



Madison County

P.O. Box 230, 217 Elm St.,
London 43140-1185, Phone 740-852-0975, FAX 740-852-0744



2008 County Highlights

Strengthening Families and Communities

- Co-authored the City of London's 2008 Comprehensive Development Plan. This update of the development plan was the result of countless one-on-one meetings, group meetings, meetings with MORPC, a community survey, a study of the previous plans, community tours, and focus group meetings to gather the background information needed to do the writing of the Comprehensive Plan. This process brought \$5,000 to the Extension office in cost recovery and \$10,000 to Madison County in matching funds.
- 62 participants, ages 8–12 years old, participated in the 1st Annual Madison County 4-H Summer Day Camp Program. The theme of “What is Round on the Ends and High in the Middle? O-HI-O!” depicted Ohio history through Space Exploration, Dairy Science, and Insects and Agriculture. Thanks to partnerships between Parks and Recreation, the Madison County Township Trustees Association and Community Centers, we were able to keep the cost of the three-day camp at \$15.00 per child. Eight Teen Leaders donated their time to serve as “Counselors” at 1 of the 4 offered Summer Day Camp Sessions.
- The Madison County 4-H Endowment Board provided grant money in excess of \$4,052.51 for program development and maintenance. This money assisted clubs with the cost of their 4-H books, provided 4-H promotional and recruitment materials to over 3,000 county youth, and supported educational clinics, 4-H/Farm Bureau Teen Council, and CARTEENS programming.
- 24 Cloverbuds attended an educational Day Camp at Prairie Oaks Metro Park and 3 volunteers assisted with hands-on activities that were appropriate for that age group.
- The Cloverbud program, ages 5–8, utilized the Cloverbud Activity Manual for hands-on educational purposes. Cloverbud members were given an opportunity to display items at the county fair and 106 participated in the Show-n-Tell event and received participation ribbons and Cloverbud rosettes.
- 133 Club Advisors and Key Leaders received their educational training through a mandatory county Advisor Update or by attending either a subject matter clinic or Teen Conference. Adults increased their skills in working with youth and learned information on how to effectively manage club programs and teach subject matter areas.

- CARTEENS is a bi-monthly program offered through the juvenile court system to help first-time traffic offenders receive a reduced sentence by attending a two-hour educational program. Directed by 1 adult Key Leader and 9 youth volunteers, the program taught over 107 youth and worked toward the goals of reducing the number of repeat juvenile traffic offenders, decreasing the number of teen traffic offenders, and increasing teen awareness of traffic/vehicular safety. “After CARTEENS, I will drive with a seatbelt, be more attentive and do less rushing.” “After CARTEENS, I will think more and not do distracting things. Also look out for others, not just myself.”

Preparing Youth for Success

- Collaborated with the London City Schools on an Oak Prairie and Wetland restoration project at the high school. Currently we are in the planning stages of the project with full implementation to take place in 2009 and 2010.
- Collaborated with Tolles Tech in writing a grant to build a nature trail on the Tolles Tech property. The nature trail will pass through a restored Oak Prairie, pass by a restored wetland, and go through 22 acres of old growth woods. This trail will be used for horticulture and natural resources education and will be utilized by the SWCD and Jonathan Alder School for outdoor classroom activities. This process is expected to bring \$85,000 in grant money to Madison County.
- Madison County is actively involved in reviving its Teen Leader Program. Currently there are 14 participants and 1 Key Leader who have created and are developing the Madison County 4-H/Farm Bureau Teen Council. This past year the Teen Council was involved in active recruitment and recreational activities while serving the community through service learning projects.
- A Decisions Newsletter was developed and mailed to approximately 210 4-H older youth. The newsletter informed teen leaders of activities and opportunities available to them at the county and state levels. Applications pertaining to these opportunities were sent with the newsletter and were also made available online at the county web site.
- The Madison County Junior Fair was organized and managed by 27 older youth volunteers and 34 adult volunteers. Members were provided educational lessons on communication, sportsmanship, evaluation,

and dealing with people. Members utilized skills prior to and throughout the fair that related to leadership, responsibility, decision making, and customer service in the management and operation of a county fair. When asked about a positive aspect of the 2008 Junior Fair, one individual stated, “The communication lines between Senior Fair Board, Junior Fair Board, Key Leaders, Advisors, parents, and members.”

