

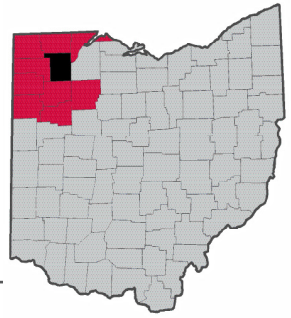
2015 County Highlights

Henry County

Maumee Valley Extension Education and Research Area

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Twenty-six community Henry County 4-H Clubs served 793 youth. One hundred five adult volunteers provided expertise to 4-H members within 4-H Clubs, and an additional 15 volunteers provided leadership to the 4-H Endowment Committee, 4-H Advisory Council and other one-time events.
- Thanks to the partnership between United Way of Henry County, the Napoleon Area Schools, Patrick Henry Local Schools, and Henry County 4-H, the Strengthening Knowledge in Youth (SKY) after-school program experienced another successful year. Eighty-two elementary-aged students were involved with the program that provided academic assistance from teen mentors, an opportunity to experience effective time management and a positive use of leisure time. Teen mentors fulfilled volunteer service hours that are required. United Way of Henry County provided \$8,150 for the program in 2015.
- Super Colossal Celebrations was the 2015 theme for Henry County 4-H Camp. This camp is one of the most popular of all Henry County 4-H programs, boasting 207 campers in attendance. Youth live in a cooperative living environment for five days and four nights. The camp features a balance of outdoor, indoor, and fine and large motor skills activities.
- Neigh Day was held in April for youth interested in equine careers. Twelve equine-related business professionals described and discussed their occupations with 46 youth and adults. Youth in attendance also provided practical, applicable information, covering a variety of equine topics that assisted them in their 4-H project work. This program was made possible through a \$2,500 grant from the Ohio 4-H Foundation and Ohio 4-H Special Horse Program.
- Henry County 4-H Endowment provided \$9,955 in interest monies coming back to the county. This was distributed in academic scholarships, costs for volunteer and teen trainings, educational programming, and supplies. Since 1996 there have been 81 Henry County 4-H alumni inducted into the Henry County 4-H Endowment 4-H Hall of Fame.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Food safety training is one more reason for community members to come to the Henry County Extension office. Persons enrolled in one or more of the following: the 20-hour ServSafe Food Handler Program for Managers, the four-hour Person-in-Charge Training, or an online study of campylobacteriosis. Participants reported an increase in their knowledge of the causes of foodborne illnesses, as well as an increase in their knowledge of ways to reduce the risk of illnesses for their families or their patrons.
- Two families completed homeownership education. This eight-hour course supports the loan process for first-time homebuyers to obtain a mortgage. Each participant learns to manage a budget and a net worth statement, and learns to be a better consumer. The completion of this course develops confident consumer decisions and decreases the probability of foreclosure.
- Foreclosures are still a concern for Ohioans, as 196 persons from agencies and families came to Extension to hear ways to help their neighbors and friends who are faced with foreclosure issues. Questions about options other than foreclosure and dealing with housing and loan issues were discussed in these 90-minute sessions.
- Money management issues abound for Ohioans. One hundred seventeen individuals attended programs on budgeting, consumer issues, managing credit and understanding net worth. Participants gained an understanding of measuring their income and expenses, and learned new ways to manage their bank accounts to optimize their income and protect their future. Your Money, Your Goals was presented for area agency personnel to give them curriculum materials to use with their clients. This program is a partnership of the work of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and OSU Extension.
- A new publication, *The Home Account Book*, was revised and will be made available to Ohioans to help in tracking



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their expenditures. Radio and newspaper columns dedicated to money management issues were aired and published to help Ohioans with financial issues. Fact sheets on net worth and reverse mortgages were also completed by staff to support the needs of Ohioans.

- OSU Extension Family and Consumer Sciences provided budgeting or debt management classes monthly. These classes are coordinated with individuals needing education requirements for the Henry County FISH program, Together We Can Make a Difference Initiative, Northwest Ohio Community Action, and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- OSU Extension responded to a foodborne outbreak of *Listeria monocytogenes* through information disseminated through Ohioline. Fact sheets to help consumers know the facts and recognize problems were updated and released to the public as part of an effort to reduce concerns of our food systems.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed), funded by the USDA's Food Nutrition Service, is a free nutrition education program serving low-income adults. In Henry County, the program provided direct education programming for 413 adults and 6,034 children. The following topics were covered: MyPlate, vegetables and fruits, dairy, protein foods, food shopping, and food safety. Fifty percent of participants reported positive behavior changes after attending these classes.
- Nutrition newsletters continued to extend nutrition education to over 1,300 households; visiting government commodity food pickup sites in Napoleon, Deshler, Liberty Center, Holgate, and McClure; the Department of Job and Family Services; senior sites; Henry County food banks; Project We Care; WIC; the Henry County Hospital; the Henry County Health Department; and more.
- For the sixth year, the Summer Food Service Program was offered in Henry County, partnering with Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission, St. Paul Lutheran Church, and the Campbell's Soup Foundation. On 48 summer days, the Jump Into Foods and Fitness program offered both physical activities and nutrition education for children receiving free lunches. SNAP-Ed was able to reach children ranging in age from 2–19 years. Working together with a variety of local organizations, 20 youth and adult volunteers contributed 174 hours of volunteer time.
- Campylobacteriosis was studied by 69 Henry County individuals through a research project trying to determine what Ohioans know about managing poultry in their home

kitchen. Participants in this study used email and texts to learn more about storing, preparing, cooking and cooling poultry.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Henry County has 16 Master Gardener Volunteers. Educational efforts and work are underway at the Native Garden's Medicinal, Dye and Wildflower area; the Farm Bureau Education Project during the county fair; the Henry County Historical Society's House Gardens; the Chamber of Commerce Beautification Project; and the Northwest Ohio Hospice Plant Sale. Educational programs are hosted for the public throughout the year. Volunteers consistently exceeded the minimum volunteer and educational hour requirements. Outreach includes a Master Gardener Volunteers helpline, speaker arrangements, regular monthly meetings and newspaper columns.
- Good production practices were emphasized at the 2015 Quality Assurance Training sessions in Henry County. Over 300 4-H and FFA youth completed this mandated training that is instrumental in these youth learning about the proper care of livestock animals and the public assurance of receiving wholesome food products.

Henry County receives \$61,528 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.