



Defiance County

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2007 Impact Statements

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Presented “**Ag and Food Industry: \$256 Million Industry in Defiance County**” at the Ag Appreciation Breakfast to over 90 participants. Highlights of the presentation: the Ag and Food sector in Defiance County is #1 in Jobs, #2 in Gross County Product, #1 in Land Use (79%). Other speakers coordinated were Dr. Matt Roberts, OSU Grain Market Specialist and Jerry Hayes, Executive Director of Defiance County Economic Development.
- **A total of 84 area farmers recertified** their Private Pesticide Applicators License by attending a local training session. Over 170 farmers are licensed in Defiance County and must obtain 3 hours of recertification every 3 years. The Ag Educator teaches field crops insect pest management, stored grain management and seed treatments for corn and soybeans.
- **Computerized Farm Recording Keeping** was taught as a hands-on, two-session class to 11 area farmers. The course utilized Quicken® software and outlined how to setup farm/home accounts, categorize income and expenses, and generate reports. Participants received a How to Manual and pre-set farm/home categories to use in their business.
- Over 95 area farmers attended an **Alfalfa Field Day**. Alfalfa growers learned about establishing techniques, why the stand declines, growing quality alfalfa, and marketing alfalfa as a cash crop. Forage and tillage machinery was on-hand to show the latest bailers, conditioners, wrappers and strip-tillage.
- Hosted two **pond clinics** to educate and demonstrate fish management, weed identification, and applying chemicals to the pond. Additionally, participants were provided written and spoken guidelines on pond aeration, pond safety and managing nuisance wildlife. There were 47 pond owners who attended.
- A variant of the **Western Corn Rootworm (WCR)** threatens 1st year corn production. A six-week monitoring program found significant WCR activity in 2007 with 5 of 7 fields monitored exceeding 5.0 beetles/trap/day (b/t/d). Fields at or above this threshold should be considered “at risk” to WCR if planted to corn in 2008.
- **Asian Soybean Rust Sentinel Plot** was monitored throughout the soybean growing season with 100 plants inspected weekly or bi-weekly and suspicious plants were sent to the OSU Lab. No rust has been found in Ohio but states near Ohio have confirmed rust on soybeans during the 2007 growing season.
- The **Defiance Agricultural Research Association (DARA)** site continues to be a productive location for local research. The Ag Educator conducts and presents research results on “Gypsum as a Soil Amendment,” “Subirrigation-10 Years of Data,” and “Controlled Drainage.” Nine presentations were made at one county field day, six state-wide conferences, and one national conference.
- The **Defiance County Farmers Markets** had the highest levels of vendor participation with 26 in Defiance, 21 in Sherwood and 34 in Hicksville. Some vendors registered at multiple locations having a total of 53 total vendors registered. Markets are open four times at three locations each week.
- **Defiance County Master Gardeners** have received a statewide Project of the Year award. At the 2007 OSU Master Gardeners Volunteer State Conference the group contributed to the revitalization of Sherwood Memorial Park and was recognized for outstanding contributions in education and service to the community.
- 41 **Master Gardeners** volunteered 4,085 hours in 2007, an increase of 31% over 2006 hours volunteered.

4-H Youth Development

- **2007 Junior Fair Update:** Despite the rainy weather at the 2007 Defiance County Junior Fair, we had a very successful Fair. Communication between the Junior and Senior Fairboard was greatly improved. The Junior Fair had 830 exhibitors with 546 entries from youth representing both 4-H and FFA. A total of 35 youth received honors at the Ohio State Fair.
- **Kid’s Day** teamed up with the Health Department for a physical fitness obstacle course and had 133 in attendance. Members of the Junior Fairboard and Auxiliary provided leadership for the activities.
- A **Junior Fair Auxiliary** was formed this year with eleven members providing extra support to the Junior Fairboard. Members helped with summer work days and with the livestock shows at the fair.
- **Work Days:** Junior Fairboard members and Auxiliary put in 756 hours during 4 work days which at minimum wage equals a \$5,178 savings.

