

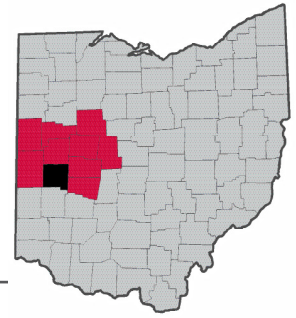
2015 County Highlights

Miami County

Top of Ohio Extension Education and Research Area

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In addition to their operating budget, the Miami County Extension team generated over \$260,000 from local, state and federal grants, contracts and volunteer contributions of both time and dollars.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Miami County boasts 43 4-H Clubs with 772 members led by 162 adult volunteers.
- Over 400 kindergarten through third grade students in 21 classrooms participated in 4-H school enrichment programs. Students demonstrated increased knowledge in aerospace science, natural resources, animal science and nutrition. This was demonstrated through answering questions, completing worksheets and conducting experiments.
- Eighty-eight youths attended the Miami County 4-H Junior Camp at Indian Hills 4-H Camp in Pleasant Hill. This five-day camp provided youth with activities to develop leadership skills, team-building, interpersonal skills and lasting friendships.
- Twelve youth (grades K–2) participated in the 4-H Cloverbud Day Camp. They experienced hands-on activities, outdoor recreation, crafts and nature.
- Twenty-four youth volunteers served as 4-H Camp Counselors for 4-H Junior Camp. They completed 24 hours of training on program-planning, risk management, emergency procedures, first aid and bullying.
- One hundred eighty-five youth who were enrolled in food and nutrition, clothing, and other 4-H projects participated in 4-H project judging, during which members gained confidence with interviewing and articulated the learning experiences and work involved in their projects.
- Three hundred twenty-six sixth grade students participated in Real Money, Real World, a hands-on lifestyle and budget simulation experience designed to help young people understand personal finance. Comments included, “I plan to go to college” and “Things aren’t cheap and you should be

grateful for what you have” and “I learned just how important it is to have a good paying job and education”.

- Miami County 4-H CARTEENS reached over 130 teen drivers and their parents. Participants learned about driving distractions, traffic laws and the importance of wearing safety belts. Parents commented, “It was a powerful program” and “I think kids should have to take this as part of driver’s education!” Teens commented, “It made me think about what I need to change when I am behind the wheel” and “It really made me think about how to be a better driver” and “It made me realize what can happen to me and how powerful cars are.” The program collaborates with Miami County Juvenile Court and Ohio State Highway Patrol.
- Nearly 390 youth livestock producers learned to improve care and well-being for their animals to ensure safe food production by studying the 10 good production practices, animal welfare and ethics during five Quality Assurance Training programs.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) began the Summer Food Service Program at Garden Manor, Troy Rec, Lincoln Community Center, and Richards Chapel. The Summer Food Service Program saw over 200 children each week for eight weeks. The children received nutrition lessons, sampled healthy snacks and participated in physical fitness activities.
- Nearly 75 Miami County adult residents participated in one of 30 classes taught by Extension’s SNAP-Ed program at the Miami County Department of Jobs and Family Services throughout 2015. SNAP-Ed has partnered with the Department of Job and Family Services to provide information on programming and recruit participants through workforce meetings.
- New school programs began in September 2015 and are now the bulk of SNAP-Ed programming. Two new elementary schools have been added to the SNAP-Ed



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Plan of Work. Piqua, Troy and West Milton students will be receiving nutrition education throughout the school year. About 500 children in kindergarten through second grade will be participating in these programs.

- Over 310 individuals attended Successful Co-Parenting, a court-mandated program for divorcing couples with children under the age of 18. The program's main video was developed by former Miami County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educator Jamie Seger with local 4-H youth; it has received over 24,000 views on YouTube and is being utilized nationwide.
- In collaboration with a local agency, Partner's in Hope, SNAP-Ed began a six-week cooking program, Cooking Matters. It is an intense, weekly, two-hour program focusing on healthy, low-cost meals for families. Currently there are 10 families participating.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Thirty-one individuals were recertified at Pesticide Applicator Training. Trainees learned safeguards for both health and the environment while handling pesticides. Proper spray timing, proper application rates and proper methods of application all minimize negative impacts and help protect the environment.
- At Fertilizer Application Certification Training, 31 participants learned the importance of quality soil sampling, manure handling and application, minimizing phosphorus run-off, and reducing nitrogen applications to decrease agricultural impacts on water quality.
- Fifteen new Master Gardener Volunteer interns were trained in 2015, bringing the county total to over 70 active volunteers. Each Master Gardener Volunteer donates 20–30 hours per year (nearly 1,700 hours of service) back to the communities in Miami County. This service is valued at over \$39,000. Master Gardener Volunteers undertook projects on the helpline, Lincoln Center Gardens, Habitat for Humanity, Miami County Fair booth and flower beds, Forest Hill Arbor Day School, Head Start Little Gardeners, Tipp City Library Garden, and pruning classes. Nearly 70 participants from more than 12 counties attended the first ever Tree Tour and Talks. Sixty-seven percent indicated their knowledge on trees and benefits of diversity of species was increased.
- Twenty-one beginner beekeepers were trained on protecting pollinators, integrated pest management and bee biology. Forty-one percent indicated they would seek more information about bees, 35 percent indicated they would alter their lawn/garden management to protect pollinators, and 35 percent want to start beekeeping in the next year.

ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- The Miami County Extension Community Development educator conducted over 160 consultations with 68 individuals interested in business start-ups, small business expansions, farming, local foods and nonprofit management. He assisted two organizations with strategic planning and conducted two surveys to help businesses or groups understand market conditions.
- On September 25, 2015, approximately 74 participants gathered at Edison State Community College for the Miami County Food Summit. That began a conversation on how food can positively impact our community. Ideas for action items included food production and distribution. Several business-to-business connections were established. One participant wrote, "I made some new contacts and have some great ideas. I will also say with conviction that was the best lunch I have had in a year. Thanks!"
- Five Miami County Food Council working committees met and identified opportunities for expanding commerce in the farming and food business sectors. They're investigating policy issues and planning a shared-use community kitchen. They also helped start a new Night Farmers' Market in Troy. They also planned and hosted a Locavore Dinner, which sold out to 140 guests and volunteer participants. They also held a food summit at which more than 80 people learned about the impact of local foods and built four new business partnerships. A \$45,000 USDA grant will bring a new virtual farmers' market in 2016.

Miami County receives \$49,121 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.