

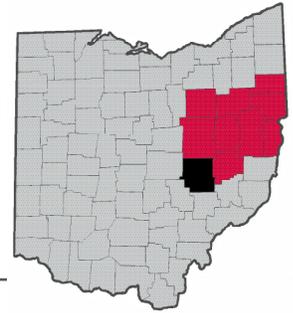
# 2015 County Highlights

## Muskingum County

### Crossroads Extension Education and Research Area

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#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- OSU Extension sponsored the monthly Ag Breakfast, a forum where farmers, agricultural agency personnel and community leaders discuss relevant local issues. Topics in 2015 included the Farm Bill, ethanol, UAVs in agriculture, weather patterns, the local watershed district, soil properties, excavation and bridge infrastructure. Ag breakfast participants keep up to date on local agricultural issues and have direct access to government officials. The breakfast is held the first Tuesday of the month at the Friendly Hills Grange Camp and is open to the public.
- Two hundred twenty-one current 4-H volunteers participated in a mandatory volunteer training that included an introduction to the new *Muskingum County 4-H Member and Volunteer Handbook*. Topics included program overview, state and county policies and procedures, member and volunteer requirements, the county calendar, and child abuse and neglect training. Forty-three new 4-H volunteers were approved through the volunteer selection process, including participating in interviews and a two-hour training session. Volunteers learned about the history of Extension and 4-H while getting a true understanding of the mission, vision and eight key elements to a successful 4-H program.
- In 2015, Muskingum County Master Gardener Volunteers had 72 active members. Members have been actively maintaining 10 different community garden projects. Highly visible public spaces including the John McIntire Public Library and the Zanesville Museum of Art are benefitting from the efforts of the program. The Master Gardener Volunteers program successfully facilitated the establishment of a gardening program at the Muskingum County Juvenile Detention Center.

#### ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Real Money, Real World, a hands-on financial literacy program, engaged 488 eighth grade students in an

interactive spending simulation that provided the opportunity for the students to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to those made by 27-year-old adults. Pre-simulation classroom lessons included the affect on income of education and occupation, paycheck deductions, checking and savings account usage, and budgeting. Thirty-seven community leaders, business representatives and others served as volunteers for this activity at three county middle schools.

#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- A partnership of OSU Extension, Muskingum County Juvenile Court, and Ohio State Highway Patrol Zanesville Post, the 4-H CARTEENS program taught traffic safety to 263 first-time juvenile traffic offenders and 245 parents. Ten teen volunteers gained public speaking, teaching and leadership skills during 10 program sessions. As a member of the Muskingum County Safe Communities Coalition, 4-H CARTEENS also promoted safer roads by recording radio and television spots and participating in countywide events.
- Five days and four nights at 4-H Camp Ohio for Muskingum County 4-H Junior Camp was a highlight of the summer for 144 campers, ages 8–13. Youth solved a weeklong mystery, participated in outdoor learning experiences and gained skills in independent living, communications, teamwork and leadership. Thirty-five teen leaders completed an average of 26 training hours to prepare for their counselor roles in areas such as child development, behavior and risk management, camper health and wellness, supportive relationships, and teaching. “Keeping Communities Safe” Cloverbud Day Camp was conducted at the Muskingum County Fairgrounds for 72 youth in kindergarten through second grade with the help of 19 volunteers and staff. The Cloverbuds participated in a variety of craft activities in addition to safety presentations from Genesis Ambulance, Muskingum County Sheriff’s Department, Zanesville Fire Department, Zanesville Police Department, and a special presentation from MedFlight.



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- Over 200 current and potential 4-H members, parents and volunteers attended 4-H Kick-Off during Ohio 4-H Week. Participants learned more about 4-H and saw those who excelled in 2014 receive recognition. Participants viewed and interacted with over 20 4-H members who displayed their county winning projects from 2014. In addition, Project Book Central was added to the event. This allowed event participants to view any of the over 200 project books available through Ohio 4-H.

Lab. Testing soil saved money with more precise, accurate fertilizer applications and protected the environment by ensuring that fertilizer was not over-applied. One hundred two soil tests were conducted through the OSU Extension office in 2015. OSU Extension assisted 40 farmers and gardeners with an interpretation of their soil test results.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- OSU Extension conducted Pesticide Applicator Training for 42 licensed Muskingum County pesticide applicators that are required to participate in a recertification session every three years. These pesticide applicators learned new information about pollinator protection, herbicide resistance in weeds, herbicide's mode of actions, changes to pesticide laws, pesticide safety and environmental issues.
- OSU Extension conducted Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training to certify 47 Muskingum County fertilizer applicators that were required to be certified for the first time according to new state laws. Topics included soil sampling, phosphorous and nitrogen best management practices, pasture fertility, lime recommendations, and plant nutrients. Almost all strongly agreed that the training increased their knowledge of phosphorus and nitrogen management. More than half of the participants agreed they would change their nutrient management practices.
- Educating youth about livestock care is a high priority for OSU Extension. Six hundred fifty youth participated in livestock Quality Assurance Training workshops, during which the youth learned good production practices to raise safe, high-quality food products for consumers. The annual Livestock Skillathon challenged 298 4-H and FFA members to gain knowledge in areas related to animal health, humane care and handling of livestock, and showmanship. Over 40 Cloverbuds (ages 5–8) participated in Barn to Barn at the Muskingum County Fair with Junior Fair Board members teaching youth about caring for and showing animals during this two-hour program. Twenty-two first-time horse project participants participated with a parent/guardian in Horse Safety and Ethics Training. Program participants learned the dangers of equine projects and the steps they can take to make their equine experience safe. All program participants learned the importance of making ethical decisions when caring for, training and exhibiting equine.
- OSU Extension provided soil testing services to area farmers and gardeners through Penn State University's Ag Analytical