



Crawford County

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2008 County Highlights

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- Agronomic research with Extension education has had a 45% rate of return on investment. At the *OSU Unger Farm* and other locations in Crawford County, agronomic studies conducted last year were:
 - Wheat Fungicide Evaluation for Fusarium Head Scab Control
 - Western Bean Cutworm and Corn Rootworm Survey for New Insect Biotype
 - Modified Relay Intercropping Wheat Yield by Soybean Yield Interaction
 - Corn Nitrogen Rate Study
 - Low Linolenic Soybean Variety Yield Test
- The *CORN* Newsletter (Crop Observation and Recommendation Network) edited and distributed by OSU Extension agricultural educators had a value of \$1.94 million to Crawford County farmers through increased crop output and decreased production costs as calculated from surveys of county agronomic business professionals and farmers over the last 11 years.
- Protecting Crawford County farmers' 74,000-acre corn crop (value estimated at \$43 million) was the goal of the variant Corn Rootworm and Western Bean Cutworm Survey. Research findings allow farmers the option to use different strategies to protect against yield loss from variant western corn rootworm and western bean cutworm, including the option, where appropriate, to use transgenic corn.
- Street Tree Evaluation and Education Trust (*STREET*) combined education, evaluation, and new tree planting to aid in improving the quality and diversity of our city tree resources. An OSU analysis of the *STREET* program data on Bucyrus street trees found over \$350,000 in benefits to the community in storm water abatement, CO₂ avoidance, energy savings, and air quality importance. About 200 new trees have been planted by Bucyrus City residents and commercial companies through two grants totaling \$8,000.

Preparing Youth for Success

- Twenty-five teen camp counselors and seven adults provided experiential learning opportunities to 119 youth ages 9–14 at 4-H Camp. All camp counselors completed over twenty hours of training and planning in team building, leadership, teaching, risk management, health

and safety, communication, decision-making, and program planning. Due to rain, camp counselors learned to adapt and be flexible, a skill that will benefit them in the future.

- Thirty-three Junior Fair Board members experienced community involvement and citizenship through planning and implementation of the Junior Fair. These youth acquired leadership and decision-making skills from their experience.
- 119 youth participated in four days of outdoor educational experiences at *Kelleys Island 4-H Camp*. Campers aged 9–13 learned responsibility and developed self-esteem through a variety of hands-on learning activities. On evaluations campers indicated they had learned important life skills such as “teamwork,” “leadership,” “respecting others,” and “getting along with everyone.”
- The sixth annual *4-H Endowment Dinner and Auction* generated over \$6,000 for the Endowment Fund. Interest from the fund in the past has provided funding for 4-H camp scholarships, camp programs, volunteer fingerprinting, leadership opportunities, and 4-H scholarships for older 4-H youth. This year endowment fund interest dollars funded 15 camper scholarships, assisted with support of 36 camp counselors, and provided partial costs of 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus for four members.
- 126 volunteers developed educational opportunities for 733 youth in 27 4-H clubs. Volunteers helped youth with 1,199 4-H projects. Thirteen new volunteers were recruited, screened, and trained.
- 146 youth ages 5–8 participated in cooperative social learning activities in the 4-H Cloverbuds clubs and day camp. Social skills are important components to viable relationships.

Strengthening Families and Communities

- Working with local organizations, OSU Extension helped to facilitate a steering committee to examine the impacts of generational and situational poverty in Crawford County. This committee worked together to create a two-day workshop entitled *Building Bridges to Bring Us Together*. A total of 109 participants attended the workshop to understand the social and economical implications of the different types of poverty. A Gannet Foundation grant of \$3,000 was utilized to purchase

books and workbooks. Outcomes of the workshop were:
—An ongoing group of concerned citizens working together to unravel the web of finding job and financial assistance.

—A local banker working on setting up a low-cost answer to the use of payday lenders.

- Eleven people completed the 16-hour course in *ServSafe® Food Service Training and Certification* from the National Restaurant Association. Thirteen people passed their certification test. Three individuals were proctored to allow them to become certified from the National Restaurant Association.
- The *ServSafe® Person-in-Charge Food Safety Course* was offered to 62 persons in Crawford and Wyandot Counties. These employees in food service jobs obtained a certificate from the National Restaurant Association. Knowledge about basic food service principles and knowledge of food borne illnesses increased 34% from pretest scores to post test scores. In addition, eleven individuals from Job and Family Services obtained certificates that enhanced their opportunities for employment in food service establishments.
- Eight families were able to pursue homeownership and completed the *Keys to Homeownership* course. They were able to acquire homes in the county after completing the course and creating a family budget. One person said, “I wish I would have had this course sooner. It has great information about the home buying process. And it helped me to see where my money goes.”
- An estimated 3,200 people in Crawford County have diabetes. In conjunction with the Galion Community Hospital, the *Dining with Diabetes* program was offered in late fall with fifteen participants. All in the class stated that their knowledge of how to control diabetes had increased as a result of the class.

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