

# Empowerment *through* Education



2013 Annual Report



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

We connect with people in all stages of life, from young children to older adults. We work with families and children, farmers and business owners, community leaders and elected officials to build better lives, better businesses and better communities to make Ohio great. We do this through a focus on four impact areas:

## Strengthening Families and Communities

OSU Extension teaches people how to apply research in their daily lives in order to make informed choices about everything from finances to healthy living to food safety.



## Preparing Youth for Success

OSU Extension's 4-H youth development program delivers skills in leadership, communications, math, science and research to more than 250,000 young Ohioans. 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 more than \$100 billion to the state's economy every year. OSU Extension assists with technology, marketing and educational support, protecting Ohio's position in the global marketplace. OSU Extension also works to enhance and sustain the environment and natural areas in the state, balancing economic advancement with environmental sustainability.



## Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

OSU Extension's economic, small business and job development programs are tailored to local community needs in every county, whether metropolitan, rural or a combination.



# The Impact of OSU Extension, Told Through the People We Serve

“I thought I knew a few things about oil and gas development, but I didn’t know a fraction. That’s where Extension comes in. ... This drilling pad will probably be here for 25 years, and this land will be here when we’re gone. We want to make sure everything is done right for the next generation.”

— **Kaye Clay, landowner and farmer, Harrison County**



“The five summers I worked in the JET program boosted my confidence to try new things. The program left me wanting to continue my education and feeling like I can be successful in whatever I do with my life. It’s made me a better man.”

— **Jerome Scott, former JET participant and sophomore, The Ohio State University**



“If you don’t have food, you don’t think right. You don’t function right. You go into crisis mode. You can go to food banks, but do you know what to do with the food you get at a food bank? That’s how Extension helped me.”

— **Tracie Hanzel, family resource specialist and community volunteer, Medina County**



“This program presented critical information on energy efficiency, energy cost savings and utilizing existing green sources of energy. The lower energy costs make Ohio a more competitive state, which helps retain and attract jobs, especially in the manufacturing sector.”

— **Gary Thompson, director, JobsOhio Northwest Region**





# 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.

## College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences is a large and diverse college supporting 10 academic units, a two-year degree program called the Agricultural Technical Institute, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center and Ohio State University Extension. The college has campuses in Columbus and Wooster. Along with its presence in all 88 Ohio counties, it serves as the home for 330 faculty members, 1,230 staff members and more than 3,500 undergraduate and graduate students.

### Extension Administration

**Keith L. Smith**, Associate Vice President, Agricultural Administration; Associate Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Director, Ohio State University Extension; and Gist Chair in Extension Education and Leadership

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Ohio State University Extension embraces human diversity and is committed to ensuring that all research and related educational programs are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. This statement is in accordance with United States Civil Rights Laws and the USDA.

Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration; Associate Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Director, Ohio State University Extension; and Gist Chair in Extension Education and Leadership.

For Deaf and Hard of Hearing, please contact Ohio State University Extension using your preferred communication (e-mail, relay services, or video relay services). 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.



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## JET program preparing urban youth for employment

While many employers decry the lack of job readiness they see in young applicants, those who hire graduates of the 4-H Job Experience and Training (JET) program are thrilled. JET is administered through Adventure Central, a collaboration between Ohio 4-H and Five Rivers MetroParks in Dayton. It is a six-month program that culminates in a job with the parks district. Participants learn the skills employers are looking for: problem-solving, critical thinking, teamwork, leadership, diversity and dependability.

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



## OMK supporting military families

When Ohio's military men and women are deployed, they can rest assured that their families have a support network at home. Ohio's Operation: Military Kids (OMK), is a partnership between OSU Extension's 4-H youth development program and the Ohio National Guard. For children with parents in any branch of the military, it's part of a national initiative that helps families connect with each other and with resources that can assist before, during and after deployment. The heart of Ohio's OMK program are daylong, weekend and weeklong camps. In 2013, Ohio's OMK organized or supported 17 camp opportunities for military youth and families. In Ohio, nearly 33,000 children are members of military families.

