



Paulding County

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2008 County Highlights

Preparing Youth for Success

- Each year OSU Extension provides Quality Assurance in-services and skillathon contests for over 350 4-H and FFA youth and their parents utilizing over 75 volunteers. The Paulding County Junior Fair animal participants are required to participate in Quality Assurance and Skillathon programs. The Ohio Department of Agriculture also mandates annual participation in quality assurance programming for youth involved in food animal projects. The skillathon is a method of involving youth in challenging, non-competitive, learn-by-doing activities.
- Over 110 youth experienced outdoor learning activities while at 4-H Camp Palmer for a five-day period. The youth were led by 25 trained camp counselors and 8 adult volunteers. The activities provided at camp benefit children by helping them develop social skills, become more confident, increase self-esteem, and encourage them to become more adventurous and willing to try new things. Cloverbuds (K-2) also had the opportunity to experience camp with a total of 15 youth participating. The Cloverbuds were led by four college students who were previously in the Paulding County 4-H program.
- A five-county cluster of Family Consumer Sciences educators presented a teacher in-service for FCS teachers from area schools. The topics presented to the 18 teachers in attendance included the following: Real Money Real World, a hands-on experience that gives young people the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to adults; Nutrition Trends, which examined the current trends in food choices and what is influencing these trends; and The Fred Factor, which shows how passion in your life can turn the ordinary into the extraordinary. Some of the comments received were, "Thanks for developing this in-service, no one does research on "real life" issues better than you do," and another teacher stated, "This truly is the best in-service I attended all year!"
- OSU Extension partnered with the Paulding County Hospital in presenting a series of programs called "Healthy Habits, which served over 55 people. The programs covered understanding carbohydrates, good fats vs. bad fats in foods, and the importance of physical activity in managing diabetes. Ninety-nine percent of all participants indicated that they learned new information and plan on making some lifestyle changes.

Strengthening Families and Communities

- Over 400 participants attended Nutrition Education classes held at the Paulding County WIC department and the Senior Center this past year. Sessions included a

wide variety of nutrition information including selecting healthy foods using the guidelines from the USDA and MyPyramid. Participants from these sessions have noted that the Family Nutrition classes have influenced them to eat more fruits and vegetables and provide healthier meals and snacks to their children and families.

- The Family Nutrition Program has partnered with the P.C. Workshop to present monthly nutritional sessions to their employees regarding healthy eating. Demonstrations were given on how to make easy, low fat snacks, and it was discussed how participants can make changes in their daily food choices.
- The Parenting the First Year Newsletter has reached over 760 recipients. Since the fall of 2000, new parents in Paulding County have been receiving timely information regarding development of their newborn infant throughout their child's very important first year. To make this newsletter possible, OSU Extension collaborates with the Department of Job and Family Services and the Welcome Home Program at Paulding Hospital.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- For the first time in 2008, Paulding County Extension participated in the "Emerald Ash Borer Survey." The goal of 2008 EAB Survey was to identify new areas of infestation within Paulding County. Four sites were selected within the county with an individual trap set at each site. These traps are a three-dimensional triangle or prism. They are made of thin, corrugated, purple plastic that has been coated with non-toxic glue on all three sides. The purple prisms are about 24 inches long and hang vertically in an ash tree or are secured to the trunk of a tree. To increase the attractiveness of the trap to the beetles, it is baited with a lure scented with Manuka oil. Individual traps were placed in the northwest, southwest, and north central locations of Paulding County. Results indicated the insect has expanded its area of infestation within a known area and has been identified in new locations within the county. Homeowners were provided management options at the conclusion of the survey.
- The Livestock Sale Committee assisted the Paulding County Senior Fair Board with the Junior Fair Livestock Sale. The group of volunteers assisted with the livestock weigh-in, helped with the Junior Fair livestock sale, and assisted with the loading out animals after the fair. The livestock sale set a new sale record in 2008 with a total of \$149,984.86.
- Asian soybean rust, a disease that causes serious soybean crop losses in many parts of the world, was first

detected in the continental United States in November 2004. Yield losses reported in other parts of the world range from 10% to 90%. For Paulding County that could mean a yield loss of 3.5 bushels to over 30 bushels per acre if no treatment was used on approximately 100,000 acres of soybeans. To monitor soybean rust, an 88-foot by 312-foot Soybean Sentinel Plot was scouted weekly for soybean diseases and insects. The Paulding County plot was planted in late April and was one of the first soybean fields to emerge this spring. No soybean rust has been detected in Paulding County or in Ohio for 2008.

