

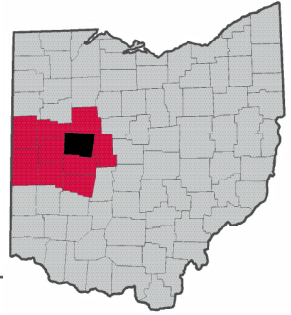
# 2015 County Highlights

## Logan County

### Top of Ohio Extension Education and Research Area

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#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Young people know 4-H Camp is fun, but it also helps build critical life skills for campers and counselors. The skills learned by volunteer teen counselors will aid in job and life readiness, in addition to leadership experiences. Campers learn teamwork, communication and responsibility while connecting with the natural world. This year, 353 youth from Logan and Champaign counties camped at one of two camps and learned together for five days at 4-H Camp Clifton.
  - Logan County 4-H reached nearly 1,300 youth through various youth development programs such as school enrichment, leadership programs for teens, community clubs and special interest programs. These programs teach youth content knowledge as well as life skills. Volunteers acted as advisors to the county's 550 4-H members and gave more than 25,000 hours of service at an estimated value of \$542,490. This investment provides a foundation for developing workforce skills, which creates a positive resource for the community and decreases the number of youth who are at risk of making bad life decisions. Weekly we hear stories from past members about how 4-H has helped them in the workforce, in school and in life. Members have said the experiences they had in 4-H, such as demonstrations and public speaking, have helped them in college and in their careers. They are confident with speaking up and speaking in front of a group. They also say the interview experience is excellent in preparing them for job interviews.
  - In an effort to continue to make 4-H a positive experience for all youth, 133 volunteers attended sessions covering club atmosphere improvement, youth protection and abuse recognition. Volunteers walked away with ideas to implement in their club and were educated on the signs of abuse and the steps to take to report it. We hope volunteers never have to report an incident, but our youth now have a positive and caring adult to help ensure their well-being.
- Advisors also shared ways to improve member retention. All clubs left the trainings with new ideas such as parent letters, new member mentors and team-building concepts for their clubs. Each club said they received a new idea they would implement in 2015. Clubs are also sending in their calendars and information to the office to share with new members.
- Science, technology, engineering and math are areas of deficiency for many students. In an effort to increase excitement and confidence in STEM subjects, programs are conducted once a month at the Chippewa Outreach Center and Russell's Point Outreach Center, both at Indian Lake. Students in kindergarten through high school participated in science and engineering programs during Family Activity Night at the outreach center. On average, 30 youth attended the programs monthly. Topics covered included watersheds, nature, engineering challenges and seasonal activities. Teachers continued to use 4-H and Extension programming in their classrooms because they see real connections and understanding of the concepts in their students after the activities. Teachers have also said, "These programs teach things we just can't teach in the classroom, like those important interactions and life skills that have no standards to measure. We really see the value in this program!"
  - According to the Ohio Department of Public Safety, drivers ages 16–20 were involved in 56,216 traffic accidents in 2014 (138 fatalities). This group has the second highest number of accidents and the highest percentage of accidents where the driver was at fault. The goal of 4-H CARTEENS is twofold: to teach first-time traffic offenders between the ages of 15 and 18 how to make cautious and responsible decisions, and to teach them how to drive safer to prevent such tragedies. Participants take part in a series of activities that promote safe driving and encourage good decision-making skills. The 4-H educator works with teen volunteers to lead the sessions. In 2015, 117 teen drivers participated in CARTEENS, which is a cooperative effort between the 4-H program and the Logan County Juvenile Court. Sixty-one percent of participants indicated they will think more about



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their behavior as a driver, and 85 percent indicated they would continue/increase their use of seat belts.

## **ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

- Teaching youth best practices in the livestock industry, ensuring ethical care and treatment of animals, and producing a safe and quality product for the consumer are the goals of Quality Assurance Training. Two hundred thirty-seven youth completed Quality Assurance Training in Logan County, and nearly all youth took their animals to the Logan County Fair. The members' successful care of livestock resulted in more than \$400,000 raised at the Junior Fair livestock sale.
- Master Gardener Volunteers, trained by OSU Extension, help share research-based information with Logan County citizens. In 2015, 10 Logan County Master Gardener Volunteers contributed 1,500 hours through workshops, the gardening hotline, programs with Mary Rutan Hospital, community programs and plant sales. These volunteers had direct contact with nearly 300 Logan County citizens. The economic value contributed by the Master Gardener Volunteers in 2015 is estimated at \$31,100.
- To comply with new state regulations, Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training was offered to Logan County farmers, in addition to Pesticide Applicator Training. These programs saw 103 people in 2015. OSU Extension state specialists and Agriculture and Natural Resources educators from other Extension offices within the Top of Ohio EERA provided the education for the participants.