



# Auglaize County

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EXTENSION

## 2008 County Highlights

### Preparing Youth for Success

- **4-H Program Reaches Over 2,000 Youth**—The Auglaize County 4-H program served over 2,000 youth during 2008. This number reflects participation in community clubs, school enrichment, Cloverbud, and special events. There were 230 volunteers giving leadership to the program. The Chick Embryology project continues to be the most popular classroom project. Market hogs and clothing projects were among the most popular projects through the community club program.
- **4-H in the Classroom Offers Experiential Learning**—As teachers and students returned to the classroom this fall, many became enrolled in the 4-H in the Classroom program. Approximately 1,175 students in forty-seven classrooms are learning the “4-H way” with hands-on experiential curriculums. This program offers a variety of curriculums from which teachers can choose. Programs offered include The Incredible Egg; Weather; and Rockets Away. In addition, the Cloverbud program is being conducted in kindergarten through second grades throughout the county.
- **Bread of the Harvest**—Three hundred seventy-five third and fourth graders had the opportunity to make bread this fall. The 4-H Educator and Program Assistant taught the “Bread of the Harvest” program throughout the county. Students learned about the pilgrims’ voyage to the New World, the history of bread and its importance in the development of our country. They also learned about the importance of clean hands and how to wash their hands properly. The grand finale of the program was making a loaf of yeast bread. Working in pairs, the students had to measure and mix the ingredients and then knead the dough. Each student took home their own loaf of Carver’s Colonial Bread.
- **You Can Choose**—Students around the county learned about making good choices through a 4-H in the Classroom program. The program focuses on friendship skills and conflict resolution. Fourteen classrooms participated in the program. The 4-H Educator and Program Assistant visited each classroom two times to present the curriculum.
- **4-H Camp Has a Jungle Theme**—One hundred ninety-five campers went to 4-H Camp Palmer in June. Our theme was “Camp Palmer Jammin’ in the Jungle.” Campers and counselors enjoyed the five-day residential camping program. Highlights included canoeing,

high ropes, candle lighting, dances, campfires, and a trip to Harrison Lake. Teen counselors gained leadership skills by conducting activities and supervising younger campers. These counselors attended a series of training sessions in the spring to learn counseling skills and plan the program.

- **Auglaize County Fair a Success**—After many months of planning, the Auglaize County Junior Fair board conducted the county fair. With over 1,600 youth participants, the Junior Fair continues to grow in size. The board of teen leaders conducted their judging events with the cooperation of adult advisors. Members of the Junior Fair board were elected or appointed by their peers to serve.
- **CARTEENS Promote Safe Driving**—The Auglaize County CARTEENS reaches over 200 teen drivers annually. The program, for teen drivers, is taught by teen drivers. Participants have the chance to be involved in a series of activities which promote safe driving. The program also includes guest speakers who have been touched by traffic fatalities. The Wapakoneta Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is very active, with troopers speaking to the participants. The program is a cooperative effort between 4-H and the Juvenile Court.

### Strengthening Families and Communities

- **Family Nutrition Program**—The Family Nutrition Program is a nutrition education program with a goal of helping food stamp program participants and eligible non-participants acquire knowledge, skills, attitudes, and changed behavior necessary for maximizing resources to achieve nutritionally sound diets. The program reached 376 Auglaize County citizens as they attended 68 classes and 339 indirect contacts. Classes were held at the following locations: WIC, Elderly Nutrition Site (St. Marys Council on Aging), Mercy Unlimited, Wapak Village Apartments, Blume Apartments, Loaves and Fishes Dinner, Department of Job & Family Services, Opportunity School and Community Health. An average of 75 newsletters was distributed monthly. Some of the classes discussed were on carbohydrates, portion control, finding fiber in your diet, checking food labels, hand washing, and keeping a budget.
- **Kid’s Chef School**—40 youth and 4 teen leaders gained knowledge on nutrition, hand washing, food safety, and manners as a result of attending Kid’s Chef Schools. They practiced food preparation techniques.

