

# EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

# **WE CONNECT WITH PEOPLE IN ALL STAGES OF LIFE.**

We work with families and children, farmers and business owners, and community leaders and elected officials to build better lives, better businesses and better communities that make Ohio great. We do this through a focus on the following impact areas.

## **STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES**

We teach people how to apply research in their daily lives in order for them to make informed choices about everything from finances to healthy living to food safety.

## **PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS**

Our 4-H youth development program delivers skills in leadership, communications, math, science and research to 216,000 young Ohioans. Ohio 4-H extends its reach through special in-school, after-school and summer programs.

## **ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Ohio's diverse agricultural, horticultural and forestry industries contribute \$105 billion to the state's economy every year. We assist with technology, marketing and educational support, protecting Ohio's position in the global marketplace. We also work to enhance the environment, water quality and natural resources in the state — balancing economic progress with environmental sustainability.

## **ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES**

Our economic, small business and job development programs are tailored to local community needs in every county, whether metropolitan, rural or a combination of both.



## OUR PARTNERS AND THE PEOPLE WE SERVE TELL OUR STORY.



*"Thanks to OSU Extension, vacant lots have been transformed into a garden that will not only provide fresh produce to a neighborhood without a grocery store in walking distance, but also provide a source of income, hope and new life to the community."*

— **Pat Rickman**, president, Southwest Priority Board/CDC



*"We keep a very good working relationship with Ohio State. We call upon researchers and veterinarians with questions on various fronts related to poultry diseases and food safety. They have many resources and expertise that we rely on all the time. They truly care about our industry."*

— **Tim Barman**, veterinarian, Cooper Farms



*"OSU Extension brings deep, unique experience in working with the agricultural community, developing comprehensive plans and delivering educational programs aimed at changing public behavior. This lets them reach out to farmers and other stakeholders with simple, straightforward dialogue that can change mindsets."*

— **Julie McGill**, water resources engineer, CDM Smith



*"With 4-H, you get to actually experience what you're learning about. You don't just learn by reading about it. It really enhances the whole experience."*

— **Meera Nadathur**, 15, of Hamilton County, who took the *Ways of Knowing Water* 4-H project and plans to study environmental sciences in college



## Safeguarding Ohio's poultry industry from deadly avian flu

A new avian flu outbreak has devastated the U.S. poultry industry this past year, killing close to 50 million birds and sending egg prices soaring. OSU Extension is helping Ohio poultry producers learn about the disease, boost biosecurity measures on the farm, prepare to minimize the flu's impact if it were to reach the state, and develop contingency plans for the safe disposal of dead birds. The stakes are high in Ohio, one of the nation's top producers of eggs and turkeys and home to an industry worth \$2.3 billion, which directly supports more than 14,600 jobs.

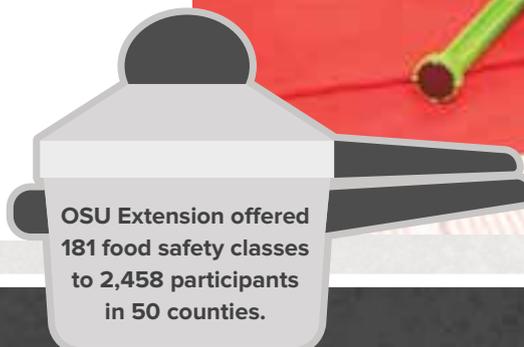
More: [go.osu.edu/birdflu](http://go.osu.edu/birdflu)

