

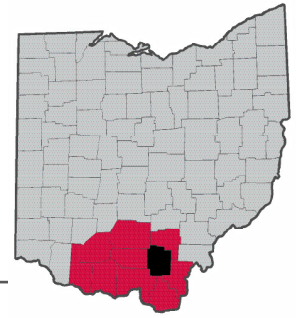
# 2015 County Highlights

## Jackson County

### Ohio Valley Extension Education and Research Area

17 Standpipe Road, Jackson, Ohio 45640-9268

Phone: 740-286-5044     [jackson.osu.edu](http://jackson.osu.edu)



#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- With the help of 14 teen volunteers who served on 4-H awareness teams, nearly 1,700 youth were introduced to Jackson County 4-H. With exposure to 4-H activities through school programs and awareness visits, students responded with a variety of answers when asked “What is 4-H all about?” Responses such as “science,” “LEGOs,” “team-building” and “computers” showed an emphasis on STEM programs, indicating that students are realizing there is more to 4-H than just livestock.
- More than 300 youth in preschool through third grade as well as 42 special needs students participated in school enrichment projects through the ChickQuest program. Four additional classrooms were added to this program in 2015. Youth mastered science skills, meeting statewide standards by following the development and hatching of eggs. In addition, 217 youth were involved in 4-H science after-school programming.
- Jackson County 4-H youth development reached 654 4-H members and Cloverbud youth through 36 4-H Clubs, including five new clubs. Members learned specific subject-matter knowledge as well as leadership, citizenship and life skills. Leading these groups were 125 adult volunteers who provided youth with a positive adult relationship.
- During 2015, 288 junior high and high school students took part in Real Money, Real World, a financial literacy simulation program. Many participants said they learned how expensive life in the real world can be, and many were more appreciative of what their parents went through to provide for them. Youth also commented that they were going to wait to have children after going through this process. Additionally, 24 high school students gained crucial workplace skills and valuable tools for finding a job through the Junior Achievement Career Success Program.
- Through three educational field trips to Canter’s Cave 4-H Camp/Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center, 217 first grade students had the opportunity to learn about nature, creek studies, boating, team-building and the opportunities available for summer camps. Students gained a new perspective of the natural world around them, and one teacher commented that it was the best field trip they had ever taken.
- Kindergarten programs in two schools focused on topics that matched the school’s curriculum such as sound, recycling, cultural diversity and science fun. Programs were held monthly with 134 kindergarteners.
- More than 600 second grade and special needs students—along with more than 60 volunteers—participated in the seventh annual Ag Experience Day in cooperation with Farm Bureau and the OARDC Research Farm. Students gained knowledge in the areas of science, math, agriculture and natural resources through 17 unique sessions. Students were able to apply their classroom lessons and increase their awareness of agricultural products.
- Forty-four older 4-H youth served as Junior Fair Board members, which allowed them the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and communication skills. After participating in hands-on training, they applied what they learned by organizing educational learning experiences for 654 youth who gained valuable learning experiences through 1,047 projects. The county fair allowed 4-H members to develop and demonstrate their leadership abilities through planning and implementation of Junior Fair activities.
- With the help of 28 volunteers, 182 nonlivestock projects were completed by youth attending General Projects Judging. Youth further explored their individual subject matter and gained valuable interviewing skills as they communicated with the judges about their project work.
- More than 600 youth exhibited educational projects at the 2015 Jackson County Junior Fair. Of those youth, 306 exhibited a market livestock project and participated in the 2015 Livestock Sale, which garnered a total of \$292,828. Thanks to many generous supporters, this amount was



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\$187,940 over market value and was an almost eight percent increase from 2014. Much of the income received by these exhibitors goes toward current or future education expenses. Through their 4-H projects, youth gained important life skills in the areas of financial management, leadership development and personal responsibility to help prepare them for the workplace as contributing citizens of our communities.

- More than 100 Jackson County youth gained educational experiences by attending overnight 4-H Camp at Canter's Cave 4-H Camp/Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center. By taking part in one of four resident summer camps as well as other camps throughout the year, youth learned about their environmental surroundings and gained valuable skills in socialization, communication, personal development and team-building.
- During the overnight camping experiences, 17 teen counselors served as 4-H Camp Counselors for younger 4-H members. The experience enhanced their leadership, counseling and communication skills after participating in 24 hours of camp counselor training sessions.
- Nearly \$2,000 in camp scholarships was awarded to 4-H members, allowing 24 additional youth to attend 4-H Camp. Youth were able to benefit from \$1,000 from the Stan and Doris Harrison 4-H Scholarships and from other funding from the 4-H Advisory Council. Youth had the opportunity to take part in a positive camp experience that they would not have been able to attend otherwise.

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Obesity, poor nutrition and physical inactivity disproportionately affect minority and low-income citizens. In 2012, an estimated 1.8 million Ohioans lived in poverty. In an effort to reduce this disparity and improve the health and well-being of Ohioans, the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) teaches an eight-lesson nutrition education series to low-income families with children. EFNEP, funded by USDA-NIFA, contributed \$36,008 this year to our county, funding 0.75 FTE staff in the Jackson County OSU Extension office. In 2015, a total of 44 families were impacted by EFNEP, with a total reach of 225 family members. The 44 graduates increased knowledge and improved behaviors in diet quality (98 percent), food resource management (100 percent), and food safety (80 percent), resulting in 59 percent of graduates running out of food less often each month. Chronic diseases are largely preventable through a healthy lifestyle involving a balanced diet and regular physical activity. Almost all (95 percent) graduates increased their physical activity levels, 75 percent

improved fruit consumption, and 68 percent improved vegetable consumption upon completing EFNEP.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- OSU Extension partnered with the Jackson OARDC Research Branch to host a Beef and Forage Field Night. Over 150 producers and landowners participated in educational programs related to livestock to learn the latest in preconditioning beef calves, water management and resource development, and grazing annual forage options. As a result, participants improved the efficiency of their enterprises and increased knowledge of recommended production practices.
- More than 165 people enjoyed the 54th annual Farm-City Field Day at the OARDC Jackson Outlying Agricultural Research Station. This facility has been a primary site for reproductive management and production management research in beef cattle for more than three decades. The station has served as a key source for animals used in research designed to increase reproductive efficiency, test groundbreaking cattle production technologies, and develop value-added products from beef cattle. Additionally, Jackson research in forage management systems has contributed to the grazing approaches used by producers today. Participants toured the facility and learned more about its purpose as well as topics such as forage and pasture management.

**Jackson County receives \$36,008 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**