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



# DIVERSITY EXTENSION:



## Urban gardens growing food, community spirit

Urban agriculture can be a tool to redevelop urban areas and develop local economies. At the corner of Fourth Avenue and Eighth Street in Columbus, for example, is a flourishing fruit and vegetable garden where an abandoned home once stood. The garden not only represents a source of local food for the Weinland Park neighborhood, but it has also brought the community together. More than 900 people in the neighborhood have attended 18 Grow Your Own OSU Extension workshops. Extension has also offered workshops in cooking and preserving, creating food businesses and involving youth in healthy food decisions. A similar program exists in Cleveland, where jobs have been created for developmentally disabled adults, and abandoned lots have been turned into productive farms, providing fresh produce to local restaurants.

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



## Leading the fight against invasive species

Species that don't belong in Ohio but come in anyway can wreak havoc. Think of the emerald ash borer, which destroyed Ohio ash trees and the businesses that depended on it — to the tune of \$8 billion. Now at our borders are feral pigs, giant hogweed, the Asian longhorned beetle and Asian carp. Asian carp, which spread quickly and destroy native species, now threaten Lake Erie's \$680 million sport fishing industry. OSU Extension recently released a smartphone app to allow people to report invasive species — whether in the water or the air — speeding detection, cutting eradication costs and upping the chance for prevention.

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

# EMPOWERMENT *THR*



# OUGH EDUCATION



## Facing decisions on shale

In 2012, Ohio had 215 horizontal wells drilled and 85 producing. Expect more to come. By July 2013, more than 800 drilling permits had been issued, and the number grows weekly. Ohioans consider OSU Extension their go-to source for shale information. Since 2010, the OSU Extension Shale Energy Workgroup has provided unbiased, reliable information to landowners who were approached to lease some of their land for shale development. So far, more than 14,000 Ohioans have attended Extension-sponsored shale meetings, learning about the process and ensuring their concerns are addressed. Extension is also focusing on community, wealth management and environmental issues.

More: [go.osu.edu/shale\\_indownr](http://go.osu.edu/shale_indownr)



## Reducing the cost of doing business

A growing number of Ohio companies, schools and agribusinesses are turning to on-site renewable energy generation projects to meet their electricity needs. That's why OSU Extension offers training and educational resources, in conjunction with JobsOhio, to help businesses make informed decisions on energy investments. On-site energy-generation projects can reduce peak power demand and decrease price volatility.

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





## Healthy, local foods freshening school lunches

Students in the Granville School District are enjoying fresh, local produce for lunch thanks to the Farm to School program, a national effort administered in Ohio by OSU Extension. This cafeteria scene is also being repeated across the state, in other districts where farmers have been connected with school systems. Students benefit from the healthy food, and local farmers have access to a committed market with steady demand and reliable product prices, market diversity and increased community support. The Farm to School program is just one effort by Extension's Local Foods signature program, which also works with farm markets, food cooperative development and direct market training for farmers.

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



## Helping low-income families eat healthier

OSU Extension offers a variety of nutrition programs for Ohioans. Among them is SNAP-Ed, reaching more than 67,000 Ohioans in 66 counties, which helps Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients make healthier choices — choosing low-fat dairy products more often, eating more vegetables and fruits as snacks, and spending their food dollars more wisely. The Simple Suppers program helps low-income families prepare healthy, home-cooked meals. In a 10-month pilot at a Columbus childcare center, participating children decreased consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and ate much more produce. Kansas State University, South Dakota State University and OSU Extension are helping communities battle childhood obesity. The Ignite: Sparking Youth to Create Healthy Communities project is researching local access to healthy food and physical activity, then working with parents, kids, school districts and others to help low-income sixth- through eighth-graders eat healthier and exercise more.

More: [fcs.osu.edu/nutrition](http://fcs.osu.edu/nutrition)