



Delaware County

149 N. Sandusky Street,
Delaware 43015-8692, 740-833-2030



2008 County Highlights

Strengthening Families and Communities

- Skin damage from overexposure to the sun is cumulative over the years and cannot be reversed. The DermalScan provides a clear image of the skin condition by illuminating underlying damage and gives participants a visual understanding of the skin damage that is otherwise “invisible.” Several hundred school age teens, landscapers, and farmers who typically abuse themselves with sun exposure were targeted. By effectively illustrating the need for **Sun Safety**, the DermalScan has become a popular offering at various community events and employee health fairs.
- **Managing Your Money** program assists participants to track household expenditures and plan for occasional and unexpected expenses. This program, offered through Habitat for Humanity, the Free Store, and Adult Probation, helped to enforce the need for frugal spending in these hard economic times.
- 257 divorcing parents learned about the impact of divorce on their children and the importance of establishing a positive, low-conflict co-parenting relationship by completing the 2½ hour program on **Helping Children Succeed After Divorce**. Participants plan to make positive changes in their post-divorce relationships with their former spouse to minimize the negative impact of divorce on their children. This program impacted 682 children whose parents completed the class.
- The **Family Nutrition Program (FNP)** offered information on nutrition, food safety, and thrifty food shopping to 645 participants. 89% of the participants reported that they had learned new information as a result of these programs. 167 of the direct contacts plan on making changes with regard to nutrition, 13 are planning to change their food safety practices, and 183 will be changing their food shopping habits. During an FNP program on pumpkins, a young couple was surprised to learn of the nutritional benefits pumpkin offers. They learned how easy pumpkin is to prepare. A pumpkin dip was demonstrated and sampled with them talking about how much their daughter would enjoy it. They planned to make the pumpkin dip later that afternoon with a pumpkin they had been given at the program.
- Sixteen new Master Gardener volunteers were trained and twelve were certified as Ohio Master Gardener Volunteers. They have all become active members in our local communities and donated more than 700 vol-

unteer hours to help homeowners beautify their homes and communities.

- **Weekly Gardening Column**—A weekly gardening column was written for the *Delaware Gazette*, a local newspaper with a circulation of 8,000 households. This column provides timely tips to homeowners to help them improve their landscape, lawn, and environment.

Preparing Youth for Success

- Delaware County supported **75 4-H clubs**. These clubs involve 1,164 youth, ages 5 to 19, and 334 adult volunteers. Volunteers contributed well over 15,000 hours of time to teach youth life skills such as leadership, decision making, and communication skills. Almost 85% of these youth practiced **public speaking** by doing a demonstration about their project at a 4-H club meeting. 4-H clubs reported over 3,000 hours of **community service** and more than \$5,000 of donations to various groups and organizations.
- 147 youth attended Delaware County **4-H Camp** at 4-H Camp Ohio near Utica. In addition to learning typical camp skills such as nature education or making a craft, 90% of campers reported learning how to be responsible for themselves and their things. 94% of campers said they learned how to get along with others. One camper wrote she learned, “don’t look on the outside, it’s about the inside (of people).”
- In cooperation with Delaware County Juvenile Court, first-time teen traffic offenders get powerful lessons through the 4-H **CARTEENS auto safety program**. About 78% of the teen participants thought the program will make them a better driver, 85% plan to use more caution while driving, and 83% reported the session will help reduce their chance of having another traffic violation. 310 teens attended a CARTEENS session in 2008.
- **Homeschoolers Exploring Recreation, Outdoor Education and Science (HEROES) Camp** at 4-H Camp Ohio is a one-day, hands-on, outdoor education experience designed specifically for homeschooled families. Offered in both the spring and fall, it reached a total of 64 homeschooled families, with 145 youth ages 5 to 17, across 14 counties. Over 95% of the families would recommend HEROES Camp to others. One parent commented, “My son, especially, has been studying edible plants, archery, and tree identification mostly through books. He’s been *asking* for help from real live human beings on these things.”

