

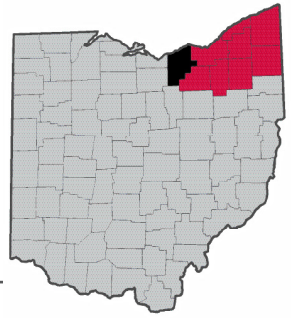
# 2015 County Highlights

## Lorain County

### Western Reserve Extension Education and Research Area

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#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Lorain County 4-H youth development reaches more than 2,145 Lorain County youth through 4-H Clubs and research-based educational programming. County 4-H programming includes school enrichment, agricultural awareness, environmental education, after-school programs, Cloverbud Day Camp, and Junior Camp. Over 650 volunteers assisted youth with developing life skills, communications activities, interpersonal relationships, decision making and understanding responsibility.
- OSU Extension—in cooperation with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Lorain County Juvenile Court, and a team of four 4-H teen educators—offers 4-H CARTEENS, a peer education program that reached over 500 youths this year. The CARTEENS educators provide peer-to-peer instruction to first-time juvenile traffic offenders in Lorain County through interactive sessions on driving distractions, defensive driving, substance abuse and other irresponsible driving choices.
- Six Quality Assurance Training sessions were conducted for Lorain County Junior Fair exhibitors. This training is required in order for Junior Fair youth to exhibit market animals at Lorain County Fair. Best practices in production, as recommended by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, are taught to the youth. Over 400 youth from Lorain and Cuyahoga counties participated in livestock Quality Assurance Trainings taught by Lorain County 4-H Extension employees and county volunteers. Participants learned how to raise their 4-H livestock projects in a humane manner while safely contributing their market animal to the food supply. Proper animal care, nutrition, reading feed tag labels and the correct use of antibiotics were some of the topics addressed.
- Youth and Families of Promise is a prevention program designed to enhance the developmental assets of youth, ages 11–14. This program targeted youth and families who have below-average school performance, poor social skills and/or weak family bonds. More than 100 sixth through eighth graders and their families participated in this after-school program at one of three sites. Family Nights were held at each site. These sessions allowed families to participate in family-friendly activities aimed at strengthening the family bond. In 2015, students participated in multiple 4-H-related projects including but not limited to the First Aid in Action program, during which they made first aid kits that they could then take home. Youth also participated in drug/alcohol/tobacco abuse awareness programs, during which they were able to wear impairment safety glasses to see how they would function if impaired. Youth also participated in Magic of Electricity, Science Fun with Kitchen Chemistry, Science Fun with Dairy Foods, rocketry, and much more. Summer activities included 4-H Camp at Kelleys Island and a family field trip to Sandstone Village in Amherst, Ohio.
- Twenty-four campers participated in a STEM DAY Camp, during which they learned about electricity, robotics, chemistry, and physics in practical, hands-on activities led by five adult mentors. STEM education prepares students to succeed in the real world via an interdisciplinary and applied approach that is coupled with hands-on, problem-based learning. STEM DAY Camp was very successful, with many campers asking, “When is the next one?” The camp was sponsored by Youth and Families of Promise.
- The 4-H Camp experience provides valuable opportunities for teen leadership development and for building positive social relationships in a safe learning environment. This year, 41 youth were trained to become 4-H Junior Camp and/or Cloverbud Camp Counselors. As a result of the counselor training, 105 Junior Camp youth and 52 Cloverbud campers enjoyed safe, educational and fun camps.
- Youth and adults had the opportunity to identify and collect samples from trees in a national effort to understand how the ecosystem is affected by climate change. In collaboration with the University of Wisconsin, 92 individuals participated in a hands-on information session



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that illustrated the importance of understanding the ecosystem. The curriculum for the information session included identification of tree parts and functions, harmful and beneficial effects of fungi/tree interactions, tree species identification (red maple, black walnut, black cherry, tulip poplar, white oak), and sampling methodology.

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) is a grant-funded program made possible with partnership from the USDA, Job and Family Services, The Ohio State University, and OSU Extension. One hundred thirty-five eligible adults attended five direct-contact educational events of OSU Extension's SNAP-Ed. Two hundred ninety-one eligible students in 12 homerooms at a local elementary school are receiving a series of six lessons on nutrition and physical activity. Additional schools are being added monthly. Ninety-five percent of participants reported learning new information, and 82 percent were planning to make personal or family changes. The goal of SNAP-Ed is to increase the likelihood that participants will make healthy food and active lifestyle choices.
- OSU Extension works with many local agencies and groups to deliver educational programming and research vital to clientele interest and needs. For example, weekly programs on nutrition, food safety and food shopping are offered to Lorain County residents in conjunction with Catholic Charities, Boys and Girls Club of Lorain County, LCADA, Lorain County Job and Family Services, and the Salvation Army. Some other partnerships include the following:
  - Lorain County commissioners
  - Lorain County Juvenile Court
  - Lorain County Senior/Junior Fair Boards
  - Lorain County Visitors Bureau
  - Leadership Lorain County
  - Local food pantries
  - Elyria City Schools (K–8 and after-school programs)
  - University of Wisconsin
  - Lorain County Office on Aging (RSVP)
  - Family and Children First Council
  - Public Service Institute
  - Farm Bureau
  - Lorain County Metropolitan Parks
  - Friends of Junior Fair Board
  - Horizons Activity Centers
  - Ohio State Highway Patrol

- Lorain County Community College
- Lorain County Prosecutor
- We Share We Care

**Lorain County receives \$60,570 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**