



# Fulton County

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EXTENSION

## 2007 Impact Statements

### 4-H Youth Development

- Fulton County 4-H Youth Development enrolled 1,147 county youth to experience hands-on learning through access to over 350 4-H Projects plus an unlimited number of self-determined projects. Through these projects youth learn work force development skills such as responsibility, problem solving skills, time management skills, communication skills, self-esteem and understanding the economic impact of their decisions in these projects.
- 4-H Youth Development is supported by 52 community clubs that are staffed by 263 adult volunteers who mentor youth in their projects and help in developing leadership skills. These volunteers on average donate 50 hours of their time to 4-H activities or the equivalent of \$215,660 in 2007.
- Fulton County 4-H members enrolled in a total of 1,635 projects. All youth are interviewed judged on their activities associated with these projects which allowed youth to improve their oral communication and critical thinking skills leading to improved job interview skills.
- A total of 250 youth participated in a 5 day 4-H resident camping program. The camp dynamics place youth in a community situation where they learn to work with a diversity of people learning to and improved their ability to contribute to community living and improved working relationships. A core group of 25 older youth provide leadership to programs and activities at camp. These youth volunteers donate 120 hours to preparation and participation in camp valued at \$49,200.
- Reducing obesity and improved healthy eating habits was the focus of the 4-H Youth Development after school programming provided at 4 school locations with a total of 54 hours of instruction time. A total of 100 youth were involved.

### Family and Consumer Sciences

- The Family Nutrition Program reached 966 food stamp eligible clients with information on food nutrition and budget stretching. A focus area in 2007 was nutrition related discussions on utilizing the food pyramid and reading nutrition labels when making food choices. A total of 624 individuals participated in this program with 98% indicating they would use the information to make changes in their food purchases.

- Food safety and healthy eating information was presented to 2,248 people by the Family Nutrition Program partnering with the Senior Center, shut-in meal delivery and emergency food assistance program that service Fulton County residents.
- New Start education was provided as a needed step in the bankruptcy completion process for the individuals and families in need of a clean slate related to finances. With referrals from local attorneys, OSU Extension has worked with the bankruptcy filers to help them better understand their situation and prevent the negative spending habits from resurfacing. Participants indicated they were making changing in spending habits such as packing a lunch each work day, realizing a savings of \$2,500 a year on fast-food. By helping people analyze their current expenses, spending plans were made to improve their future financial situation.
- Six percent of the population of Fulton County has been diagnosed with diabetes. To improve the health of those diagnosed, Dining with Diabetes Cooking Schools were presented in Wauseon and Liberty Center in collaboration with the Health Department, the Cardiovascular Health Coalition, and Rural Opportunities. In addition several one-time sessions were presented to local Hispanic populations. These cooking schools assisted 63 diabetics and their loved ones with meal planning, understanding food and nutrients and their roles in the body, and preventing complications of the chronic disease.

### Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Nitrogen represents 18% of variable cost for corn production and is an issue in water quality. Using the proper rates of nitrogen can increase farm profitability and protect water quality. In 2007 the cost of nitrogen was 35 to 45 cents per pound. The 10th year of a nitrogen rate study was completed in 2007. For the Corn-Corn rotation maximum yields on 163 bushels were obtained at 224 pound of nitrogen while maximum economic yield of 162 bushels occurred at 199 pounds of nitrogen. The cost savings of 25 pounds of nitrogen is \$11.25 per acre. In the Corn-Soybean rotation the maximum yields on 170 bushels were obtained at 217 pound of nitrogen while maximum economic yield of 167 bushels occurred at 161 pounds of nitrogen. The cost savings of 50 pounds of nitrogen is \$22.50 per acre.

The research is being combined with statewide data to produce economically based nitrogen rates which will reduce nitrogen degradation impacts on water quality.

- A major change in corn production could occur if corn rootworm would become a problem in first year corn after soybeans. The use of insecticide on all 80,000 acres of corn in Fulton County would add \$10-15 per acre, plus added risk to the farmer handling these products. The 2007 trap count average of 1.29 beetles per trap per day and the highest single site trap count of 4.5 per day well below the threshold for treatment of 5 beetles per trap per day. This is the highest trap counts seen in the 7 years of the program. There was also some minimal acres which had lodging from rootworm activity observed during root digs. This indicates an increased pressure to corn rootworm activity is possible but will likely not be widespread in 2008.
- Emerald Ash Borer has become a concern for landowners. Over 10 site visits and 150 requests for information were distributed to area residents and woodland owners. A display was developed and used in the office with over 90 copies of material distributed.
- Farmers are licensed to apply restricted use pesticides. Over 225 licensed applicators receive updated product

and application technology education through programs conducted in the area by OSU Extension. These programs have led to increased safety for the applicators in use of the products and better environmental safety in application of pesticides to control yield limiting insect, disease and weed pests.

- A three day Precision Agriculture Workshop was presented to 20 area farmers. The workshop helped farmers begin to analyze data they have collected from yield monitors over the past several years into a format that they better use to make management decisions. Topics also included soil sampling and other data layers that could help them better implement economic changes based on past crop performance.
- A two-day Transferring the Family Business Workshop was presented with 36 participants from northwest Ohio. These participants learned steps to open the family relations and evaluate economic viability to transfer the farm business to the next generation. In addition tools to accomplish the transition were discussed. Family members who participated have report family meetings and other steps have been taken to accomplish their goals.

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