

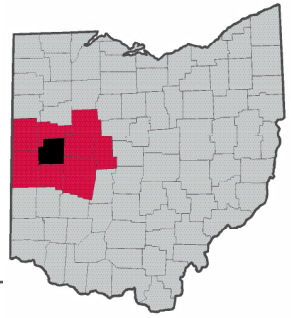
2015 County Highlights

Shelby County

Top of Ohio Extension Education and Research Area

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Shelby County 4-H volunteers are critical to the success of the county 4-H program. Seven new volunteers completed the screening and orientation process. In all, 117 adult volunteers provided leadership to 29 community-based clubs, enabling 937 4-H members (including 146 Cloverbuds) to have positive youth development experiences.
- Young people know 4-H Camp is fun, and youth development experts know 4-H Camp helps build critical life skills for both campers and youth counselors. 4-H Camp helps build teamwork, communications and leadership, cultivating job readiness skills while connecting campers with nature. In 2015, the 4-H Camp theme was “Superheroes In Training.” Camp provided the setting for 165 youth (including 48 teen camp counselors) to develop life skills. Five adult volunteers assisted with camp.
- Emphasis on community service projects attracted up to 20 teens to attend Junior Leadership monthly meetings. Teens were involved from project conception to completion.
- Twenty-eight teens served as Junior Fair Board members, which allowed them to demonstrate leadership and communication skills. Members planned, organized and implemented shows and contests at the Shelby County Fair.
- Quality Assurance Training, an Ohio Department of Agriculture-mandated program, educates youth on the proper care of animals and good production practices. A total of 400 youth and parents completed the Quality Assurance Training by attending one of the Shelby (or other) County sessions or by testing out of the program altogether.
- Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are areas of deficiency for many students. In an effort to increase excitement and confidence in these subject areas, STEM activities were conducted for students and the general public. One program was taught at Fairlawn Local High School within an after-school 4-H Club; the other was conducted during the local county fair.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) is a free nutrition education program serving low-income adults in Ohio. This program is funded by the Food Nutrition Service branch of the USDA. In Shelby County, direct contacts reached 860 adults and 1,009 youths, with a total population of 1,869 participants. The total number of participants reached through indirect programming (which included nutrition education handouts and OSU Extension nutrition monthly newsletters) was 11,396. Participants learned to select fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy products for a healthy diet. They also learned to use limited resources to plan, purchase and prepare food for their families. Participants gained knowledge in being physically active every day and storing and handling food so it is safe to eat.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- A total of 240 people attended West Ohio Agronomy Day, supported by 21 agribusinesses. Integrated pest management principles were emphasized, and private pesticide recertification credits were provided to 115 farmers from Shelby and neighboring counties. In addition, 122 farmers and commercial applicators received their certifications to apply commercial fertilizers. Sessions emphasized profitable and environmentally sound crop fertility practices. Extension personnel and specialists from Purdue and OSU Extension taught various segments of the program. Certified Crop Advisers earned 128.5 continuing education credits.
- Master Gardener Volunteers help Extension share research-based information with gardeners through workshops, community gardens and one-on-one consultations. Forty active Master Gardener Volunteers and Master Gardener Volunteer interns provided over 2,000 hours of volunteer service, helping over 3,000 clientele address home



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horticultural concerns in an economic and environmentally sound way. They attained 500 hours of continuing education credits. The Master Gardener Volunteers hosted both a Diagnostics Workshop that had 20 participants from neighboring counties and a Landscape Design Class with almost 40 participants. The volunteers had displays at the Shelby, Auglaize and Mercer county fairs, maintained flower gardens in the community, sponsored the flower and vegetable awards for the Shelby County Junior Fair, and provided their expertise throughout the year at various camps and schools. Over 20 house calls were made to help clients with horticultural problems. One member serves on the statewide Ask a Master Gardener Helpline, and one member serves on the State Master Gardener Volunteer Advisory Committee.

- In addition to those that subscribe directly, copies of the CORN, BEEF, Dairy, and Ohio Ag Manager newsletters were sent to over 70 farmers and landowners in Shelby County from the Shelby County Extension office.
- Over 100 individual requests for information were answered on weed identification, land rent/leasing issues and fertilizer applicator licensing.
- Over 500 people attended the biannual Shelby County Drive-It-Yourself Farm Tour.
- Also in 2015, the first “Women in Agriculture: An Empowerment Celebration” was held. This event was planned and organized by various agricultural organizations and industry representatives in Shelby County. The event was maxed out at 50 participants.
- Three Farm Bill meetings (200 in attendance) and one Dairy Farm Bill (Margin Protection Program) meeting (21 producers) were held in the county.
- An “Agriculture and Natural Resources Day and Farm Safety Day: Play It Safe” was held during the Shelby County Fair. Skillathon kits were set up for the public to test their knowledge of animal production, and banners and handouts promoting “playing it safe” around farm animals, farm equipment, chemicals, etc., were put on display for the public.

Shelby County receives \$46,945 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.