



Darke County

603 Wagner Ave.
Greenville 45331, 937-548-5215



2007 Impact Statements

4-H Youth Development

- A total of 1,105 youth participated in the community club 4-H program. Livestock related projects were the most popular, with natural resource related projects being the 2nd highest in enrollment.
- 265 adult volunteers served as advisors for 1,145 youth enrolled in 50 community clubs. Volunteers provided leadership in project related work and community service activities.
- 93 campers, ages 9-14, participated in a 4-day residential 4-H camp at Indian Hills 4-H Camp. Campers learned leadership skills, life skills and the value of working together to achieve goals.
- 21 teens volunteered to serve as camp counselors. They participated in over 24 hours of training prior to camp. Counselors organized and conducted educational activities and workshops for campers.
- 41 Junior Fairboard members planned and conducted Junior Fair activities for over 2,000 exhibitors. Junior Fairboard members reported an increase in life skills related to conflict management, organization and communication.
- 50 youth participated in 4-H Horse Camp to increase their knowledge and understanding of working with horses. 93% indicated they learned something new which would help them to be a better horseman.
- 300 high school freshmen learned the importance of setting and obtaining career goals, as well as financial management skills, through participation in "Real Money, Real World." 16 local businesses donated their time to enrich this educational program.
- 35 youth, ages 5-8, attended Cloverbud Day Camp. Campers participated in sessions designed to increase their environmental awareness. Session topics were related to spiders, toads, ants and a nature hike. 100% of participants said they would attend another Cloverbud Day Camp, if given the opportunity.
- 32 youth participated in the Extreme Dog Experience, to increase their knowledge and understanding of working with their dog. Participants improved their skills in showmanship, obedience and grooming.
- 15 at-risk teens and their parents participated in a workshop designed to improve their communication and teamwork skills. 100% of participants reported a greater understanding of the need to communicate and work together to strengthen their relationship.
- 161 teens and their parents participated in classes for first-time traffic offenders (CARTEENS). Teen participants

reported an increase in the awareness and the importance of not drinking and driving, and the need for safety belts. Parents reported an increase in the awareness of risks related to teenage drivers, as a result of attending CARTEENS.

- Over 1,800 youth, ages 5-12, participated in hands-on learning through enrichment and after school programs. Lessons focused on chick embryology, plant life cycle, bread making, weather and worm habitats. Teachers stated the students understood and enjoyed learning much more with hands-on experience rather than lecture only.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Research/Demonstration Farm—On-farm research conducted on the 100 acre Darke County Research Farm included: new corn hybrid technology test plots, 1st generation corn root worm survey and Asian soybean rust sentinel plots. Demonstrations included Roundup Ready Alfalfa Plot, Fall Oats Production and Swine Production in a Hoop Barn Facility. This data is shared with local farmers and university researchers.
- Livestock Mortality Composting Certification courses (state and local)—In the last 10 years the Educator has been instrumental in instructing producers on how to set-up and manage on-farm mortality composting facilities. Over 3,500 individuals, statewide, have been certified in livestock mortality composting.
- Pasture Walks—In collaboration with Miami, Clark and Shelby Counties, four pasture walks were held during the past summer. Bob Hendershot, NRCS Grazing Specialist, helped educate local livestock operators in proper pasture and forage management techniques. Over 200 people attended the grazing seminars last year, including producers from Texas and Utah.
- Western Ohio Agronomy Field Day—The 4th Annual Western Ohio Agronomy Field Day was held at the Darke County Research Farm. Local crop producers participated in scouting fields for diseases and insect pests. They also received the latest information on controlling herbicide resistant weeds and producing low-linolenic soybeans. Producers who attended the field day received pesticide recertification credits and Certified Crop Advisor credits.
- Educational Resource for Livestock Commodity Groups—Educational programs are provided for the county clientele which include Pork Quality Assurance Training, Trucker Quality Assurance Training, swine production programs in cooperation with the University of Nebraska, and farm

leadership tours. A Cow/Calf College was offered for area cattle producers in which over 50 cattlemen participated. In addition, up-to-date information is electronically delivered to over 300 e-mail recipients. This includes the weekly Agronomic C.O.R.N newsletter, the OSU Extension Beef Newsletter, Ohio Ag Managers Newsletter and the Pond Management Newsletter.

