



Greene County

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EXTENSION

2008 County Highlights

Preparing Youth for Success

- Four youth from the Juvenile Court Intensive Probation Garden Program increased their knowledge of gardening skills. The youth indicated that this was a constructive use of their intensive probation hours.
- Two college summer interns learned workforce prep skills as future Extension educators, while providing 10 weeks of 4-H programming to 200 youth at four Fairborn summer lunch sites. This program was funded by an urban grant.
- 800 Greene County youth who participated in the Real Money, Real World program increased their awareness of the cost of maintaining a household and the relationship of education, jobs, and money by 36% across six indicators, and their understanding of the importance of personal financial planning by 33% across six indicators.
- Greene County 4-H partnered with Xenia Community Schools in the 21st Century Afterschool Program, providing life skills development (4-H) programming to 150 youth. As a result of this program, youth showed an increased knowledge in life skills and feeling valued by an adult other than a parent.
- The CARTEENS program served 364 first-time juvenile traffic offenders, 93% of whom said after attending the program they would change their driving habits to become a more cautious and responsible vehicle operator.
- 135 youth in grades 3–9 along with 36 older youth serving as counselors that had completed 24 hours of training and camp planning instruction, completed a five-day/four-night residential camp. Youth attending camp expanded their understanding and usage of communication skills, productive use of leisure time activities, a greater appreciation of nature, and the skills especially learning to function on their own without the direct supervision of parents. The camp counselors developed their leadership, communication, and teamworking, along with supervision and management skills. Ninety-three percent of the youth attending camp indicated they planned to attend 4-H camp in 2009.
- Responsibility, reliability, communication, community service, the democratic process, leadership, respect of nature, and teamwork are some of the life skills 815 community club 4-H members had the opportunity to develop over the year as they participated in 50 different community clubs. A total of 325 volunteers contributed 6,040 hours of volunteer service, and 754 youth exhibited 2,022 projects in the Greene County Junior Fair. Fifty-two active

members of the Greene County Junior Fair Board sharpened their leadership, management, communication, and employability skills as they solicited approximately \$9,200 for trophies and awards used during the county fair and helped plan activities at the fair. Approximately 300 youth sold 534 livestock units through the Junior Fair sales, receiving \$292,086 as a result of their hard work, responsibility, and business management skills learned.

- 4-H in the Classroom provided 65 classrooms with science enrichment programs for 1,764 elementary age youth. Chicken Embryology, Wisconsin Fast Plants, Breads of Harvest, and Weather Together provided science-based, hands-on learning that increased students' ability to group scientific concepts that will add to their life skills and potential employability skills.

Strengthening Families and Communities

- **Ohio 4-H Military Program**—Youth face transitions due to the military lifestyle. Connection to 4-H provides opportunities for positive developmental opportunities. Ohio 4-H Youth Development and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base partnered to involve over 300 youth in 4-H programming, including afterschool clubs and summer camp programs. The goal of the program is to provide positive youth development programming for military youth. Youth are engaged in new learning experiences, developing leadership potential, and are integrated into local county 4-H programming.
- Lifeskills for Teen Parents (GRADS) was attended by 24 students at four locations during eight sessions. Teens were given information on infant and toddler feeding, healthy snacks, and attended a capstone class where they prepared a meal for themselves and classmates. Many were graduating and establishing their own households. Students commented they felt confident they could provide a safe environment for their children and healthy meals enhancing their child's school readiness.
- In collaboration with Greene Metropolitan Housing Authority (GMH), two 16-hour, seven-week Homebuyer Education for Individual Development Account (IDA) classes were held. This class was completed by eleven individuals. Five additional classes in financial education were held. Topics included "Credit and Debt Management," "So You'd like to be a Millionaire," "Insurance Basics," and "Children and Money." A total of 17 individuals attended one or all of these classes.
- A six-session series for students in GRADS was presented at Greeneview, Fairborn, and Xenia High Schools and the

Greene County Career Center. By completing the series, students were able to identify their attitudes and values toward money management, identify expense needs and wants, complete a family budget, shop for a used car, complete necessary income tax forms, understand the value of banking services, learn how to qualify for and manage credit, organize important documents, and learn about insurance protection.

