



Logan County

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2008 County Highlights

Strengthening Families and Communities

- **New Start**—OSU Extension was named an approved Personal Finance Instructional Course provider for bankruptcy filers. New Start was offered to eight Logan County residents throughout the year. *New Start* is a two-hour course that provides face-to-face interaction and instruction focused on enhancing skills in personal finance. This course covers the financial topics required by the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention Consumer Protection Act of 2005. Those topics are: developing a spending plan, managing money, using credit wisely, and sources for financial information. After completion of the course, a certificate of Debtor Education is generated to be presented to the courts at the final bankruptcy hearing.
- **Childhood Obesity**—With the increased concern of childhood obesity the **Family Nutrition Program** used the summer food service program as a means to reach low-income children and their families. A total of 309 participants were taught. The four sites (increased from three in 2007) were in areas in the county where low-income families reside. The new site reached a younger audience (4–9 years old). Children were excited as they learned about healthy foods and physical activity. Throughout the summer program the youth had fun flying kites, learning to jump rope, and making healthy snacks that were easy enough for them to make at home.
- **Diabetes a Major Health Concern**—Diabetes is the fifth leading cause of death in Ohio affecting more than 6% of our population. The Extension FCS Educator partnered with the Oakhill Medical Associates/Mad River Family Practice certified diabetes educator to offer the *Dining with Diabetes* program. Seventeen individuals with diabetes and their spouses attended the class that was conducted in the fall. Information was presented and demonstrated on healthy food choices and preparation, the importance of exercise, and how to choose healthy food when eating out. Participants reported success in making healthy food choices as a result of taking this two-part class.
- **Food Safety**—**ServSafe™** is a nationally recognized food safety course for food service managers. Taught jointly by Extension Educators, FCS and registered sanitarians of the Logan and Darke County Health District, twenty-one restaurant owners, managers, and other food service personnel completed this 16-hour training, which addresses critical food safety issues such as personal hygiene, facilities and equipment, and the safe purchasing, storing, and serving of food. In 2008, 90% of the participants passed the certification exam with an average score of 85%. ServSafe Starters Employees™ course trained 12 school food service employees in basic food safety principles.
- The success of the **Family Nutrition Program (FNP)** is in part due to the community's commitment to ongoing learning in areas such as Nutrition, Food Safety, and Thrifty Food Shopping. The FNP has been proud to participate in many community activities including the Logan County General Health District **WIC** classes. One success of the program validated by FNP surveys confirmed many young mothers attending WIC classes are planning to change the way they feed their children and strive to be thrifter shoppers. Surveys also reported that gaining knowledge about the children's *MyPyramid* has helped attendees see that serving sizes, along with more fruits and vegetables, make a difference in daily dietary needs. Of the participants attending Family Nutrition Programs in 2008, 96% reported that they learned new information and 87% said they were going to make changes to incorporate what they learned.
- The increasing concern of the country's economy has had a widespread affect on our community. Working with Logan County Job & Family Services, the **Family Nutrition Program (FNP)** is seeing an increase in numbers with the Logan County "JOBS" program. The thrifty shopping program is part of its core curriculum. As the courts mandate delinquent child support offenders to go through the Jobs program our numbers look to increase.
- **Financial Education**—Basic financial management and home ownership education classes continued in cooperation with Logan County Metropolitan Housing. The target audience is first-time homebuyers, participants of JOBS Clubs, and any individual who wants to improve their financial skills. Over 80% of the Money Matters (MM) class participants stated they learned the importance of paying bills on time and reducing frequent everyday expenses. Home Ownership class participants learned the importance of credit scores in connection with insurance rates and that buying a house takes planning and commitment. Two post purchase home buyer classes emphasized the importance of general maintenance, home improvement tips, and predatory lending.

