

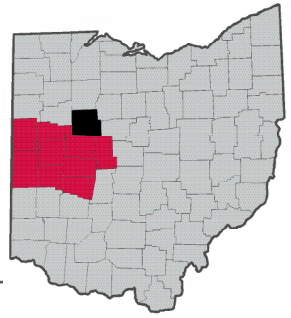
2015 County Highlights

Hardin County

Top of Ohio Extension Education and Research Area

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Hardin County Extension appreciates the support of local residents who helped pass the Extension levy. It is through this levy that staff have generated over \$92,000 in grants.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Hardin County 4-H Clubs had 731 members in 34 clubs, led by 122 volunteers. These youth took 1,367 projects.
- Seventy-four teens participated in 4-H Camp Counselor Training during 2015. The teens learned to be effective leaders, make decisions and be responsible for their duties. Youth also learned valuable skills for future jobs.
- The Real Money, Real World signature program was provided for 237 students in two school districts. Afterward, 80 percent of participants said they were focused on getting an education after high school.
- Forty students participated in the Ada and Espy Elementary Tech Wizards programs focusing on robotics, movie-making, animation and coding. A partnership with the Hardin County Community School and Juvenile Court continued to provide nontraditional 4-H programming to 15 youth who focused on different mediums of art. A total of 55 youth were involved in nontraditional programs. Eighty-seven percent of mentees said that having a mentor in their life makes a difference.
- Sixteen middle school students were part of a wellness after-school program in cooperation with the YA Café at the MLJ Library. Each month during the school year, the OSU Extension Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) educator delivered a nutrition/wellness/exercise lesson.
- A 4-H Cutting Board Challenge was piloted in partnership with Allen County as a foundation grant. The project taught 14 teens about the importance of food safety while the youth participated in a cooking challenge. After the program, 100 percent of the youth reported that they knew what cross contamination is and were confident in how to prevent foodborne illnesses.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Contributions to agriculture were highlighted at the annual Agriculture Hall of Fame Banquet as 144 people witnessed four new inductions. One hundred fifty-five farmers and landowners were trained at two Farm Bill programs in cooperation with the USDA.
- Local county corn, soybean, weed and insect studies were part of a statewide OSU Extension research effort. Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (CORN) conference calls contributed local information to over 3,500 individuals who receive the CORN newsletter across Hardin County and the nation. Rainfall research was also conducted in the county.
- Four Conservation Tillage Club Breakfast meetings were held on production and farm management topics, with an average attendance of 65 farmers. The 23rd Annual Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference was hosted at Ohio Northern University with 841 participants. A Fruit and Vegetable good agricultural practices food safety program was held for 88 growers, along with spotted wing Drosophila management education for 31 growers. Sixty-four participants learned about farm solar power at a Twilight Tour program. Twenty-seven people attended a carcass show program to learn about meat evaluation.
- Pesticide Applicator Training was conducted for 62 private applicators in Hardin County and hundreds of additional private applicators in the region. A total of 198 local commercial and private fertilizer applicators were trained for fertilizer certification. One hundred twenty-five people attended the Hardin Field Day to learn about conserving soil and water quality in cooperation with the SWCD.
- A two-day Hardin County Sheep Management Tour visited five farms in northeast Ohio, and five local producers toured sheep industry sites in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Eleven webinars were held for crop, beef, sheep and goat producers.



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- Thirty Master Gardener Volunteers and one intern taught seven group programs with 230 participants. A 17-session Master Gardener Volunteer course was offered with Allen County at OSU-Lima.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- OSU Extension FCS was very instrumental in developing this year's nutrition strategy "Lunch Is in the Bag" for Healthy Lifestyles Coalition's AFRI research. Two hundred sixty-five preschoolers and their families were taught how to select foods for a balanced, packed lunch based on MyPlate.
- Healthy Horse in the Classroom is underway, placing three horses in each preschool classroom so that these props will encourage individual and group physical play reaching nearly 100 preschoolers. The Healthy Lifestyles Coalition also co-sponsored the Buggy Ride Bike Tour that saw 100 riders from ages 9 months to 85 years young.
- Twenty-two home food preservers participated in hands-on workshops to pressure can green beans. Summarized evaluations indicate that experienced and new preservers are now more knowledgeable about the science of canning low-acid foods and are also much more comfortable and confident using pressure canners.
- Responding to the request for practical ways to increase local fruits and vegetables in the daily diet, a "Summer Salads" program was conducted in Ada and involved 29 participants. Ninety-two percent of participants reported the most beneficial part of the program was the variety of the salads prepared using the vegetables they were growing in their gardens.
- The Homemakers Council annual health topic for 2015 was "Balance and Fall Prevention." This was distributed in the following ways: as a leader training, reaching 75 members' homes; as a presentation during the Homemakers Council Spring Achievement, reaching 64 families; as a display at the hospital health fair, reaching 200 people; and as a display at the county fair, reaching another 32 people.
- Fifty-five Hardin County residents completed the online Live Healthy Live Well challenge during spring 2015. Participants learned about adding more vegetables and fruits to their diet, finding ways to move, trying new recipes, visiting local food sources, planting an herb/vegetable/fruit in a container or plot garden, seasoning with herbs instead of salt, and managing stress and maintaining a positive attitude. Eighteen county employees also attended a wellness lunch and learn.
- The OSU Extension FCS educator wrote a segment on portions in *Smart Eating for Young Children*, a professionally published nutrition e-book for parenting young children. She also wrote two Live Smart Ohio blog posts on gratitude and screen time for young children.
- Money Matters, a six-week financial literacy and budgeting program, was offered to participants in the Hardin County Drug Recovery Court. A total of 20 adults have completed the program since it began. Participants are encouraged to set financial goals so they can practice saying "no" to unrelated spending leaks and start saying "yes" to planned purchases.
- Successful Co-Parenting was offered quarterly in Hardin County to divorcing couples who have minor children. Forty-four parents indicated on their evaluations that they are now more aware of decreasing conflict and focusing on the best interests of their minor children.
- Goo Crew continues to reach out weekly to parents/grandparents/care providers, providing parenting education support and a playgroup experience for children. Strong support between the adults develops, allowing them to better access the services and knowledge they need for their families. Extension becomes a "go-to" source of information for families with young children.
- Using Children's Trust Funds, four sessions of Active Parenting Now in 3 (APN3) were offered. Nine parents completed the program and evaluations. A small class size allowed parents to express their needs and parental issues.
- Jami Dellifield was hired in October 2015 as the new OSU Extension FCS educator after the retirement of Kathy Oliver.
- Recipients of the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) learned how to stretch their food dollars through programs on diet quality, physical activity, food safety and food resource management. Hardin County SNAP-Ed reached 87 people in 75 series programs on topics that were based on MyPlate. Participants reported that they made food- and diet-related changes in most nutrition areas. SNAP-Ed also provided 205 nutrition programs for 553 preschool through second grade children in 34 classrooms at Head Start, Kenton City and Upper Scioto Valley schools.

Hardin County receives \$77,093 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.