



Henry County

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2008 County Highlights

Strengthening Families and Communities

- The **Family Nutrition Program** provided programming for 1,095 people in 325 classes covering topics of nutrition, food safety and food shopping, and family budgeting. Ninety-six percent of participants reported learning new information and 89% stated that they will make changes because of the information. As a result of this program, participants are going to watch their salt and fat intake, plan weekly menus, use a list when grocery shopping, feed their families healthier foods in their homes and when they eat fast food, set up a family budget that reflects their goals, include lots of color in their meals, and pay closer attention to serving size.
- Nutrition newsletters continued to extend nutrition education and information to over 5,000 adults at the Commodity Foods pick-up sites in Napoleon, Deshler, Liberty Center, Holgate, and McClure, Department of Job and Family Services, Senior sites, FISH food pantry and families involved in the Henry County Health Department's Help Me Grow, and WIC programs.
- **SKY (Strengthening Knowledge in Youth)**, an **After School Program** held at Malinta Elementary School, was carried out for fourteen 3–4th graders in the spring and twenty-four in the fall sessions. Four teens served as mentors for these elementary youth assisting them with homework and special activities each session. The program is conducted as a partnership with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Henry County. Supported by Henry County 4-H Endowment, participants developed positive leisure time activity interests.
- **4-H Family Day**, a celebration of 4-H members' accomplishments in the program, was held in October. Three hundred youth and parents and/or other family members attended the event. Through the sponsorship of over twenty local individuals and businesses, 198 youth received special awards and recognition. In addition, 131 volunteers were recognized for their contributions to the 4-H program.
- Thirty-one persons have successfully completed a **Parenting Education Program in Henry County** and received certification for their work through one of two separate curriculums. Parenting 1,2,3,4 or Parenting TODAY has been completed with 100% reporting learning new skills or tools to use with their children. From one participant, *"I learned more about feeding my child a variety of foods and not forcing them to eat."*
- Public Speaking about Family Life Issues is important to Henry County families. Thirty-five people were in attendance for programs on **"Birth Order and Its Impact on Personality"** and **"Introversion and Extroversion—How was I made?"** These programs were requested of Extension staff. *"It is interesting to recognize the differences in people I know, both in adults and the students in my classes,"* from one participant.
- **Homebuyer Education**, offered in conjunction with Maumee Valley Planning and local government officials was completed by 11 individuals. This educational program supports the loan process for first-time buyers to obtain a mortgage and up to 5% of cost of the home in downpayment assistance, upon successful loan applications. Each participant learns to manage a budget, a net worth statement, and works to manage credit. Each participant engages in eight hours of educational sessions to enable confident consumer decisions and decrease the possibility of foreclosure once obtaining a mortgage.
- **Financial education** requests for programming increased in 2008 with respect to foreclosures. Two people were helped with questions of their lenders to obtain loan modifications. Twenty-seven persons were provided programming upon their request. Numerous presentations were provided as well as counseling or requests to obtain better ways to manage their income. ALL participants planned to make changes in managing their money following these sessions: *"I learned new ways to make sure money was available for the things my family needs."*
- **Leadership issues** were addressed through requested programs in the areas of **board training, managing difficult conversations, and employee staff relationships**. A total of 369 people were served with programs in the area of leadership development.
- Food Safety Training was completed with 113 people in attendance achieving certification in the twenty-hour **ServSafe for Managers** or the four-hour **Person in Charge Training**. Participants reported an increase in their knowledge of the causes of foodborne illness as well as ways to reduce the risk of illness.
- **TV26 of Defiance, Ohio**, has connected with OSU Extension of Henry, Fulton, Williams, and Defiance counties to provide a monthly program aired on this public television station. Staff of the Henry County office aired programs on parenting, food preservation, and foreclosure issues to support the needs of local families.

Preparing Youth for Success

- **4-H enrollment** totaled 735 youth 5–18 years of age. 1,094 projects were completed by these 4-H members.
- **Henry County 4-H Junior Leadership Club** met monthly September through May. Club members selected to become part of a 4-H Awareness, Community Service, Livestock, Food and Fashion, Communication, Special Events or Fundraising team. Each team establishes its own goals and is responsible for following through on the steps in achieving those goals.
- **4-H Camp, Horse Camp, and Cloverbud Camp** provided 60 teen leaders training in the areas of team building, basic emergency care, program planning, brainstorming, and introversion/extroversion. Knowledge gained was applied in each camp setting for the benefit of 180 youth.
- **Boards and Committees**—The 4-H Program functions with the assistance of several entities including a 4-H Advisory Council, 4-H Endowment Committee, and a 4-H Horse Council. 4-H youth are selected as representatives to each of these groups in addition to Junior Fair Board, which provides leadership in organizing and carrying out the Junior Fair program as part of the Henry County Fair.
- The 4-H Programs of Henry, Defiance, Paulding, Williams, and Fulton counties held **NW Ohio 4-H Career Day** for 40 7th graders at Four County Career Center to equip youth with the needed skills to thrive in the workplace. Evaluation data provided information gained through the workshop: getting more education or training after school (before: 34%; after 97%); waiting until I am financially ready before having children (before 34%; after 95%); and learning how to make wise financial decisions (before 24%; after 95%).
- **Preschool Vision Screening** was provided as a service to area preschools to provide this screening. A total of 109 3, 4 and 5 year olds were screened to determine if they would benefit from a visit to an optometrist. Seven local older 4-H members provided this screening through the Henry County Extension office. All have been trained as certified screeners. Equipment was provided through the Ohio State University College of Optometry.
- Forty Henry County 4-H teens attended the **4-H Teen Conference** in February. As participants, youth learn about leadership and practical hands-on activities that they in turn utilized within their clubs. The Nancy Mae Michaelis Memorial, as part of the Henry County 4-H Endowment funds, enabled the youth to attend.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- **Camps**—While involved in 4-H Camp, youth in Henry County were able to experience both day and overnight camping programming. Youth who participated in nature-oriented classes and activities learned about environmental stewardship and developed an appreciation for being in the out-of-doors.
- **Master Gardeners** in Henry County have an active presence in our community. Master Gardeners field call-in and walk-in questions from local residents and assist in educational programs for school children. This group does some fundraising for local charitable groups and supports the Chamber of Commerce with a downtown beautification endeavor. In the fall, the Master Gardeners teamed up for a native plant restoration endeavor with the local community college. On staff, at the local Extension office, a MG coordinator is on hand several hours per week to encourage and facilitate Master Gardener involvement.

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- OSU Extension provides educational programming for local public school teachers to enhance their work in the classroom. Twenty-two teachers came to Extension for training in financial education methods to teach in the classroom through the NEFE training curriculum that will become mandated in the year 2010.

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