- The Master Gardener volunteers were busy planting and caring for community flower beds and hosting their third annual plant sale in mid-May. The group worked with the village of Paulding in maintaining flowerbeds at the Reservoir Park entrance and the playground area in LaFountain Park. They also purchased a locust tree from the income received from their annual plant sale. The tree was planted in LaFountain Park. The volunteers have continued to improve and maintain the landscaping around the Blue Building located on the fairgrounds. The volunteers contributed over 190 hours of volunteer service to the community and received 101.5 hours of educational training in 2008.
- Paulding County has become an area of interest in the development of wind energy. Several businesses are in the process of contacting landowners to obtain lease agreements for possible construction of wind turbine farms. The Extension office has hosted two “Wind Energy” programs” to help local residents better understand this new energy form for Ohio. Paulding County Extension and Farm Bureau hosted a public meeting with Dale Arnold, Director of Energy Services for the Ohio Farm Bureau. Dale gave a general overview of wind energy and answered questions from the audience. The second program was a taping for the television station Channel 26. The television program looked at wind energy based on interviews given by Dale Arnold and Terry McClure, a local farmer and member of Ohio Wind Energy Group.

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- A Pesticide Re-Certification Training session was held on Monday March 3 for private pesticide applicators presently holding a license to buy and apply restricted use pesticides. Twenty-six applicators received the latest information in research and technology for pesticide application. Topics covered during the three hour program included pesticide safety, case studies, seed treatment, stored grains, forage crops, crop and non-crop land, livestock, vegetable crops, and fruit crops. Participants indicated their appreciation for local agents providing instruction in the various categories.

- The Paulding County Agronomy Committee hosted two agricultural programs to cover topics of importance for local farmers. An Agronomy Day Program was held on Thursday January 10. Seventy-five individuals attended the program. State Extension specialists presented research-based information on Farm Focus Research, Disease and Insect Concerns, and Challenges of High Fertilizer Prices: What Can Be Done. Local agencies providing research information and updates were the Paulding Soil Water Conservation District and the Farm Service Agency. A second program was held on Wednesday March 19 with 35 individuals in attendance. The Paulding County Ag Day covered Profitable Soybean Production, Low Linolenic Soybean Update, and an Overview of Vertical Tillage. Twenty-two businesses provided financial support to cover the cost of both programs. The overall rating for the two programs was a 4.2 on a Lickert Scale of 5.0.
- The Northwest Ohio Livestock Producers (NWOLP) group hosted four livestock programs for producers this winter. Program topics included Livestock Mortality Composting, Top Dressing Wheat and Side Dressing Corn with Hog Manure, Manure Management and Water Quality, and Insect and Rodent Control Around Livestock Facilities. Livestock producers are looking for ways to properly handle livestock mortality and maintain bio-security for their livestock operation. Livestock mortality composting provides instruction on methods and procedures that permits producers to compost dead animals and dispose the compost material safely. Producers are looking at ways to apply manure to better utilize plant nutrients on a growing crop. The Ohio EPA presented information on manure application and methods to protect water quality. The final program looked at rodents around livestock facilities and ways to control these pests. Sixty-one participants attended the four programs. Over 60% of the survey respondents identified changes they would make to their operation based on information presented at that day's program.
- An Estate Planning program was held over a seven-week period during February and March to help individuals prepare for their estate transition. Estate planning is the process by which an individual or family arranges the transfer of assets in anticipation of death. An estate plan aims to preserve the maximum amount of wealth possible for the intended beneficiaries and flexibility for the individual prior to death. Thirteen families participated in the program that focused on getting ready as a family, various retirement options, retirement income, and methods of transfer. All survey respondents indicated they would recommend the program to others. The overall rating for the program was a 4.2 on a Lickert Scale of 5.0.

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