



# Muskingum County

Room 6, 225 Underwood St.  
Zanesville 43701-3789, 740-454-0144



EXTENSION

## 2008 County Highlights

### Strengthening Families and Communities

- After two years of work, a new Muskingum County Comprehensive Plan has been completed. OSU Extension facilitated the process during which ten task forces developed recommendations for the county commissioners and other local decision-makers. These strategies included the areas of economic development, transportation, agriculture, natural resources, parks and green space, health care and emergency services, tourism and cultural resources, education, infrastructure, and technology. These recommendations will help to guide growth and development in the community for the next decade.
- The Muskingum County Master Gardener volunteers had another bountiful year of educating the community about horticulture. The group provided a total of \$1,100 to 11 different Muskingum County classrooms for activities and projects relating to horticulture and plants. Other projects included educational displays at community events, Emerald Ash Borer awareness, Earth to Art exhibit, butterfly garden at the Wilds and a booth at the Zanesville Farmers Market. Sixty-nine Master Gardeners contributed 2,475 hours of horticultural service to the community in 2008.
- The Muskingum County Commissioners purchased the Rural Services Building (which houses the OSU Extension office) from the City of Zanesville in June 2008. The purchase will allow federal, state, and county agricultural agencies to remain co-located so they can continue to provide quality service and convenience to clientele. A new parking lot across the street is being constructed to help with parking needs.

### Preparing Youth for Success

- Three Muskingum County 4-H members earned a trip to attend the National 4-H Congress, the most prestigious 4-H event in the United States. Held in Atlanta, Georgia, this conference celebrates the accomplishments of outstanding youth while providing training in leadership. These youth were selected based on their 4-H accomplishments as reflected in the completion of the 4-H Achievement Record. Annual training sessions conducted by the 4-H Extension educator assisted the teens in successfully competing in this selection process. Muskingum County is proud to have three of only 24 members from Ohio to earn this recognition in 2008.
- With over 1,800 youth involved in club-based programs, it is vital that leadership is provided in specific areas by volunteers. There were eight committees that involved animal projects, as well as general groups such as the 4-H Committee, that worked year round to promote positive youth development. This volunteer leadership provided

educational opportunities, showcased projects, provided family involvement, recognition programs, and raised funds that enabled all of these activities. In all, an estimated 50 meetings were held throughout the year with 84 committee volunteers.

- In an effort to better prepare youth and increase involvement in the Ohio State Fair participation, a state fair orientation was conducted. This session was designed to assist members in non-livestock areas of 4-H (examples include woodworking, food and nutrition, and photography). More than 50 members and parents participated in this training. Topics such as what to expect at the Ohio State Fair judging, what materials should be taken to various competitions, how to dress, and interviewing tips were highlighted. Four previous state fair youth participants and one adult volunteer assisted the Extension educator in the conducting the training. There was a 21% increase in participation at the state fair from the previous year.
- How far can youth go in 4-H Horse Judging competition? Muskingum County youth went all the way as they represented Ohio 4-H in the national horse judging event. Muskingum County youth in both Junior (ages 8–13) and Senior Divisions (ages 14–18) won the state contest. This made the Senior Team eligible for Regional (Quarter Horse Congress) and National competition.
- At the local level, 15 youth participated in the county 4-H horse judging program. Participants learned how to evaluate classes of four animals based on breed standards. Older youth developed and presented oral reasons on their placings. Practice sessions were held at local horse farms. The 4-H Horse Judging program builds skills in decision making and public speaking while boosting self-confidence.
- In 2008, 279 teens and 267 parents participated in 4-H CARTEENS, a two-hour traffic safety educational program for first-time teen traffic offenders. OSU Extension, teen volunteers, State Highway Patrol, and a teen car crash victim provided instruction during the 11 sessions. The 4-H CARTEENS program generated user fees that covered program costs and provided college scholarships for teen volunteers. Overall effectiveness of the CARTEENS program was rated good or excellent by 95% of participants.
- 4-H Overnight Camp—Learning about nature, hiking, swimming, living history, canoeing, and aerospace were only a few of the opportunities at Muskingum County 4-H Camp. For 116 campers ages 8–13, spending 4 nights and 5 days at 4-H Camp Ohio was a highlight of their summer. Leading their experiences were 27 4-H teen counselors. Campers gained skills in the areas of independent living, leadership, and nature appreciation. Highlights included outpost camping (sleeping under the stars) and campwide competitions in sports and swimming.

