2022 County Highlights

Jackson County

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

- Jackson County 4-H Youth Development program reached 500 4-H members and Cloverbud youth through 34 4-H Clubs. Members learned specific subject-matter knowledge as well as leadership, citizenship, and life skills. Leading these groups were 46 4-H adult volunteers who provided youth with a positive relationship with a caring adult.

- More than $2,300 in camp scholarships was awarded to 4-H members allowing more than 40 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.

- Kindergarten programs in two schools focused on topics that matched the school’s curriculum such as sound, recycling, cultural diversity, and science fun. Programs were held with more than 100 kindergarteners.

- More than 100 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, 148 youth participated in 4-H Science Afterschool programming.

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 a 9-lesson nutrition education series to low-income families with children. (EFNEP) is funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and operates through Extension programs at land grant institutions in every state and in the six U.S. territories. In Ohio, EFNEP is administered by Ohio State University Extension.

- In 2022, 34 adults participated in EFNEP, with a total reach of 187 family members. Graduates improved nutrition practices (100%), food resource management practices (96%), and food safety practices (100%), resulting in 32% of graduates running out of food less often each month. 96% of graduates increased their physical activity levels, 77% improved fruit consumption and 47% improved vegetable consumption. In FY22, 229 youth in grades K-8 participated in EFNEP. Youth graduates improved nutrition practices (66%), food safety practices (56%), physical activity (49%), and food resource management practices (40%).

- SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education) is a free nutrition education program serving participants and low-income individuals eligible to receive SNAP benefits or other means-tested Federal assistance programs throughout Ohio. Nationally, SNAP-Ed operates in 50 states, plus 2 territories, and targets individuals (youth and adults), and families. SNAP-Ed is funded by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service and serves in partnership with the Ohio Department of Job and
Family Services and Ohio State University Extension. The goal is to improve the likelihood that families and individuals who receive SNAP benefits (SNAP) will make healthy food choices and choose active lifestyles. SNAP-Ed utilizes both Direct and Indirect programming. Direct Programming is a series of 3 or more classes with the same group. Indirect Programming is a one-time event for example: a health fair, meet and greet, etc. In 2022, Jackson County SNAP-Ed held 372 Direct Education Programs. These programs served 108 adults and 5566 teen and youth participants. There were also 11 Indirect Programs reaching 2437 participants.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

- OSU Extension partnered with the Jackson OARDC Research Branch to host a Beef and Forage Field Night. Over 70 producers and landowners participated in educational programs related to livestock to learn the latest in veterinary feed directive, making replacement heifer decisions, getting the heifer bred and properly developed to calving time, and keeping the first calf heifer in the herd. As a result, participants improved the efficiency of their enterprises and increased their knowledge of recommended production practices.

- Jackson ANR programs partnered with Pike and Adams County ANR programs to offer a Beef Artificial Insemination (AI) school at the Jackson County OSU Extension Office and Field Research Center. Approximately 20 beef farmers, young and old, both male and female, from Jackson, Scioto, Pike, and Adams counties learned AI techniques and were properly trained to AI their cattle for the upcoming year. Each participant was given a certificate following the 3-day educational program.

JOB SKILLS AND CAREERS

- During the school year, 168 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, 128 high school students gained crucial workplace skills and valuable tools for finding a job through financial literacy programs.

- During the overnight camping experiences, 22 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 46 volunteers, 168 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.

- 61 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 500 youth who gained valuable learning experiences through 928 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 2022 Jackson County Junior Fair. Of those youth, over 300 exhibited a market livestock project and participated in the 2022 Livestock Sale, which garnered a total of $400,532.00. Thanks to many generous supporters, this amount was almost $200,000 over market value. Much of the income received by these exhibitors goes toward current or future education expenses.

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.

- Nearly 600 second grade students from Jackson and Vinton Counties — along with approximately 60 volunteers — participated in the eighth 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 110 people enjoyed the 61st annual Farm-City Field Day, which was hosted at Tom Jolly's Farm. Participants
toured not only Jolly’s Farm, but the Bierhup Farm and Rumpke facilities as well. During their tour, participants of all ages looked at and discussed the farms’ cover crop management system, pond management, hay storage options, and wildlife management – specifically a significant patch of milkweed that sustains a large population of pollinators and monarch butterflies in the area. While exploring the Rumpke facility, learners explored land management practices and reclamation projects.

- Through three educational field trips to Canter’s Cave 4-H Camp/Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center, 232 Kindergarten and 1st 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 2,500 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,” “Legos,” “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.
Youth participants enrolled in traditional 4-H programs across 32 community clubs.

By the Numbers:

- 500 Youth participants enrolled in traditional 4-H programs across 32 community clubs.
- ~2,000 Unique youth were exposed to 4-H through their school at least one time.
- 100+ Youth attended 4-H overnight camp at Canter’s Cave 4-H Camp/Elizabeth Evans Outdoor Education Center.
- 50 Teens were directly engaged in a 4-H leadership opportunity, such as camp counseling, Junior Fair Board, or a county teen leader.
- 46 Adult volunteers helped support 4-H programs in the county.
- 300+ Youth exhibited a market livestock project and participated in the 2022 Jackson County Jr Fair Livestock Sale.