



# Putnam County

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## 2008 County Highlights

### Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- **Livestock Ventilation Training Trailer**—A portable teaching laboratory was built to teach livestock farmers how to more efficiently manage ventilation systems in modern livestock buildings. Better managed ventilation systems result in healthier animals while lowering utility costs. The teaching laboratory was utilized at 10 locations across Ohio with more than 250 farmers gaining new knowledge on air flow, ventilation fans, static pressure, fan controllers, heat transfer, and environmental monitoring devices.
- **Electronic Newsletters**—Farmers and Ag businesses received a wide variety of electronic newsletters written by Extension specialists and county educators in the areas of grain marketing, commercial horticulture, crop production, and entomology. The Extension office provided timely, unbiased information to local farmers and agribusinesses with over 12,350 e-mails and 175 faxes sent in 2008. Timely, accurate electronic information was extremely helpful to farmers and agribusinesses battling crop insects, disease, and drought during another unusually dry growing season.
- **Manure Application to Growing Crops**—Replicated research trials were conducted on wheat and corn fields where swine manure was applied to growing crops as the primary source of nitrogen. In four wheat trials, manure provided crop yields equal to or higher than commercial purchased fertilizer. In three corn trials, manure provided similar to commercially purchased fertilizer. Nitrogen stabilizers were added to manure to determine if yields could be improved by preventing the ammonia nitrogen from escaping. The long-term goal of this research is to make better use of the livestock manure farmers currently apply to their fields and save them the expense of purchasing commercial fertilizer.
- **Agricultural Lenders Seminars**—Two educational programs were offered to Agricultural Lenders in Western Ohio on topics that included ACRE and SURE-Elements of the New Farm Bill, Use of Flexible Cash Rents for Farmers, Research on Utilizing Livestock Manure on Growing Crops, and Updated Farmland Survey and Current Crop Usage and Price Forecast for 2009. More than 110 Ag lenders and Farm Service Agency personnel attended from 29 counties and learned new information they can use with their farm clientele.
- **Agronomy Night**—More than 150 Putnam County farmers attended Extension's annual Agronomy Night. Farmers learned new information on topics such as Corn Requirements of the POET ethanol plant, Extension research on Crop Responses to Livestock Manure, Use of Distillers Grain for Livestock Feed, and OSU Extension's New Nitrogen Recommendations for Corn.
- **Youth Quality Assurance**—Over 123 Putnam County youth and their parents participated in livestock quality assurance programs taught by Extension educators. Participants learned how to raise their 4-H and FFA livestock projects in a humane manner while safely contributing their market animals to our nation's wholesome food supply. Proper animal care, nutrition, reading a feed tag label, and the correct use of antibiotics were some of the topics addressed.
- **Pesticide Applicator Training**—Extension conducted a three-hour course to instruct farmers wanting to pass the exam to receive a private pesticide applicator license in Ohio. Twenty-five farmers attended to learn information on sprayer calibration, pesticide safety, and pesticide formulations prior to taking the exam. In addition, private pesticide applicator license re-certification sessions were conducted for over 170 local farmers. Participants gained information about pesticide use including wearing personal protective equipment and using pesticide management practices to protect water supplies.
- **Master Gardener "Spring into Gardening Fair"**—The Putnam County Master Gardeners held their first Garden Fair on Saturday, April 2, 2008. The event consisted of a gardening educational class session, gardener's market, garden café, and much more. The fair was attended by over 150 people from Putnam and surrounding counties.

### Preparing Youth for Success

- **4-H: Real Money, Real World**—Real Money, Real World is an active, hands-on experience that gives young people the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to those they will face as adults. OSU Extension Putnam County partnered with Ottoville schools and 15 local businesses to offer the program to 103 eighth grade and tenth grade students. The Real Money, Real World program consisted of three

parts: pre-simulation preparation (including lessons on managing a checkbook, understanding a paycheck, and lifestyle choices), a hands-on budget management and decision-making simulation, and a post-session evaluation of choices made. Students participated in four hours of classroom training and two hours in the simulation. The Real Money, Real World project was made possible from grant funding obtained through the Ohio 4-H Foundation Board.

- **4-H Colors of Leadership: Developing Future Leaders and Building Positive School Environments**—The Putnam County Extension office partnered with the Putnam County Education Service Center to facilitate a leadership program that guided junior high students through the development of a “plan of action” that they could, in turn, bring back to their schools for implementation. The teams of youth were challenged to develop a plan that would make positive impact in their school environments. A total of 104 junior high students representing seven school districts attended the five-hour training and learned about leadership, practiced teamwork skills, and shared many points of school pride. Each group of students were coached through a series of planning stages that led to detailing a “plan of action.” Some of the ideas generated from the students included the development of a Junior High School student council, a promotional plan to enhance school pride, a self-esteem field day, and many others. Of the seven groups attending, five have had their improvement plans approved by their school administrations.
- **Putnam County Farm Safety Round-Up**—OSU Extension, Putnam County worked collaboratively with the Putnam County Health Department to conduct the ninth annual Farm Safety Camp. Nine school districts participated in the county-wide program. Putnam County’s 3rd grade students rotated through several safety sessions including grain entrapment, pond safety, working safely around chemicals, electricity, tractors, and techniques in basic first aid. There were 603 students of a possible 631 that attended the camp. Students completed a survey with an 89% response rate. Third graders were able to recall ten out of twelve safety messages taught at the day camps with a minimum ac-

curacy level of 70%. Youth self-reported they had more exposure to lawn mowers and yard/garden chemicals than other rural hazards. Youth also reported a low injury rate, with most injuries occurring from exposure to livestock or chemicals. Over 50% of the youth surveyed said they could follow safety rules “all of the time,” and 40.3% agreed they could follow safety rules “most of the time.”

- **4-H Club Officer Training**—The Putnam County 4-H Junior Leaders coordinated a 4-H club officer training program this year. The goal was to develop quality leadership skills in the youth officers of 4-H clubs. Curriculum focused on managing effective 4-H meetings (parliamentary procedure, communication, and organization), proper accounting (managing the financing appropriately), and taking quality minutes of a meeting. The program had 100% club participation with 64 4-H officers attending. The training was delivered by Wright State University Collegiate 4-H members.
- **4-H CARTEENS**—The CARTEENS program was developed in collaboration with the sheriff’s department, juvenile court, and local police departments using state 4-H curriculum. The peer-delivered program targets first-time juvenile traffic offenders. Such offenders are referred by juvenile court and can attend the program as a diversion option in lieu of having to attend a hearing for the offense. CARTEENS has reached 656 teen drivers and has undergone a 246% increase in participation since 2003. CARTEENS has generated \$11,240 to support scholarships, curriculum, and supplies.

## Strengthening Families and Communities

- **Family Nutrition Program**—109 presentations were given within the requirements of the Family Nutrition Program USDA grant, covering areas of nutrition, food safety, and food budgeting. A total of 648 participants attended these programs with 620 learning new information and 617 planning to make some positive change.
- **Putnam County Action for Healthy People**—A continuing initiative is a county collaborative through which FCS does programming in 13 schools and at county events for families.

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