



Defiance County

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2008 County Highlights

Strengthening Families and Communities

- **Parenting programs** awarded certificates of completion to 58 families. Parent programs offered included Parenting 1,2,3,4; Parenting of Teenagers; Parenting Today; and Parenting Newborns. 100% reported learning new skills to use with their families.
- **Money management programs** offered 19 families the opportunity to learn to manage a budget, assess their wants, needs, and spending habits and set up a budget that meets their family needs. One participant commented, "Finally, the stress of not knowing what to do with my money is gone. I am learning to manage my money to meet my needs."
- **Annie's Project** had 17 women enrolled in this risk management program for farm wives. The six-week program empowers women to be better business partners through learning about liability, estate planning, record keeping, contracts and marketing plans, and generational communication styles. Program evaluations included, "I never knew records are so instrumental to all aspects of farming." And, "I feel better approaching my in-laws about decisions that need to be made."
- Over 1,000 people attended demonstrations or presentations on the USDA MyPyramid Food Guidance system and information on food safety practices. This is funded by a \$37,000 **Family Nutrition Program** grant. The program's targeted message includes thrifty shopping, food safety, and basic nutrition information. After one session, a participant said, "I never knew what whole grains are. I'm going to read food labels more now so my family will be eating better."
- **Dining with Diabetes Cooking School** helps families improve their health and understand the role food choices play in managing diabetes. Meal planning, understanding food and nutrition, and preventing complications of the chronic disease were addressed in the three-week program. Better managed diabetes saves medical costs and improves health of diabetic persons.
- Several **Food Safety programs** were offered. Twenty persons attended Person in Charge Food Safety Course, a national food safety certification program that addresses cleaning, sanitation, personal hygiene, purchasing, preparing, and serving food. ServSafe for Managers and Occasional Quantity Cooking also were taught.
- **Healthy finances, healthy relationships, and healthy eating programs** were conducted at mall shows, health

fairs, work sites, churches, grocery stores, camps, YMCA, and civic organizations. The evaluated programs showed that 98% learned information that they will use in their life.

Preparing Youth for Success

Traditional 4-H Programs

- **4-H Officer and Advisor Training:** 51 4-H advisors and 132 4-H youth received training regarding their specific role as an advisor or 4-H club officer, conducted by the Defiance County 4-H Teen Leaders and 4-H Council members. A new web page development class was held for ten 4-H clubs.
- **Career education** is crucial for youth so that they are equipped with the needed skills to not just survive, but to thrive in the workforce. The 4-H Programs of Defiance, Fulton, Paulding, Henry, and Williams counties held a daylong Career Congress for forty seventh-grade 4-H students. Four County Career Center collaborated with NW Career Day and provided facilities and use of a computer lab for students to utilize career development software. The following table shows the success of the event.

Indicator	Before	After
Getting more education or training after high school	34%	97%
Waiting until I am financially ready before having children	34%	95%
Learning how to make wise financial decisions	24%	95%

- **Hicksville High School Leadership Development:** A team-building program for 102 high school juniors and seniors taught participants about setting goals, achieving goals, and then reviewing the process of achieving that goal. The real goal is to complete the challenge using skills and techniques that bring the group together.
- **Experiences That Count,** a Juvenile Diversion program, is offered to first-time offenders ages 9–14. The youth attend eight meetings where they participate in educational activities to foster positive social and life skills. They form a 4-H club electing each other to officer positions where they learn leadership skills. They also are required to complete a 4-H project, a demonstration, and community service. Twenty-nine youth enrolled and successfully completed this program.

- **Kid's Central 2008** attracted 185 youth where the campers participated in fun games, interaction with peers, creative crafts, and learned the importance of an active lifestyle. All summer the focus was on being active, staying fit, and making healthy decisions.