- Interactive life skills education reached 117 incarcerated youth, ages 11–17. Six different programs were conducted. Each topic was presented to up to three groups of males and one group of females at the Muskingum County Juvenile Detention Center. Topics involved youth in decision making, setting and achieving goals, personality types/people skills, and team challenges. Participants indicated the information presented was useful and could be applied to their life situations.
- The Joe Mattingly tree farm served as the host site for the 2008 Ohio Tree Farm Tour. Over 400 individuals from across the state learned about proper forestry and wildlife management techniques and observed Joe's conservation practices on his farm. Programs at the tour included pine tree management, a forestry hike, chain saw maintenance, fish identification, wildlife damage control, frontier life, and a saw mill demonstration. This was the first time that Muskingum County had hosted the event.

## Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- Fertilizer costs have skyrocketed this past year. Testing soil both saves money with more precise, accurate fertilizer applications and protects the environment by ensuring that fertilizer is not over-applied. OSU Extension has provided soil testing services to area farmers and gardeners through the Penn State University Ag Analytical Lab. A total of 175 (agricultural crops—115; lawn and garden—60) soil tests were conducted through the OSU Extension office in 2008. OSU Extension assisted 35 farmers and gardeners with an interpretation of their soil test results.
- Deer are responsible for eating crops, damaging landscapes, and changing the ecology of forests. OSU Extension constructed a deer fence in Collegial Woods, a forested area behind Zane State College and Ohio University-Zanesville. The purpose of the 80-foot by 80-foot fenced area is to demonstrate how deer grazing impacts a woodland's ecosystem over a period of years. Deer will be unable to browse inside the fenced area. The areas inside and outside the fence will be observed and compared on several criteria including types of plants, their growth rate, and regeneration of certain tree species. The public will be able to view the dramatic impact that deer have on our forests through this demonstration.
- Hay and forage supplies were tight in the fall of 2007 and winter of 2008 due to dry conditions. OSU Extension Muskingum County conducted two drought relief programs in late 2007 attracting 110 producers. These programs were followed with a series of three sessions on beef nutrition in the winter. As a result of these programs, fifteen different beef producers received individual assistance in developing specific feed rations for over-wintering their beef cows.
- The efficient use of forages (grass and legumes) is important to livestock producers in keeping their feed costs low. A grazing workshop attracted thirty-five producers to two classroom meetings and a field trip where the participants planned an actual grazing system. Eighty-five individuals participated in a Forage Field Day at Oaklawn Farms that included topics on cutting feed and fertilizer costs, identifying and controlling weeds, production of teff (new drought-tolerant grass species), wetlands designation process, and a tiling demonstration. Farmers learned techniques on better utilizing forage for their livestock to reduce costs and be more profitable from these programs.

- An innovative method of extending the growing season for produce farmers was introduced to twenty-five farmers at an OSU Extension workshop. High tunnels are unheated greenhouses where fruit and vegetables plants are grown in the soil. The greenhouses protect the produce from early and late frosts and cold weather, enabling the farmer to sell fresh products earlier and later than the normal growing season. Several area growers built high tunnels and were successful in extending the growing season for 3–4 weeks beyond their normal marketing season.

## Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- Learning technical skills was the annual theme emphasized in teen programming. In an effort to expand opportunities for teens as well as providing ways to plan for the future, two new activities were conducted in the county. First, a 4-H Technology Team was formed with youth interested in utilizing computer technology in the area of geographic information systems (GIS). Six youth were introduced to the concepts of GIS and were given the opportunity to work on individual projects in their areas of interest. This new program will continue and expand so that even more 4-H members can explore this area that will be a major career field in the future. A county-wide welding group was started this year with eight boys and girls. This was another opportunity provided to teach employable skills through 4-H.
- Fourteen teens took part in a financial planning and basic investing workshop. Topics on items such as needs and wants, values and goals, and how they affect your financial well-being were explored. The participants also learned basic financing tips such as the rule of 72, the power of time, and types of investments. Post-workshop evaluations showed an average score of 92% on knowledge gained.
- How does your personality affect relationships, communication styles, and individual skills and abilities? "Real Colors" is a curriculum for teens and adults that identifies individual personality types. The curriculum includes learning activities that help participants understand how personality affects relationships, communication, and their skills and abilities. The Real Colors program was presented to 10 different groups with 135 teens and 68 adults participating. Participants felt the Real Colors program helped them identify their personal strengths, learn to recognize strengths in others, discover more effective ways to interact with people, and be more accepting of others.

---

Ohio State University Extension embraces human diversity and is committed to ensuring that all research and related educational programs are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, or veteran status. This statement is in accordance with United States Civil Rights Laws and the USDA.

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