



Coshocton County

724 South 7th Street, Room 110
Coshocton 43812, 740-622-2265, <http://coshocton.osu.edu>



2008 County Highlights

Strengthening Families and Communities

- The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is in its second year of a two-year grant. This program targets limited income families with children. Nutrition, food safety, saving money, planning meals, nutritional fact labels, and physical activity are program topics. Individuals qualifying for WIC or food stamps are generally eligible for this program consisting of eight one-hour sessions. To date, 110 participants have been enrolled in the program. Evaluations have been very positive with comments noting the participants had fun, learned several new ideas, or refreshed old ideas. One participant explained that she began cleaning and preparing her fresh produce to store in containers in the refrigerator. She told her family there were snacks in the refrigerator and started noticing her husband and children were choosing the healthy produce over other unhealthy choices. This small change made a big difference in the amount of vegetables and fruits that her family ate. After another participant learned about portion size in class, she began watching her portion sizes and in six months lost 19 pounds. She was excited about the change in her weight and hoped to continue to lose more. The program has benefited people of all ages from the young to senior age groups. Everyone has a need for good basic healthy nutrition, food safety, and physical activity information.

Preparing Youth for Success

- 4-H reached 68 students at Union Elementary School during 2008 using the *Acres of Adventures 4-H After-school Agriculture Curriculum* during the enrichment portion of the after-school program. These hands-on activities about agriculture and recycling complemented the students' study time and tutoring offered through the "To Community and Beyond" (TCAB) sessions held both before and after school.
- The new *Llama and Alpaca Resource Handbook* and *Llama and Alpaca Project and Record Book* were introduced as OSU Extension publications during 2008 to 4-H members in Coshocton County and across Ohio. This llama and alpaca curriculum is the result of six years of compiling information, writing, and test piloting by a committee of 4-H volunteers, llama and alpaca producers, a veterinarian, and Extension educators from Coshocton, Tuscarawas, and Holmes counties.

The curriculum was also presented as a poster session at the Galaxy III Conference held in Indianapolis during October to promote it as a resource for Extension educators from across the nation.

- Giddy-Up-Go 4-H Horse Camp was implemented as a cost-recovery program dedicated to providing an educational opportunity for children ages five to nine to learn equine safety, the importance of good equine grooming, riding skills, and the lessons taught and learned through the cultural differences found in the early frontier. Its continued growth each year led to the need to serve older youth. In 2008, the horse camp was attended by 60 children ages nine to twelve with more advanced riding being taught to the older children including two physically impaired participants. Experienced equine 4-H youth and adult volunteers conducted the educational sessions. The camp has helped increase enrollment in the county 4-H horse program, taught leadership skills to both youth and adult volunteers, and will fund a scholarship in the "Dollars for Scholars" program. The camp has been both a valuable educational tool and the major funding source for the county 4-H horse program.
- The 4-H Beef, Sheep, and Swine Teen Board taught teens at the Ohio 4-H Teen Conference how to organize such a board in their own county to teach quality assurance and livestock information. The board led the participants through quality assurance activities on feeds and residues that could be taught in their home counties. In addition, members of this board taught two quality assurance sessions in Coshocton County to 465 members of 4-H and FFA and assisted with this year's livestock clinics and skillathons.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- Agronomy has been the focus of a great deal of work in the Coshocton County Extension office this past spring and summer. The educator collaborated with Muskingum County and researchers from central campus and OARDC to facilitate an agronomy school that featured current concerns and interests of local producers (input prices, grain prices, cover crops, etc.). The office continues to offer soil testing services, which was reinstated in the county last October. In the past year, nearly \$500 in cost recovery has been made by offering this service. The funds go directly back to helping provide educational programming.

- Three on-farm entomology research projects unfolded this year in Coshocton County. Traps were set for the Western Bean Cutworm, the European Corn Borer, and the Western Corn Rootworm. Results of the research were regularly shared with cooperating producers over the radio, in the newsletter, and on the East Ohio Crop and Weather blog to keep producers and others in the agricultural industry current on what insect pests were found in the county during the 2008 growing season.
- With the high prices of hay and corn this past spring and summer, approximately 120 local producers attended several pasture walks to learn about intensive grazing practices. In conjunction with the Coshocton County Soil and Water Conservation District and local NRCS office, the Extension office facilitated a series of these walks held at the North Appalachian Experimental Watershed. Researchers who conduct research at the station talked about their on-site management intensive grazing efforts and fielded questions.
- An estimated \$22,789 is the worth of volunteer hours in 2008 by county Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) according to Independent Sector, a coalition of leading non-profits. Service to 31 educational displays, workshops, and gardens have resulted in over 1,300 hours volunteered by 28 MGVs to promote horticultural education, pest management, and community stewardship. Ten organizations and hundreds of participants benefited from MGV Program outreach through community gardening and youth education programs.
- Over 1,700 people participated in the annual Fall Foliage and Farm Tour. This self-guided tour is co-sponsored by the Coshocton County Extension office, Soil and Water Conservation District, and Farm Service Agency. Participants gained an increased knowledge of agricultural production, agri-business, and natural resources in Coshocton County at ten hosted stops. Tourism and opportunity for retail sales have increased from attendees representing 28 Ohio counties and nine states with 32% of participants coming from outside the county.
- workshop into the local career center, working with a variety of students to enhance their employability skills as they compete for jobs with a growing number of candidates. In public and career center workshops, 104 people have participated in this professional development opportunity.
- The Coshocton County Extension office offered a continuing education course in the summer of 2008 titled “Medicine. Energy. Food.” Participants in the course gained insight into contemporary agricultural issues such as food safety, biosecurity, medicine and health, and alternative energy. Individuals from inside and outside the university were guest speakers and shared how their work related to these topics and their role in agricultural sciences. The course had a tremendous impact on its participants. One participant who has been teaching agricultural education for thirty years stated, “(The course) reinforced my enthusiasm for agriculture.” Plans to host another similar course are underway.
- The Coshocton OSU Extension educators and a representative on the State Extension Advisory Committee, Steve Mercer of Coshocton, together hosted a national legislative aide on a tour of Coshocton County agriculture and business sites on August 4. The legislative aide gained a renewed awareness of both the county’s assets and economic needs.
- Fifteen local small business owners benefited from a web site development workshop the Coshocton County Extension office facilitated. Although having a web presence is important to all businesses in the 21st century, they can be costly if one doesn’t have the skills or tools needed to build and manage one. This four-hour, hands-on workshop taught participants the basics of building a web site and provided them with the tools they needed to design and launch a basic site. Participants responded positively to the workshop and asked that a follow-up session be planned.

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- Unemployment rates in Coshocton County are higher than most other Ohio counties. The local OSU Extension office responded to this growing concern with Professional Self-Marketing Workshops. The goal of these public workshops is to help individuals better market themselves and their skills through powerful cover letters, top-notch resumes, and polished interviewing skills. The Extension office has also brought this

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