profit vendors and 10 nonprofit organizations, and it attracted 471 participants.
- Pests and diseases originating outside of Ohio can cost citizens, municipalities and businesses billions of dollars. Hamilton County Extension has nationally recognized expertise on developing and conducting educational programs on non-native tree pests and disease. That expertise led to acquiring a \$27,000 Farm Bill grant from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for developing a National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) Asian longhorned beetle first detector training program targeting green industry professionals. The grant was developed out of work supported by the previous \$85,000 USDA APHIS grant, "Developing and Teaching Standardized Asian Longhorned Beetle Early Detection Certification

Training Programs." Multistate training was also provided in 2015 to horticulture professionals and Master Gardener Volunteers on emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, spotted lanternfly and thousand cankers disease of black walnut.

- This is the 19th year for the Southwest Ohio BYGLive! Diagnostic Walk-Abouts, monthly multicounty and multistate hands-on training programs aimed at helping horticulture professionals avoid costly mistakes by increasing proficiency at plant problem diagnostics and pest and disease management. The programs are conducted April through October at noteworthy horticultural sites throughout Greater Cincinnati. There were six Walk-Abouts in 2015 with 222 participants and 18 teaching hours. Participants earned 378 CEUs to maintain their certified arborist status with the International Society of Arboriculture and 42 CEUs to remain certified nursery technicians with the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association.
- Hamilton County Extension's expertise on plant pests and diseases was highlighted by a three-part series on plant galls that appeared in the May, June and July editions of the *American Nurseryman Magazine*.
- In 2015, there were 89 active Master Gardener Volunteers and 22 Master Gardener Volunteer interns. Sixteen new applicants also completed their 50 hours of training. The Master Gardener Volunteers contributed more than 5,000 volunteer hours and earned over 1,000 continuing education hours.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Eight 4-H Camp Counselors and 72 4-H members developed workforce preparation skills including leadership, communication, teamwork, independence and completion. These youth will ultimately rely on these skills for success in college, the workforce and family life.

Hamilton County receives \$257,959 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.