

2015 County Highlights

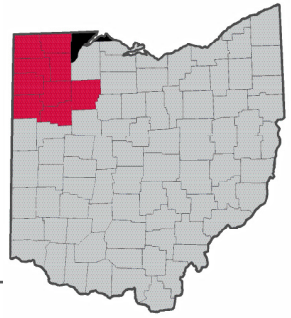
Lucas County

Maumee Valley Extension Education and Research Area

1 Government Center, Suite 550, Toledo, Ohio 43604-2245

Phone: 419-213-4254

lucas.osu.edu



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is a research and evidence-based series of eight nutrition lessons presented to limited-resource families with children. Graduates of EFNEP significantly increased their knowledge and improved their behaviors in diet quality (88 percent), food resource management (77 percent) and food safety (53 percent). They reported being able to make their food resources last throughout the month more often, and being able to increase their physical activity and fruit and vegetable consumption. Additionally, 1,171 youth completed a series of six EFNEP lessons. These youth reported significant increases in knowledge and positive behavior changes in the areas of diet quality (82 percent).
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) is also a series of classes provided to Lucas County families. Families learned to make significant behavior changes in eating more fruits and vegetables, and they utilized MyPlate for food choices. A Martin Luther King Academy teacher reported that her students were very excited about the content, and she observed them making connections across the curriculum from the information presented.
- The OSU Extension Local Foods Team bridges programming between all program areas. Work included continued leadership with the Northwest Ohio Food Council efforts in the county. OSU Extension was instrumental in helping organize Local Foods Week in August, which was expanded statewide and included a \$10 Local Foods Challenge during which people were encouraged to spend money on local foods produced by local growers. A 4-H member from Lucas County was one of 35 students from across the state who was trained as a peer educator in local foods as part of a statewide innovative grant titled, "Adding a Youth Flavor to Extension's Signature Programs."

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Twenty-four Master Gardener Volunteers were trained in 2015, bringing the total count of volunteers to 280. The volunteers contributed nearly 9,000 hours of time, which represents a value of over \$199,260. Master Gardener Volunteers participated in such projects as Toledo Botanical Garden, Toledo Area Metroparks, Toledo Zoo, and Toledo GROWS Community Gardens. Master Gardener Volunteers also answered over 2,450 horticulture questions via the Master Gardener Volunteers hotline, email requests and public events. In 2015, Lucas County hosted the Master Gardener Volunteers State Conference at Maumee Bay State Park.
- The Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) Program has 52 active volunteers who accumulated 4,850 hours of volunteer and advanced training hours valued at \$107,379. Our OCVNs have volunteered at Toledo Area Metroparks, Wolf Creek YMCA, Black Swamp Conservancy, Magee Marsh, Kitty Todd Nature Preserve, Toledo Zoo, Olander Park System, Toledo Museum of Art, Nature's Nursery, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Irwin Prairie, Toledo Public Schools, and The Rain Garden Initiative.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Three hundred forty-three youth are enrolled in 4-H Clubs, and 348 youth from clubs and schools participated in the 4-H youth development "Mini Garden" program. Seventeen youth were eligible to showcase their 4-H projects at this year's 2015 Ohio State Fair.
- The Real Money, Real World is a youth financial literacy program that is expanding its reach in Lucas County. With the addition of several new partner sites including Toledo Public Schools' Bowsher High School and Toledo Technology Academy, the YMCA, and the Girl Scouts, over 450 Lucas County students participated in Real Money, Real World this fall. Students gained knowledge about



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Empowerment Through Education

u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact
extension.osu.edu

managing a monthly budget, earning enough money to care for children and choosing a career that will support them financially.

- In partnership with the Pickett Academy Community Hub, Lucas County Extension is part of the national Community Based Participatory Research Model in Preventing Overweight and Obesity among sixth through eighth grade youth in low-income racial/ethnic communities also known as “Ignite, Sparking Youth to Create Healthy Communities.” One goal of the national grant is to test strategies to help the youth identify and overcome barriers to eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grains and to becoming more active. During the 2015–2016 school year, sixth through eighth graders at Pickett Academy had the opportunity to participate in an after-school cooking club with OSU Extension staff. Twenty-two students were registered for the program, where they taste-tested a variety of Ohio apples and made pesto pizza, a plant-parts salad and lime Parmesan dressing, and a homemade ranch dip for vegetables.
- A traffic safety education program for first-time juvenile traffic offenders, 4-H CARTEENS is offered in conjunction with the Lucas County Juvenile Court and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. One unique aspect of CARTEENS is that teens serve as the planners and facilitators for the monthly CARTEENS sessions. The teens gain valuable leadership experiences ranging from public speaking skills, research skills for educational resources and skills to develop educational lessons from those resources. Lucas County served over 300 youth in the program this year.
- The first annual 4-H Cloverbud Camp was offered for youth ages 5–7. Forty youth attended and were exposed to hands-on activities including STEM, natural resources, physical fitness, small animals, nutrition, horticulture and large animals. Thirty-four volunteers made the day possible with 10 of those being 4-H youth from the county.
- Lucas County 4-H youth development has a new partnership with the Girl Scouts of Northwest Ohio and is teaching conflict resolution. We are teaching in collaboration with the Girl Scouts and presenting character-building education in efforts to prevent bullying. The class is two days a week and reaches over 200 youth from the ages of 5 to 10 years old.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- The Extension Master Urban Farmer Program was offered in Lucas County for the first time. Twenty-four participants received education on the following topics: plant science; soil quality, health and testing for urban sites; plant

nutrition and soil fertility; integrated pest management; bees and pollinators; season extension; crop-scheduling; vegetable and fruit production; tools and storage; small animal husbandry; business-planning; choosing a farm enterprise and marketing boot camp; site selection issues; and “keeping it legal.” Participants also received a Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certificate and a certificate for the class. Seven hundred dollars in sponsorships was received for the program, and an additional \$550 in scholarships was made available for those with need.

- In 2014–2015, OHSG and OSU Extension led a business retention and expansion program with the Oregon Economic Development Foundation (OEDF) to survey the existing business base in Oregon, Ohio, to assess their plans and concerns regarding job retention and creation in the business community. OHSG and the OEDF assembled a volunteer business retention and expansion task force of six people who contributed over 100 hours of volunteer service to this economic development assessment.
- The OEDF mailed a cross-sector business survey with a 15 percent response rate. The OEDF learned that 36 businesses will retain up to 857 jobs and 13 of the 36 businesses reported plans to expand, modernize or renovate their businesses with four of these firms planning to add jobs within the next 12 months. The number of new employees expected to be added is estimated to represent between 16–19 new full-time jobs with an estimated value of \$11,054–\$13,127 in additional income tax revenue to Oregon and an estimated \$491,312–\$583,433 in personal income to the Oregon economy.

Lucas County receives \$493,242 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.