- **Walk Across Auglaize County**—One hundred sixty-one people have enrolled in the Families Walk Across Auglaize County program. Eight families completed the program and 43 incentives were given. Three grand prize winners were randomly selected by drawing names out of a hat. 207 people have enrolled in the Individuals Walk Across Auglaize County Program. Three hundred and nine incentives have been given. Information on physical activity and nutrition was shared with participants. Funding for the program comes from the Ruth Arnold Steva Endowment Fund and the Dannon Next Generation Grant.
- **Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?**—39 participants gained knowledge on the transfer of non-titled personal property. Issues discussed included sensitivity issues, goals, what fair means, the meaning of objects, distribution options and rules, and managing conflict.
- **Getting Rid of Your Midlife Clutter**—Ninety participants increased their knowledge of organizing their homes, clutter facts, midlife issues, why clutter collects, and getting rid of clutter. Participants classified their clutter. They also were encouraged to set a goal for clutter control and work to accomplish the goal.
- **ServSafe®**—Fourteen food service employees gained knowledge on food safety. Seven participants enrolled in ServSafe passed the National Restaurant Association ServSafe Manager's examination. Follow-up evaluations indicate that employees intend to talk to their supervisor about changes that need to be made; learned more about viruses, bacteria, and parasites; plan to share information with other employees; wash hands properly and more often; plan to move chemicals away from food preparation areas; and recognition of what was being done incorrectly in their establishment.
- **Annie's Project**—Twenty-six participants developed management and decision-making skills related to the complex dynamic world of agriculture. They were empowered to become better business partners by increasing their knowledge of marketing, risk management, and record keeping and farm finances.
- **Real Money, Real World**—206 youth increased their knowledge of how occupation affects income, gross versus net income, how to use a checking account, and making real money, real world choices. Sixteen community partners assisted with the Real Money, Real World Simulation. When asked what youth learned, they indicated they had not realized how expensive it was to live each month, child care is expensive, children cost money, and you need a good education to get a good job. As a result of the program, youth plan to pay more attention to money, to study harder and not slack off, to wait to get married, and to save more money.

## Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- **Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference 2008**—The 17th Annual CTC was held at Ohio Northern University on February 21 and 22, 2008. As in the 2007 program, we had a special program for crop consultants and precision agriculture. Each day there were over 600 people in attendance. Survey estimates of farmers and consultants put the value of the program at approximately \$255 million.
- **Ohio Extension Specialization Teams**—Many of the Extension Educators are members of statewide specialization teams. The teams are designed to improve specialization and distribution of knowledge. The Auglaize Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator is a member of the Dairy, Agronomy, and Waste Management Teams.
- **Manure Science Review (MSR)**—The 10th Annual MSR was held in July 2008. There were 200 participants in the one-day program at Farm Science Review grounds. This year it was a five-state program.
- **First Year Corn Rootworm**—First Year Corn Rootworm has moved into Western Ohio. It is starting to be a problem for growers. The three soybean fields monitored in western Auglaize County did indicate economic threshold. We will see numbers continue to increase.
- **Dairy Series**—The noon dairy series (1 day each month) is covering many topics of interest to dairy farmers. This continues to be a very popular program.
- **Newsletter and Newspaper**—A monthly newsletter is published on Agronomy, Dairy, Beef, Sheep and Swine, plus, many newspaper articles on agriculture. Lawn, landscape and garden articles are published weekly.
- **4-H Sea Camp**—The 2008 Sea Camp was held in July. The 56 youth attending 4-H Sea Camp increased their knowledge of Lake Erie boating, sailing, fishing, water ecology, and history. Sea Camp provides youth with experiences in decision making, getting along with others, and many challenges that will better prepare them for future life. Most passed their "Safe Boating" test for ODNR Division of Watercraft.
- **Reduced Rate Soybean Planting**—The low population plots (60,000 plants per acre compared to 120,000 and 160,000 plants per acre) have yielded comparable to the higher population plots.
- **Outdoor Skills Day**—The annual Family Outdoor Skills Day was held in June 2008 at the Moulton Gun Club. There were fifty-six registrants that improved their safety and shooting skills with rifle, shotgun, and bow and arrow.
- **4-H Shooting Sports**—There were 12 members of 4-H shooting sports who learned safety and shooting techniques of shooting firearms and bow this year. There are now five qualified advisors for the program.

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