## Delivering answers during, after botulism crisis

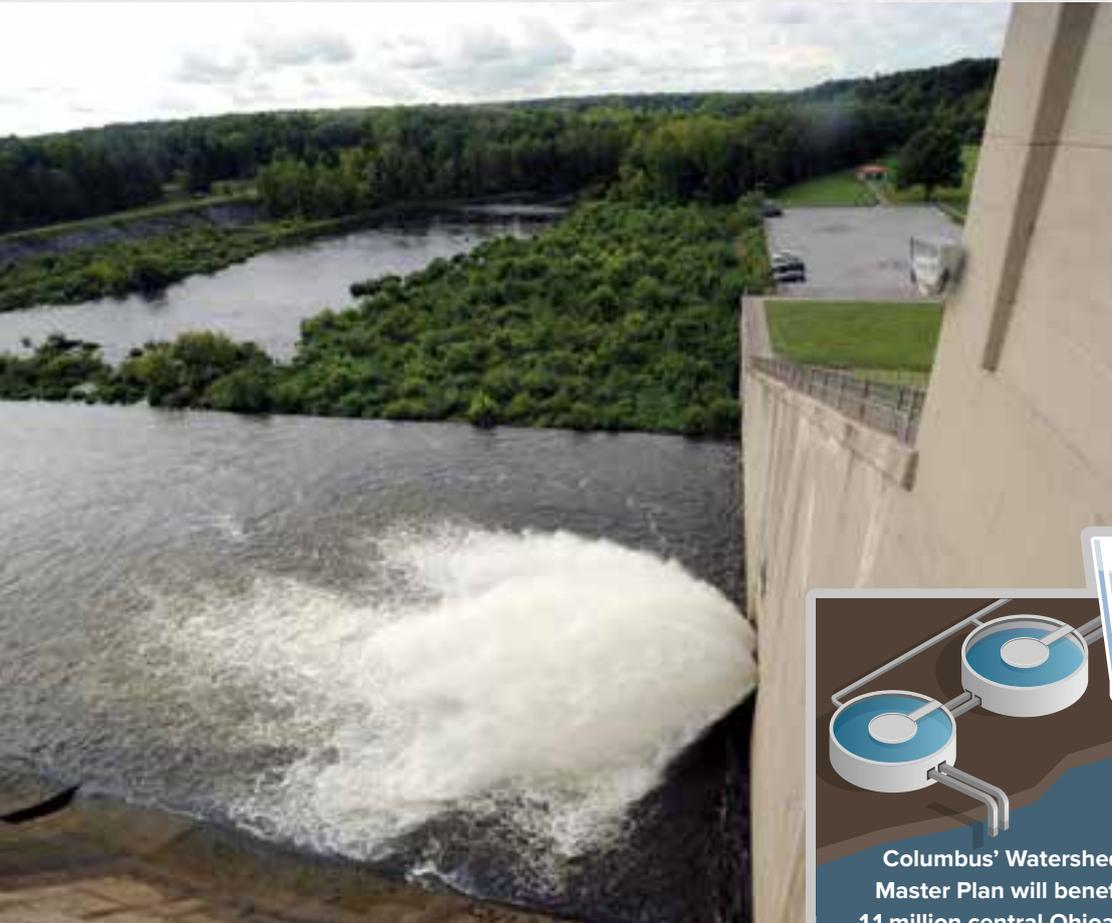
In April 2015, botulism from improperly home-canned potatoes killed one woman and hospitalized 24 others in Fairfield County. OSU Extension specialists quickly jumped into action, providing urgently needed information to community, media and health department officials.

Food safety is a prime focus of Extension, which works with home-canners, restaurants and produce growers to reduce risks of foodborne illnesses.

More: [go.osu.edu/homefoodpresv](http://go.osu.edu/homefoodpresv)



# DIVERSITY EXTENSION:

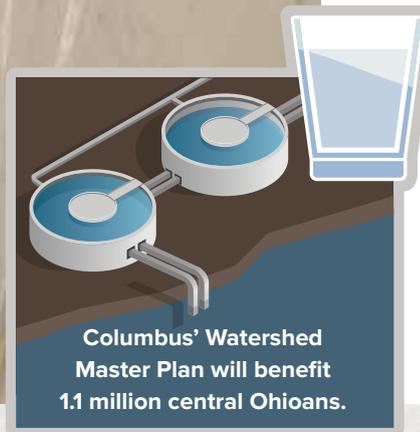


## Protecting Columbus' drinking water

High nitrate levels at a Columbus water plant led to a two-week, no-drink advisory in summer 2015. OSU Extension experts are working with the city of Columbus and consultancy CDM Smith to identify and prioritize agricultural activities in the Scioto River, Big Walnut Creek, and Alum Creek watersheds that could impact water reaching the city's water plants.

Fewer contaminants entering the water plants means safer water and reduced operation costs. Columbus' Watershed Master Plan stands to benefit 1.1 million central Ohioans by safeguarding their drinking water sources and spending their water revenues wisely.

More: [columbus.gov/watershed](http://columbus.gov/watershed)



## Training to improve Lake Erie water quality

In less than a year, 6,586 growers and producers responsible for farming 1 million acres of Buckeye State farmland have gone through fertilizer applicator certification training developed and taught by OSU Extension, in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The certification training program was introduced in September 2014 to meet the educational needs of Ohio's new agricultural fertilization law. The goal is to reduce the potential for phosphorus runoff into the state's watersheds and prevent harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie.

