



Miami County

Courthouse, 201 W. Main Street,
Troy 45373, 937-440-3945



2008 County Highlights

Strengthening Families and Communities

- Divorce stresses both parents and children. In 2008, over 300 parents of children who were divorcing attended “Helping Children Succeed After Divorce.” Of those attending, a majority indicated that they learned something in the class to help them in raising their children and cooperating with their ex-spouse after marriage. This class was offered in partnership with the Miami County Mental Health Services for the Miami County Court of Common Pleas.
- “But I can’t afford insurance!” This is an example of a real-life lesson learned by more than 400 youths from Miami County school districts in grades six through twelve who participated in the “Real Money, Real World” program. This multiple-lesson curriculum culminates in a hands-on simulation in which students must pay for the necessities in life with a pre-determined salary. Participants said they really learned how important it is to learn to handle money and that they would definitely change behaviors as a result of what they learned.
- The “New Start” program has reached over 100 adults in this program for bankruptcy clients. Residents not filing bankruptcy but experiencing some financial difficulties are also encouraged to attend. This year participants have been surveyed with a majority reporting significant information learned and behavioral changes planned after attending the class.
- More than 500 OSU Extension newsletters were distributed through mail and local agencies.
- Extension staff members organized a walking challenge for Miami County employees. Titled “Move It Miami County,” the walking challenge lasted six weeks with a luncheon walk offered throughout the week for convenience and encouragement. A total of 178 participants logged approximately 25,189 miles. 50% of the registered participants completed all 6 weeks. 38.5% improved their 6 week walking total from 2007 to 2008. The culmination of the Move It Miami County Walking Challenge was an “Amazing Race Around the Square” competition (patterned after The Amazing Race). Eight teams of two persons each competed to follow historical clues concerning Troy, Ohio (the Miami County seat). As a result of the walking challenge, Extension increased awareness of our services available and provided visible exposure within the community.
- Began work with LOMA at Zion Methodist Church in Tipp City. They are an organized group of special needs adults. Programs were conducted on basic nutrition and then followed up with cooking skills and healthy meal preparation. We cooked on-site in the church kitchen. The participants ranged between 3 and 10 and we had 2 separate series of classes in February and October. One participant stated, “Cooking is fun with recipes and good vegetables. I like the vegetable pizza.”
- Conducted 2 program series at Garden Manor in Troy (government-subsidized housing) in February and July. Worked once a week in a four-week series with about 10 families on basic nutrition for themselves as well as their small children. Taught them how to incorporate low-cost, healthy recipes into their weekly menu planning. We devised shopping lists, promoted shopping once a week, and talked about staples to have on hand.
- Increased programming at Salvation Army in Piqua. Stayed on-site throughout the day while clientele came in to register for various basic needs and Christmas packages. After registering, Extension conducted cooking demonstrations with a low-cost, easy recipe for them to sample. They left with a 2009 Nutrition Calendar, newsletters, and recipes for family meals.
- Continued monthly visits to 6 sites throughout Miami County. We continually conduct programs at these sites to about 75 people with nutrition, food safety, and food budgeting messages.

Preparing Youth for Success

- Twenty-three adults successfully completed 4-H new volunteer orientation and interviews. Participants learned the specific expectations and responsibilities of their volunteer roles, as well as the organization’s mission, vision, values, philosophy, objectives, and staffing patterns.
- More than 169 youth took part in more than 205 projects in the Miami County Project Pride Day activities where they presented their Family and Consumer Sciences and Miscellaneous 4-H projects.
- 792 kindergarten through fourth grade students in 35 classrooms participated in 4-H school enrichment programs. Classes focused on aerospace science, natural resource education, animal science, and nutrition education. Through answering questions, completing worksheets, and conducting experiments, students demonstrated an increased knowledge of subject areas taught.

- Twelve youth in grades K–2 participated in the 2008 Miami County 4-H Cloverbud Day Camp. Over a two-day period youth took part in a variety of learning experiences and hands-on activities, including outdoor recreation, water safety, crafts, and nature.
- About 91 youth attended the Miami County 4-H Junior Camp. This five-day, four-night camp provided youth with activities to develop leadership skills, team-building, interpersonal skills, and lasting friendships. Thirty-six youth volunteers served as camp counselors for this event.
- The Miami County 4-H CARTEENS Program reached 235 teen drivers and their parents. Participants learned about the importance of wearing safety belts, driving distractions, the consequences of speeding, and traffic laws. The Miami County CARTEENS Program is a collaborative effort of the Miami County 4-H Program, Miami County Juvenile Court, and the Ohio State Patrol.
- Miami County Master Gardeners volunteered 1,227.5 hours of their time back to the residents of Miami County in 2007 (2008 data was not available at time of publishing). With each volunteer hour equivalent to \$19.51 per hour, this equals more than \$23,000 given back to Miami County. Many of these hours were donated through the horticulture help-line, which allows Miami County residents to bring plant problems to Master Gardener's for solutions.
- For the fifth consecutive year, Miami County partnered with surrounding Extension offices to offer a series of pasture walks. The walks began in May, were held once a month through September, and were rotated between Champaign, Clark, Darke, Miami, and Shelby counties. At the Miami County stop, more than 50 horse producers attended to gain tips on prolonging the grazing season, which ultimately reduces the need to purchase hay and increases profitability.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- Agriculture production remains a significant source of income for producers and the county as a whole with total cash receipts of \$40 million from the 1,071 farms. More than 184,000 acres in Miami County are dedicated to agriculture production.
- In 2008, several sites throughout the county were scouted to determine the effects of soybean rust, cutworm, soybean aphids, and various other pests detrimental to grain crop production. Some research was also done to see the effectiveness of different hybrids and insecticide treatments.
- In collaboration with neighboring county Extension educators, more than 150 private pesticide applicators were updated on the current pesticides available and how to properly use them in a way that is not only safe for the environment, but for the producer as well.
- A weekly column in the *Dayton Daily News* is written by the Agriculture Extension educator. More than 15,000 residents of Miami County subscribe to this paper and the total circulation is approximately 180,000. Topics covered ranged from the emerging soybean rust issues, to local events and happenings in the agricultural sector.
- Over 300 people participated in the various programs that were offered throughout the year on subjects including Estate Planning, Emerald Ash Borer, Pork Quality Assurance Plus, school programs, and many more. Programs on topics of concern within the county will continued to be offered.
- The Extension educator continued to play an active role in the Middle Great Miami River Watershed Alliance. The educator is currently helping the group with events, education, and programming.
- The Agriculture educator and program assistant participated in a statewide weed survey. Just prior to soybean harvest, a drive around the county was conducted and weed problems were observed. This data will be entered into the statewide survey and, as a result, agents and producers alike will have a better understanding of what weeds could potentially be problems in 2009 and what weeds may not be. Producers could potentially save thousands of dollars by focusing on the primary weed control issues.
- Miami County once again participated in a statewide pasture growth measurement study. Every week pasture measurements were taken and dry matter growth was calculated for the pasture in the study. As the study continues year to year, producers will be able to look at the chart and get a good average for what their pastures are producing from month to month. Using these averages, producers can then estimate how much hay they will or will not need to purchase.

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- Worked with the Village of Covington to create their Economic Development Strategic Plan through a series of visioning sessions. Also helped the Village complete the First Impressions program.
- **Service to Clientele**—Staff members continued the option of payment by credit card for clients. They also consulted with Montgomery County on setting up a similar system. This popular option is utilized to process payments on publications purchased and registrations (pesticide recertification, carateens, Junior Camp, etc). This project offers payment convenience to clients and keeps us competitive in today's market.

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