



Adams County

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2008 County Highlights

Strengthening Families and Communities

- Agriculture and Natural Resources—An objective of the Adams County Master Gardener Program is to develop a group of community leaders in the area of horticulture to provide horticultural education to the citizens of Adams County. Participant volunteers attend an intensive 10 week training program through the OSU Extension county office and volunteer with projects throughout the county. During 2008 thirteen new volunteers were trained and pledged \$10,029.50 in volunteer services, seven horticultural public educational programs were presented, an educational booth was staffed at the county fair, and a hands-on educational gardening project was started with a local handicapped work facility. As a result of the Adams County Master Gardener Program fifty-one volunteers provided \$8,486.50 in volunteer services to Adams County residents this year.
- The Family and Consumer Sciences educator provided monthly nutritional programs for two weight loss groups (TOPS) and averaged over 37 participants each month at the two sessions. The participants completed surveys at each session. The educational programs provided the opportunity for 92% of the participants to learn new information and 90% changed behaviors because of the information presented. A majority of the participants completed goals that they set the previous month. Additional memberships in the groups have provided the educator with a 25% increase in new audience participants.
- Agriculture and Natural Resources—Recent changes in Ohio Law require anyone applying pesticides on a public site to be trained or licensed. To meet the new regulations, during 2008, Agriculture and Natural Resources educators in Adams, Clermont, Butler, and Scioto counties provided four training opportunities in Southern Ohio. One hundred and twenty-three representatives from public schools, golf courses, township trustees, and other public entities were certified as trained servicepersons and were prepared for mastering the commercial pesticide applicator exam. When a survey was administered following the programs, 95% of the participants agreed or strongly agreed they would be able to apply pesticides more safely and effectively in public areas, while 100% agreed or strongly agreed they had a better understanding of pesticide labels and Material Safety Data Sheets.
- The 7th Annual Adams County Fair Senior Citizens Day was very involved with 194 participants. Their enthusi-

asm and appreciation for the sessions demonstrated that the success of this program meets the needs and is making a difference in the lives of this special audience. This event is co-sponsored with the Area Agency on Aging and Adams County Senior Fair Board. Five educational sessions were offered throughout the day, including medical information provided by Dr. Dave Parret.

- The Family Nutrition Program in Adams County offered 180 classes to 1,124 adults eligible for public assistance. Ninety-three percent of the participants reported learning some or a lot of new information in the areas of nutrition, food safety, and/or thrifty food shopping. On the evaluation forms, many participants listed comments about specific changes they were planning to make because of the Family Nutrition Program. These comments included plans to increase the amounts of certain foods they eat including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and beans, as well as plans to limit sodium, fat, and portion sizes. Participants also indicated they planned to use a food thermometer more often, increase their physical activity, and compare prices more often when shopping for food. Thirty-two percent of the programs were part of a series in which the same people attended two or more classes and retrospective surveys based on these classes showed that participants actually made significant changes in many of these same behaviors.

Preparing Youth for Success

- The Adams County 4-H Youth Development program experienced a positive increase in membership. A total of 903 youth benefited from the educational learning experiences provided by the 4-H program. The 4-H camping program offered day and overnight camps which benefited 111 youth by providing the environment to develop teamwork skills, participate in outdoor adventures, and many more unique learning opportunities.
- Real Money, Real World provided first-hand financial management experience for 210 eighth-grade students at three local high schools. The Family and Consumer Sciences/Community Development educator was requested to provide Real Money, Real World for the twenty-one young adults who participated in the Workforce Connections Summer Program. The age range for this group was 14 to 20 years old. The educator taught financial education to the participants prior to the

simulation experience. Twenty-two local business and community volunteers assisted in this unique experience for the students to get a glimpse of the reality of financial management when entering the workforce.

- Agriculture and Natural Resources—646 seventh-grade students from Adams and Scioto counties learned about how organisms become resistant to chemical control measures. By attending the OSU Agriculture and Natural Resources section of three conservation field days, the participants increased their knowledge concerning the importance of following directions when trying to control harmful pest organisms. Hands-on examples were used to teach the principle that improper use and overuse of chemical controls of pests lead to resistant strains that become more difficult to control. Randomly surveyed participants indicated that 92% could describe how basic pest resistance develops in a population.
- More than 467 youth enrolled in 4-H livestock projects. Youth enrolled in the livestock projects participated in a livestock skillathon, which consisted of an in-depth study of all aspects of raising animals followed by a county-wide test to measure the individual project knowledge. All 4-H livestock participants are involved in livestock quality assurance program that discusses production and food quality standards related to livestock.
- The Adams County 4-H CARTEENS delivered traffic safety education to 68 youth. The Extension office collaborated with volunteers and the Ohio State Highway Patrol to provide a two-hour class for youth traffic offenders. The class is offered to youth traffic offenders as a means of fulfilling their court-mandated duties.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- Agriculture and Natural Resources—Food safety is a high priority among the American population. Training in the safe and proper use of pesticides helps to build consumer confidence and reduces public concern over the use of pesticides in and around food producing agricultural facilities. Extension educators from Adams and Scioto counties provided agricultural producers in Adams, Jackson, Lawrence, and Scioto counties with three county-based workshops designed to increase private pesticide applicator knowledge and to obtain skills related to pesticide application. When a survey was administered following the programs, 95% of the participants agreed or strongly agreed they would be able to apply pesticides more safely and effectively in and around their farm operation, while 100% agreed or strongly agreed they had a better understanding of

pesticide labels, personal protective equipment, food contamination concerns, and the use of pesticides in the environment.

- At the request of the County Commissioners, the Community Development educator is coordinator a Land Use Planning Process. The Community Development educator has regular update meetings with the County Commissioners. The Land Use Planning Commission has established eight task forces: agriculture, economic development, community facilities, environment, housing, recreation, utilities, and transportation. The Community Development educator has assisted in providing leadership for the task forces. At this time, three task forces have drafts prepared and the other five task forces are working through the process. The Land Use Plan will be presented to the County Commissioners for review and adoption in 2009.

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- By serving on the Southern Ohio Agriculture and Community Development Foundation–Adams County Economic Development Committee, the Community Development educator's efforts assisted three businesses in strengthening Adams County's economy by creating 26 full-time positions and retaining 37 positions and generating \$11,256,000 in capital investment.

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