

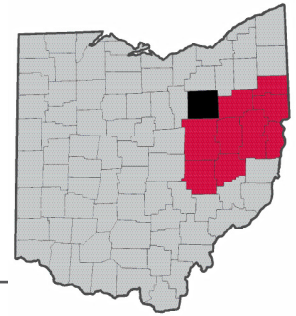
2015 County Highlights

Wayne County

Crossroads Extension Education and Research Area

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PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- In 2015, 921 preschool through fourth graders in eight area schools participated in a six-month Character Counts program. Of those teachers surveyed, 97 percent said their students increased their understanding of the six pillars of character, and 83 percent felt the Character Counts program produced better student behavior in their classrooms.
- Awareness teams visited five elementary schools, speaking to 269 third grade students about 4-H and the opportunities open to them through the 4-H program. Twenty-six teens were trained and then practiced public speaking at these school visits.
- Real Money, Real World youth financial literacy was conducted for five local middle and high schools as well as a group of first generation college freshman as part of their orientation program at The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI). More than 373 youth and 44 volunteers learned about personal finance through the program's classroom lessons and hands-on budget simulation.
- One hundred sixty-seven youth participated in 4-H Junior Camp at Camp Ohio. Members had opportunities to try activities such as zip lining, kayaking, archery and riflery. When youth try new activities outside their normal realm, they learn how to work together, develop leadership skills, become responsible for their actions and improve their self-confidence.
- More than 1,200 4-H and FFA members participated in three Skillathon and Quality Assurance Training events for the completion of 1,535 livestock projects. These events were made possible by more than 300 volunteers.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Working with the county FSA office director, the OSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) educator

provided eight educational meetings, attended by 208 participants, about the Farm Bill crop ARC/PLC programs and program decisions. Evaluations indicated that 100 percent of the participants increased their knowledge about the Farm Bill program. Ninety-three percent of respondents indicated that the information was beneficial to them, and 86 percent of the participants rated highly the quality of the presentations and the trainings received.

- More than 400 participants attended eight Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training meetings. Training covered water quality issues and best management fertilizer application methods for nitrogen and phosphorus nutrients. Evaluation results indicated that 60 percent agreed or strongly agreed they would change their nutrient management practices; 65 percent agreed or strongly agreed they would utilize an economic-based nitrogen calculator when setting a corn nitrogen rate.
- The Wayne and Holmes counties Extension ANR educators cooperated to offer five private Pesticide Applicator Recertification meetings attended by 363 applicators. Evaluation results showed that 91 percent agreed or strongly agreed they had learned how to control pests, diseases, or weeds more effectively, and 95 percent agreed or strongly agreed they were better informed about how to apply pesticides safely and that the program had brought them up to date on current pesticide-related topics, issues, or regulations.
- A two-session farm transition workshop in March had over 55 attendees at each session. According to workshop evaluations, as a result of attending, 94 percent plan to hold intergenerational family meetings; 97 percent plan to meet with an attorney to develop a farm succession plan; 100 percent plan to complete a farm balance sheet; and 96 percent plan to complete a record of important documents and personal information that facilitates transfer of the farm business.



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- Wayne County Extension and ATI cooperated to plan, organize and conduct a three-day intensive grazing school attended by 15 participants. School evaluation results showed participants gained knowledge and skills as a result of attending. Using a 1–5 scale, the average beginning knowledge level for the morning classroom topics was 2.5; the average ending knowledge level was 3.9. For the afternoon field sessions, the average beginning knowledge level was 2.4; the average ending knowledge level was 3.9. All of the participants with livestock operations indicated that they intended to make changes in their operation as a result of attending. They all said the information and skills gained would help them improve the economics of their grazing operation. One participant wrote, “I learned more in three days here than I would have learned in three years on my own!”

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- “Money 101: Keys to Financial Stability” is a series of four one-hour classes funded through a FINRA grant with United Way of Wayne and Holmes counties. The series is designed to work specifically with the local Child Support Enforcement Agency to assist noncustodial, noncompliant parents. Topics include setting goals, creating a budget, making financial decisions and repairing credit. Of the 56 participants in the eight series offered in 2014–2015, 45 percent indicated knowledge gained in the areas of budgeting, recordkeeping and savings. Participant comments included the following:
 - “This program has helped me with money accountability issues.”
 - “I learned a great deal and wish I could have been in this class years ago; my thinking and actions are now gonna change.”
 - “This class has helped us in so many ways. Now we have our own place. You are teaching how to budget our bills.”
- Post-purchase homeownership classes were conducted for eight successful first-time homebuyers through Wayne Metropolitan Housing Authority. The goal of the series of four mandated classes is to prevent foreclosure and to assist with regular home maintenance. All of the participants reported gaining 50 percent to 75 percent knowledge on specific topics such as setting aside money for emergencies and understanding insurance policies. Comments included the following:
 - “I didn’t want to come, because I didn’t think I needed it. I’m so glad I did. I learned so much.”
 - “I plan to buy safety items like fire extinguishers and carbon dioxide detectors.”
- “I plan to save more for home repairs and make of list of items in my home for insurance purposes.”
- Home food preservation classes were taught on a variety of home canning, freezing and drying topics to more than 95 participants in 2015. An additional 105 brought their canner to an inspection site for information and calibration or repair, and 65 4-H volunteers participated in the Occasional Quantity Cook training for handling food safely. A total of 265 participants increased their knowledge of preparing and preserving food safely for their families and friends.
- “Smart Start: Teaching Preschoolers About Money” has completed its first year. The curriculum is designed to teach children ages 3–5 about the beginning concepts of money. It is intended to be used as train-the-trainer material for childcare providers, with supporting material for parents to reinforce at home. Data from current users indicate a 57 percent increase in comfort level in sharing money concepts and incorporating money activities into the classroom. Data also indicate a 79 percent increase in utilizing the resources shared within the curriculum.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) has had another successful year in Wayne County. During 2015, our three program assistants delivered SNAP-Ed’s nutrition education messages directly to nearly 9,000 Wayne County youth and more than 1,000 Wayne County adults in 593 classes throughout the county. Eighty-two percent of those adults attending SNAP-Ed programs reported that they are confident they can make at least one positive change in their lifestyle because of the SNAP-Ed program, while 77 percent state they are confident they can buy healthy foods for their family on a budget.

Wayne County receives \$200,504 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension’s local-state-federal partnership.