



Columbiana County

7876B Lincole Place
Lisbon 44432-8322, 330-424-7291



2008 County Highlights

Strengthening Families and Communities

- Columbiana County received a county budget this year after two years without county funding. Our 4-H families made it known through visits, phone calls, and responses at public meetings that funding the Columbiana County 4-H Youth Development Program was important to them and a priority they would like the commissioners to address. One of our 4-H families personally invited the commissioners to the fair and gave them a tour of all the 4-H projects on display there, so that the commissioners could appreciate the impact that this program has on county youth.
- The county program currently serves 721 youth through 47 clubs. There are 196 volunteers who were educated through volunteer trainings to serve those clubs as advisors or to participate as a member on one of the 9 livestock committees. With the renewal of the 4-H program this year 42 new volunteers were accepted and trained to continue work with the county youth. This shows a renewed confidence and interest on the part of adult volunteers in the 4-H program.
- The 4-H club program encourages youth and parents to work as a team to learn the skills needed to complete the 4-H members' project work. Parents are involved in participation at club events and encouraged to learn right along with their children. In an era when family time together is hard to get, the time spent as a family working together is priceless. At the culmination of project work when the 4-H youth display at the county fair, the campground is full of families camping together for fair week. Grandstands at Junior Fair shows are full with parents, grandparents, and family members.
- The 4-H club program encourages youth to develop many life skills, one of which is giving back to the community. 4-H clubs in 2008 participated in over 50 different community service projects. The Junior Leaders Club, for example, made visits to nursing home residences, sponsored an underprivileged family at Christmas time, cleaned out and mulched flowerbeds at the Extension office, and served as ushers at a neighboring county fair. Participation in these community service projects not only strengthens our youth but also our community.

Preparing Youth for Success

All of the programming we offer through 4-H has an element that stresses life skills that will prepare youth for success in their project and in their future. Specific programming emphasizing developing skills for success are:

- Columbiana County held their resident camp at Camp Whitewood on June 8–13, 2008. Sixty-seven campers supervised by 18 trained counselors were in attendance. Counselors displayed leadership and parental skills, while helping campers experience camp activities including an appreciation for our Community Heroes as we participated in programs by fire, police, and emergency personnel. Day camp was attended by 27 younger campers and 12 counselors as they experienced lessons from the Fishy Science curriculum and visited Pymatuning Fish Hatchery. Campers participate in activities at camp that stress important skills to be learned for success such as teamwork, cooperation, tolerance of differences, and independence.
- Eight County Junior Leaders made a field trip to The Ohio State University to learn about the campus, tour the stadium, and tour the 4-H Center. They learned what makes the 4-H center a “green” building and how that has an impact on our environment.
- The Columbiana County Junior Fair Board consisting of 31 youth from 4-H, FFA, and Scouts and was advised by the Columbiana County 4-H educator. This group handles planning the Junior Fair shows. They develop leadership through planning, decision making, and executing activities at the fair. This year they developed an event—an ice-cream eating contest—at the fair. They developed the idea, gathered supplies, did advertising, set up for the event, organized contestants, supervised the contest, collected fees to participate, and then donated those fees to the beef complex building fund. The young people involved were extremely proud of their accomplishment and received much attention from the news media. The event was a great success and there will be a second annual event next year where a new group of youth will develop the skills to carry out a successful event.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- A Columbiana County Extension educator held three Quality Assurance Programs serving an audience of 339 youth and their parents. Participants were exposed to the 10 Good Production Practices for raising a quality marketable livestock product. Emphasis was on #4 Use of a valid veterinarian/client/patient relationship as a basis for medication decision making, #6 Use of drug residue tests when appropriate, and #9 Following appropriate feed processor procedures and feed tag recommendations. These skills will ensure success in raising and marketing a quality food product.
- Because agriculture is an integral part of the make-up of Columbiana County, the county director worked diligently to acquire an agriculture and natural resource presence in the county. The budget did not provide funding for two educators but we were able to hire a retired educator on a one-day-a-week basis to preserve this important presence in the county. The commissioners have applauded and supported this effort. When a newsletter was sent out to agricultural clientele there was an overwhelming positive response.

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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