

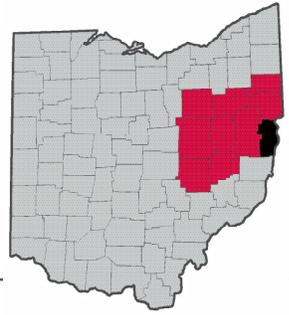
2015 County Highlights

Jefferson County

Crossroads Extension Education and Research Area

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- The 4-H youth development program reached 550 Jefferson County youth through 30 4-H Clubs in communities throughout the county, including a new club in Steubenville housed at Metropolitan Housing. Ohio 4-H Clubs provide a safe and nurturing learning environment, and the approximately 130 adult volunteers provide members with a caring relationship that is a great predictor of success as the members go through the difficult teen years. Members of 4-H Clubs learn skills related to leadership, decision making and problem-solving. Members learn responsibility by completing their 4-H projects. All of this is accomplished through hands-on learning opportunities that are both educational and fun.
- Thirty-six teens attended 4-H Teen Leadership Camp in Jefferson County. Teens built their basic leadership skills in sessions focused on generational differences, birth order, values and unique experiences, which translated into an awareness of their own leadership style.
- One hundred twenty-three youth attended 4-H Camp Piedmont. Participants learned team-building, problem-solving and character development in a beautiful, natural, outdoor setting during the “operation Vacation” theme.
- Sixty 4-H members attended the three-day Horse Camp at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. Members learned basic riding and showmanship skills. This camp continues to be a point of pride in the county 4-H program and offers both new and old members a chance to improve their horsemanship skills.
- Twelve youth attended weekly 4-H Club meetings at a Steubenville Metropolitan Housing Unit. These youth completed the “Discovering 4-H” project book and interacted in sessions focused on photography, simple machines, cooking, art and livestock knowledge.
- One hundred ninety members attended the 2015 Iron Chef Clinic, where they prepared dishes using potatoes as the

required ingredient. Judges from local restaurants rated the offerings based on taste, appearance and creativity. While judging took place, Junior Leaders taught classes focusing on nutrition and serving sizes, and they offered a potato taste-test. Once again, evaluations reported that members are becoming more confident in the kitchen because of their participation in Iron Chef.

- Over 252 members attended Quality Assurance Training to learn about the importance of an effective health management plan, how to properly store and administer animal health products, and proper feed processing protocols. Three hundred thirty-seven members completed Skillathon for their animal projects, and 241 of those scored 90 or above and were named Most Outstanding Skillathon Youth.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- In 2015, Jefferson and Harrison counties facilitated 267 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) programs with area agencies and partners. In Fiscal year 2014, SNAP-Ed focused on teaching school-aged children about nutrition. The “Eat, Play, Grow” curriculum was used for preschool and Head Start classes. “Balance My Day” curriculum, which meets certain HCAT standards, was used for students in kindergarten through fifth grade.
- All programs were direct series, meaning the lesson was with a specified group of people for at least 45 minutes for adults and 30 minutes for youth, with a minimum of three meetings. Sixty-nine of those programs were adult programs, with 163 adults in attendance. These programs were conducted at Job and Family Services in Jefferson County, Job and Family Services in Harrison County, and Beacon House in Jefferson County. One hundred ninety-nine programs were youth programs, with 2,271 youth in attendance. Programs were held in five locations: Lakeland Academy in Harrison County, St. Anthony’s Head Start in Steubenville, Bantam Ridge Head Start in Wintersville,



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Buckeye West Preschool, and Buckeye North Elementary in Jefferson County.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Approximately 60 high school students learned about the importance of personal protective equipment when spraying agricultural chemicals. Ninety-six percent of participants increased their knowledge on pesticide safety.
- 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.
- Twenty-one Master Gardener Volunteer interns were given 50 hours of horticultural training. The participants gained knowledge about soils, lawn care, entomology, insect and disease identification, growing vegetables, and much more. Each participant was required to give a 10-minute presentation at the end of the training on a garden-related topic that is of interest to the individual gardener.
- Over 1,500 volunteer hours have been contributed 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.
- Through a bimonthly OSU Extension educational newsletter, approximately 500 county residents are increasing their knowledge about various topics related to farm management and natural resources.
- Over 75 individuals participated in three oil and gas development events. Extension educators discussed current 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 where 92 percent of attendees indicated that they 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.
- Approximately 30 people participated in the second annual Sustainable Living Field Day. Program attendees heard sessions on solar energy, water conservation and small-scale gardening.
- Approximately 50 farmers learned about the new Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training (FACT) put into place by Senate Bill 150. Producers learned about soil sampling, proper fertilizer application and cover crops.
- Over 50 participants learned how to identify, control and eliminate bed bug incidents and infestations
- Approximately 90 students in three schools participated in Farm-to-School programming. Students were taught the basics of horticulture and how to produce their own vegetables.
- The OSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educator supported local foods education by teaching various free gardening sessions throughout the community, including the following venues: a social service agency, a farmers' market, a senior center, several libraries, a radio show, a gymnasium and multiple garden club meetings.

Jefferson County receives \$25,599 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.