



Geauga County

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EXTENSION

2007 Impact Statements

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- The **Northeast Ohio Maple Institute** was held January 26-27 in Burton, Ohio. This two-day event was attended by over 200 local maple producers and industry. Meetings included a trade show and seminars that both educated and entertained participants.
- The Amish community was targeted for education in handling and applying pesticides and in dairy production. **Four sprayer application schools** were held on farm with an average attendance of ten producers at each school. Early spring was also the time to educate Amish farmers on proper milking procedure and the use of vacuum milkers. Fifteen farmers attended this workshop held on an Amish farm.
- Geauga County has one of the highest equine populations in the state with over 8,000 horses. To help provide educational information and direction to this growing industry, Geauga County OSU Extension teamed up the Local Soil and Water Conservation District, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water, the Natural Resource and Conservation Service and the Ohio Farm Bureau to put on a **Business, Facility and Environmental Management for Equine Professionals Workshop**. Thirty stable owners from five Ohio counties and two states attended this four-day workshop.
- Geauga County OSU Extension has teamed up with the OSU Extension offices from Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties to put on a series of **Northeast Ohio Small Farm College Workshops**. In the fall of 2006 and throughout 2007 the tri-county area Extension offices put on a series of four, two-hour workshops, in three counties, that answered the question "If It's Too Big To Mow, What Can I Grow?" for over 100 prospective agricultural producers seeking advice on how to start a new, or expand an existing, agricultural enterprise.
- Ten new **Master Gardener interns** were taught correct horticultural principles and practices for over 50 hours, in a 13-day class series. In turn, each Master Gardener intern donated at least 50 hours, for a total of 500 hours of volunteer service, back to Geauga's communities. The 63 currently certified Geauga Master Gardeners provided an additional 1,260 hours of volunteer service to communities for a grand total of 1,760 hours donated. The non-profit Independent Sector organization places the value of an hour volunteer time at \$18.05. Therefore, Geauga's Master Gardener organization donated over \$31,768 worth of service to Geauga County.
- Ten monthly "**Barn Busting**" discussions were held to provide vegetable producers a forum to discuss the "how-to's" of growing. The open discussion format allowed experienced growers to partner and share ideas with new or interested growers. The total number of attendees for all of the sessions was over 500 producers.
- **Over 350 site visits** were made during the growing season to advise commercial horticultural producers regarding their specific concerns and questions. For example, production problems, diseases, insect identification, troubleshooting why plants are dying, and cultural issues like fertilizer use, chemicals and alternatives, depth of planting, etc. are all part of these consultations. These consultations are essential to keep producers and their associated businesses competitive and a viable part of Geauga's economy.

4-H Youth Development

Volunteers Contribute to Positive Youth Development

- Approximately 200 volunteers work year-round to provide leadership to clubs and the camp program. This year 18 new volunteers came on board. Twenty-five volunteers were honored for donating 15 to 33 years of service. Their experience and expertise are a valuable asset to the young people.

Teens Practice Leadership Across the County

- Young people between the ages of 14 and 19 assumed leadership roles as camp counselors, members of the Jr. Leaders Club, and 4-H representatives on the Jr. Fair Board. Through training and direct experience, they practiced team work and communication skills as they planned, implemented, and evaluated programs. Their responsibilities included fund raising and community service projects, and serving as role models and teachers for younger members.

Horticulture

- The **Geauga Produce Growers Association**, for the third consecutive year, reached the sales mark of over \$1,000,000 for their vegetable auction this year. The overall volume of locally grown vegetables was higher than in 2006; however, prices remained equal to or higher than those of last year. Profitable farm businesses mean content, happy, tax-paying citizens. Produce growing in Geauga continues to attract at least three to five new growers each year.

Club Members Serve the Community

- The 4-H Hare Raisers Rabbit Club organized the 3rd annual food-a-thon Benefit Competition. Seventeen clubs worked to collect 1,834 food items and \$2,051 in cash to benefit the Geauga Hunger Task Force. All were winners in the competition, in that they made a positive difference for residents of Geauga County!

Members Promote 4-H at the Great Geauga County Fair

- 200 youth and adult volunteers planned fun activities for the annual 4-H Fair Fest. Kids of all ages experienced 4-H in a variety of ways, including studying aspects of genealogy, sewing a headband, meeting animals and learning about the care they require, playing games, and designing crafts. These experiential learning opportunities were offered throughout fair and about 900 young people took part.

Family and Consumer Sciences

FCS Promotes Positive Parenting

- OSU Extension collaborated with the Geauga County Sheriff's Office and CASA for Kids to present two classes of the Parent Project Sr. and two of Parent Project Jr. These are parenting classes for parents of children who are strong-willed and difficult to handle. Grants were received from the Up, Up and Away Foundation, the Attorney General's Office and The Geauga Children's Alliance to underwrite the costs of the program. Approximately 80 parents and 35 children attended the program.
- A parenting and life skills program continues to be presented one hour a week at the county jail. Ten to fifteen female inmates attend the weekly sessions.

- The divorced parenting class is held two times per month for two hours a session serving 70 people a month.

OSU Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Involved in Community Initiatives

- OSU Extension was very involved in two county initiatives: Red Ribbon Week and the Suicide Prevention Board. Red Ribbon Week is planned for a year for week-long activities in October for prevention and awareness of drug and alcohol use. The Family and Consumer Sciences educator is on the committee and facilitates the activities for the children and chairs the committee for Senior Wellness Day, a day-long event for seniors in both Lake County and Geauga County.

Financial Literacy

- The Family and Consumer Sciences educator attended training for the new *Real Money, Real World* program, which will be presented in Geauga County for the first time in December at Berkshire High School in collaboration with Huntington Bank and the Geauga County Credit Union.
- OSU Extension was involved with the state treasurer's "Women and Money" program and Lakeland College for a budgeting class for students.

Seniors and Nutrition

- Family and Consumer Sciences brought a program called "It's a New Year" to Senior Centers throughout the county focusing on wellness habits for the new year.

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