



Fulton County

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2008 County Highlights

Preparing Youth for Success

- Fulton County 4-H Youth Development enrolled 1,081 county youth to experience hands-on learning through access to over 250 4-H projects plus an unlimited number of self-determined projects. Through these projects youth learn workforce 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 50 community clubs that are staffed by 319 adult volunteers and resource people 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 15,950 hours valued at \$287,100 in 2009. The clubs participate in community services to Fulton County by conducting miles and miles of roadside clean up; petting zoos and recreation provided to senior centers; and beautification projects at the libraries, parks, and fairgrounds. This is an invaluable resource to Fulton County.
- Fulton County 4-H members enrolled in a total of 1,282 projects. All youth are interviewed 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 263 youth participated in a five-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. They improved their ability to contribute to community living and improved their working relationships. A core group of 33 older youth provide leadership to programs and activities at camp. In preparation and participation in camp, these youth volunteers donate 120 hours totaling 3,690 hours valued at \$71,280.
- Reducing obesity and improved healthy eating habits was the focus of the 4-H Youth Development after-school programming provided at four school locations with a total of 63 hours of instruction time. A total of 125 youth were involved. A Fulton County Extension educator was invited to join in a third grant opportunity with the community of Delta through the 21st Century Learning grant, a wellness block grant through state government.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- Sterlena Pride Cooperative is a milk processing plant that was assisted in 2007–2008 with resources, which resulted in the utilization of an abandoned milk production plant in Wauseon. The plant was assisted by OSU Extension, USDA Rural Development, and Fulton County Economic Development with the development of a business plan and identification of economic development dollars to help this operation come back to life.
- A Business Retention and Expansion program was implemented for Fulton County during 2008. Twenty-six of the largest employers provided information that will help the community relate to the needs of these important employers. The Economic Development office is utilizing the results to work with these businesses in the tough economic climate of 2008–2009.
- 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.
- The community of Fayette was assisted in the development of a grant proposal to explore wind-generated power in their community. The Wind Anemometer Loan program is a program to provide organizations and communities with towers to evaluate wind resources in preparation of locating wind machines for electric generation.

Strengthening Families and Communities

- Through active participation in Dining with Diabetes, 53 people reported better ability to manage portion sizes and read labels in order to better control their diabetes. Networking with the Health Department and Fulton County Health Center allowed participants to gain access to multiple resources that greatly increase their chance of delaying negative effects of diabetes.
- 706 food stamp recipients and lower income Fulton County residents obtained practical information on how to use MyPyramid, menu planning, and grocery lists to shop both healthfully and economically for their family's food supply. Another 1,662 persons were pro-

vided with written information on saving food dollars. Evaluation indicates that the recipients of these educational efforts have increased their usage of food labels and MyPyramid to plan healthy meals, increase their fruit and vegetable intake, and maintain a physically active lifestyle. This focused education is due to the receipt of grant funds of over \$43,000 in 2008 for the Fulton County Family Nutrition Program.

- OSU Extension submitted a grant on behalf of Delta Elementary that won them \$1,500 worth of curricula and materials from the Kellogg Foundation and the Organwise Guys. These materials will help the teachers in all of the school's elementary classrooms teach children about health and nutrition and fit the information into necessary subject matter. OSU Extension will provide training to teachers and staff, as well as conduct programming for students in partnership with this program.
- Through ServSafe programming 14 food service managers and staff have received certification in food safety to reduce the risk of foodborne illness, which affects 76 million in the United States each year, including 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths.

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