

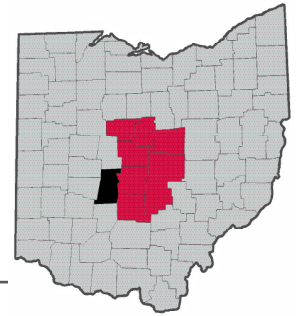
# 2015 County Highlights

## Madison County

### Heart of Ohio Extension Education and Research Area

217 Elm Street, P.O. Box 230, London, Ohio 43140-1185

Phone: 740-852-0975 [madison.osu.edu](http://madison.osu.edu)



#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Madison County 4-H youth development reaches approximately 852 youth between the ages of 5 and 18 through 4-H Clubs and researched-based educational programming. Programming includes school enrichment, agricultural awareness, Cloverbud Day Camp, Summer Camp and youth leadership. One hundred fifty-two adult volunteers assisted youth with developing life skills, communications, interpersonal relationships, decision making and understanding responsibility.
- OSU Extension, in cooperation with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Madison County Juvenile Court, and a team of 10 teen educators and one adult key leader, offers 4-H CARTEENS, a peer education program on risky driving behaviors. The CARTEENS educators provided peer-to-peer instruction to 96 first-time juvenile traffic offenders in Madison County through interactive sessions on driving distractions, defensive driving, substance abuse and other irresponsible driving choices. Here are some of the responses to the program made by participants: "I will be more aware on the road" and "I'll be more cautious about my speed".
- Quality Assurance Training is required in order for Junior Fair youth participants to exhibit market animals at the Madison County Fair. Best practices in production as recommended by the Ohio Department of Agriculture are taught to the youth. Three hundred-forty five Madison County youth participated in livestock quality assurance programs taught by 12 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.
- The Summer Camp Counselor Training program provides valuable opportunities for the development of life skills such as leadership, organization and communication. The

youth are provided monthly trainings to assist with camp planning. This year, 10 trained camp counselors and seven adult staff volunteers managed 69 youth who participated in outdoor educational activities at Camp Clifton. Campers built relationships, learned new crafts and demonstrated life skills through a variety of hands-on projects.

- Madison County provides an opportunity for teens to participate in fair management and leadership with a Junior Fair Board. After an application/interview process, selected youth attend nine face-to-face meetings, work a minimum of 25 hours in fair preparation, facilitate Skillathon/interview judging and assist during fair week in a variety of shifts and responsibilities. In 2015, 41 youth were selected to represent Junior Fair Board under the guidance of three volunteer Junior Fair Coordinators. The Junior Fair Board works closely with the Senior Fair Board. Members were provided educational lessons on communication, leadership, decision making, organization and professionalism in working with others in the management and operation of the county fair.
- One hundred thirty-eight Cloverbud members participated in the county fair "Show-n-Tell" event, where they received participation ribbons and Cloverbud rosettes. The program utilized the *Cloverbud Activity Manual* for hands-on educational purposes. The Cloverbud Day Camp, "Science Surprises," was facilitated by four adults to host activities for 14 participants.
- The Dorothy Lewis, Freda and Roy Barnhart and Mary and Frank Jenkins 4-H Fund provided grant money to help promote nutrition projects, healthy living skills, leader training, opportunities and recognition.

#### ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- In collaboration with the Farm Service Agency, OSU Extension held a Farm Bill meeting in Madison County to update farm owners and operators on the safety net options established in the 2014 Farm Bill. Participants were also



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educated on how to utilize online tools to evaluate options and inform decision making.

- Madison County Extension conducted a fall weeds survey, documenting weed populations and severity of infestations. Over 90 soybean fields (totaling over 10,000 acres) were surveyed. Data collected in this survey contributes to statewide research on weeds and weed management that informs Extension programming to target grower concerns.
- Champaign County Extension, JD Equipment, John Deere, and Farm Science Review conducted a Field Day in Madison County to demonstrate new technology to promote efficient planting for successful crop stands.
- Nineteen adult volunteers participated in the Master Gardener Volunteers program. The program provides volunteerism, continuing education and service to Madison County residents, totaling 1,532 hours in 2015.
- The Madison County Master Gardener Volunteers partnered with Madison County SWCD to host a prairie conservation tour of the Darby Creek Watershed. The bus tour, which attracted over 50 participants, was awarded the OSU Extension Outstanding Master Gardener Volunteers Project, Overall Winner of Small Category at the 2015 Ohio State Master Gardener Volunteers Conference. Additionally, the Madison Master Gardener Teresa Woodard was recognized as state winner of the Outstanding Master Gardener Award.
- The Madison County Master Gardener Volunteers have developed a certified monarch waystation at the Gwynne Conservation Area. It contains plant materials for food and habitat for the monarch butterflies during annual migrations from and to Mexico.