- 143 youth experienced outdoor educational activities at a five-day “Around the World in 5 Days at 4-H Camp Clifton 2008.” Guided by 26 trained camp counselors and counselors-in-training and 8 adult volunteers, campers developed self-esteem, learned new crafts, and demonstrated life skills through a variety of hands-on activities.
- 729 youth between the ages of 5 and 18 participated in the county 4-H program with 133 adult volunteers providing leadership to 39 county 4-H clubs. Due to their involvement in the Madison County 4-H Program, adults, youth, and communities learned about leadership, citizenship, life skills, and the philosophy of “To Make The Best Better.”

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- Collaborated with the Madison Soil and Water Conservation office on multiple projects including the following: the 2008 Comprehensive Development Plan for London, a Livestock Environmental Assurance Program (LEAP), four all-day wetland habitat presentations to approximately 440 school youth at the Gwynne Conservation Center, a bush honeysuckle eradication program, attended the SWCD monthly meetings to contribute to their programming, helped with implementing and monitoring of best management practices for manure storage and application on the large dairies in the area, and referred clients to the SWCD office for financial help with CREP, EQUIP, wetland restoration, and other projects.
- Organized an Earth Day bush honeysuckle (an invasive species) eradication project on the Ohio to Erie Bike Trail through London. 80 volunteers, including 15 elementary school students, cut bush honeysuckle, chipped the brush, and planted 300 various hardwood (mast) trees to replace the honeysuckle. Seven community organizations were recruited to help with the organization of the project.
- Commenced with the ground work for the county-wide “Why Trees Matter” signature program for OSU Extension. Anticipated projects include but are not limited to the following: starting arboretums in the local cem-

eteries, starting hardwood tree nurseries for ash tree replacement, restoring an Oak Prairie on the London City Schools property as an outdoor classroom, and collaborating with the 4-H clubs to plant trees around the county.

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- Attended monthly meetings of the Latino Coalition in Springfield. The Latino Coalition is a networking group dedicated to reducing barriers to services for Latinos, and works to improve the lives of immigrant and migrant workers in the central Ohio area. The Latino Coalition helps keep the Extension office abreast of the issues that surround the Latino population that is in Madison County working at the dairies, in construction, in restaurants, and doing lawn care. Provided information to Latinos on cultural events, health fairs, English classes, and other events of interest.

Collaborative programming among OSU Extension, Action for Children, and The Childcare Network that is housed at the Madison County Extension office:

- A total of 205 contacts resulting in approximately 1,025 referrals were accessed by direct telephone consultation, walk-ins, and/or internet usage. Additionally, consultations were made related to child-care education, technical support to providers, recruitment, and general information.
- 2 new centers were added to the database. Head Start (Mt. Sterling) and Norwood Pre-school (W.J.).
- The Child Care Network wrote or submitted a variety of articles related to child care and families that were published for public consumption in the local county newspaper *The Madison Press*. The Child Care network now has its own column named “Building Better Families”
- Provided 15 continuing Child Care Education workshops for 187 child-care providers.
- The Path Mentoring Program re-applied and received another grant from The Women’s Fund of Central Ohio to continue another year of mentoring services for at-risk girls. Also received a grant from Juvenile court. CC Network sits on the Path Board.
- Served as a 4-H Judge (Community Service and Fair Booths).
- Coordinator continues to actively collaborate with various community agencies and programs, particularly those that impact children and families, such as, OSU Extension, London Public Library, Ministry for Community, DJFS, Department of Family and Children, Head Start, and Help me Grow.

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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