

2019 County Highlights

Jackson County

OHIO VALLEY EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

- Jackson County 4-H Youth Development program reached 607 4-H members and Cloverbud youth through 32 **4-H Clubs**. Members learned specific subject-matter knowledge as well as leadership, citizenship and life skills. Leading these groups were 358 4-H adult volunteers who provided youth with a positive relationship with a caring adult.
- More than \$3,000 in **camp scholarships** was awarded to 4-H members allowing more than 50 additional youth to attend 4-H camp. Youth were able to benefit from \$1000 from the Stan and Doris Harrison 4-H Scholarships and other funding from the 4-H Advisory Council. Youth had the opportunity to take part in a positive camp experience that they would not have been able to attend otherwise.
- More than 150 Jackson County youth gained educational experiences by attending overnight **4-H Camp** at Canter's Cave 4-H Camp/Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center. By taking part in one of four resident summer camps as well as other camps throughout the year, youth learned about their environmental surroundings and gained valuable skills in socialization, communication, personal development and team building.
- More than 500 youth in preschool through third grade participated in **school enrichment projects** through the Chick Quest program. Youth mastered science skills meeting statewide standards by following the development and hatching of eggs. In addition, 345 youth were involved in 4-H in school and afterschool programming focusing on team building, science and technology.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Chronic diseases are largely preventable through a healthy lifestyle involving a balanced diet and regular physical activity. Obesity, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity disproportionately affect minority and low income citizens. In 2012, an estimated 1.8 million Ohioans lived in poverty. In an effort to reduce this disparity and improve the health and well-being of Ohioans, the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) teaches an 8-lesson nutrition education series to low income families with children.
- In 2016, 144 adults participated in EFNEP, with a total reach of 973 family members. Graduates improved nutrition practices (97%), food resource management practices (90%), and food safety practices (90%), resulting in 58% of graduates running out of food less often each month. Sixty-one percent of graduates increased their physical activity levels, 38% improved fruit consumption, and 47% improved vegetable consumption.

EFNEP, funded by USDA-NIFA, supports 1.0 FTE staff in the Jackson County OSU Extension office.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

- OSU Extension partnered with the Jackson OARDC Research Branch to host a **Beef and Forage Field Night**. Over 225 producers and landowners participated in educational programs related to livestock to learn the latest in feeding trends, forage practices and herd management. As a result, participants improved the efficiency of their enterprises and increased knowledge of recommended production practices.



JOB SKILLS AND CAREERS

- During 2019, 150 junior high and high school students took part in the **Real Money, Real World**, a financial literacy simulation program. Many participants said they learned how expensive life in the real world can be, and many were more appreciative of what their parents went through to provide for them. Youth also commented that they were going to wait to have children after going through this process. Additionally, 254 high school students gained crucial workplace skills and valuable tools for finding a job through financial literacy programs.
- During the overnight camping experiences 23 teen counselors served as **4-H Camp Counselors** for younger 4-H members. The experience enhanced their leadership, counseling and communication skills after participating in 24 hours of camp counselor training sessions.
- With the help of 23 volunteers, 98 non-livestock projects were completed by youth attending **General Projects Judging**. Youth further explored their individual subject matter and gained valuable interviewing skills as they communicated with the judges about their project work.
- Thirty-one older 4-H youth served as **Junior Fair Board** members, which allowed them the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and communication skills. After participating in hands-on training, they applied what they learned by organizing educational learning experiences for 607 youth who gained valuable learning experiences through 735 projects. The county fair allowed 4-H members to develop and demonstrate their leadership abilities through planning and implementation of Junior Fair activities.

ENGAGED OHIOANS

- More than 600 youth exhibited educational projects at the **2019 Jackson County Junior Fair**. Of those youth, 292 exhibited a market livestock project and participated in the 2019 Livestock Sale, which garnered a total of \$307,919. Thanks to many generous supporters, this amount was significantly over market value. There were 21 new businesses and individuals who supported the 2019. Much of the income received by these exhibitors goes toward current or future education expenses.
Additionally, exhibitors learned about philanthropy by donating \$2689 from their livestock sale checks towards charitable causes. Through their 4-H projects, youth gained important life skills in the areas of financial management, leadership development, and personal responsibility to help prepare them for the workplace as contributing citizens of our communities.
- More than 600 second grade students from Jackson and Vinton Counties — along with approximately 80 volunteers — participated in the ninth annual **Ag Experience Day** in cooperation with Farm Bureau and the OARDC Research Farm. Students gained knowledge in the areas of science, math, agriculture and natural resources through 18 unique sessions. Students were able to apply their classroom lessons and increase their awareness of the agriculture products.
- More than 150 people enjoyed the 57th annual Farm-City Field Day at Sherman Angus Ranch located off of Keystone Furnace Road. Their farm operation has recently expanded and utilized a reclaimed strip mine. Participants toured the facility and discussed the farms' pasture management system, pond management, beef operation, hay storage options, and reclamation.
- Through **educational field trips** to Canter's Cave 4-H Camp/Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center, 190 1st and 2nd grade students had the opportunity to learn about nature, creek studies, boating, team building and the opportunities available for summer camps.
- With the help of 24 teen volunteers who served on **4-H awareness teams**, nearly 2,400 youth were introduced to **Jackson County 4-H**. With exposure to 4-H activities through school programs and awareness visits, students responded with a variety of answers when asked, "What is 4-H all about?" Responses such as "science," "experiments," "team building" and "computers" showed an emphasis on STEM programs and that students are realizing there is more to 4-H than just livestock.

Students gained a new perspective of the natural world around them and one teacher commented that the visit to Canter's Cave was the best field trip they had ever taken.

Jackson County 4-H *PY2018* BY THE NUMBERS

2,970

unique youth were exposed to 4-H through their school at least one time

626

youth enrolled in traditional 4-H across 32 clubs

202

youth attended 4-H overnight camp at Canter's Cave 4-H Camp/Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center

379

youth participated in 4-H workforce development and financial literacy programming outside of the traditional club setting



52

Teens were directly engaged in a 4-H leadership opportunity, such as camp counseling, serving on Junior Fair Board, or serving as a County Teen Leader.

205

adult volunteers helped support the 4-H program

306

youth exhibited a market livestock project and participated in the 2018 Livestock Sale, which garnered a total of \$292,161. Thanks to many generous supporters, this amount was \$229,019 over market value. Much of the income received by these exhibitors goes toward current or future education expenses.

