

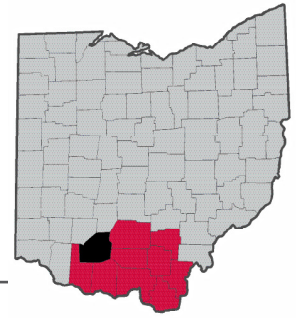
2015 County Highlights

Highland County

Ohio Valley Extension Education and Research Area

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The Highland County Commissioners continued to collaborate with Brown and Adams County commissioners in 2015, sharing an Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Extension educator. Highland County also maintains a 4-H youth development educator, a part-time program assistant with SNAP-Ed and part-time support staff in the county office.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Four Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification sessions were held with 45 private applicators from Highland County recertifying in 2015. Monthly testing was offered for both private applicators and custom applicators to obtain a license through testing. A total of 106 private and commercial applicators took the exams at our local site in Highland County. Washington State University placed a \$13,366 value per individual on pesticide certification training based on Extension pest management knowledge, cooperation with ODA, prevention of individual and commercial mishandling of toxic chemicals, and potential increases in productivity. In Highland County this translates to an average of \$1,038,093 annually when calculated by multiplying the 233 private applicators by \$13,366 divided by a three-year training cycle.
- The Master Gardener Volunteers in Brown and Highland counties are an asset to the counties but also to the OSU Extension offices. In 2015 a training class to train new volunteers was offered and two new volunteers are now in the program for Highland County.
- The value of information distributed through Master Gardener Volunteers to homeowners in Highland County on a variety of topics is \$32,692. The value is generated through proper identification of pest and diseases, resulting in correct applications of pesticides as well as proper plant and tree care resulting in increased yields and reduced costs for the home gardener.
- Six fields with different levels of soybean cyst nematode and charcoal rot fungus were identified in Ohio during three

growing seasons (2012–2014). One field was Highland County. The analysis revealed a significant interaction effect between *H. glycines* and *M. phaseolina* on soybean yield for fields with high inoculum levels. These data will be used to establish damage thresholds, which are essential for cultivar selection and long-term disease management in infested fields and evaluation of pathogen interaction in reducing crop production.

- The expected payment to farmers for the 2014 corn crop based on electing into the Agricultural Risk Coverage–County Option (ARC-CO) program of the 2014 Farm Bill is approximately \$3,263,400. OSU Extension provided education and individual consultations for farmers and landowners on the Farm Bill election decisions. FSA reported that approximately 98 percent of all farms elected ARC-CO, which, as demonstrated by Extension, was the preferred option based on known information at the time.
- Water quality has come to the forefront in Ohio, and part of solution for improving water quality may also be a financial savings for farmers. In 2015 44 Highland County farmers were certified through the fertilizer education certification training. Producers will need certification starting September 30, 2017 if they produce crops, primarily for sale, on more than 50 acres.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- In 2015, 880 youth, ages 5–18, participated in traditional 4-H programming. Club membership increased by 50 youth (six percent), assisted by 386 adult and youth volunteers. Ohio 4-H prepares youth for success by providing life skills such as interviewing techniques, teaching responsibilities and time-management techniques. Based on an estimated minimum of 35 hours contributed annually by each volunteer, the value of their service to Highland County exceeded \$303,975.
- Youth development experts know 4-H Camp helps build critical life skills for both campers and youth counselors.



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Ohio 4-H Camp helps build teamwork, communication and leadership, cultivating job readiness skills while giving campers a chance to connect with nature. In Highland County, 71 youth campers, ages 5–18, and 18 counselors, ages 15–18, attended either Canter's Cave 4-H Camp for overnight camping or Cloverbud Day Camp held at the Highland County Fairgrounds. This is an increase of six percent since 2014.

- In Real Money, Real World, middle and high school students gain an understanding of how current income and life choices affect future income. Participants in this OSU Extension signature program learn how much to expect to pay for housing, transportation and childcare, and how to balance wants and needs. In 2015, this hands-on program was offered to 201 eighth grade students at Hillsboro City School District and 263 seventh and eighth grade students at Fairfield and Bright Local School Districts. Participants take a pre-post survey after completing the classroom and simulation portion. From those who attended at Hillsboro, 83 percent indicated they learned a lot about the amount of deductions taken from a paycheck from taxes and other withholdings. While 71 percent indicated they increased their knowledge of childcare costs. Over all, 84 percent believed that participating in this program gave them a better idea of what is involved in earning, spending and managing money.
- Over 272 youth and adults attended member, officer and advisor training. Those in attendance have the opportunity to attend several educational sessions about such topics as 4-H updates and keeping community service safe. Friends of 4-H and scholarship winners are also recognized.
- One hundred forty-two volunteers were trained in child abuse and neglect prevention and reporting.
- Members who are taking Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) projects have the opportunity to utilize the Nutrition Skillathon Kit developed by the 4-H educator and former FCS educator. The kit is an educational study tool that provides youth with the hands-on educational items they need to adequately prepare them to participate in a nutrition Skillathon, a nutrition quiz show and baking contests. Youth indicated they learned at least three new pieces of information as a result of using the kit. The largest amount of knowledge gained was seen in being able to correctly measure liquid and dry ingredients, properly setting the table, and selecting the most cost-effective foods. Youth indicated that the kit was easy to use. Along with the kits that can be borrowed from the Extension office, 4-H Clubs have access to the information at go.osu.edu/4-Hnutritionskillathonkit for easy accessibility.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The USDA grant-funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) conducted 81 educational sessions to 505 low-income adults. Of those, 65 percent use food-assistance benefits. The primary content of direction education was MyPlate, protein foods, vegetables and fruits, and food shopping. In a post-test behavioral survey, 78 percent of the adults who participated in a series of at least three programs reported they were more confident using basic cooking skills, and 61 percent were more confident they could buy healthy foods for their family on a budget.
- One hundred forty-eight educational sessions were conducted at five local elementary schools for 3,336 kindergarten through second grade students, and 314 preschool students at Hillsboro Head Start. The primary content of the youth programming was MyPlate, fruits and vegetables, and the importance of physical activity. Eight programs were delivered at the Summer Food Service location with 75 children learning basic nutrition and the importance of physical activity.

Highland County receives \$62,014 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.