

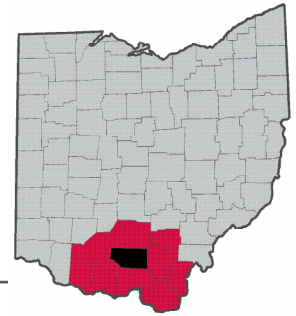
2015 County Highlights

Pike County

Ohio Valley Extension Education and Research Area

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The Pike County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) educator served many groups in order to create healthier residents. OSU Extension, Pike Healthy Lifestyle Initiative (PHLI), and Adena Health Systems partnered for the summer lunch program and MyPlate lessons at Western and Waverly libraries, where five participants were reached. Pike County Extension, PHLI, and YMCA partnered to organize and host the “Paint It Pink Pike County” 5K run/walk for breast cancer awareness, engaging 223 participants. The Live Healthy Live Well fall email challenge reached 56 participants. Positive feedback was reported by participants:
 - “Just by drinking water and eating more veggies I have lost seven pounds.”
 - “I am now walking four miles a day, five days a week.”
 - “I set a couple goals when I started: eat fruit two times per day, and walk two times per day, four times per week. I was 100 percent successful!”
 - “I focused on eating healthy and being active. Thank you for all the motivation!”
- The FCS educator worked with PHLI to host shopping tours at local grocery stores, where 12 participants were reached. The educator collaborated with Eastern Elementary School administration and staff to create physical activity stations on their playground for 227 enrolled students.
- Pike County Extension served many groups in order to promote healthier financial practices. The FCS educator taught a four-week financial literacy class to 50 eighth grade students at Eastern Junior High. Pre- and post-test surveys indicated a 10 percent increase in knowledge on financial topics. Pike Community Action Committee partnered with the FCS educator to offer a budgeting class for county residents with nine participants attending.
- The FCS educator partnered with the 4-H Youth Development educator and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) program

assistant to promote programs at the Jasper Elementary Open House for approximately 800 adults and students. The FCS educator worked with the SNAP-Ed program assistant to promote healthy snacking at a community baby shower held by the county WIC office. The shower reached approximately 150 adults and children. Participation at the annual Community Day held by Pike Community Action Committee reached 300 county residents. The FCS educator served as monthly speaker to promote OSU Extension programs for the Pike County Service Council meeting in October.

- The USDA’s Midwest Region Food and Nutrition Service funds SNAP-Ed, targets food stamp recipients and teaches basic nutrition/food safety/meal management/food security/budgeting programs. Funding for SNAP-Ed in Pike County since 1994 totals \$896,700 with \$78,386 in fiscal year 2015. Pike County SNAP-Ed reached 3,124 participants in 319 classes. Of those participants, 1,345 were youth audiences from summer feeding school programs.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Pike County agricultural sales have increased to \$26.8 million, and Pike County Extension provides agricultural resource expertise to boost productivity. Farm management topics include developing farm leases, negotiating cash rents, enterprise analysis and budgeting. Local information meetings on the new Farm Bill and dairy program were held. Agronomic issues include Pesticide Applicator Training, Pesticide Applicator Recertification, planting recommendations, and weed identification. Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training was provided to 22 agricultural producers in response to Ohio’s water quality concerns.
- In 2015, the Pike County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) educator planned and taught at two Small Farm Colleges attended by 90 people. Surveys indicated 44



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percent of the participants represented female, minority or socially disadvantaged farmers, and 79 percent were new clientele to Extension programming. The average farm size was 28 acres with average ownership of nine years. Post-program surveys indicated 67 percent of the participants developed or changed their farm use plan after attending these colleges.

- Pike County Extension provides assistance to livestock producers with ration-balancing, developing herd health programs, Quality Assurance Training, and marketing strategies. Pike County Extension initiated a free hay and soil testing program for livestock producers. Assistance was provided to supplement rations for livestock in the last trimester of pregnancy; this was needed due to low-quality forages harvested during this past year's wet weather. Soil tests were interpreted to help producers increase their forage yield from both pasture and hay ground. Field Night at the OARDC Jackson Outlying Agricultural Research Station attracted 138 participants. According to pre- and post-surveys, participants indicated they increased their knowledge by 14 percent on topics relative to herd health, annual forages and water resource development.
- Hundreds of local requests in consumer horticulture were responded to this year in the areas of weed identification and control, floriculture, and pest mitigation. Recent economic challenges brought in many questions from those who were planting their first garden. Common informational requests in Pike County included tomato diseases, fruit plantings and tree diseases. Special meetings on soil testing, insect control, composting and raised-bed gardening were provided to Waverly Garden Club, Pike SWCD, and residents of Bristol Village with interest in gardening and floriculture. In addition, Pike County Extension conducted many on-farm visits to help horticultural producers resolve crisis situations relative to plant disease, spray drift and insect control.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Pike County 4-H continued to grow in 2015, with 857 youth participating in traditional 4-H community clubs led by 150 adult volunteers. Forty-two organized community clubs provided safe, inclusive environments for youth to determine goals, make decisions and envision their future. Through membership and officer positions, the 4-H youth developed leadership skills. As part of the completed projects, youth learned responsibility and interviewing skills.
- The Pike County Extension 4-H Youth Development educator made a significant effort to reach youth not involved in traditional 4-H Clubs. During the 2015 school year, 1,396 nonduplicating youth were taught curriculum

centering on science, nutrition, fitness, environment and literacy through school enrichment programs.

- Nearly 340 Pike County third graders participated in the annual Agriculture Awareness Day. The day was sponsored by the Farm Bureau and was made possible by the more than 50 adult volunteers. The Extension 4-H Youth Development educator and the Pike County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources educator presented 13 lessons about beef cattle and honeybee production.
- The 4-H camping program remains one of the most anticipated yearly events. In 2015, over 100 youth attended five overnight summer camps and fun days. Nine county teens volunteered as camp counselors and were required to attend a two-day training to enhance their leadership and workforce skills before volunteering at camp.
- Another notable activity was the resurrection of the Junior Livestock Judging Program. Youth spent eight weeks preparing for the state contest. In addition to the state contest, a local contest was held for Junior and Senior members with 20 participants.
- A program dedicated to educating first-time traffic offenders, 4-H CARTEENS provided in 2015 quarterly court-appointed traffic classes for 75 first-time traffic offenders. During the second part of the year, the program began its partnership with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, with a trooper speaking candidly about drivers' unsafe behaviors.
- The Pike County Fair is the largest event at which 4-H youth can exhibit their projects. The positive relationships among the county commissioners, Pike County Agriculture Society, OSU Extension, 4-H volunteers and parents brings the community together for a week of social activity and community well-being.
- FCS, SNAP-Ed, and 4-H partnered to distribute school supplies as well as informational sheets about packing a safe lunch at the Jasper Elementary Open House. The event served nearly 800 Pike County residences.

Pike County receives \$78,386 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.