



Butler County

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2008 County Highlights

Strengthening Families and Communities

- More than 825 first-time traffic offenders with parent/legal guardian attended 4-H CARTEENS. Seventy-two teens have volunteered a total of 2,133 hours altering risky driving behaviors. Program impact noted: "I feel I got more of my money's worth here than the \$300+ I spent sending him to driver's education." The 4-H CARTEENS program of Butler County was recognized as one of the 2008 National 4-H Urban Programs of Distinction.
- Over 200 teen and young fathers improved fathering skills. Many of the fathers are paying child support ranging from \$40 to \$99 per month. One percent are custodial parents since the mothers gave them custody of the child. Comments recorded by a teen father were, "I had no idea it would cost this much to raise my baby until I took this class."
- Butler County Family Nutrition Program—For the year of 2008, the Family Nutrition Program has provided nutrition education to 2,449 food stamp eligible participants. The program assistant taught 59 classes to 351 participants at various community agencies. Class evaluations indicate that participants improved healthy eating behaviors and were less likely to run out of food at the end of the month.
- Dining with Diabetes—Twenty-six participants attended Butler County's Dining with Diabetes program in May and October 2008. The goals of the program are to increase the knowledge of nutrition related to diabetic meal planning and to encourage behavior change related to healthy eating. Results suggest that participants' knowledge and self-confidence towards meal planning increased after the training.
- Food Preservation—On October 29, 2008, seventeen individuals participated in a two-hour food preservation workshop. After the workshop, the majority of participants reported to be more knowledgeable about food safety and were more confident in their ability to safely freeze, can, or dry food. All participants reported that they would apply the information presented in the workshop.
- Choice Food Pantry Development: Volunteer Training—OSU Extension, working with the Butler County FEED (Feed, Educate, Empower, and Deliver) Alliance, developed a two-hour diversity training session for

choice food pantry volunteers. The training was implemented in eight Butler County choice food pantries with eighty-six volunteers participating. Evaluations suggest that participants felt more confident that they can have positive interactions with clients from different backgrounds.

- Dermascan Sun Safety Program—Dermascan Sun Safety program shares current sun-safety research through lectures and demonstrations. For the demonstrations, a machine allows participants to view sun damage on their face and hands. In 2008, over 2,357 Butler County residents participated in Dermascan. Participants often provide positive feedback regarding the program. For example, after one Dermascan program two employees from the Butler County MRDD reported that they had stopped visiting tanning several years.
- The EFNEP Youth program assistant presented Food Facts and Fun in 12 classrooms at three Hamilton City schools. She taught 48 class sessions, reaching 203 students, teaching the students about My Pyramid, label reading, food safety, and making good snack choices. Sharing the importance of eating fruits and vegetables and food safety was the main focus of reaching 775 children at the Middleton Free Lunch Sites and the Middletown YMCA this summer.
- At the Butler County Fair almost 700 children and families took part in the JIFF Scavenger Hunt and the MyPyramid Zone. Looking for nutrition and food safety clues around the fairgrounds was the goal of The JIFF Scavenger Hunt. Children learned about fitness, the various food groups, food safety, and other topics using hands-on activities at the MyPyramid Zone.

Preparing Youth for Success

- 42 teens serving on the Butler County Junior Fair Board were observed practicing leadership and organizational skills as they planned and conducted Junior Fair events at the Butler County Fair. These youth volunteered over 2,100 hours of volunteer time in 2008. Their leadership experience included decision making, using parliamentary procedure during meetings, record keeping, and public speaking.
- 21 camp counselors received 20 hours of training and were observed leading activities, teaching youth life skills, providing citizenship activities, and fostering social interaction with 85 youth and peers. These camp

counselors spent 1,785 hours of volunteer time on training, recruitment, teaching, and practicing leadership and citizenship skills.

- The Junior Fair Board, 4-H camp counselors, and 15 members of the 4-H Food and Fashion Board provided 4,110 hours of volunteer time. According to research from Independent Sector, their contribution of volunteer hours related to \$80,186 of service to our county.
- The following are comments from parents of Butler County 4-H members: “Through 4-H my boys have learned so much in the areas of leadership, service, public speaking, and practical skills for living.” “4-H has given me an opportunity to watch my son grow in his confidence, independence, and work ethic. He has learned that if you give 100%, you are proud no matter what place you finish, and the time we spend together is priceless.” “As a parent of a 4-H’er, I have watched my daughter grow as an individual—growing in areas of accountability, responsibility, and the ability to understand the importance of community service and family values.”

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- USDA soybean sentinel plots were scouted each week, from May to October, with no Soybean Rust detected. This saved an application of fungicide to 32,000 acres at a savings of \$512,000.
- Between 1977 and 1981, 76.1 percent of those participating in OSU Extension programs used conventional tillage to plant corn. Between 2002 and 2006 the number using conventional tillage had gone down to 4.8 percent, which has saved 320,000 tons of top soil going into our streams each year.
- Producers who participated in the Extension Corn Yield Check averaged 151.5 bushels per acre for fields selected. Butler County corn yield, as reported by Ohio Agricultural Statistics, was 118 bushels per acre.
- Eighty-five Master Gardeners volunteered 4,375 hours for a value of \$85,356 to thirty-two community projects.

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- Servsafe—In October and June 2008, seventeen individuals participated in Servsafe training. The objectives of Servsafe are to provide food safety education to food establishment managers in Butler County and to facilitate food safety certification with the National Restaurant Association and the Ohio Department of Health. Each participant completed 16 hours of training followed by a certification exam. Fourteen out of eighteen participants passed the certification exam. The average passing score was 86.65%.
- The College 101: Strategies for First-Year Success program offers key points that high school seniors “must know” before they depart for college. Fifteen Miami University students volunteered to facilitate the program for 135 high school students. One comment: “It was awesome getting the information from kids who are experiencing life on campus.”

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