



Brown County

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2008 County Highlights

Strengthening Families and Communities

- OSU Extension partnered with the Brown County Regional Hospital to offer Dining with Diabetes classes. Twenty-five diabetics attended the classes. Completed evaluations indicated that 100% of the participants felt that as a result of attending the classes, they had increased their knowledge about diabetes. Ninety-five percent of participants were able to list two changes that they had begun to implement to manage their diabetes as a result of attending the Dining with Diabetes classes. Twenty-five percent of participants indicated moderate weight loss and 40% indicated lower blood glucose levels. Over 130 people visited the Dining With Diabetes booth at the 2008 Brown County Health Fair.
- Over 120 youth and adults learned how to protect their skin from the damaging sun rays that can cause skin cancer. Participants viewed their skin under special lighting of a Dermascan machine to assess the current level of sun damage and learned to protect from future sun damage and possible skin cancer by properly using sun screen, sun hats, protective clothing, sun glasses and limiting sun exposure.
- The Family Nutrition Program, which targets food stamp eligible recipients, reached approximately 690 individuals through nutrition classes and educational displays. Participants learned about basic nutrition, meal management, food safety and food budgeting. Over 750 newsletters were distributed monthly through Job and Family Services, WIC, Headstart, Local Food Pantries, and Senior Nutrition Sites.
- Over 190 youth learned how to utilize MyPyramid as a tool to select a healthy diet to enhance good health. Students learned about the relationship between unhealthy eating habits and inactivity and the growing problem of childhood obesity. Through hands-on activities, 100% of participating students were able to select numerous healthy foods and snacks, and were able to identify ways they could become more physically active.
- OSU Extension provided educational classes for over fifty-five home-based and center-based child care providers to assist them to maintain or receive their child care certification. Providers increased their knowledge in the areas of planning healthy snacks, handling difficult behavior, and incorporating fun physical activity into the day-care schedule. Ninety-seven percent of

participants indicated that they learned new information that they plan to utilize in providing quality care for young children in their day-care facility.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- Producing a quality food product is a goal for American agriculture. In order for Junior Fair exhibitors to understand the importance of producing quality food, the agriculture educator and the 4-H educator collaborated with Junior and Senior Fair personnel to conduct Quality Assurance programming. As a result, over 490 youth and parents learned the ten factors relating to producing a wholesome product for the consumer market.
- Over 250 fifth graders and fifty adults learned the importance of agriculture commodities in Ohio, and how scientists are discovering new uses for agriculture products through a program presented by the 4-H Teens for the Future during the Brown County Soil and Water Board's annual field day.

Preparing Youth for Success

- OSU Extension Brown County, through their partnership with the Southern Ohio Center of Excellence at Southern State Community College, has implemented a six-year grant for college access entitled GearUp. The program reached 576 students in the West Union School system. The GearUp program is one of the contributing factors for the school system's excellent rating (per the Ohio Department of Education's rating system). This rating means that the students have met or exceeded academic and attendance measures.
- Youth need to learn about the reality of everyday life. OSU Extension Brown County was involved in providing the "Real Money Real World" program for 300 junior high students. Through this effort, the students learned how to budget their monthly income and the importance of making wise spending decisions. The team collaborated with fifteen area businesses and the Extension 4-H educator from Highland County.
- Fifteen youth, ages 11-16, successfully completed a two-day babysitter's training workshop. The workshop was a collaborative effort between OSU Extension and the Southern Hills Career and Technical Center. Students increased their knowledge in CPR, basic first aid, child development, behavior management, safety concerns, handling emergencies, age-appropriate play activities, food safety, and nutrition.

- Three hundred volunteers assist youth with leadership development through membership in 4-H community clubs. Leadership education has been provided to the local club officers through officer training and a special leadership day “on wheels” where forty-five officers toured the Ohio State House, attended a leadership workshop at the Nationwide Farm Bureau Center, and a tour of the Ohio State University campus.

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- The current economic situation in America drives home the fact that small businesses will be the future growth of our country. With this in mind, OSU Extension Brown County conducted Mini Society® for 580 fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. The program was facilitated in the five county school systems. Students learned how to run their own business and learned basic economic principles to increase their profits.
- In 2008, in an attempt to better serve farmers educational needs, OSU Extension Brown County began a new program for educational meetings during the winter months called Farmer’s Club. Four programs were conducted, one per month, including Tax Management, Managing Forages Following the Drought of 2007, Managing Woodlots and Timber, and Managing Glyphosate Resistant Weeds in row crops. An average of nine producers attended these meetings the first year, with very good discussion becoming common. The group indicated that they would like to continue the programs next year. From the post-program survey, 94% of the producers who attended the program indicated that they had gained knowledge to improve their profits with timber harvest, weed management, taxes, and/or forage production.
- The Brown County Master Gardener program was started three years ago to train potential volunteers to assist with the operation of a helpline to answer questions and to do projects in the county related to gardening. There are currently over twenty-five active Master Gardeners in Brown County. They staffed a booth the week of the Brown County Fair and had over 1,000 visitors to the booth. Members of the group spoke to eight garden clubs during the year, and have written a weekly article in one of the local papers which has a publication of 23,600. They are currently working with the local hospital to establish a memorial setting with trees, benches, and other landscaping near the critical care unit.
- Brown County collaborated with the University of Kentucky to conduct the Innovative Tobacco Grower Program. The program reached tobacco producers from five Ohio counties. The industry has continued

to change since the end of the quota system, with direct marketing and contracts between the grower and tobacco companies. The tobacco companies have continued to adjust to better meet their needs. As the companies continue to adjust the end product to meet these needs, they continue to reflect that in the price paid to farmers. This program was designed to assist farmers meet those expectations, and improve their price at market, but more importantly, failure to make adjustments concerning the use of pesticides could terminate the grower’s contract for future years. Twenty-three producers participated in the program. Seventeen stated that they would be making changes in their current production practices for the coming growing season when we were discussing pesticide’s use and residues. Eleven producers indicated that they would be using different varieties in the next growing season to reduce the need for pesticides due to resistance in new varieties, thus reducing residues, reducing production costs, and hopefully increasing profits.

- Two hundred and seven Brown County farmers have a private applicator pesticide license. The license must be renewed every three years. The re-certification programs in Brown County in 2008 helped re-certify eighty-one applicators.
- Five educational meetings were held on a variety of topics concerning the cow/calf operations in Brown County in 2008. The cattlemen meetings averaged seventeen producers dealing with methods to cut cost of production, herd health, and increasing market ability.
- In Brown County, one of the biggest financial enterprises in agriculture is soybeans. In 2008, OSU Extension conducted an USDA Soybean Rust Sentinel Plot and the educator attended training in Quincy, Florida, concerning Soybean Rust. Leaves were collected on a weekly basis and sent to OSU labs in Wooster to confirm the status of Soybean Rust, should it move into the area. This knowledge would provide local growers with ample time to apply preventative fungicides to their crop to prevent possible yield loss. The estimated number of acres of soybeans in Brown County is over 75,000.
- Tobacco production in Brown County has decreased over the past few years, but several farmers still depend on this crop for a significant amount of their income. Disease pressure is always a concern for yield loss. In 2008, two research plots were conducted in cooperation with two Brown County tobacco producers, the OSU Extension educator, and the University of Kentucky. These trials included varieties, fungicides, and fertility.

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