

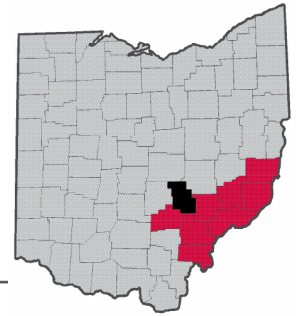
# 2015 County Highlights

## Perry County

### Buckeye Hills Extension Education and Research Area

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#### ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Financial management skills make a difference in how well families cope with unfavorable economic conditions whether they are unemployed, underemployed or experiencing a temporary decrease in income. Manage Your Money is an online challenge designed to assist consumers in improving their financial well-being through free, weekly e-communications on topics such as savings, credit, debt reduction, budgeting, organizing financial records and calculating one's net worth. Worksheets related to each of the financial management topics were available to help participants track their progress and apply the knowledge presented. A pre- and post-survey is being used to collect data to determine program impact and ways to improve future programming efforts. A total of 180 individuals participated in programming efforts during the 2014 pilot year. In 2015, participation grew to 527 participants from 24 Ohio counties and from 14 other states.

#### ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Fifty-One producers who currently hold a private pesticide applicator license in Licking and Perry counties attended a Pesticide Applicator Recertification program. As a result 96 percent have improved personal safety practices, improved practices to protect the environment, improved pesticide handling practices and are better informed about compliance and environmental regulations. In addition, 94 percent have increased the efficiency of applications.
- Fertilizer certification is required if producers apply fertilizer (other than manure) to more than 50 acres used for agricultural production grown primarily for sale. Those who have a pesticide applicator license attended a two-hour Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training. Applicators who did not have a pesticide license attended a three-hour certification. In all, 78 producers received fertilizer certification.

- Changes to the 2014 farm Bill required producers to make some key decisions. Terms such as Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) were two of the programs producers needed to learn about in order to select the best option for their operation. Producers had the opportunity to update yields and reallocate base acres. Nine separate meetings were conducted involving 254 grain and livestock producers.
- In 2015, Perry County Master Gardener Volunteers completed various programs in relation to youth, gardening, a plant sale, and invited speaker functions. Volunteers conducted programs working with community gardens and public horticulture education. The Perry County Master Gardener Volunteers eighth annual Home and Garden Show was a two-day event that highlighted over 42 local businesses ranging from home construction to outdoor landscaping.
- The Livestock Mortality Composting Program was delivered to eight producers from Perry, Licking and Muskingum counties. Attendees received up-to-date information on the correct procedures to properly compost sheep, cattle, hogs, horses and poultry species of livestock. Topics covered included principles of operation, site selection and design options, facility sizing, management and utilization, biosecurity, rules and regulations, economics of composting, and troubleshooting. Upon completion of this class all participants became certified to compost livestock in Ohio.

#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- With Ohio seeing an increase in traffic crash fatalities, 4-H CARTEENS has the chance to impact positive decision making amongst teen drivers. CARTEENS is a collaboration between OSU Extension, local juvenile courts and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. This peer-taught program focuses on Ohio laws, distracted driving, driving under the influence and traffic offender consequences. In 2015, 75 Perry County first-time juvenile traffic offenders along with their



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parents/guardians were sentenced to attend this two-hour program. In post-program evaluations, 96 percent of teens and 98 percent of parents rated the overall program as excellent or good. Ninety-four percent of parents agreed that participation will help their teens become safer drivers, and 94 percent of teens agree that they are less likely to be repeat traffic offenders because of attending CARTEENS.

- In 2015, 452 Perry County 4-H members were enrolled in at least one food-producing livestock project, dictating a continued need for livestock education. Enter the Assuring Quality Care for Animals signature program. Through this program, youth food-animal producers complete Quality Assurance Training, which is mandated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The training provides participants with information on animal welfare and ethics, and on good production practices to raise safe, high-quality food products for consumers. In Perry County, 124 youth successfully passed an optional quality assurance test (scores of 70 percent and higher) to opt out of the annual program for up to three years. Participating in this program prepares youth for future success in the livestock and/or agriculture fields, while working to ensure a safe food market for our nation.
- Thirty-five Junior Fair Board members gained workforce skills while planning and assisting with Junior Fair events and livestock shows. From start to finish, teens gained skills in completing applications and interviews, public speaking, recordkeeping, customer service, teamwork, and working cooperatively with adults. Furthermore, members garner accountability and goal-setting as they work to retain their Junior Fair Board position. On average, 88 percent do so annually. This year's members logged over 500 working hours during the five-day Perry County Fair alone, resulting in a value of over \$10,730 to our local community (based on the value of volunteer time in Ohio from the Independent Sector 2014 report).

## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Successful Co-Parenting: Helping Children Cope with Divorce—a court-mandated program for couples going through a divorce or dissolution with children ages 18 or younger—focuses on the emotional process of divorce and strengthening families during this transition. One hundred five individuals participated in programming efforts in 2015. Evaluations showed 92.2 percent agree or strongly agree they learned new information; 97.1 percent agree or strongly agree they plan to use the information learned; 82.4 percent agree or strongly agree they feel more prepared to co-parent; and 92.2 percent agree or strongly agree this program was helpful.

- Successful Co-Parenting: Principles of Parenting—a court-mandated program for nonmarried individuals petitioning for custody of their children—encompasses the challenges of parenting, punishment and discipline. Forty-five individuals participated in programming efforts. Evaluations showed that 100 percent learned something new, and 81.4 percent planned to adopt one or more of the educational practices shared.
- The Live Healthy Live Well signature program reached over 294 Perry County residents via social media through three six-week, online wellness challenges. Twice-weekly emails encouraged respondents to increase their physical activity, improve their diet, purchase local foods and use coping techniques to reduce stress. Evaluations confirmed that 79 percent of participants adopted one or more of the recommended practices shown to reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases, and 95 percent maintained or lost weight. While research on the cost savings of workplace wellness programs varies, studies have typically shown a return of \$3 per \$1 spent. A new study also shows a health insurance savings of \$2.38 per month by employees who participate.