- **4-H Camp Palmer:** 4-H Camp participation was at 167 total campers. This number represents 114 youth campers, 38 teen counselors and 11 adult volunteers with 46% of campers receiving scholarship. Youth participating at camp made new friends, developed independence from their family, participated in leadership and skill building activities and had safe supervised fun with their friends. They were given a new opportunity through 4-H programming that they might not otherwise have had a chance to experience. Unanimous opinions from campers when asked about camp was—“It was great—so much fun, and I can’t wait to come back next year and to someday be a counselor.”
- **Kid’s Central:** Kid’s Central 2007 had another successful summer. Kid’s Central ran for five weeks throughout the summer at two separate locations within Defiance County. Not only did the program focus on providing a great way for youth to spend their summer but it also worked with youth in promoting a healthy lifestyles by increasing physical activity and making healthy food choices. Kid’s Central teamed with Defiance County’s Health Department to come up with some healthy focuses for this summer’s program. We aimed to increase physical activity and nutritional knowledge while decreasing poor nutrition choices. The evaluations and parent comments prove that it did just that. The children repeatedly asked for more active games and raved about how “YUMMY” the healthy snacks were.
- **“Experiences That Count”:** This is a juvenile diversion program for first time offender’s ages 9-14 offered through the cooperation of the Juvenile Probation Department and OSU Extension, Defiance County. The youth form a 4-H club, complete a 4-H project and participate in community service while attending seven classes on self-esteem, communication, managing emotions, decision making, responsibility, peer pressure, and goal setting.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- **New Start,** a Department of Justice approved program for bankruptcy filers fulfills the requirement for pre-discharge financial education. The classes give basic information on Spending Plans, Money Management, Use of Credit, and Consumer Information. Ten families have completed this program. Follow-up evaluations showed participants learned money management principles to help manage their future finances. Other money management classes were conducted with 19 families participating. First time Home Ownership classes were conducted with 6 families participating. Goal setting, values, needs, wants, and realistic budgets are the

basis for money management programs. Participants reported learning strategies to help manage money.

- Over 70 people attended **food safety programs.** ServSafe for Food Handlers was offered with participants receiving certification from the National Restaurant Association. Other food safety programs were conducted in several locations in the county. Programs/trainings covered food safety in relation to shopping, storage, preparation, handling leftover foods, eliminating cross contamination, and general food safety practices. Increased awareness of basic food safety principals and knowledge of food borne illness were reported by all persons attending these programs.
- The 2007 **Family Nutrition Program** grant, sponsored by USDA Food & Nutrition Service, totaled over \$36,000 and reached 955 participants. The program targets food stamp recipients with nutrition education, food safety, and food budgeting. This program reaches individuals in low income housing, senior centers, WIC, and food pantries.
- **Parent support groups** were conducted for parents of newborns through teenagers. All parenting programs involved understanding development levels of children, logical consequences, communication, anger and stress management skills. A grant from Job and Family Services support these programs. As parents face more stress to meet the demands of parenting, life skills have been added to all support programs. Program evaluations showed that parents are appreciative of OSU resources. This support has been extended to 47 parents in Defiance County.
- An estimated 7% of the general population has diabetes or almost 3,000 people in Defiance County. **Dining with Diabetes** (DWD) is a program to help manage diabetes. Thirty-two people attend DWD and their evaluations showed 100% learned ways to manage their diabetes better. Better managed diabetes saves medical costs and improves health of diabetic persons. Cooking demonstrations using diabetic recipes were conducted at several locations in the county and reached another 140 families.
- **Healthy finances, healthy relationships, and healthy eating** programs were conducted across the county. Community programs were conducted at mall shows, health fairs, work sites, churches, grocery stores, camps, and civic organizations. Families struggling with family life issues welcomed information learned at these informal programs. The evaluated programs showed that 98% learned information that they will use in their life.

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