- 388 4-H and FFA youth learned livestock management practices relating to **Quality Assurance**, with 156 of those youth earning PQA Plus certification through the National Pork Producers Council Youth Pork Quality Assurance program. Over 98% of participants indicated they plan to follow the recommended practices they had learned and they better understood the risks to the food supply and the importance of following Quality Assurance principles.
- More than 110 youth participated in species specific **educational clinics**. Clinics were offered for beef, sheep, swine, goat, rabbit, poultry, and dog exhibitors. The programs covered a variety of topics including showmanship, proper animal care, nutrition, equipment, and grooming. Following the programs, many participants commented that they felt better prepared to care for and exhibit their animal projects this year.
- Approximately 820 fifth graders throughout the county learned about **grain safety** and the dangers associated with grain storage and handling facilities. Following four visual and hands-on demonstrations, participants were able to repeat the program's central message, "Don't play in grain!"
- Through grant monies, a 4-H Camp Ohio **mountain biking program** was created. This summer, over 150 youth learned to properly fit a helmet, stretching and cool down techniques for exercise, healthy snack alternatives, benefits of proper hydration, and how to mountain bike. 64% of participants were trying mountain biking for the first time. 89% had fun with their mountain biking experience at 4-H Camp Ohio, and 88% would take up mountain biking as a fitness activity in the future.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- Key educational programs offered in 2008 included "Delaware County Fruit and Vegetable Short Course," "Ornamental Plants School," "Proven Performers for Ohio Gardens and Landscapes," "Green Thumbs—Gardener's Fair," "Landscape Diagnostic Workshop," and "Residential Landscaping in 3D's." These programs drew a combined attendance of 674. Based on three post-program surveys conducted in 2008, the attendees would likely invest a total of \$35,000 in their home landscape, as a result of attending those programs. The Horticulture Extension educator co-authored a weekly electronic newsletter, "Buckeye Yard and Garden Line." This newsletter goes to all of the Extension offices in Ohio, and hundreds of green industry businesses and individuals. The economic impact of this newsletter has been estimated to be between \$120,000 to \$200,000.

A new for-sale OSU Extension bulletin entitled *Home Fruit Production Handbook* has been completed under the leadership of the Horticulture Extension educator. It is a comprehensive guide to all home gardeners and semi-commercial growers.

- Educated more than 150 farmers in best management practices to reduce pesticide use and runoff through Pesticide Applicator Training. These farmers represented more than 175,000 agricultural acres in Delaware and surrounding counties.
- Some 35 farmers studied issues facing agriculture in the year 2007. They learned about issues including taxes, new farm bill, and grain marketing. Over 98% of the farmers attending found ideas to help increase the profitability of their operation.
- Over 65 farmers and landowners learned about legal and liability issues that are facing today's agriculture. Over 85% of attendees reported they gained knowledge that will help their farming operation manage legal and liability issues.
- More than 115 farmers and agribusiness professionals were brought up to date on agronomic issues by receiving the CORN (Crop Observations and Recommendation Network) newsletter each week during the growing season. CORN contains timely information that is e-mailed, faxed, and mailed to both producers and agriculture support industries. These farmers represent over 170,000 acres in Delaware and surrounding counties.

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- Master Gardener volunteers donated a total of 4,747 hours to OSU Extension sponsored projects and activities. These volunteer hours represent a total economic impact of \$92,614. Out of the 4,747 hours, 409 hours were spent on the Master Gardener Help Line. This translated into direct savings of approximately \$8,000 to the Delaware County Extension office.
- The 2007 North American Farmers Direct Marketing Convention educational program educated more than 600 people from 48 states, Canada, and Great Britain to identify, develop, and maximize direct-marketing opportunities. The conference consisted of a three-day pre-conference tour, seven workshops, and two days of educational sessions. Of the marketers participating, 100% found at least one new idea on the tour that they will use in their farm market. More than 75% of the attendees surveyed reported that their farm income increased by more than \$5,000 because they attended the convention, while 28% said their income increased by more than \$20,000.

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Keith L. Smith, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Director, Ohio State University Extension

TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868