More: [field2faucet.osu.edu](http://field2faucet.osu.edu)



In less than one year, OSU Extension offered fertilizer training to 6,586 farmers responsible for 1 million Ohio acres.

# EMPOWERMENT THRO

# ROUGH EDUCATION



## Tackling food deserts, boosting food security

A program called Produce Perks, run by OSU Extension and other partners, is tackling northeast Ohio's urban food deserts while boosting small farms and food security. Participating farmers' markets give two-for-one incentive tokens to customers who use an Ohio Direction Card. Produce Perks provides a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$10 for every dollar spent at the market on fresh produce. Some 55 percent of Clevelanders live in food

deserts, meaning they have little access to fresh, healthy, affordable food. Extension is addressing the issue of food deserts through this and many other programs, helping Ohioans eat better while keeping more dollars in the local economy.

More: [go.osu.edu/ProducePerks](http://go.osu.edu/ProducePerks)



Fifty-five percent of Clevelanders live in food deserts.

## Boosting urban agriculture, new food entrepreneurs

OSU Extension, in partnership with the city of Dayton, supports the Vacant to Vibrant project, which offers residents the abilities to both grow their own food in a sustainable way and become food entrepreneurs. The project allows participants job training opportunities, economic security, neighborhood revitalization and access to fresh local foods. Throughout Ohio, Extension promotes urban agriculture, helps create community gardens and provides vocational agricultural training.

For example, more than 1,200 Master Gardener Volunteers in nine of the state's most populated counties provide more than 61,000 service hours annually to address local gardening needs.

More: [localfoods.osu.edu](http://localfoods.osu.edu)



In Cuyahoga County, OSU Extension supports 239 community gardens that yield nearly \$3.1 million in produce annually.

## Focusing on water quality and science with Ohio 4-H



Water is rising in prominence in Ohio 4-H, with many projects and activities focusing on the connection between water quality and science. In the Water Windmill Challenge, teams create mock-ups of wind-operated water supply systems. In *Ways of Knowing Water*, a project idea starter for individual 4-H members, activities help young people sharpen awareness about their local watershed and where their household water originates. And in *Field to Faucet: Nutrients, Sediment and Water Quality*, the focus is on preventing harmful algal blooms. The ultimate goal is to begin training a new generation of scientists who will find innovative solutions to the issues of water safety and availability.

More: [go.osu.edu/oh4hsci](http://go.osu.edu/oh4hsci)



## Shaping future scientists with 4-H Agri-science in the City

OSU Extension leads a program in Cleveland and Cincinnati that is inspiring children such as 8-year-old Jamir Green to be scientists when they grow up. Offered during the school day, in after-school programs, in 4-H clubs and at summer day camps, 4-H Agri-science in the City integrates food- and farm-related science activities in a fun and creative atmosphere. Thanks to the program, students have gained knowledge and appreciation of the scientific process, fostering skills of observation, critical thinking, accurate data collection and cooperation.

More: [go.osu.edu/agrisci2015](http://go.osu.edu/agrisci2015)



## Ohio State University Extension

OSU Extension brings the resources of The Ohio State University to every county. See [extension.osu.edu](http://extension.osu.edu) for locations and contact information for all of our offices.



## OSU Extension Administration

**Roger Rennekamp**, Associate Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Director, Ohio State University Extension

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[youtube.com/user/osuextension](https://www.youtube.com/user/osuextension)

[facebook.com/OSUExtension](https://www.facebook.com/OSUExtension)

[twitter.com/foodagenvnews](https://twitter.com/foodagenvnews)

[u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact](http://u.osu.edu/cfaesimpact)

[extension.osu.edu](http://extension.osu.edu)

*Keith Smith served as OSU Extension Director until retirement in June 2015. Greg Davis served as Interim OSU Extension Director the remainder of 2015.*

The Ohio State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution. For more information: [go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity](http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity).



## College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences is a large, diverse college supporting 10 academic units, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Ohio State University Extension, and two-year degree programs offered by the Agricultural Technical Institute. The college has campuses in Columbus and Wooster, and has a presence in all 88 Ohio counties. It serves as the home for 330 faculty members, 1,230 staff members and more than 3,700 undergraduate and graduate students.