- The Greene County Money Management program maintains an active partnership with the Greene County Women's Recovery Center, Christopher House, Habitat for Humanity, Community Action Partnership, Head Start Parents, Greene County Youth Group Home, Montgomery/Greene United Way, and the GCCC. Three volunteer "Money Mentors" assisted with programming.
- In the Family Nutrition Program (FNP) nutrition lessons were taught to individuals who use food stamps or qualify for their use. Classes were held with 539 individuals where one of four lessons were taught each time: MyPyramid, food shopping, food safety, and sodium. Locations for these classes were Senior Congregate Meal sites, Women's Recovery Center, Red Cross Emergency Housing, and Supermarket Savvy classes at Greene County Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS).
- Twenty-four people attended eight sessions of Dining with Diabetes. They improved knowledge of the disease and how best to manage their medication, meal planning, and exercise to reduce the likelihood of complications. Weight loss and better blood sugar readings over three months were reported by six people.
- 61 individuals increased their knowledge of estate planning with 60% of the participants taking one or more steps in completing their estate plan through participation in It's My Money My Stuff and My Life. The program is a collaborative effort of the Greene County Council on Aging and OSU Extension.

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- 37 people attended ServSafe® Manager and Employee training in five sessions. The exam for certification was passed by 36 people. This certification will enable them to apply for higher level jobs, as well as reduce the likelihood of foodborne illness outbreaks, which has an average medical cost of \$6,200 per person infected.
- Spending Smartly (SS) was completed by 256 individuals. The program focuses on money awareness, budgeting, credit and debt control, menu planning and shopping for food. It is offered through Department of Job and Family Services to promote job preparation. The program concludes with a one-on-one session to finalize a personal budget plan. Classes were held regularly in Fairborn

and Xenia. Eighteen class members were participating in Independent Development Accounts (IDA) through Greene Metropolitan Housing Authority. Two IDA participants purchased homes in 2008 and four used savings and match money for education. Nine have completed the IDA program and are waiting to use their funds.

- The Greene County Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists provided additional workforce training for 26 parks in the area by supplementing the park's dwindling workforce due to budget cuts. Children's interest in nature was peaked by providing outdoor education as well as physical exercise to approximately 700 youth. For dozens of the children, this was the first time they had seen or touched a wild animal.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- The Greene County Master Gardeners taught the residents of our communities how to grow their own food, how to care for the investments they had made in their landscape, deal with the coming emerald ash borer problem, and serve as a focus group for development of new products in horticulture that will keep our environment safe, as well as produce an appreciated outcome. A total of 285 people were introduced to the emerald ash borer problem and learned how to make a responsible decision on saving or harvesting their trees.
- 20 farm owners and operators learned the latest information on farm cash rent, building rental, and pasture rental. Participants rated the program 8.4 from a scale of 1–10, with 10 being highest. This training helped educate operators on the importance and sources of information vital to developing farm leases.
- Eight students from Xenia Christian High School were able to better understand the relationship between land use and water quality through streamwater testing and onsite observations.
- 70 agriculture producers completed certification requirements for continuing their private pesticide applicator's license with the Ohio Department of Agriculture. This training helps minimize problems in applicator safety, water quality, food safety, and offsite plant damage.
- 75 individuals were educated on taking water samples from their well and took the next step in having the samples analyzed for bacteria. This was a cooperative effort of OSU Extension, Miami Conservancy District, Greene County Combined Health District, Greene Soil and Water Conservation District and Greene County FFA. Bacteria is the most common well-water quality problem in Greene County.
- 32 homeowners learned the basic skill of caring for fruit trees and raising locally grown food at the Backyard Fruit School.

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