



Belmont County

101 North Market, Suite A
St. Clairsville 43950, 740-695-1455



2007 Impact Statements

4-H Youth Development

- 41 teens served as **4-H Camp Counselors** during the 4-H Junior Camp. These teens participated in approximately 30 hours of training sessions learning the serious role of caring for children as a camp counselor. These young people were also responsible for planning and conducting most programming during the camp and assisted with teaching educational sessions. Additionally, 16 teens served in the role as **Counselors in Training** and were assigned a counselor to shadow during camp, learning the role of being a good camp counselor.
- 113 youth age 9-13 participated in **Belmont County 4-H Junior Camp** in June. The *Dreams Can Come True at 4-H Camp Piedmont* themed camp gave youth an opportunity to live in a cabin with other youth learning valuable life skills. They also had opportunities to learn about natural resources, athletics, boating, swimming, crafts and other educational activities while participating in the four-day camp.
- 25 youth ages 5-8 participated in Belmont County **4-H Cloverbud Camp** in August. The *Cloverbuds are Mooving Ahead* themed camp gave youth an opportunity to learn about dairy cattle and music. They had opportunities to learn about making music, match noises, sing, make flubber, and learn the various by-products that come from a dairy cow including ice cream which they were able to make on their own.
- Four **Livestock Quality Assurance** sessions were offered reaching close to 170 4-H and FFA members. This year, youth watched "From Farm to Fair," a skit exploring each of the good production practices. Youth learned about animal welfare, ethics, and food safety. Youth participated in sessions on parasites, identifying and tracking your animal, and making market weight.
- 35 4-H members served as barn hosts developing leadership and communication skills as they shared their knowledge about their livestock projects at the 16th annual "**Fair Field Day**" at the Belmont County Fair. The 674 elementary school children and 87 adults who participated in the single-day program learned about the proper care and handling of each of the livestock species exhibited at the fair. Youth were able to gain an understanding of the variety of projects offered to 4-H members as they toured the Junior Fair Building where hundreds of still projects were on exhibit.
- The "**Reading Makes the Best Better**" Program reached nearly 300 children in its first year. Twelve 4-H youth, adult volunteers, and OSU Extension employees visited 16 kindergarten classrooms. During the 30-minute program, volunteers read stories to the students, discussed the importance of learning to read and promoted the 4-H Cloverbud program. The program was sponsored by OSU Extension Belmont County, The Ohio 4-H Foundation and Belmont County 4-H Council.
- The program "Get a Clue About Plants" was presented in eight of Belmont County's nine libraries this summer during the **Library Summer Reading Program**. 224 children participated in the program where they studied the parts of a plant and then planted flower seeds in a biodegradable, compostable cup.
- *Breads of the Harvest* and *The Incredible Egg* remain the two most popular programs offered through the **4-H School Enrichment Program**. Alignment with Ohio Academic Content Standards continues to make these programs a hit with teachers while the benefits of the interactive, hands-on activities make the programs a hit with the students. 335 third graders participated in *The Incredible Egg* while 261 students in 12 classrooms were involved in *Breads of the Harvest*. Fifty students in two 4th grade classrooms also participated in *Go Plants!*
- Introduced as a pilot project at Bellaire Elementary School in 2006, the **Edible Schoolyard** continues to create excitement with the teachers and students. Two additional raised beds were built this year. In addition to making a salad from a spring harvest of lettuce, onions and radishes, students started sweet potato slips in the classroom and planted them the last day of school along with white potatoes. When school resumed in the fall, both crops were harvested. 44 students in the two third grade classrooms made their own sweet potato French fries. Then 70 pounds of white potatoes were sold at a local farmers' market with proceeds benefiting the expansion of the school garden.
- Designed to use peer pressure to elicit positive change in the driving habits of first-time juvenile traffic offenders, **CARTEENS** continues to operate in Belmont County in cooperation with the Belmont County Juvenile Court. 175 teens have attended with one of their parents this year.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

- The **Eighth Annual Youth Safety Day Roundup** was held in conjunction with the county's fifth annual fourth-grade dairy day. A total of 292 youth, as well as 25 teachers, learned about the dairy industry and attended six 20-minute safety sessions. Each youth received a free T-shirt

for their participation. ATV safety was highlighted at this year's event which included an ATV mock accident and helicopter life flight. Returned surveys documented that 65.2 percent of the participants stated that they learned very much from attending the field day. Surveys also stated that 57.4 percent of the participants "very much" learned something that they could use.

