



Hancock County

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EXTENSION

2008 County Highlights

Strengthening Families and Communities

- 3,655 adults enrolled in the Be Healthy Now Community Fitness Challenge. 3,139 persons attended 12 weekly educational sessions. 901 persons participated in the weigh out, losing a total of 9,024 pounds. There were 663 teams, and 1,800 persons attended the kickoff. 160 youth and adults participated in a “Walk at the Fair.”
- 800 persons increased awareness and knowledge on family topics and attended events during November “Family Month.”
- 35 persons participated in two Dining with Diabetes classes. 100% indicated they learned new information and planned to put it into practice.
- 57 persons increased skills in gifting and downsizing through “Who Gets Grandma’s Yellow Pie Plate?”
- 325 people attended twelve Home and Garden programs at the county fair.
- 13 employees and 5 managers completed two ServSafe trainings. 80 youth increased skills in handling food safely.
- Over 400 youth and adults increased knowledge and skills in nutrition and food safety through 28 programs.
- Nearly 650 people were screened with the DermaScan at seven health fairs.
- 63 direct education classes teaching nutrition, food safety, thrifty food shopping, and the importance of physical activity were provided to 632 participants of the food stamp program, or those eligible for the food stamp program, at 10 locations varying from senior residence community, adults MRDD facility, early intervention services, homeless and domestic violence shelters, and home for unmarried mothers and their babies by the Family Nutrition Program (FNP).
- 33 community events sponsored by agencies or organizations serving low-income families and individuals were attended by 2,800 individuals who viewed educational displays, were offered informational literature and samples of nutritious foods, and had opportunity for questions and answers by the FNP program assistant.
- 6,300 copies of the monthly FNP newsletter *Nutrition News* were distributed to people with limited food resources through assistance of 17 social service agencies.
- Through cost share agreements with FNP, seven agencies demonstrate belief in the importance of nutrition education by contributing to class time and inclusion in programming and events. This year, Lincoln, Jacobs, and Washington elementary schools serving low income families, Hope House, the shelter for homeless women

and children, Blanchard Valley Center, serving adults and children with MRDD, the Findlay City Health Department and Help Me Grow have shown their support through cost-share agreements.

- 682 times a child receiving lunch at a 2008 Summer Food Service site participated in a nutrition education activity by FNP offered in 23 sessions. Literature pertaining to the focus of lesson was sent home to parents each session.
- Findlay-Hancock County received the “100 Best Communities for Young People Award” for the third consecutive time.
- The 2008 Hancock County Farm Tour was held to feature nine local farms in the county. Featured on the one-day drive-yourself tour were horses, dairy, beef, sheep, alpacas, goats, swine, grain, conservation, and alternative agriculture. \$12,000 was raised in sponsorships and grants. An average of 600 people visited each stop.

Preparing Youth for Success

- Thirty-two teens served as 4-H camp counselors and counselors-in-training during 4-H Junior Camp. Teens participated in at least 24 hours of training, learning the required skills of caring for children as camp counselors. These teens were also responsible for planning and conducting the five-day, four-night camp.
- Breads of Harvest and The Incredible Egg are two 4-H School Enrichment Programs that continue to be very popular in our local school systems. The program assistant’s presentation was in alignment with the Ohio Academic Standards and was well received by both students and teachers. A total of 3,369 students participated in the school enrichment program.
- Four Quality Assurance sessions were offered to about 480 4-H and FFA members. Youth were involved in decision-making activities involving ethics in the caring and showing of livestock projects. Interactive sessions were attended covering GPP 4, 5, and 6. Stations completed during the Livestock Skillathon in July demonstrated knowledge gained from QA sessions.
- L.E.A.D. Conference (Learn, Educate, Advise, and Discover) was conducted in March. 209 members, volunteers, and parents attended the event. Sessions were offered to assist club officers as well as to cover other leadership topics.
- New families to 4-H gained information that would help them get the most from a 4-H experience. Volunteers were offered sessions that would assist them in working better with young people. Communication, decision-making, and thinking skills were developed through activities.

