

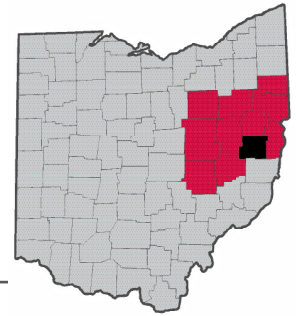
# 2015 County Highlights

## Harrison County

### Crossroads Extension Education and Research Area

538 North Main Street, Suite H, Cadiz, Ohio 43907

Phone: 740-942-8823      [harrison.osu.edu](http://harrison.osu.edu)



#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- One hundred fifty-one eligible citizens attended 21 direct-contact educational events of OSU Extension's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed). Ninety-five percent of participants reported learning new information, and 82 percent were planning to make personal or family changes. The goal of SNAP-Ed is to increase the likelihood that participants will make healthy food and active lifestyle choices. SNAP-Ed is a grant-funded program made possible with partnership from the USDA, Job and Family Services, and OSU Extension.
- Parenting is challenging. It may be more challenging for co-parents or divorced dads and moms, as well as parents involved with Child Protective Services (CPS). In Harrison County, Extension staff offer parenting education to divorcing parents, parents with children in Head Start and court/CPS-mandated parents. During these training sessions, participants receive information to foster improved parenting and relationship skills. Topics include rational thinking, goal-setting, healthy eating and exercise, budgeting, limit-setting, literacy, and school success. Seventy-seven participants attended parenting education this year.
- According to the *2014 County Health Rankings and Roadways* by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Harrison County ranks in the bottom quartile for health outcomes—a dual measure of quality and length of life. Extension staff promote healthier lifestyles by providing research-based health and nutrition programming such as Dining with Diabetes, Health Savvy Seniors, and Parenting Healthy Children. Two hundred nine participants attended health education events during 2015.

#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Numerous studies indicate the importance of reaching young children with positive activities and role models. In the Harrison County 4-H program, community club

advisors and older youth guide the leadership development experience. To ensure strong leadership, almost 50 advisors from 18 community clubs participated in advisor training workshops that promoted the 4-H mission of education, safety, health and fun. Additionally, 100 percent of participants learned important child protection principles and procedures to enhance youth safety.

- School funding shortfalls have diminished student access to experiential education in public schools. By providing cost-effective services, Extension staff filled this critical void with our school enrichment opportunities. STEM After School, ChickQuest, Fishy Science, Go Plants! and Rockets Away! were five supplemental curriculum programs taught to over 215 elementary school participants. These programs help public school teachers meet academic content standards through engaging hands-on, inquiry-based lessons.
- The Junior Camp experience provides a valuable opportunity for teen leadership development and positive relationship-building in a safe learning environment. This year 17 young volunteers participated as cabin leaders, and 62 youth participated as campers. One hundred percent of counselors improved their awareness of child protection protocols while also strengthening workforce development skills such as problem-solving, interviewing and positive interpersonal communications.
- Empathy for others is a life skill sorely lacking in much of current American dialogue. The 4-H program encourages empathetic response through its commitment to community service. This year, 86 percent of 4-H Club members completed one or more service projects to benefit others. These included efforts regarding food banks, health awareness, landscaping, elder care and veterans.

#### ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Over 75 individuals participated in three oil and gas development events. Extension educators discussed current



**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)

oil and gas development, including hydraulic fracturing, water quality, water testing, pipeline easements, leasing and challenges facing agriculture related to the industry. Two of these programs focused on private water testing from which 92 percent of attendees improved their knowledge on shale gas development and 91 percent of participants were more inclined to test their private water source after attending the program.

- Nearly 100 farmers and agency representatives participated in Tri-County Agronomy Day. Participants learned how to effectively identify and manage pests, how to protect the environment when using pesticides and how to minimize chemical use. Most of the program participants noted they would likely improve their practices and save money based on the training.
- In the local FFA program, 25 high school students learned about the importance of personal protective equipment when spraying agricultural chemicals as a result of our workshop.
- Twenty-one Master Gardener Volunteer interns were given 50 hours of horticultural training. The participants gained knowledge on soils, lawn care, entomology, insect and disease identification, growing vegetables, and much more.
- Over 1,500 volunteer hours have been given to the community by 32 Master Gardener Volunteers and interns. Local volunteers have taught free gardening education sessions at several schools, an assisted living facility, a senior center, community gardens, farmers' markets and several libraries.
- Approximately 30 people participated in the second annual Sustainable Living Field Day. Program attendees enjoyed sessions on solar energy, water conservation and small-scale gardening.
- The OSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educator supported local foods education by teaching free gardening sessions at the following community venues: a social service agency, a farmers' market, a senior center, several libraries, a radio show, a gymnasium and multiple garden club meetings.
- Fifty farmers learned about the new Ohio-required Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training put into place by Senate Bill 150. Producers learned about soil sampling, proper fertilizer application and benefits of cover crops.

## ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- According to a recent Tufts study, 4-H youth are almost two times more likely than their peers to attend college or

technical school. This is due, in large part, to the life skills developed as youth work through their 4-H projects. This year, over 280 county youth completed a 4-H project in topics as diverse as writing, woodworking, teen leadership and livestock sciences.

- Unemployment is an issue with many residents in Harrison County. To address this issue, Extension staff provided an educational event entitled "Increasing Employability" to high-risk unemployed participants in Ohio Works Program and Youth in the TANF Summer Employment Program at Harrison County Job and Family Services, and low-level nonviolent offenders on felony probation at Harrison County Adult Probation. Participants receive educational information from a holistic solutions approach. Topics cover personal goal-setting, financial management, resume and cover letter composition, supervisory skills, career exploration, interview skills, work and family balance, and healthy eating and physical activity. The primary goal is to help participants become more employable. One hundred two participants attended employability education during 2015.

**Harrison County receives \$27,641 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**