Preparing Youth for Success

- **Real Money, Real World**—Four sessions of *Real Money, Real World* were held. Ben Logan High School was the location of the first session with 15 students participating. The additional sessions were in cooperation with the local MRDD and had a total of 25 participants. After the simulation, 96% of teens and 92% of adults said they will make better decisions on how to spend their money; 93% of the youth and 58% of the adults (33% no comment) indicated they would wait until they saved enough money for an apartment, 100% of the youth and 42% of the adults said they would wait until they saved money to have children. An interesting statistic is that 58% of the adults said they did not want kids. Finally, 97% of youth and 100% of the adults said they will save money as a result of this program. All employees of the Logan County Extension office were involved in this activity.
- **Cloverbud Camp**—The third annual Cloverbud camp had 21 youth ages 5 and in kindergarten through 2nd grade participate in the overnight camp at the Logan County Fairgrounds. The camp theme was “Around the World in 2 Days.” The campers studied South American, African, and Chinese cultures. In celebration of the Olympics, the campers partook in water Olympics and teambuilding cooperative skills. Youth leaders ages 10–13 were selected for a teambuilding and mini-leadership camp. The youth leaders gained skills in working with other personality types as well as working together to accomplish tasks.
- **CARTEENS** reaches over 140 teen drivers annually. The goal of the CARTEENS program is to teach first-time traffic offenders between 15 and 18 how to drive more cautiously and responsibly. Participants have the chance to be involved in a series of activities that promote safe driving. The program also includes guest speakers who have been touched by traffic fatalities. The Marysville Post of the Ohio Highway Patrol is very active, with troopers speaking to the participants. The program is a cooperative effort between the 4-H program and the Juvenile Court.
- **4-H School Enrichment**—4-H promotion and school enrichment reached 100 second graders at Southeastern Elementary in October. The students eagerly learned about pollution and how trees and plants help keep the earth clean. Using the Cloverbud Curriculum these students discovered more about 4-H and things they can do as Cloverbuds.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- A **Conservation Tillage** five-meeting series attracted 305 participants representing 108,400 acres with an average of 935 acres per farming operation. Feedback from

participants indicated that producers gained knowledge that will significantly impact their business decisions, especially those related to grain marketing, pest problems, cash rent, and plant nutrient management. These programs were a joint effort with OSU Extension and Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Logan and Hardin counties.

- **Farm Agronomic Evaluations**—One soybean sentinel plot was scouted weekly throughout the growing season to evaluate for the presence of soybean aphids, soybean rust, and other pests. Leaf samples were collected weekly and sent to a laboratory at OARDC for analysis. Information gathered from this plot and others across the state was utilized at local, regional, state, and national levels. The soybean sentinel plot program is employed nationally to monitor potential movement of soybean rust. Corn rootworm (CRW) beetle activity was evaluated in three soybean fields. In recent years there has been increased activity of CRW beetles in soybean fields and increased damage to following corn crop. The purpose of these evaluations is to determine if CRW beetle populations have increased to economic threshold and justify preventative treatment for the forthcoming corn crop. None of the fields reached threshold level of five beetles/trap/day. A special trap was located at the edge of two corn fields to monitor for the Western Bean Cutworm. This insect is predominate in western United States, but is migrating eastward. It attacks corn and will damage the ear. Two moths were caught in one trap in the western side of the county and none caught in the trap located in the north-eastern area of the county. There were approximately 100 other moths caught in traps throughout Ohio.
- **Master Gardeners**—The Logan County Master Gardener Volunteers graduated three new interns from a 50-hour training course. In 2008, the 14 active master gardeners provided 904 volunteer hours. Active members participated in the following programs: Piatt Castle Historic Garden Restoration, OSU Extension Office Landscaping, Chippewa Outreach Center, Spring and Fall Plant Sale, Sand casting demonstration at Logan County Home and Garden Tour, Ohio Heritage Garden Ambassador Program, and presentation at a Women’s Wellness Weekend.
- **Farm-City Tour**—OSU Extension, Logan County in cooperation with Logan County Soil and Water Conservation District coordinated an Agricultural Education Tour to eastern Ohio. This activity was designed to focus on educators in middle school and high school science and agriculture subject areas as well as non-farm residents. The tour occurred with 39 participants enjoying visits to a commercial composting facility, soil and water quality research farm, swine production facility, and wildlife habitat establishment/conservation.

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