



# Jefferson County

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## 2008 County Highlights

### Strengthening Families and Communities

- 12 volunteers attended New Volunteer Orientation and joined 52 veteran advisors in “Flash Judgments,” a program designed to challenge adults and youth to identify their hidden biases and to understand how their first impressions of people affect their future interactions with those people. Volunteers who attended reported that they will try to be more open in the future about how they react to new people they meet.
- Following release, incarcerated men are at-risk for recidivism—re-arrest, re-conviction, re-incarceration within three years. Their children are more likely to acquire a criminal record. Fit 2-B FATHERS (F2BF) is a seventeen session curriculum and addresses topics such as anger management, money management, career advancement, discipline, communication, promoting literacy and school success, healthy living, health and safety for children, and safe environments for children. Thus far in 2008, 24 men from Jefferson County have participated. The goal is for participants to be the best men and fathers they can be and become better contributors to their families and communities.
- The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) is designed to improve the likelihood that persons eligible for the Food Stamp Program will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Nearly 5,000 residents in Jefferson County received educational resources for improving their nutrition, food shopping, food safety, and physical activity. This project is funded in cooperation with the USDA, Ohio and local Job and Family Services, and Ohio State University Extension.
- Children whose parents divorce are at-risk for social, relational, academic, and emotional difficulties. When divorcing parents are educated with strategies for helping their children, these children have better outcomes following the divorce. Helping Children Succeed Divorce is an educational program for parents of dependent children in Jefferson County. The goal is to reduce children’s exposure to parental conflicts.
- People who do not budget their money are at-risk for overspending or abusing credit. A total of 75 county residents participated in a Healthy Finances programming—educational efforts focused on helping families increase their knowledge and skills regarding strategies for budgeting their money, manage their finances, and reducing their credit spending.

- 264 Jefferson County residents were educated with lessons from the Healthy People issue area. The goal is for people to increase knowledge and skills for choosing healthy foods, thrifty shopping, and physical activity.
- Healthy Relationships is educational programming based on topics such as parenting skills and improving marital and couple relationships. A total of 32 Jefferson County residents have participated and many reported increasing their knowledge and skills regarding marriage and couple relationships, parenting, and adult development and aging issues.
- New Start for Financial Success offers knowledge and training in the areas of financial planning, credit use, insurance, and budgeting. Thirty-one county residents who have participated reported increasing knowledge and ability to prioritize actions related to developing a spending plan, money management, wise use of credit, and using reliable consumer information sources.

### Preparing Youth for Success

- 475 Jefferson County youth are members of 4-H clubs, with 106 being first-year members in 2008. Youth develop social skills through involvement in one of our 30 community clubs and gain leadership skills through elected offices within their clubs and involvement in county-wide activities. Club advisors reported that club meetings are improving and their members are taking on more leadership within and outside the club.
- 136 members attended general livestock, poultry, dog, rabbit, small animal, pygmy goat, dog obedience classes, and beef showmanship clinics. Of those attending, 86% rated the clinics as great or very good and wrote that they increased their knowledge in the selection of their project, care of their animals, feeds, and showmanship.
- 52 members attended a three-day horse camp and learned horsemanship and showmanship skills. This horse camp began in 2004 with a \$500 grant from the 4-H Foundation and has grown in each of the five years since its start. Members who attend have also formed an equine team, which has excelled in state hippology contests and skillathon events.
- 252 members attended Skillathon and nearly half received Most Outstanding Skillathon status by scoring 90 or higher as their score. Skillathon stations focus on feeds, breeds, parts of the animal, quality assurance, equipment/tack, and safety.

- 320 members attended Quality Assurance with sessions on animal handling and care, a valid veterinarian/client/patient relationship, and a review of the ten good production practices.
- 73 members attended the first Jefferson County Iron Chef Clinic and prepared pork dishes that were judged by local restaurant staff and home economics teachers. During the clinic, members also attended mini-clinics on MyPyramid, food safety, table settings and etiquette, garnishes, and knife safety. This clinic provided hands-on cooking experience to members and their families.
- 582 fifth-graders attended Fernwood Outdoor Days and took part in a session using the Rockets Away school program. Each class went through the project book before the event and built its own rocket out of a two-liter bottle. At the event, students learned about Sir Isaac Newton and the laws of gravity and launched their rockets. Height and speed were calculated using information set out in the project books. Teachers constantly rate the Rockets Away program as a favorite for students because it teaches scientific concepts in a fun way.
- Adolescence is frequently described as a time of engaging in risk-taking behaviors. In 1996, 45 percent of high school seniors reported having tried marijuana, 30 percent reported being drunk in the past two weeks, and 22 percent reported smoking cigarettes daily. Nearly two-thirds of U.S. teenagers reported initiation of sexual intercourse prior to high school graduation, and they experience a high number of sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancies. To address this important issue in Jefferson County, Supplemental Education for Schools is offered in local schools and the local alternative school for adjudicated youth. A total of 240 youth participated during 2008.

### **Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment**

- 82 crop producers learned about the latest crop production technologies at the Tri-County Agronomy Day. One-hundred percent of participants reported gaining new knowledge as a result of participating in the program, and 62% of participants reported that they expect to save money as a result of what they learned at the program. Of those reporting that they expect to save money, \$27.20 per acre was the average amount that participants expected to save as a result of what they learned during the program.
- More than 200 Jefferson County home gardeners learned various home, yard, and garden management techniques through individual gardening consultations conducted by the Extension educator.
- Eleven farmers learned how to minimize wildlife damage to crops at a Deer Damage Twilight sponsored by OSU Extension. Participants learned how low-cost fencing strategies can be used to exclude deer from crops.
- 58 private pesticide applicators became recertified to purchase and use restricted-use pesticides by participating in one of three different three-hour recertification workshops taught by OSU Extension. Participants learned how to effectively manage pests, how to protect the environment when using pesticides, and how to minimize pesticide use.
- More than 140 beef producers increased their beef production and marketing skills at three sessions of the Eastern Ohio Beef Management and Technology School. Participants learned about beef herd health issues and how to select sires to match the needs of their cows. Participants also learned about new value cuts of beef at a carcass-cutting demonstration conducted at a local slaughterhouse.
- 40 private woodland owners learned how to maximize returns from timber sales at a Timber Marketing Workshop taught by OSU Extension. Participants learned how to work with consulting foresters, how to locate timber buyers, how to comply with environmental regulations, and learned about the tax implications of timber sales by participating in the workshop.
- 39 pond owners learned how to manage their ponds at a daylong Pond Management Clinic taught by OSU Extension. Participants learned about weed control, aeration, wildlife control, managing sport fish populations, and watershed management during indoor classroom session and a field trip to a local pond.
- 21 local feeder cattle producers increased their income by participating in a new marketing program developed by OSU Extension titled Farm Fresh Feeders From Eastern Ohio. Participating farmers report receiving premiums of up to 30 cents per pound over sale barn prices. This project is designed to allow feeder cattle producers to increase their income by marketing their calves directly to cattle feeders in western Ohio.
- 16 community members are increasing their leadership skills by participating in an agricultural leadership development program. Titled LEAD, an acronym for Leadership Education and Development, the 14-month experiential learning program will consist of six study institutes and two study tours.
- 44 forest landowners learned how to increase the growth rate and value of their trees at a daylong forestry field day titled Improving Your Woodland. In addition to an indoor classroom session, participants also participated in hands-on sessions in the woods, where they learned how to apply the crop tree release principles taught during the classroom session.

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