- In 2007, 39 **Master Gardeners** from Belmont and Monroe counties provided 550 hours of volunteer service and made more than 1,000 individual contacts. Since the program began in 1994, Master Gardeners have provided more than 10,000 hours of volunteer time and have reached 22,000 clients.
- 11 youth and adults participated in the **2007 Belmont County 4-H Dairy Tour** in August. The group visited the Washington, Pennsylvania, area. They visited two dairy farms and one Farm Produce Market. Participants also attended a minor league baseball game.
- 35 people attended a **Timber Marketing and Taxation Meeting**. Also, during the year, 20 additional landowners individually requested and received timber marketing information from the Extension office. Due to this information, three landowners hired a consulting forester to assist in the marketing of their timber. A survey conducted in recent years showed that a landowner receives 75% more income when they pursue professional advice.
- Three vegetable production meetings were held in conjunction with the **Captina Produce Auction**. Fifty individuals attended these educational meetings. Also, over five individual farm visits were held. Downey Mildew was detected at one of these visits and chemical recommendations were provided that prevented significant losses of produce in this area of the state. During the past year, the producers increased their production and sales. In 2007, the produce auction sold over \$200,000 dollars worth of produce.
- Many winter **educational meetings** were held and were well attended. This includes: 45 participants at an educational pond meeting, 35 participants at a sheep and goat meeting and 20 participants at a direct marketing meeting.

Family & Consumer Sciences

- Focusing on schools in communities throughout Belmont County allowed for the expansion of the **Healthy Ohioans Fitness Walk**. Over 3,600 people walked one mile courses in various communities and at different school locations. While this was only a slight increase over last year's numbers (because of inclement weather), many additional individuals and groups were involved in the planning and many extra activities were associated with the walking event. \$2,000 in grant funds were secured for this project

and distributed to six different school districts submitting youth-led grant proposals.

- Teaching parents to help children cope with divorce is the purpose of the **Divorce Education Program**. This two-and-a-half-hour multimedia, educational program offers information on the divorce process and post-divorce parenting. In 2008, over 225 adults attended this court mandated program contracted by the Belmont County Magistrate's Office. Beginning in 2008, we are using a state-wide, standardized evaluation tool which will allow us to compile and evaluate information from attendees.
- Newly mandated planning required of Belmont County Families and Children First Councils (FCFC) was facilitated by the Belmont County OSU Extension office. The report was completed and submitted in July 2007. The contract included **\$5,000 in cost recovery**.
- In response to unfunded wellness mandates directed at local school districts, the **Belmont County Community and Family Wellness Coalition**, organized by OSU Extension, meets monthly to improve the quality of life for children and their families through encouragement of healthy lifestyles. Attendance at these meetings has tripled, with representatives from local schools, hospitals, agencies, non-profits and lay people making up the board which planned and implemented several teacher/staff training events for 2007, including: CATCH PE Curriculum Training (April 2007—46 attendees), Tools For Schools Cook's Conference (August 2007—42 attendees), Tools for Schools PE Conference (October 2007—44 attendees). \$900 was secured from Action for Healthy Kids—Zone 7 to fund trainings.
- **Prison parenting classes** are taught at the local state prison. The six-week series covers topics including developmental stages, discipline and parenting styles, anger, safety and first aid, maintaining communication while in prison, and self esteem. 40 men were reached in 2007.
- The **Family Nutrition Program** continues to be funded in Belmont County. Cost share increases have allowed for expansion with the program assistant position increasing from 75% to 100% time. Basic nutrition, food safety, and food security skills are taught to food-stamp-eligible audiences. Healthy nutrition choices based on MyPyramid and thrifty shopping skills are included in the classes. Presentations are made at several agencies throughout the county. In 2007, 2,405 participants attended programs, with 93% reporting that they learned new knowledge and plan to adopt newly learned skills. Recently the ten senior centers have been added to the schedule. This will provide the eligible senior audience with information to improve the quality of their lives especially with food safety knowledge.

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