4-H Camp Palmer

- 4-H camp participation was at 165 total campers, including 108 youth campers, 47 teen counselors, and 10 adult volunteers, with 45% of campers receiving a scholarship. Campers made new friends, developed independence from their family, participated in leadership and skill building activities, and had safe, supervised fun with their friends. They were given a new opportunity through 4-H programming that they might not otherwise have had a chance to experience. Unanimous opinions from campers when asked about camp were: "It was great—so much fun, and I can't wait to come back next year and to someday be a counselor."
- The number of teen volunteers interested in becoming a camp counselor has grown from 14 in 2004 to 48 in 2008. These camp counselors have developed valuable skills that help with job seeking and college scholarship applications.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- Hosted the **2008 Ag Outlook and Policy Meeting**. A team of Ohio State University agricultural economic specialists engaged 95 area farmers and ag-business representatives with timely information and discussion. Topics included 2008 Farm Bill, China Trade and U.S. Economy, and an outlook on 2008 Farming Inputs and Grain Markets.
- **66 area farmers recertified their private pesticide applicators license** by attending a local training session. Over 170 farmers are licensed in Defiance County and must obtain three hours of recertification every three years. A Defiance County Extension educator taught Integrated Pest Management (IPM), field crops insect pest management, stored grain management, and seed treatments for corn, soybeans, and wheat.
- **On-farm research** helps farmers use pesticides wisely and profitably. For example, wheat research completed in 2008 included: Stratego® fungicide, at a cost of \$12.00/acre applied at growth stage 5-6 for the control of leaf blotch, showed no significant difference in disease levels or grain yields between plots with or without the fungicide; Proline® fungicide, at a cost of \$24.50/acre, for the suppression of Fusarium Head Scab, showed no significant difference in disease levels or grain yields between plots with or with the fungicide.

- The **Western Bean Cutworm (WBC)** moth was confirmed in Defiance County in 2008 by a Defiance County Extension educator with 36 moths caught from four farm locations. The WBC has been in the western corn-belt but recently found in Ohio. The WBC is an earworm that causes direct feeding damaging to kernels and potentially ear rot. The damage can result in grain quality and yield reduction. OSU Extension will continue WBC research.
- **A Defiance County Extension educator is program coordinator for the monthly OSU Extension Report on TV26.** Filming began in March with broadcasting in April. The monthly programs are multi-discipline programs that provide timely and unbiased information to a wide range of viewers. Sample programs include 4-H Career Day, Wind Energy, Bankruptcy and Family Finances, and Area Produce Farmers and Community Supported Agriculture. The programs can be seen four times per week or on-demand at www.tv26.net
- The activities of the OSU Extension **Master Gardener Volunteers** included a beautification project at the Defiance Depot property, Sherwood Memorial Park, Hicksville Community Garden Plot Projects, educational workshops, and plant sales. Thirty-five certified Master Gardeners volunteered 3,131 hours in 2008.
- Area timberland had significant but isolated **Gypsy Moth** caterpillar defoliation in June. The gypsy moth caterpillar eats leaves from oak and other trees leaving the tree without leaves under heavy feeding. Trees that are defoliated for two to three years can decline and die. 2008 was the second year in a row where significant but isolated defoliation occurred in Defiance County. OSU Extension educates and consults with landowners on gypsy moth management strategies.

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- Hosted two **Defiance County Farmers Market** vendor meetings to educate and recruit participants for the 2008 season. The markets had excellent vendor participation with 36 in Defiance, 38 in Hicksville, and 17 in Sherwood. Some vendors registered at multiple locations for a total of 62 total vendors registered.
- Local research finds **Camelina** a potentially viable oil seed crop for northwest Ohio. Camelina is being studied by a Defiance County Extension educator as a companion crop to our current corn-soybean-wheat rotation. The Camelina crop is 40% oil compared to soybean at 20%. Camelina is an 80-day crop when spring seeded and is also being planted as a winter crop with early spring harvest. The oil can be used for biofuel or food production. First year results have provided yield response to date of planting, seeding rates, and nitrogen response.

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