



Clermont County

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2008 County Highlights

Strengthening Families and Communities

- Homemade in the Heart of Clermont* is the title of a unique series of timely interactive media teaching opportunities to promote healthy, safe lifestyles. *In the Kitchen with Margaret* is submitted monthly to the Commissioner's electronic newsletter posted on the Clermont County web site. Tips on food safety and healthy food choices are the focus of the twelve interviews that were conducted for the *Clermont County Today* program. *Preserving Summer Safely* classes were presented at the Clermont County fair and the Clermont County Public Library to 110 attendees. Attendees reported learning reasons for water bath and pressure canning, correct procedure for different preserving techniques, and follow prescribed current recipe directions.
- The Family Nutrition Program (FNP)* continues to help Clermont County residents who are experiencing hunger and poverty. FNP targets families and individuals who are eligible for the Ohio Food Assistance Program. In 2008, 1,062 Clermont County residents participated in 107 FNP classes. Program evaluations show that 97% of participants learned at least some new information and 81% indicated that they would make at least one change as a result of participating in the class. Changes include using USDA's MyPyramid for food choices and increasing fruit consumption. A significant number of participants indicated they ran out of food less often after attending programs. An additional 24,000 residents were reached through indirect contacts via newsletters and community health fairs. FNP works with 33 agencies, food pantries, and emergency assistance organizations. Two staff members were trained in *Navigating for Success*, an adult learner-centered dialogue approach curriculum. FNP is completely funded by the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The dollar value of the FNP grant this year is \$47,097.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture *Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)* pilot grant continues to be implemented in Clermont County. The EFNEP pilot audience is limited resource income families with children from birth to 18 years of age that are responsible for the day-to-day food selection and preparation for the family. Fifty-six individuals were reached by EFNEP in 2008, impacting 213 people in participants' families. EFNEP graduated 38 low income adults with children. Each adult participant received an average of eight lessons on how to select more nutritional foods and gain food production, preparation, storage, safety, and sanitation skills. 74% of adult participants showed improvement in one or more food resource management practices (i.e. more often planned meals in advance, compared prices when shopping, used a list for grocery shopping, or less often ran out of food before the end of the month). 87% of participants reported that their children ate breakfast more often. 55% of adult participants showed improvement in one or more of the food safety practices (i.e. thawing and storing foods properly). 16.2% of adult participants increased their physical activity. Membership on the Family and Children First Council provided the avenue for developing local partnerships with Clermont Help Me Grow, Early Childhood Services/Clermont County MRDD, Clermont Head Start, and Clermont County Department of Job and Family Services to present this program. The value of the grant this year is \$53,934.
- In response to community needs, OSU Extension expanded financial literacy education programming during 2008. Partnering with the local affiliate for Habitat for Humanity, a series of classes titled *Owning Your Own Home* and *Money Management* was offered to five families. Evaluations show participants will use the information learned to establish a safe, financially secure living environment. Another partnership was established with the Clermont County Affordable Housing Coalition to initiate a local *Don't Borrow Trouble* campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to educate citizens on the topic of predatory lending practices. Parents of young children enrolled in Head Start classes experience challenges managing their resources. We created a class to inform and assist these new parents titled *Money Management for Parent of Young Children*. The five participants pledged to save more and spend less in the next month as a result of what they learned in the class.
- Active Parenting* classes are taught quarterly through a referral arrangement with the Clermont County Municipal Court. The goal of the three-week series is to help parents understand parenting today and to raise children who are cooperative, responsible, and better able to resist peer pressure. Participants' comments included, "I learned not to enable them and to rethink on anger issues and not to get impatient when my kids don't do what they're told to do the first time; and I learned positive methods of being more of an active, responsible parent." Sixteen parents were reached impacting 64 individuals in families of participants.

