

# 2015 County Highlights

## Scioto County

### Ohio Valley Extension Education and Research Area

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#### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Scioto County 4-H had 1,124 youth participating in 53 4-H community clubs where the youth worked and learned life skills through the 2,553 projects in which they were enrolled. Twenty-five adults completed new volunteer training, bringing the total number of adults working with youth to 303. Based on a minimum of 35 hours contributed annually by each volunteer, the value of the service contributed exceeds \$233,310. Members strengthened their life skills by attending clinics, judging and exhibition, while also giving back to the community through service projects.
- With a \$20,500 grant from the National 4-H Council and Department of Juvenile Justice, Scioto County 4-H provided mentoring and STEM training to 30 fourth and fifth grade youth at the New Boston school system. The Tech Wizards program used eight trained adult mentors to provide support and education to the youth. Program evaluations and participant interviews showed that, as a result of the program, the youth had an increased understanding of science and technology concepts as well as a stronger belief in themselves and the ability to succeed in the future.

#### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- In 2015, 199 participants completed Successful Co-Parenting, a program offered in partnership with Scioto County Domestic Relations Court. Based on evaluations, 89 percent of participants indicated they learned helpful information. Comments included, “(I learned to) take care of myself so I can continue to care for my children” and “(I learned to) put things in perspective better and handle situations more effectively.” Additionally, 94 percent planned to implement changes such as talking one-on-one and avoiding arguments and accusatory behavior.
- Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP), an early childhood program, received \$21,500 from the Scioto County Family and Children First Council through Ohio

Children’s Trust Fund during 2014–2015. The 31 parents who participated learned that while adults frequently say “no” to children, it is just as important to say “yes” as well (75 percent). Adults also learned that it’s important to identify who owns a problem in order to solve it (89 percent).

- As one of 18 counties funded by the USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Scioto County is able to offer the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) to low-income families with children. Last year, EFNEP reached 220 adults in our county, impacting 949 family members including 387 children. Of those graduating from the program, 84 percent improved in one or more food resource management practices; fifty-two percent less often ran out of food before the end of the month; thirty-one percent increased their physical activity; eighty-nine percent improved one or more nutrition practices such as reading food labels; and ninety-seven percent reported improved food intake at the exit of the program.
- Scioto County Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed), which is also funded through federal dollars, teaches basic nutrition, food safety and food security skills to food stamp-eligible audiences. In the 2014–2015 fiscal year, we added an additional program assistant in order to service more of the SNAP-eligible population. These additions included many of the preschool and elementary children in our county. SNAP-Ed conducted 566 programs with 5,380 direct contacts and 1,534 indirect contacts.
- In partnership with Scioto County Juvenile Court, 27 parents took part in a mandated life skills/parent education program designed to help them develop skills and strategies to effectively deal with misbehavior in teens. The program consists of a series of six sessions. One parent commented, “I realize how I was talking to my child. If someone spoke to me that way, it would not be ok!” Overall, 85 percent of the parents indicated they learned at least one new communication strategy to use with their teens.



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## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- There were 1,393 school youth who took part in outdoor and agricultural education programs provided in partnership with OSU Extension. Programs included natural science activities at Shawnee State Park, Ag Adventures Day, and school enrichment. Youth learned how to explore and appreciate their natural environment, and they learned about the importance of agriculture and natural resources. Teacher comments indicated that youth gained appreciation and knowledge through the play-based learning utilized in these sessions.
- There were 517 youth representing eight counties and five species project areas who attended five 4-H livestock Quality Assurance Training clinics in 2015. The events were multicounty efforts involving a variety of educators, agencies and volunteers. Participants gained Quality Assurance Certification while taking part in the Assuring Quality Care of Animals signature program. Furthermore, county offices were able to provide increased programming to clientele, and educators reported more efficient and effective use of programming outputs and a reduction of costs to individual county programs.
- A USDA Specialty Crop Block grant of \$78,427 was received to research, demonstrate and teach farmers how to adopt production techniques to capture some of the \$165.3 million in annual strawberry sales and related jobs currently sourced out of the state by Ohio's retail and wholesale strawberry buyers.
- A USDA-NIFA grant of \$20,000 was received to train 33 participants in crop protection and high tunnel Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Ninety percent of participants reported increasing their knowledge of high tunnel IPM practices and the effects of cultural considerations for high tunnel pest management; ninety-five percent reported a better attitude regarding the implementation of high tunnel IPM practices for specific pest problems; and eighty percent changed their attitudes as a result of conducting high tunnel cultural practices on their operation.
- More than 300 farmers and tree, pest control, and landscape personnel became ODA-certified private pesticide applicators through monthly testing provided throughout 2015. Passing of this examination allows these individuals to purchase, apply and use restricted-use pesticides in a safe manner to the applicator, the environment and the consumer.
- Fort-two private pesticide applicators received initial or continuing education credit as certified applicators by participating in a three-hour class. The participants shared

that they had gained new knowledge concerning pesticide safe handling and were more confident in their ability to determine when the use of a pesticide was warranted. A review of the concept of "economic threshold" created a better understanding of pests and how to determine if pesticide use is the best choice in managing weed, insect and disease challenges.

## ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Financial education topics—including the use of credit, tracking expenses, making a budget and organizing financial records—were included in classes attended by 53 people. Following a class on credit reports, three individuals stated they had never reviewed their report because they thought they had to pay for it. They got their credit reports and were able to begin improving their credit scores.

**Scioto County receives \$184,396 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.**