



Harrison County

538 N. Main St., Suite H
Cadiz 43907, 740-942-8823



2008 County Highlights

Strengthening Families and Communities

- Following release, incarcerated men are at-risk for recidivism—re-arrest, re-conviction, or re-incarceration within three years. Their children are more likely to acquire a criminal record. Fit 2-B FATHERS (F2BF) is a seventeen-session curriculum to help men overcome the challenges related to incarceration. The program addresses topics such as anger management, money management, career advancement, discipline, communication, promoting literacy and school success, healthy living, health and safety for children, and safe environments for children. During the three curriculum series thus far in 2008, eleven men participated. The goal is for participants to be the best men and fathers they can be, thereby becoming stronger contributors to their families and communities.
- The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) is designed to improve the likelihood that persons eligible for the Food Stamp Program will make healthy food choices within a limited budget and choose physically active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans. More than 1,300 residents received education resources for improving their nutrition, food shopping, food safety, and physical activity. This project is funded in cooperation with the USDA and Ohio and local Job and Family Services.
- Children whose parents divorce are at-risk for social, relational, academic, and emotional difficulties. Findings have indicated that when divorcing parents are educated with strategies for helping their children, these children have better outcomes following the divorce. Helping Children Succeed Divorce is an educational program for parents of dependent children who are divorcing or separating. The goal is to reduce children's exposure to parental conflicts.
- A portion of society is at-risk for poor eating habits; therefore, providing education about the dietary guidelines and the food guide pyramid is one way to equip participants with better nutrition choices and awareness of the need for physical activity. A total of 275 residents learned to improve these choices through lessons from the Healthy People issue area. The goal is for people to increase knowledge and skills for choosing healthy foods, thrifty shopping, and physical activity.
- The FCS Advisory Committee determined that the number one need for local residents is family life education, which includes parenting, and marital and couple relationships. A total of 88 residents who participated in Healthy Relationships reported increased knowledge and skills regarding marriage and couple relationships, parenting, and adult development and aging issues.

- As fathers are becoming more involved in the rearing of and academic interests of their children, researchers have indicated a need for more educational classes to teach men fathering skills. Men In Families (MIF) was designed to educate men with children attending Head Start (fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles) with social and parenting skills. This program uses lessons from Fit 2-B FATHERS along with activities for fathers and their children. A total of 100 men participated in MIF this year.

Preparing Youth for Success

- The rural financial crisis continues to diminish student access to experiential education in public schools. By providing cost-effective programs, we were fortunate this year to involve 456 local students in experiential school enrichment opportunities. *Incredible Egg*, *Fishy Science*, *Pig Power*, and *Rockets Away* programs were taught to 3rd graders, while 4th graders enjoyed *Pig Power* (in partnership with SWCD) and *Go Plants!* In addition, a new partnership with a local kindergarten teacher allowed for the deployment of an interactive *Exploring Farm Animals* program.
- Studies have indicated the great importance of reaching young children with positive activities and role models. To that end, three Cloverbud Camp events (for ages 5–8) were held, reaching 25 children. One particularly engaging service activity involved these members in creating stepping stones for the county fairgrounds.
- The week-long summer camp program provides an invaluable opportunity for both teen leadership development and building positive social relationships in a safe learning environment. This year 24 older youth participated in the counselor training process and 59 youth as summer camp participants. The theme of Rockin Rodeo was employed to teach agrarian skills in a light, interactive atmosphere.
- Essential to any youth development process are committed, informed volunteers. This year six adults participated in New Volunteer Training. This training process taught valuable skills related to communications, appropriate discipline, and youth skill development. These new volunteers join an excellent group of 85 advisors and key leaders in the county 4-H program.
- In assisting youth with the development of healthy competition and task accomplishment skills, 172 youth participated in livestock skillathon judging and 112 youth in project judging. These judging processes were the culmination of months of hard work, dedication, skill enhancement, and project mastery.

