

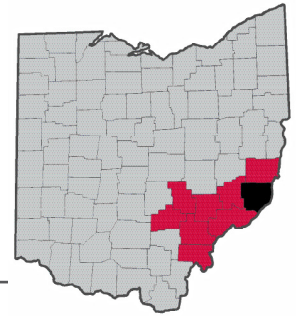
# 2015 County Highlights

## Monroe County

### Buckeye Hills Extension Education and Research Area

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#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The Successful Co-Parenting program is a court-mandated class for divorcing couples with children under the age of 18. The class helps parents understand their children's perspectives and needs during a divorce. Participants learn that maintaining a healthy parent-child relationship through the divorce process is important to their children's development; the importance of avoiding conflict with their co-parent; strategies for avoiding conflict with their co-parent; the importance of healthy communication with their children and their co-parent; and the importance of creating a stable environment for their children.
- Monroe County Extension provides food safety training and resources. Twenty-one individuals participated in the Occasional Quantity Cook program. The manner in which people handle food is a major reason why foodborne illness occurs. People must alter their food handling behavior, but they need the knowledge and skills that are known to protect food from contamination with pathogens before they have the capacity to change their behavior. Monroe County Extension provides the education, knowledge and skills Ohio citizens need.
- Extension prepared a successful grant application to the State of Ohio's Community Development Block Grant program to fund several projects totaling \$375,000 in Monroe County. Projects include road slip repairs, community center repairs, firefighting equipment and library improvements. Projects will start in 2016.
- Extension secured funding from the governor's office of Appalachia through its Community Investment grant. The \$6,000 grant replaced windows and an outdated furnace in a rural township building.
- Extension provided administrative oversight to a project that installed two back-up generators to two public buildings in Bethel Township. The generators will provide a source of power for both the Bethel Volunteer Fire Department and the Bethel Community Center in the event of an extended

power outage. The community center serves as the township's emergency shelter.

- Participants in the USDA-funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) program—formerly called the Food and Nutrition Program—learn how to stretch their food dollars through classes offered by OSU Extension. Educators offer interactive classes on diet quality, physical activity and food resource management. Nearly 1,540 Monroe County residents participated in one of 117 classes taught by Extension's SNAP-Ed program.

#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- A multicounty animal showmanship clinic was held for youth and parents to gain hands-on knowledge about showing beef, sheep, goats, hogs, poultry and rabbits. Key leaders and volunteers taught over 80 youth and parents a variety of animal showmanship tips, how to prepare for the county fair and good grooming practices.
- In collaboration with the Monroe County Juvenile Court, Monroe County Extension provides 4-H CARTEENS, a traffic safety education program for first-time juvenile traffic offenders. CARTEENS' goal is to reduce the number of repeat juvenile traffic offenders. With the aid of an adult, teens 16–19 years of age conduct the three-hour program for teen traffic offenders. The teens attended the State 4-H CARTEENS Conference as well as bimonthly planning/training sessions. The teens developed additional lessons for 2015 to focus on Amish buggy safety, driving danger zones and parental involvement.
- Monroe County Extension is an active partner with the county P-16 Council. Higher Education Learning Partnership (HELP) helps identify transition points in education where students may need additional support. The team partnered with over 30 colleges and trade groups to conduct College and Career Night for seventh through twelfth grade students, parents and adult learners. As a result, parents indicated they plan to tour a college, do more research,



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gather more information and research College Credit Plus. Students indicated they plan to decide on a major, plan ahead and take the upcoming ACT.

- Teen counselors attend hands-on training sessions to become equipped and prepared as 4-H Camp Counselors. Following Junior Camp, 21 4-H Camp Counselors were surveyed, and 100 percent indicated they gained leadership skills as a result of their camp counselor experience. Post-results from campers at Junior Camp indicated that 94 percent agreed their counselors had been helpful when they had a problem or question; 94 percent agreed they tried something they had never done before; 92 percent indicated they made some new friends at 4-H Camp; and 93 percent indicated they are looking forward to another 4-H Camp experience. 4-H Cloverbud members and parents attended a Cloverbud Day Camp at Camp Piedmont, where they explore the outdoors through archery, boating, hiking, crafts and exotic animals. Ninety-five percent of the adults reported that the campers experienced a variety of new activities and learned new skills.
- Grant dollars were secured from local funders to improve facilities at 4-H Camp Piedmont. A \$3,400 grant was awarded from Frontier Power Community Connection Fund to install new energy-efficient LED lighting in all of the youth cabins. South Central Company Power Foundation awarded 4-H Camp Piedmont a \$5,000 grant to expand the shooting sports range located on the camp property. The funds will be used to expand the range capacity.
- Seven meetings were held in the county with 18 to 26 honeybee enthusiasts attending each meeting. New and veteran beekeepers attended to learn from each other about production practices that assist them in their operations. State Apiarist Barb Bloetscher attended a monthly meeting and provided information to the group about the condition of honeybees in the state of Ohio.
- Twenty-nine people attended educational sessions to learn more about properly using pesticides. These individuals were taught proper application methods, calibration techniques, recordkeeping requirements and information about new pesticides on the market. When surveyed, 100 percent of the participants indicated the sessions helped them better understand the correct use of pesticides and safety issues surrounding restricted-use chemicals.
- Companies are installing miles of pipeline in Monroe County and surrounding areas because more deep shale oil and gas wells are being drilled. Landowners continue to have questions regarding pipeline easements. Pipeline and Right-of-Way Easement Meetings educate landowners about types of pipeline systems, agencies who govern pipelines, the installation process, the provisions that should be included in an agreement and other information.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Two hundred seventeen participants gained information to assist them in farm management decisions by attending local production meetings. When surveyed after grazing meetings, 100 percent of the participants indicated they learned new information that could be used in their production operation. Attendees also expected a \$10–\$50 per acre increase for their pastures and hay fields, as well as a 5–20 percent forage yield increase as a result of attending the grazing programs. Farm managers attended on-farm pasture walks to learn about invasive plants and weed control in pastures, water systems, how to match 2015 hay crop nutrition with production stages, and fencing options.
- Monroe County Master Gardener Volunteers continue to offer assistance to home gardeners and teach gardening skills to local clientele. The Monroe County Master Gardener Volunteers have spent more than 625 hours this year to learn new information, teach individuals sound gardening practices and participate in food and gardening projects.