- 122 children, ages 8–14 participated in Hancock County Junior 4-H Camp in July. “4-H Camp Rocks” theme provided campers the opportunity to live in cabins with peers learning life skills. Opportunities were also provided throughout the week to learn about nature, crafts, swimming, team initiatives, high ropes, science, fitness, nutrition, and other outdoor educational activities. Decision-making and interpersonal skills were developed throughout the week.
- 36 adult and youth volunteers provided homework assistance to 54 students through the “Homework Central” afterschool program. School staff reports greater levels of self-confidence in the children participating in this program. Academic achievements continue to improve and behavioral incidents have decreased. The principal credits Homework Central as contributing to the school’s level of improvement. A second homework site began in 2008.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- A cooperative relationship has been established with the University of Findlay Equine and PreVet Center to conduct forage research and Forages for Horses educational programs. Nine grass mixes and four summer annual grass varieties were established in a replicated research design for yield and quality measurements. Eleven seminars were also presented throughout Ohio, plus in Kentucky and Pennsylvania. Over 70 seminars on Forages for Horses have now been presented since 2000.
- Two Ag Day Programs were conducted for the Hancock County Leadership adult and youth class programs, which have enrollments totally dominated by non-agricultural backgrounds. The two days, involving 90 people, included a cook-your-own omelet breakfast, six farm tours, and other agricultural information sessions. The entire program, broken down into six segments, was given a rating of 4.64 for the youth and 4.79 for the adults on a 5-point scale that assessed how much participants learned.
- In February, the 2008 Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference (CTTC) was held at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio. The two-day conference attended by 768 people from four states rated the speakers and usefulness of information as 4.46 based on a 5-point scale. Conference attendees estimated the average value per farm gained from CTTC as \$16.25 per acre. Based on the conference survey, the estimated total acres impacted was 16 million, with a total estimated impact at \$250,000,000. The Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference is a multi-agency educational program.
- The Hancock County Master Gardeners Program provided 2,200 volunteer hours for 2008. Other accomplishments included participation in: Let’s Go Gardening with area garden centers; Booths at Leisure Living show, Hancock County Fair, and Findlay/Hancock County

library; monthly WFIN Phone Club show; Tomato Variety Comparison Research Trial; Phenology Project; and Horticulture Hotline. Special recognition included Master Gardener Volunteer of the Year and Master Gardener Coordinator of the Year for Ohio.

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- 28 child-care providers were trained during two core training sessions. A total of 38 participated in the Steps to Success professional development training. Thirteen parents completed parenting classes.
- A Findlay/Hancock County Farmers Market was organized in 2008 for Thursday 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. May 22 through October 9 at the county fairgrounds. A total of 40 vendors participated with 12–25 vendors present on a weekly basis. An average of 200 people attended weekly with 90% planning to return. Vendor evaluations indicated on a 5-point scale the farmers market rated 4.35 as being an effective way to market their products. A \$3,500 grant was obtained from local Convention and Visitor Bureau.
- 4,700 individuals instructed through 302 classes and 38 individual counseling sessions since initiation of the program.
- 82% of individuals participating in Money Counts programs cite that after attending the program they plan to make at least one change in how they manage their finances.
- The Hancock Saves campaign has enrolled nearly 500 Hancock Savers and has developed host sites at 15 locations.
- The Hancock Saves campaign is partnered with 8 local financial institutions and enjoys over 50 trained volunteers.
- Hancock Saves hosted a Wealth Fair, a 1-day financial education and awareness day that over 200 people attended. The Wealth Fair will become Hancock Saves week in 2009.
- Hancock Saves created and hosted Count Your Coin Week where individuals were encouraged to use small change to start or increase family savings goals. Over 200 individuals participated depositing over \$10,100 during the week.
- VIP Program through Community Action Commission allotted \$800 to Money Counts to teach money management and other life skills to IDA participants. Three sessions of Basic Money Management with 100% of participants planning to make financial changes.
- Partnering in the 2008–09 academic year with: Findlay City Schools to offer 5 days of economic education to 900 7th graders and 900 8th graders; 7 county schools to offer 15–28 days of personal finance education to 12th graders.
- Kicked off Hancock Youth Saves to encourage saving activities for youth grades 4–12.

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