- In seeking to develop mindful youth agrarians, the Livestock Quality Assurance program instructed 146 youth. Learning sessions included Junior Fair Update, Ten Good Practices of QA, Animal Marketing Strategies, and an interactive activity led by Junior Fair Board members. Quality Assurance is a mandated program for youth who show a market animal or lactating dairy at the county fair.
- The recent financial crisis is symptomatic of a diminished civic understanding of prudent fiscal management. Ensuring that the next generation learns valuable financial skills related to saving, investing, entrepreneurship, and community giving will be essential to avoiding similar mega-crises in the future. This year 4-H youth and families honed these skills through cookie dough and frozen food fundraisers, serving in the fair food stand, and donating toward/participating in the endowment auction.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- 82 crop producers learned about the latest crop production technologies at the Tri-County Agronomy Day. Sixty-two percent of participants reported that they expect to save money as a result of what they learned at the program with a \$27.20 per acre average. Participants learned about wildlife damage control strategies; soil testing and interpretation; dealing with high fertilizer prices; Roundup resistance; global climate change; and herbicide updates.
- 20 private landowners learned about lease hunting as a tool to control wildlife and increase income at a Lease Hunting Workshop co-sponsored with Ohio Farm Bureau.
- 170 adults and youth learned how to manage farm ponds at a farm pond management session taught by OSU Extension at the Harrison SWCD conservation field day and a separate daylong clinic. Participants learned about weed control, aeration, wildlife control, managing sport fish populations, and watershed management.
- 58 private pesticide applicators became recertified to purchase and use restricted-use pesticides by participating in one of three different three-hour recertification workshops. Participants learned how to effectively manage pests, how to protect the environment when using pesticides, and how to minimize pesticide use.
- More than 140 beef producers increased their beef production and marketing skills at three sessions of the Eastern Ohio Beef Management and Technology School. Participants learned about beef herd health issues and how to select sires to match the needs of their cows. Participants also learned about new value cuts of beef at a carcass cutting demonstration conducted at a local slaughterhouse.
- 58 dairy producers learned about managing Johne's Disease, measuring dairy profitability, and about feeding

cows and calves in cold weather at three Dairy Lunch-n-Learn Workshops.

- 40 private woodland owners learned how to maximize returns from timber sales at a Timber Marketing Workshop taught by Extension. Participants learned how to work with consulting foresters, how to locate timber buyers, how to comply with environmental regulations, and learned about the tax implications of timber sales by participating in the workshop.
- 16 community members are increasing their leadership skills by participating in an agricultural leadership development program. Titled LEAD, an acronym for Leadership Education and Development, the 14-month experiential learning program consists of six study institutes and two study tours.
- 44 forest landowners learned how to increase the growth rate and value of their trees at a daylong forestry field day titled Improving Your Woodland. In addition to an indoor classroom session, participants also participated in hands-on sessions in the woods, where they learned how to apply crop tree release principles.

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- People who do not budget their money are at-risk for overspending or abusing credit. A total of 96 county residents participated in a Healthy Finances programing—educational efforts focused on helping families increase their knowledge and skills regarding strategies for budgeting their money, manage their finances, and reducing their credit spending.
- 21 local feeder cattle producers increased their income by participating in a new marketing program entitled Farm Fresh Feeders from Eastern Ohio. Participating farmers report receiving premiums of up to 30 cents per pound over sale barn prices. This project is designed to allow feeder cattle producers to increase their income by marketing their calves directly to cattle feeders in western Ohio.
- Feeder cattle producers in Carroll, Harrison, and Jefferson counties received higher prices for their cattle by participating in a Spring Graded Feeder Cattle Sale co-sponsored with Tri-County Feeder Cattle Association. This marketing project provides local cow-calf producers who operate small herds the opportunity to receive higher prices for their product by pooling cattle from many farms into larger, more uniform lots.
- Today's employers are looking for persons accomplished in both technical and soft skills. These soft skills are developed through a lifetime of character enhancement, experiential learning, and calculated risk-taking. This year, six youth participated in Royalty Contest Night which measured not only their physical talents, but also their developing soft skills.

Ohio State University Extension embraces human diversity and is committed to ensuring that all research and related educational programs are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, or veteran status. This statement is in accordance with United States Civil Rights Laws and the USDA.

Keith L. Smith, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Director, Ohio State University Extension
TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868