Preparing Youth for Success

- More than 600 4-H youth participated in local project judging. Over 2,000 projects were judged. 31 youth placed in Ohio State Fair competition with projects in the areas of dogs, general projects, and shooting sports. Youth gained goal setting and planning/organization skills not only pertaining to their projects but life skills such as self-motivation, self-discipline, and decision-making skills.
- 13 youth from the county participated in our *Annual Sewing Extravaganza* class. The youth each completed an outfit or project of their choice by the end of the program as well as a pillow case to donate to the House of Peace as part of their service learning activity.
- 140 youth ages 9 to 18 participated in *Clermont Hamilton County 4-H Camp*. The Super Sleuths camp gave youth the opportunity to live in a cabin and learn valuable self-responsibility and teamwork skills.
- CARTEENS helped over 750 youth this year learn how to be safer drivers. Teen volunteers earned over 50 community service hours as well as learned good cooperation, communication, and teamwork skills.
- A new *Junior Master Gardener* group began this year. This group engages youth in hands-on group and individual learning experiences that promote a love of gardening, an appreciation for the environment, and community service volunteering. 83% of youth involved said they would share their new knowledge with 6–10 new people and that they would continue to volunteer within their community.
- Twenty-two youth and adults were members of the *Family and Consumer Sciences Teen Board* during 2008. This board met monthly throughout the year practicing leadership and communication skills. They facilitated both a Food and Nutrition Clinic as well as a Clothing Construction Clinic for 37 Clermont County youth. Over 325 youth contestants benefited from the leadership skills of the board members as they facilitated seven Junior Fair events. Additional community service consisted of conducting youth activities at the Taste of Clermont and operating a healthy snack food concession at the FFE Day. Program evaluations prompted six new members to join the FCS Teen Board for the 2008–09 year.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- *Master Gardener Program*: Trained 15 new members. The County Master Gardener Volunteer Group volunteered 250+ hours to construct a Butterfly Garden at the Cincinnati Nature Center. The Clermont County Master Gardener group provided more than 800 hours of horticulture education back to Clermont County. Trained Master Gardeners to identify and answer questions from the public—79 attendees.

- *Held Emerald Ash Borer Resource Meetings* and provided resources listed: Community Association Institution Meeting—150 people, County Public Meeting—35 people, Constructed County EAB web page. Provided Emerald Ash Borer resources to local county offices by putting together a phone/e-mail resource page. Attendees learned how to identify insect and symptoms, economic impacts, ash tree identification, possible controls, and regulatory laws surrounding this invasive insect.
- Staffed a *horticulture and agricultural hotline* that provided knowledge to over 415 people. Visited 25 farms/households/green industries and provided them with detailed information to help them grow different crops, identify diseases, forage information, and livestock production.
- Offered *Pesticide Applicator Training for Commercial Applicators* to be in accordance with Ohio Revised Code §921.06. Hosted two pesticide testing sites. Recertified 40 private pesticide applicators.

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- 5,000 individuals attended *2008 Taste of Clermont* sponsored by the Village Association of Batavia. Extension staff provided leadership to the restaurant committee for this public event by securing, informing, and overseeing vendor participation. Seven thousand dollars in user's fees were collected for the Village Association of Batavia. One vendor reported \$4,200 in sales.
- More than 150 were in attendance at *Family, Farm and Environment Day on the Clermont County Fairgrounds*. This was a day for the families to learn about the environment, food preservation, and local farm products. The event included a display on the three major grains grown in Clermont County, composting demonstrations, visits with farm animals, rain barrel and rain garden demonstrations, indoor stream monitoring activities, as well as agricultural activities for kids. One evaluation stated, "We are starting a farm and received a lot of very useful information."
- *Real Money Real World* was offered to over 95 students. Students learned to balance a checkbook, make life decisions, and experience the reality of continuing education's effect on increasing future income. One thing the participants plan to change as a result of attending RMRW include, "Stay away from credit cards and maintain a checkbook register," "Save, Save, Save," "Going to college and getting a diploma." 72% of the participants believe that the program gave them a better idea of what's involved in earning, spending, and managing money. 75% decided after attending RMRW that they need to save money regularly. 90% of the youth realized that every spending decision affects other spending opportunities.

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