

## Community Development

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### Impact in 2013

*Evaluating our engagement with residents, businesses, organizations, and communities enables us to assess the effectiveness of our teaching and creative outputs and investment of our Extension resources. CD professionals organize their program efforts among OSU Extension's impact areas.*

## Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- Wyandot County** engaged in a **Business Retention & Expansion (BR&E) program** that identified public infrastructure improvements needed for two local business expansions. Potential grant funding sources to support the projects were identified and more than \$860,000 for public infrastructure improvements was obtained. As a result of the effort, two area manufacturers have committed to the combined creation of at least 50 new full-time jobs, the retention of 370 existing jobs and over \$7 million in local capital investments over the next three years.
- To better understand spending surplus and leakage, a **retail market analysis** was conducted in partnership with the **City of Medina** and Ohio Sea Grant, OSU Extension and OSU's Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA). Public officials learned that 37 of 42 active retail sectors are represented in Medina's retail market. The analysis will enable officials to concentrate on business recruitment and development of targeted retail sectors.
- Van Wert** leaders learned more about the BR&E Program, Marketing, Attraction and activities related to Networking, Research and Training as part of **monthly economic development advisory group meetings**. Over 250 individuals from the advisory group and guests attended the meetings in 2013 hosted by local public agencies and private businesses including a speaker who addressed community and economic development issues.
- Thirty of the top employers in **Van Wert County** were engaged in **BR&E programming** in collaboration with a voluntary group from private industry, education and elected officials. Program results indicated that employment and sales are stable to increasing with nearly 1 company in 5 experiencing an "excellent" year and almost half reporting "good" overall business conditions.
- The economic potential for the renewable and clean energy sectors was studied in partnership with Spectra Energy and the Ohio Soybean Association to better understand growth opportunities in Ohio. **Economic impact modeling** was conducted that informed educational materials **shared with federal, state and local policy makers**.
- To better plan for personnel and funding allocations, administrators of nonprofit and community organizations in an **eight-county area in southern Ohio** partnered with CD professionals to conduct a **comprehensive study of wages and benefits**. Findings will help them better understand the competitive nature of the salary structure and benefit packages their organizations can offer to employees.



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## Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- **Lake County's agriculture industry** was the focus of an **economic impact analysis** conducted in partnership with the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District. The data reported via IMPLAN provided stakeholders with a better understanding of the scope and impact of the local agricultural economy (employment, output and value added).
- Lake Erie is home to the largest charter fishing fleet on the Great Lakes. **Nearly 170 charter captains** attended the annual Charter Captains Conference which helped them improve operations, modify practices and increase profitability. The **Charter Captain Workshop** at Stone Lab educated 15 captains on Lake Erie issues, and 7 captains partnered with Ohio Sea Grant (OHSG) and Ohio EPA obtaining water samples while fishing at specific sites and collecting data on harmful algal blooms, and thus better protect the **Lake Erie** environment.
- Ohio Sea Grant Extension programs, exhibits, and educational materials reached nearly 4,500 individuals with information on the proper disposal of unwanted medications. More than 840 **Lorain County** residents participated in a county-wide **drug take back event**. Over 1,865 pounds of unwanted pills, medications and personal care products were turned in thereby preventing their potential misuse and introduction into the Lake Erie aquatic environment.
- Working in partnership with local leaders in Ashtabula led to significant improvement of the aquatic habitat and increased fish population quality and quantity in the lower 2.5 miles of the **Ashtabula River and Harbor**. Four **habitat restoration projects** at the 5½ slip on the Ashtabula River have been initiated or completed resulting in fish population indices at 131% to 140% of target levels and the fish habitat index at 104% of target level in 2013. Additional restoration actions valued at almost \$1million are ongoing or planned.
- Cuyahoga County Extension secured over \$59,000 to fund **Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL)** efforts in **Cleveland's Central neighborhood**, including farm-to-school programming for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. The funding supported multi-programmatic (Ag/NR, CD and 4-H) efforts that engaged over 400 residents in the Central neighborhood in cooking classes for teens, urban farm tours, farmers' market orientations and field trips to other schools across the county implementing farm-to-school components.
- The **Ohio Clean Marinas Program** certified 5 marinas implementing a total of 355 best management practices in the Lake Erie Watershed. Over 125 marinas partnered in the **Shrink-Wrap Recycling Program**, resulting in the diversion of 250,000 pounds of shrink-wrap from landfills and an average savings of \$700 per marina per year in reduced waste disposal costs.
- Nearly 60 public officials participated in a ten-week training session focused on **leadership education** lead by Ohio Sea Grant in partnership with OSU Extension and the **Toledo, Youngstown/Warren and Hancock County** chambers of commerce. As a result they became better informed about the economic, social and environmental impacts of the decisions they make regarding land use and the environment.
- In partnership with the **Ohio Regional Convergence Partnership (ORCP)**, a funder collaborative committed to advancing Ohio's vision of Healthy People in Healthy Places, **eight focus groups** with food assistance customers and providers **and two state-level convenings** (semi-structured interviews) were conducted to capture qualitative information related to food access and equity challenges and opportunities throughout Ohio. The information is being used by ORCP to inform environmental and policy changes specific to increasing access to healthy local foods, building systems capacity, improving population access and realizing collective impact.

## Preparing Youth for Success

- As part of the **Workforce Prep Day at the Ohio State Fair**, **mock interviews** were conducted with more than 20 youth, aged 13-19. Participants practiced their interview skills as they responded to questions about teamwork, leading others and dealing with difficult people and situations. Participants learned written and verbal communication skills necessary for success in the workplace.

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*Phone 1-800-750-0750*

*between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. EST Monday through Friday. Inform the operator to dial 614-292-6181.*

## Strengthening Families and Communities

- The **Troy Rec Center**, a downtown youth-serving organization, received \$135,188 in grants for a building renovation and programming expansion. The CD educator facilitated an in-depth **strategic planning process** (June 2012-May 2013) with the Board of Directors, co-authored the successful grant proposals (summer 2013) and assisted with scope of work, pre-construction meetings and contractor selection. Phase 1 and 2 construction is complete. Additional funds are anticipated in 2014 to complete the final Phase 3.
- Working cooperatively with US Army Corps of Engineers, United States Geological Survey, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, OEMA and County Commissioners, Extension coordinated the **Duck Creek Flood Warning System**. The two-year project included installation of flow, stage and rain gauges in **Noble and Washington Counties**. The expected annual benefit in saved property damage is \$131,260 for 50 years equaling a total impact of over \$6.5 million.
- Extension has contributed to the **revitalization of Weinland Park** through innovative programming and community, civic, corporate, church and collegiate partnerships. A team of residents, stakeholders, volunteers and staff served more than 1,100 residents with computer, financial literacy, housing, 4-H Youth Development, individual development accounts and gardening programs.
- After several years' hiatus, Extension partnered in the revitalization of **Leadership Fayette**. Program participants gained skills in networking, interpersonal relations, teamwork and personal leadership. They also indicated a better understanding of their **roles as future leaders**.

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