



Pickaway County

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EXTENSION

2008 County Highlights

Preparing Youth for Success

- Nearly 1,500 youth were members in the Pickaway County 4-H program this year. According to a recent nationwide study of positive youth development, youth involved in 4-H clubs are more likely to contribute to themselves, their families, and their communities, compared to youth in other activities or no activities.
- Pickaway County 4-H currently has an endowment established in 1993 with The Ohio State University Development Fund. Each year contributions to the endowment have ranged from \$2,500 to \$10,000. The market value is now approximately \$90,000. The account provides over \$4,000 each year to enhance 4-H programming efforts in Pickaway County. This year, the endowment returns, along with other revenue from our local 4-H Committee, allowed us to provide six \$800 post high school education scholarships to local high school seniors who are 4-H members.
- OSU Extension is partnering with the Ohio Academy of Science through a \$700,000 appropriation from the Ohio General Assembly to provide a two-year STEM project for selected fifth and sixth grade students in nine school districts including Teays Valley School District in Pickaway County. The STEM program will capitalize on the positive impact of 4-H inquiry-based projects to develop attitudes and interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and their related careers. In Pickaway County, the program will select 25 students, each receiving a \$350 stipend, as well as hire two afterschool teachers at \$10,000 each.
- OSU Extension conducted the 4-H Livestock Skillathons, the county's single largest 4-H event, evaluating project work and providing state mandated quality assurance training for youth with livestock 4-H projects. In June 2008, OSU Extension evaluated 788 4-H projects in 10 different species of animals where the average test score was 89.3%. The three-day event was facilitated by 75 volunteers, contributing a total of 320 volunteer hours, which according to the Independent Sector (\$19.51 per hour) is valued at \$6,243.20. The event was also dependent upon the in-kind donation from The Computer Workshop of the use of laptop computers, valued at \$1,600.
- OSU Extension provided leadership, social, and personal development programming through 4-H camping opportunities in 2008. Deer Creek State Park was the

setting for 19 Cloverbuds, age 5–7, to be provided with a day-camp experience. The event also provided an educational leadership opportunity for six older 4-H members who served as camp counselors. Pickaway County's traditional 4-H Camp at Tar Hollow State Park resident camp offered experiences to 127 campers ages 9–13, and 43 teen counselors to promote personal and social development and the acquisition of life skills. Camp counselors participated in 20 hours of on-site training as well as four hours of classroom training. Other camping experiences offered to Pickaway County youth were the 4-H Shooting Sports Camp, Ohio 4-H Sea Camp, State Leadership Camp, and Citizenship-Washington Focus, providing specialized educational opportunities to 12 Pickaway County youth.

- Through OSU Extension's 4-H School Enrichment efforts to provide resources and professional support to county school teachers, 55 elementary and middle school classrooms used 4-H school enrichment materials to teach science units required to meet state science indicators or to enhance the students' hands-on inquiry-based classroom experience, reaching 1,195 students. These programming efforts show an increase of 7 classroom units and 215 student contacts over those programs conducted in 2007. Current effective school partnerships include 3rd and 4th grade classrooms in 3 of the 4 county school districts, as well as 1 parochial school and 1 middle school to provide educational kits and curriculum materials to meet physical and life science standards.

Strengthening Families and Communities

- The Healthy Marriages Collaboration of Central Ohio invited counties contiguous to Franklin County to help build successful and collaborative efforts to reduce divorces and strengthen marriages in central Ohio. The Family and Consumer Sciences educator planned and facilitated an informational training, "Making Marriages Strong." Sixteen people attended the training and discussions have begun about forming new partnerships. More discussion is needed on developing a Community Marriage Policy.
- The Family Nutrition Program class at WIC had an impact on increasing more family time in the kitchen as well as incorporating healthy eating. One parent wrote, "I will try to incorporate the ideas Carrie talked about!"

I loved the juice with club soda idea. That will be fun to make with my child.” Another woman quoted, “I plan to have more fun in the kitchen with my son.”

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- OSU Extension is recognized as a leader in community development activities in Pickaway County. OSU Extension along with Berger Health Care Systems, Ohio Farm Bureau, the Pickaway County Community Foundation, and The P3 Economic Development organization were recipients of a \$167,000 W.K. Kellogg grant to hire a project coordinator for the Pickaway Competitiveness Network (PCN). PCN is made up of three action teams in the areas of County Unity, Communication and Marketing, and Business and Economic Development. Monthly programs are being conducted that engage local leaders, business leaders, and concerned residents.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- Crop producers in Pickaway County constantly seek out sources of new production information and technology to improve profitability. Through a grant from QualiSoy, 65 growers from Pickaway and Ross counties participated in a half-day Soybean Management Workshop. Topics included Soybean Plant Health Programs, Asian Soybean Rust and Identity Preserved Soybean Market-

ing Programs such as Vistive Beans. Growers learned that growing identity preserved crops such as Vistive Beans could increase revenue as much as \$50.00 per acre.

- The Crop Observation Recommendation Newsletter is recognized statewide as a valuable resource for Ohio’s Agronomic Industry. The newsletter is distributed 41 times per year to 240 farm operations. The most recent economic survey indicated that CORN reaches managers of over 2.6 million acres of Ohio’s cropland and has an annual impact of \$11 million in savings from reduced pesticide cost or timely pest control implementation from the newsletter. OSU Extension Pickaway County distributes this to over 200 growers weekly during the growing season.
- Always looking for new ways to communicate important agronomic and farm management information, Pickaway County Extension created the South Central Ohio Ag News Blog. Co-authored by the Ag/NR educator in Ross County, e-mail messages were generated weekly to over 400 growers with instructions to visit the blog at <http://southcentralohioagnewsblog.blogspot.com/> to read about important information regarding crop pest, meeting announcements, and other important news items of interest.

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