

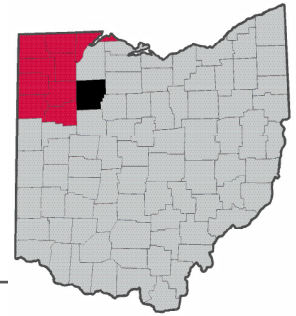
2015 County Highlights

Hancock County

Maumee Valley Extension Education and Research Area

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ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Forty-four teen 4-H Camp Counselors were selected and completed the requirements to serve at the Hancock County 4-H Junior Camp. Utilizing workforce skills, successful applicants completed an application, interview/selection process and over 24 hours of training to successfully plan and facilitate a camp that served 183 youth. In exit interview assessments, 100 percent of the counselors indicated skills gained from the workforce experience. This included skills gained to understand the employment process and an increase in communication, leadership and/or teaching skills.
- OSU Extension partnered with Campfire of Northwest Ohio to pilot a new leadership/workforce preparation program in Findlay Middle Schools. Forty-five potentially at-risk youth were selected to participate based on a school needs assessment. Ninety-two percent indicated a gain of knowledge and that they would use what they learned.
- Leadership Hancock County is a program to help prepare more effective local leaders. Seventy-six future teen leaders learned about the economic importance of agriculture to the local community at Agriculture Day.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- At Pesticide Applicator Recertification, 252 producers received the latest safety and research information on pesticides; information on crops and livestock to benefit their farm operation; environmental stewardship by learning the proper use of pesticides; and educational training to fulfill their private applicator recertification requirements.
- At Agricultural Fertilizer Certification Training, 380 producers received best management practices for nutrient stewardship; information on soil fertility to benefit their farm operation; importance of phosphorus management in the reduction of algal blooms in Lake Erie; and educational training to fulfill their private certification requirements.

- Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers contributed \$54,000 in donated time and service to the community. Major activities stressed local foods via community seminars and community gardens. More than 20 presentations were given to local groups and public meetings. Over 1,000 consumer questions were answered via monthly radio call-in programs, eXtension, our website, the Hancock County Fair, and individual assistance. Danger Zone, an experiential youth safety program, at the fairgrounds had 256 participants.
- Soil fertility research has provided results to better manage phosphorus and nitrogen in crop production systems. Fall soybean weed survey has been used to both reduce the spread of weed resistance to current herbicide programs and identify weeds limiting yields. Western bean cutworm survey has been used to prevent unnecessary applications of pesticides.
- Twenty thousand individuals were informed weekly of new practices, emerging issues and pest concerns facing the agricultural industry via radio, newspaper and newsletters.
- Producers and consultants (1,452 individuals) were provided the latest education and research at three regional meetings (Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference, Crops Field Day, and Hops Field Day), 11 production workshops (agronomy, beef, and sheep), and five county meetings (Farm Bill Workshop, Growing Conifers, Growing Apples, Farmers Share Breakfast, and Coopers Farm Tour).

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- The Science Explorers 4-H Club was started this year with support from an Ohio 4-H Foundation grant. The 14 youth in the program participated in monthly 4-H meetings with a program focus on STEM. Youth practicing experiential learning investigated robotics, rocketry, structural engineering, renewable energy and more. All of the youth completed a STEM-focused 4-H project in addition to the work that was explored in the club.



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- Seven hundred seventy-eight youth participated in 43 4-H clubs, working with 162 adult volunteers. Youth learned technical and life skills completing 1,261 4-H projects. The volunteers' approximate combined 4,860 hours of services were valued at \$104,296 in kind support of local youth.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- OSU Extension Family and Consumer Sciences programming saw a steady increase in 2015. A total of 298 classes were offered to 5,863 participants through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) programming. Of those, 915 were indirect participants. Classes included the Summer Food Service Program, Balance My Day, Head Start, Homework Central, Healthy Kids Day, Wesley Commons, City Mission, Hope House, Kiwanis Village, Blanchard House, and Cooking Matters.
- SNAP-Ed programming in Hancock County piloted Cooking Matters with a total of 28 participants over two six-week class series. Of the participants, 76 percent indicated in the post-survey that they now use a grocery shopping list and check the sale ads prior to visiting the store. Indicators also show an increase in reading food labels and comparing prices. Eighty percent of Summer Food Service youth participants indicated they almost always participate in activities such as running, sports, dance, walking or riding a bike. Pre- and post-test results also indicated a 14 percent increase in drinking water over a less healthy beverage choice.
- Jenny Schaub was hired in March 2015 as the program coordinator for Hancock Saves. She has led 46 classes and educated 1,101 participants on various money management topics including first-time homebuyer education, basic budgeting, youth finances, credit report consultation, fraud and identity theft, and Real Money, Real World.
- Among 40 adult participants in basic money management, pre- and post-test results indicate a 62 percent increase in participants setting aside money for emergencies, as well as a 50 percent increase in participants' awareness of their individual net worth. Among 135 seventh grade money management participants, pre- and post-tests resulted in a 37 percent increase in the knowledge of using a checkbook, a 17 percent increase in the identification of a need versus a want, and a 20 percent increase in the understanding that small purchases add up quickly.
- Live Healthy Hancock is a quarterly series and includes seasonal topics for community interests. A total of 12 participants were educated through hands-on food preservation classes in the hospitality lab at Millstream

Career Center. Sixteen adults participated in two Dining with Diabetes series, and another 48 participants gained valuable knowledge to assist fellow community members through three foreclosure prevention presentations. Participants indicated that the real-life experience approach of the presenter made the process easier to understand.

- The United Way Halt Hunger Initiative awarded \$15,000 in grant monies. Dollars were used to further develop OSU Extension Family and Consumer Sciences programming. That helps to prevent families from needing costly social services.

Hancock County receives \$70,370 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.