

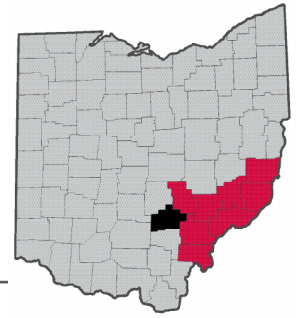
2015 County Highlights

Hocking County

Buckeye Hills Extension Education and Research Area

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Young people know 4-H Camp is fun. Youth development experts know 4-H Camp helps build teamwork, job readiness, communication and leadership skills, all while campers connect with nature. In 2015, 28 4-H members and 16 4-H Camp Counselors participated in Beginner/Junior 4-H Camp. As part of the “Operation Tar Hollow” military theme, campers tie-dyed camouflage t-shirts, learned to fold the American flag, participated in a flag disposal ceremony and wrote 43 letters to service men and women overseas. Evaluations showed campers agreed or strongly agreed with the following statements:
 - Campers accomplished something they couldn’t do the first day (89 percent).
 - Campers build friendships that will last after camp (89 percent).
 - Leaders helped campers be successful (96 percent).
 - My classes were interesting (92 percent).
- Thirteen girls participated in Sewing Camp to learn or enhance clothing construction skills. The evaluation showed that all of the campers were able to identify three new things they learned during Sewing Camp. In addition, 100 percent answered yes to the following questions:
 - Can you sew better today than before Sewing Camp?
 - Are you planning to continue to sew at home?
 - Was Sewing Camp fun?
- For 20 consecutive years, Charlie and Sherry Morehead, owners of Crockett’s Run, have provided their facilities free-of-charge for 4-H Cloverbud Camp. Twenty Cloverbuds and eight counselors learned about and petted small farm animals as part of the “Down on the Farm” theme. They also learned about the importance of honeybees as pollinators through a presentation from local beekeepers who displayed a honeybee hive and offered Cloverbuds a taste of honey.
- An overnight 4-H Horse Camp was held on the Hocking County Fairgrounds with 22 4-H members participating. Campers were asked, “What was something new you learned at camp?” In reply, all of the campers identified at least one new thing.
- Extension staff, along with five elementary school teachers and two librarians, facilitated the use of egg incubators and educational programming. A total of 363 children in preschool through fourth grade learned how baby chicks are hatched.
- Teen traffic offenders attending the 4-H CARTEENS program have typically been cited for speeding, stop sign violations, reckless operation and other moving violations. After-class evaluations show that 89 percent of participants are “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to change their driving habits as a result of the program. In addition, 93 percent “strongly agree” or “agree” with this statement: “I am less likely to be a repeat traffic offender as a result of attending the CARTEENS program.”
- The Hocking County Youth Board awarded a \$350 grant to the Hocking County Children’s Chorus in support of their 2015 Southeastern Ohio Children’s Chorus Festival. They also pilot-tested three new health lessons and sponsored a hay bale toss prior to the Hocking County Fair.
- The Ohio State University takes seriously the responsibility for safeguarding the welfare of minor participants. As a result, 135 Extension volunteers, 18 Tar Hollow 4-H Camp staff and 16 4-H Camp Counselors were trained on the prevention of child abuse and reporting obligations in instances of known or suspected abuse or neglect of minors.
- The 4-H program assistant partnered with Chieftain and Union Furnace Elementary Schools to teach over 230 elementary students about insects as part of their land lab experience.



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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- During federal fiscal year 2015, Hocking County Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) provided 79 direct education classes to 327 adult recipients of food assistance and eligible nonrecipients. A comparison of pre-test and post-test surveys showed that participants made a positive behavior change on seven outcome measures. An additional 1,373 adults were reached indirectly with educational newsletters.
- Logan-Hocking Schools qualify for the 50 percent Free and Reduced Lunch Program, which allows Ohio SNAP-Ed to reach youth with nutrition programming. For the 2014–2015 school year, the program assistant provided 273 youth classes to 3,649 participants. Topics covered were physical activity, MyPlate, healthy snacks, eating breakfast, vegetables and fruits, and drinking water.
- Hocking County SNAP-Ed piloted the Cooking Matters program by partnering with Help Me Grow on a six-week cooking and nutrition series. A comparison of pre-test and post-test surveys showed a 75 percent positive increase on the outcome, “I make meals using mostly whole ingredients like vegetables, raw meats, rice, etc.”

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- With 80 members, the Hocking Hills chapter of the Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) program is one of the largest chapters in Ohio. The OCVN program hosted 125 attendees at its state conference at Camp Oty’Okwa.
- Master Gardener Volunteers donated hundreds of service hours while caring for Worthington Park, Logan in Bloom, and Logan Community Garden. They also provided gardening education through “Ask a Master Gardener” kiosks at the Tractor Supply Company and at Lilyfest. They partnered with Hocking-Valley Community Hospital on the “Whole Fit” program by teaching local children how to grow and care for vegetable plants as a way to improve nutrition and increase access to locally sourced produce.
- The Hocking County Beef Committee hosted their annual dinner with presentations by Hocking SWCD, Farms Services Agency, and Ohio Beef Council on ways to increase herd production, manage pasture and grazing more efficiently, and increase use of federal grant opportunities as well as potential local utilization of Beef Check-Off Dollars.
- Extension partnered with the Hocking County Conservation Association to plan for the control and hopeful eradication of the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid pest, which could negatively impact the Hocking Hills tourism region.
- Extension helped create a local food council with the goal of creating a farmers’ market. This will provide an outlet for sales and exposure for Hocking County small business producers to the estimated three million tourists each year.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Extension provided education for three farmers starting specialty crops. A third generation beef producer is converting three acres of pasture to hops production. Varietal information, cover crop and soil amendment, and expert knowledge from the OSU South Centers Hops Test Farm was shared. Hops is one of the newest crops in specialty farming. Just one acre is valued at \$10,000–\$25,000.
- Shoplifting impacts the local economy through higher retail prices, lost sales tax, fewer jobs and costs to prosecute criminals. To help alleviate this drain on the economy, OSU Extension joined with the Hocking County Municipal Court to offer shoplifting prevention classes. Although a psychological profile showed that 44 percent of the participants had a moderate or high risk of repeat offenses, all participants reported having a plan to no longer shoplift in the future.
- Extension volunteers make a significant economic impact in our community. A total of 213 local residents volunteer with Extension. This includes 119 in 4-H, 14 in the Master Gardener Volunteers program and 80 in the OCVN program. With the value of a volunteer hour estimated at \$23.07 per hour (independentsector.org) and a conservative estimate of 35 hours a year in volunteer time, the value of these efforts donated to Hocking County in 2015 exceeded \$171,987.

Hocking County receives \$59,013 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.