



Clinton County

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2008 County Highlights

Preparing Youth for Success

- The 4-H program has begun to face new challenges due to increased cost of living and job losses in the area. This year more teens took advantage of financial awards to attend trips and conferences than in previous years.
- Projects are changing dramatically. Large animal projects dropped approximately 8% this year while smaller livestock projects grew. Poultry increased 19% in 2008. Projects such as turkeys offer youth a short-term, more affordable livestock project that can be housed on smaller acreage.
- 4-H youth in all program areas took advantage of county, state, and national programs and awards. Josh Pinkerton was selected to serve a two-year term on the State Fair Board and Danielle Henderschott was selected to serve on the State Fashion Board. Fifty percent of Clinton County teens placed with their Ohio Achievement Records. Over 25 teens participated in one or more state or national events.
- 2008 has served as a key year to evaluate and rebuild the CARTEENS program. Ten county teens participated in the state CARTEENS program to learn about CARTEENS, as well as get new program ideas. Games, video, and teaching tools have also been evaluated throughout the year.
- The County 4-H Program and Wilmington College Collegiate 4-H Club teamed up to offer the second annual showmanship clinic and quality assurance training for youth from four counties. Over 200 youth and adults attended. Both 4-H and FFA members had the opportunity to learn how to show poultry, horses, hogs, sheep, goats, dairy cattle, beef cattle, and horses. Members learned about livestock nutrition, diseases, the importance of proper animal record keeping, and how to complete Drug Use Notification Forms.
- Eighty-five campers and twenty-five teen counselors experienced going "back to the future" at 4-H Camp. Camp activities included low ropes, fishing, outdoor wall climbing, crafts, games, and campfires. Counselors and campers also had the opportunity to communicate with the NASA Space Center in Alabama. Cloverbud camp enrollment increased 68% from 2007.
- The Clinton County Farm Fair program continues to serve Clinton County second graders. A team of over fifty youth and adults partner with Wilmington College, Master Gardeners, Farm Bureau, OSU Extension, Solid

Waste Department, Pork Producers, and other area businesses to teach youth about agriculture. Just over 500 second grade students were able to attend.

Strengthening Families and Communities

- With the loss of 6,000 to 8,000 local jobs, residents are met with significant challenges. Suddenly, employees who have spent their careers working for local companies are finding themselves unemployed with limited opportunity to utilize their skills in other jobs. People who have never had to seek public assistance are finding themselves in a position to look for assistance with medical coverage, for utility assistance and supplemental food and clothing sources. OSU Extension has led the way to create an up-to-date, comprehensive resource directory that will be on-line, to facilitate frequent updates and in printable form for service providers or residents looking for specific types of assistance. Many agencies have come together to share the resource directories they have to respond to the greatly increased need in the community. The resource directory can be accessed through the county commissioner's web site at www.co.clinton.oh.us.
- The OSU Extension Money Mentoring Program has been in place in Clinton County for three years. Since it was first implemented, twenty-seven limited resource families in Clinton County have learned and begun to practice new money management skills. This program, along with the Clinton County affiliate for Habitat for Humanity, partnered to provide assistance to partner families when Habitat leaders discovered that 60% of their partner families were in default on their home loans. Since the program began, the affiliate has seen a 30% improvement in the receipt of on-time home mortgage payments. Currently, OSU Extension is facilitating nine Money Mentors and 18 families are currently working with their Money Mentor. Five families have avoided foreclosure because of the diligent efforts of their Money Mentor. One of the families has given credit to her Money Mentor for helping her achieve a sense of financial empowerment.
- The New Start program has served the needs of fifteen families in the Clinton County area going through the bankruptcy process. It is a curriculum that assisted families in developing and maintaining a budget, as well as provided hints on re-establishing a healthy credit report.

- An intensive six-week course was developed to address issues surrounding cultural differences in low income, middle income, and upper income families. The participants came from a variety of backgrounds and were given the opportunity to reflect on their own cultural values and how those values might impact their day-to-day decisions and interactions.
 - Dermascan screenings, which detect sun damage on the face and ears, continues to be in demand. Numerous schools and organizations throughout the county have requested the program. Thirty-six campers were screened during 4-H Camp, eighty-one eighth graders were screened in connection with their health class, and seventy-three individuals were screened during a health fair at Hutamaki, a local electronics firm.
 - The FCS Extension Educator has worked with twenty-one families who needed the required First Time Homebuyer class. Through the USDA CHIP program, potential homebuyers received funds for down payments. Along with the application process a class is required that covered “how much home can you afford,” “finding the “right” house, home inspection, the loan application process, and preparing for the closing. Ninety-five percent of the families in the program were successful and went on to purchase their first home.
 - **The Family Nutrition Program (FNP)**—The Clinton County FNP program had over 500 direct contacts, with over 120 programs being taught in the areas of Nutrition, Food Safety, and Thrifty Food Shopping. The program worked with welfare and welfare-eligible adults in the county. Over 3,000 participants were reached through the program. Because of the economic crisis with DHL, emphasis was placed on programs that help families stretch the food dollar.
- a Marketing Plan, Basics of Futures, Determining Your Financial Situation, and Commodity Pricing Strategies. The 17 participants accounted for 21,825 acres of corn, soybeans, and wheat; 230 acres of hay; 125 head of cattle; 50 head of hogs; 17 head of goats; and 40 head of sheep. These participating farms represented \$14,397,988 in crop gross receipts and \$299,995 in livestock gross receipts. As a result of the information, participating producers felt they better understood the market forces that impact agriculture and can more comfortably utilize alternative marketing techniques to be successful into the future.
- As a founding member of the Ohio Meat Goat Marketing Alliance, cooperative efforts between producers, industry, and OSU Extension are utilized to deliver educational programs and baseline research for this emerging industry. Special emphasis has been placed on value-added marketing through carcass research, pooled sales, and presentations on ethnic consumers. The alliance was instrumental in establishing bi-monthly graded sales with a commercial livestock company. The result has led to increased animal sales, increased revenue by as much as \$13.00/cwt and reduced marketing cost by \$3.00/head. The Clinton County Ag Extension Educator gave a presentation on “Building Leadership Capacity in an Emerging Goat Industry” at the 9th International Conference on goats in Queretaro, Mexico, and presented for a one-day Professional Meat Goat Symposium.
 - In 2008, 55 small farm owners participated in the New and Small Farm College making the total participant count of this highly successful OSU Extension program at 233 small farm land owners since it began in 2005. Educators from across the region developed this eight-session educational program for landowners wanting to make the most of living on a small farm. The Clinton County Ag Extension Educator provided leadership as well as educational information on livestock. Post-program surveys indicated 81% of the participants had never attended an OSU Extension program before. Seventy percent indicated that they developed or changed their existing plans for use of their property as a result of attending the program. A sampling of participant comments include: “The college provides all the information you need to know to start a small farm.” “There were many talented speakers who are passionate about their careers. Thank you.” “This program is a must for small farmers.” “Living off the land is the wave of the future.”

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- Record high agricultural costs for fertilizer, seed, fuel, etc., along with commodity price volatility have necessitated producers to make wiser management decisions and renew emphasis on marketing skills. A “Professional Marketer” program was presented to help area farmers strengthen their marketing skills for an ever-changing agricultural environment. Seventeen producers participated in the six-day program. Well-known marketing specialists from The Ohio State University and private industry from Ohio and around the country presented. Some of the topics covered were: Developing

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