

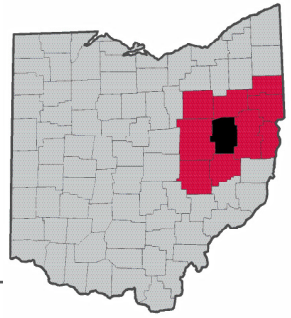
2015 County Highlights

Tuscarawas County

Crossroads Extension Education and Research Area

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Families are stronger in Tuscarawas County thanks to a grant from the Ohio Children's Trust Fund and OSU Extension. The grant allows OSU Extension to offer parenting programs, including workshops for parents of children in three distinct child age brackets (birth to 4, school age [5–12] and tweens/teens). Participants receive tools to improve communication, build their child's self-esteem and develop a plan for more effective discipline. Additionally, Tuscarawas County families attended monthly "Family Connect" events. These free events provided families with an opportunity to interact with their children in positive environments while receiving resources and support.
- Tuscarawas County Extension's food preservation programming offers something for everyone. Basic preservation classes on freezing, drying and canning as well as specialty classes featuring salsa, pickles, jams and jellies drew crowds ranging from first-timers to old pros. The 115 participants completing the retrospective program survey indicated they are more likely to use a pressure canner to safely process low-acid foods, blanch vegetables, fill to the proper headspace and use current USDA/OSUE recommendations. In addition to attending food preservation workshops and hands-on trainings, food preservationists also used Extension services for canner testing, fact sheet retrieval and individual food preservation instruction.
- Tuscarawas County is 20 hearts healthier thanks to the newly released Million Hearts program, a partnership between OSU Extension and The Ohio State University College of Nursing. Participants attended three weekly lunch-and-learn sessions featuring a healthy menu offering and a healthy dose of education about the "ABC's" of Heart Health. Participants increased their knowledge of factors influencing blood pressure and cholesterol. Those completing the post-survey indicated they plan to read food labels and increase activity as well as decrease sodium

consumption by removing salt from the table and preparing foods at home with less salt. Participants identified methods they intend to implement to decrease stress while at work and at home.

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) taught 63 adult programs and 67 youth programs for a total of 130 programs and 1,605 total participants.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Volunteers are the 4-H program's most valuable asset. Over 300 4-H volunteers contributed to the success of 1,207 4-H members. Two hundred twenty-six volunteers provided leadership to 61 clubs, while other volunteers served on committees and assisted with 4-H project evaluation and other 4-H programs and activities. Twenty-five adult volunteers attended the Ohio 4-H Conference for educational opportunities to enhance their leadership. Volunteer trainings and resources are available at the local, state and national level.
- STEM programming was conducted in 25 classrooms with the 4-H Science Alive curriculum. Students learned about chicken embryology with ChickQuest, while others learned about force and motion via rocketry with Rockets Away! Volunteers and 4-H staff taught sewing skills to students making fleece hats. Over 800 students enhanced their knowledge and skills through "4-H in the Classroom" programs.
- Teen leadership development is an attribute to older youth members. Monthly meetings that included activities to build life skills were held January through March. Additional opportunities included camp counseling (31 participants), Junior Fair Board (26 participants), and attendance at State Leadership Camp, Citizenship Washington Focus, and State Food and Fashion Board.
- The highlight of summer continues to be 4-H Camp. One hundred thirty-seven campers led by 31 teen counselors interacted with youth from around the county at 4-H Camp



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Piedmont. Through group activities and cooperation, campers developed life skills, positive attitudes and enhanced leadership skills. These skills help the campers become self-directing, productive members of society. Camp builds lifetime friendships along with great memories.

- Forty-five kindergarten through second grade youth attended Cloverbud Day Camp at the Tuscarawas County Fairgrounds. Campers participated in “Western Fun” activities while learning about rodeo skills from a 4-H teen. Twelve adults and 10 volunteers assisted with the camp.
- More than 680 youth learned how to provide proper nutrition to their project animal, provide appropriate housing and space, and safely move and work with their animal at one of five livestock Quality Assurance Training sessions. Hands-on exercises also reinforced the importance of biosecurity when working with livestock.

- The new Farm Bill provided OSU Extension the opportunity to educate farmers about decisions they would need to make to participate in the program. Post-program evaluations of workshop participants showed gains in knowledge and a high level of intention to use information from the program to make decisions. Additionally, respondents estimated they would protect over \$2.5 million of gross revenue using tools discussed in the workshop.

Tuscarawas County receives \$38,605 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Because of water quality issues associated with agricultural runoff in Lake Erie, OSU Extension developed curriculum to teach farmers best management practices to reduce nutrient runoff and improve water quality. More than 80 farmers in Tuscarawas County completed the agricultural Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training. An evaluation of the training showed the following: 73 percent of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that fertilizer loss is a significant problem to water resources; 97 percent agreed or strongly agreed that they improved their knowledge of nutrient management; and 51 percent agreed or strongly agreed they would change their nutrient management practices as a result of the training.
- Farmers who hold a restricted-use pesticide applicator license are required to obtain recertification training. Attendees learn about new pesticides, safe handling of pesticides and management practices to minimize environmental impact. A survey of farmers in this Pesticide Applicator Recertification Training was completed. A summary of the respondents found the following: 93 percent agreed or strongly agreed they had improved personal safety practices; 99 percent agreed or strongly agreed they had taken steps to protect the environment; 87 percent agreed or strongly agreed they used pesticides more cost effectively; 87 percent agreed or strongly agreed they had learned to control pests more effectively; 96 percent agreed or strongly agreed they are better informed about safe pesticide application; and 99 percent agreed or strongly agreed the training brought them up to date on current pesticide-related topics.