- Pesticide Applicators Training—The Educator presented programs to help re-certify local producers in livestock, agronomy, and horticulture categories. Last year, over 300 producers were re-certified in Darke County. Over 90% responded to a survey indicating that, as a result of our re-certification programs, they are keeping better pesticide records, reading labels more carefully, controlling drift and have a greater awareness of environmental concerns.
- Hunter Safety Course—The Educator conducted a hunter safety course, which is required by the Ohio Department of Wildlife for first time hunters to purchase their licenses. Over the last 10 years, approximately 650 young hunters have been certified in proper safety and ethics of hunting.
- Ag Chemical Disposal—With the cooperation of the Ohio Department of Agriculture and OSU Extension Educators from Darke, Shelby and Mercer Counties, 7,823 pounds of agricultural chemicals, from a five-county area, were properly disposed.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- 39 senior adults attending the Community Action Partnership Congregate Meal Program participated in a Family Nutrition Program on selecting low fat and sugar free frozen desserts using the nutrition facts label. 87% of responding participants stated they learned new information, and 72% of respondents said they planned to make recommended changes by using nutrition facts labels.
- 77 WIC recipients participated in lessons on reducing sugar in our diet, selecting lower fat pizza and ways to encourage children to eat vegetables. Of those who responded, 100% of participants stated they learned new information, and 92% said they planned to use the information presented to make changes in their diets and in the diets of their children.
- 22 adults participated in a series of nutrition and meal planning classes. Topics for the classes include budgeting for food money, making nutritious food choices, meal planning, food shopping strategies and food safety. Of participants who responded, 100% said that they learned new information and 81% said they would make changes recommended in the classes. Participants indicated they learned how to use unit pricing and began reading and using food labels. Participants also shared they changed their practices in handling food, after learning some of their previous practices were not safe.
- 120 teens in four county high schools used infant simulator dolls to learn about the responsibility, time, effort and cost of having a baby. Teens fed, diapered, played with and nurtured “Baby Think It Over” dolls as part of a teen pregnancy prevention program. Students were given computerized feedback on their “care” of the babies and discussed how the birth of a child would impact their lives. Students reported having these dolls helped them to realize they are not ready to be parents yet.
- The 200 participants attending the Friday Sampler, an educational program during the Darke County Fair, learned the latest fashion in home design, how to grow and care for ornamental grasses, and saw some wonderful quilts. Attendees shared the program was very informational and educational.
- 700 elementary students attended a health fair, where they gained information on how to choose healthy snacks.
- 1,200 adults participated in several health fairs, where they received information pertaining to keeping food safe. They observed a display showing how fast bacteria can grow in two hours, if not kept at proper temperatures.
- 31 individuals learned about financial goal setting, keeping a spending log, cutting expenses and balancing a budget in the six-class series on Managing Your Money.
- 24 at-risk parents completed a ten week series titled Parenting 24/7 through a program funded by Darke County Childrens Services. Parents learned about coping with stress, managing time, money and other resources, child development, guiding behavior, managing anger and discipline tools and techniques.
- 165 divorcing parents learned how to communicate with their children about divorce and learned the importance of minimizing conflict with their child’s other parent in Helping Children Succeed after Divorce program offered monthly.
- Darke County’s 5 Extension Homemakers clubs focused on health during their lessons in 2007. The 3 leader training lessons on Ten Ways to a Healthier You, Adjusting Recipes for Healthier Living, and The Amazing Soybean, emphasized good health and nutrition. The club evaluations indicated the 45 members learned new facts and thought they would try at least one new idea as a result of the lessons.
- 94 individuals who were either unemployed or seeking new employment participated in the monthly program, Living on Less. Participants indicated that they gained new ideas about prioritizing their expenditures, and would try at least one of the money saving ideas offered in the class.
- 6 individuals completed their educational requirement to discharge their bankruptcy by participating in New Start, the financial management class approved by the U.S. Justice Department.

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