



Champaign County

1512 South U.S. Highway 68, Suite B100
Urbana 43078, 937-484-1526

<http://champaign.osu.edu>



EXTENSION

2008 County Highlights

Preparing Youth for Success

- **Enrollment**—This year was a record high with youth enrollment of 1,969 members led by 431 adult volunteers in 172 clubs. All members carrying a livestock project attended a Producer Quality Assurance Program and participated in a Skillathon class.
- **Volunteer Trainings**—All new volunteers attended a two-hour new volunteer training event, underwent a background check and an interview. All horse volunteers attended a hands-on safety clinic. The Cloverbud advisors attended a program to better understand working with younger members and learned about Cloverbud projects. Adult and older youth volunteers helped with Skillathons, Judging, Goat Clinic, Horse Clinic, Dairy Feeder Clinic, and Beef Clinics.
- **Camps**—There were two week-long junior camps held during the summer with 240 campers and 57 youth camp counselors. The camp counselors attended a minimum of 24 hours of training and planning. A two-day county 4-H Cloverbud Camp was held at the fairgrounds with 28 participants.
- **Fundraising for Camp Clifton**—The Champaign County 4-H Advisory Committee held a spaghetti fundraiser for Camp Clifton's pool renovation project. The event raised a total of \$8,000 to aid in the project with \$2,000 in donations from the Champaign County Farm Bureau and \$1,000 from the Horse Advisor Club.
- **Jr. Leadership**—Seventy-two youth participate in Champaign County Junior Leadership Club. The Junior Leaders organized and participated in a 4-H Relay for Life team. The Junior Leaders visited all five county schools introducing and inviting all elementary age youth to join 4-H. The club participated in a diversity program as well as leadership programs.
- **Champaign County Fair**—The 2008 fair housed 2,923 livestock/animal projects and 1,033 non-livestock projects for a total of 3,956 exhibits displayed. There were 1,377 4-H exhibitors and 167 FFA exhibitors. The working relationship between the Senior Fairboard, OSU Extension, Junior Fairboard and 4-H volunteers, FFA, and parents continue to make the fair the best and largest event in the county.
- **School Enrichment**—A total of 437 students from 25 classrooms participated in OSU Extension 4-H school enrichment programs including the "Incredible Egg," "Weather Together," and "Breads of the Harvest."

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- **Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (CORN) Newsletter**—The statewide CORN newsletter is read by an estimated 14,000 readers; we provide crop scouting reports, production management programming, and crop recommendations. The Champaign County AgNR Educator edited six issues of the newsletter and contributed regular scouting reports to the Monday morning conference calls of county agronomic specialists and State Specialists. In 2007, Champaign County producers valued the newsletter at \$520,000.
- **Crop Scouting**—Again this year, we were an Asian Soybean Rust and aphid scout site for the national USDA-PIPEE program. We also scouted for the Western Corn Rootworm variant across the county finding moderate levels of corn rootworm adults this year in soybean fields. Additional efforts included Western bean cutworm trapping as well as disease evaluations in corn and soybeans.
- **CTC**—The Conservation Tillage & Technology Conference attracts as many as 700 crop advisors and producers annually for a two-day conference. The AgNR educator provides programming on production technology, weed management, corn production, and cover crop uses. This year we added a First Detector training event. Farmer surveys showed they valued CTC education at \$16.25 per acre and crop advisors who completed the CTC evaluation placed a value on their increased knowledge at \$15.65 per acre.
- **Farm Science Review**—Assisted in the development, set up, and staffing of the Crops, Diagnostic, Safety and Energy Tent, which invited producers to discuss the year's problems and provided suggestions to improve yields, save energy, and work more safely. This year we added field demonstrations on the history of corn improvement, foliar fungicide use, and weed management along with Certified Crop Advisor training in evaluation of soybean foliar fungicide applications. This year the Farm Science Review attendance was 126,525.
- **Nitrogen Management**—The nitrogen rate study at the Western Ag Research Station is in its fourth year and results show that university recommendations of 140 to 160 pounds per acre of nitrogen are correct for our area. With high nitrogen prices, growers are applying rates closer to recommended rates and approximately 40 pounds below past use rates.

- **Pesticide Applicator Training**—With the help of neighboring AgNR personnel, we trained 54 licensed pesticide applicators in Champaign County. The AgNR educator also trained 500 individuals in weed management in the west central Ohio area counties of Auglaize, Mercer, Miami, Logan, Shelby, Union, and Preble and provided an hour-long weed resistance presentation for the Commercial Applicators school attendees in Lima.
- **Master Gardener Program Highlights**—The Master Gardener (MG) program coordinated by OSU Extension is a premier adult education program that provides intensive horticultural training to interested gardeners. Seven modules were taught to over 115 trainees in the areas of basic entomology, integrated pest management, and pesticide education since January 2008.

Integrated Pest Management Program

- **Pumpkin Field Day, August 21, 2008**—Ohio State University specialists presented findings on research projects including a pumpkin variety trial, fungicide demonstration trial, and a third year trial screening resistance to white speck (*Plectosporium*) to 30 growers from around the state.
- **Research trials focused on Corn earworm** control in fresh market sweet corn and powdery mildew resistance to fungicides in pumpkin was funded with grants totaling \$6,050 from the Ohio Vegetable and Small Fruit Research and Development Program, and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center.
- **An additional grant for \$30,000** from the North Central IPM Center maintains the Great Lakes Vegetable Working Group (GLVWG); for more information see <http://glvwg.ag.ohio-state.edu/>. The leadership of this international working group is based in Champaign County. A survey developed by this group summarized the IPM adoption practices of Midwest and Ontario processing tomato growers with a poster presented at the national Entomological Society of America conference. The GLVWG developed a 4.5 hour IPM workshop for sweet corn growers at the 2008 Great Lakes Expo in Michigan, providing a DVD of all nine speakers' presentations. The GLVWG also produced over 3,300 "Sweet Corn Pest Identification and Management" pocket guides. This 100-page field guide is a great resource to help growers identify pests, horticultural management practices, and herbicide injury.

Strengthening Families and Communities

- **New Start**—New Start, an approved personal financial course for bankruptcy filers was offered to six Champaign County residents through May this year. New Start is a two-hour course that provides face-to-face interaction and instruction focused on enhancing skills in personal finance. This course covers the financial topics required by the Bankruptcy Abuse and Prevention Act of 2005. After completion of the course, a Certificate of Debtor Education is created to present to the courts at the final bankruptcy hearing.
- **Dining with Diabetes**—Classes held in conjunction with the Champaign County Health Department helped the 36 participants "put into practice" the educational advice they received about managing their disease through diet management. This program is funded entirely from community donations.
- **ServSafe**—This is a professional development workshop for restaurant managers, health care professionals, and other food service personnel. Held in conjunction with Logan County Extension and the Champaign County Health Department, this program was presented twice this year through May, to 15 individuals. This food safety course empowers participants to implement and monitor measures for prevention of food-borne diseases, minimize liability risks, be aware of standards enforced by the regulatory agencies, and simplify Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point principles.
- **FNP Program**—The Family Nutrition Program encourages food stamp recipient and food stamp eligible individuals and families to eat a healthy diet, prepare food with food safety measures in mind, and to manage their limited resources effectively. Most of our programming in Champaign County reaches the senior audience, but we are also reaching young families with nutritional programming. This past year 47 classes were offered with 436 individuals receiving services.

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