



# Hocking County

150 N. Homer Ave.  
Logan 43138, 740-385-3222



## 2008 County Highlights

### Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist (OCVN) class of 19 people attended 45+ hours of instruction with all passing the exam to certify sufficient learning to be an OCVN. To date over 300 volunteer hours have been donated by graduates to Ohio and Metro Parks and Preserves. This was the first such effort in SE Ohio.
- Master Gardener volunteers conducted America in Bloom, initiated and conducted the Logan Farmer's and Flea Market and landscaped the new Park Office Building at Old Man's Cave State Park and Worthington Square in downtown Logan. Master Gardeners donated over 1,300 volunteer hours in 2008. During Lilyfest over 50 fact sheets were printed onsite and handed out to patrons to aid learning. The Master Gardener table was staffed during the entire time of the Lilyfest and Master Gardeners enhanced the show by adopting, rejuvenating, and caring for eight beds featured at the show. Lilyfest attracted over 7,000 visitors in 2008.
- Livestock Environmental Assurance Programs (LEAP) were held for two groups of producers: small ruminant producers (sheep and goats, 8 attending) and horse owners with 13 people attending. Each program consisted of three meetings. Attendance allows extra "points" to producers when applying for government assistance and trains producers to manage their operation in an efficient and environmentally appropriate manner.
- Basic beef production meetings with 16 Hocking County producers in attendance covered the importance of sizing a herd to the farm's capacity under the appropriate level of management; possible ways to increase utilization of pasture and hay given the high cost of feed; possible alternatives to feeding hay and corn, and herd/calf health. Six producers then attended "advanced" sessions on the same topics at either Lancaster or Athens.
- A beef and farm safety twilight tour promoted the value of developing additional watering sites and how to use government assistance to do so to 19 producers. Also, utilizing legumes was promoted as a practice due to the high cost of nitrogen fertilizer and the high value of hay. Government programs and the availability of assistance was a topic along with farm safety.
- Eight Hocking County private pesticide applicators were certified to apply pesticides in a manner as safe as possible to applicators, the environment, and the consumer.

- During the annual Beef Banquet, 80 producers learned about raising a beef cow-calf herd economically due to high feed and energy costs.

### Strengthening Families and Communities

- The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) provided educational classes on food safety, thrifty shopping, and improving dietary quality during federal fiscal year 2008. A total of 460 food stamp recipients and eligible non-recipients attended programs. Of those, 96% reported they learned new information and 82% planned to make recommended changes. Also, a total of 2,974 newsletters and/or fact sheets were distributed to individuals who did not attend classes.
- Dermascan skin viewings were offered during the Logan-Hocking Schools Wellness Fair. Forty-seven school staff members participated. The evaluation showed that 96% learned new information and 94% planned to make some of the recommended changes. Eighteen of the participants had had a previous skin viewing by OSU Extension and as a result had made the following changes: 13 wore sunscreen more often; 10 wore sunglasses; 3 avoided sunlight between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.; and 3 talked with their doctor about their skin concerns.
- Quick and Easy Meals on a Budget is the title of a monthly class taught as part of the Job Club at the Department of Job and Family Services. Since its inception in July, 56 individuals have participated. Of those, the end-of-class evaluation showed that 93% learned "some" or "a lot" of new information. Plus, 85% planned to make "some" or "a lot" of changes. Ten individuals returned the one-month follow-up survey that was mailed to participants. They had made an average of 5 positive changes; 90% indicated that they were able to save money by planning meals; and estimated saving from \$10 to \$150.
- The FCS educator received a \$1,200 grant to teach a Nutrition/Healthy Snack class during each week of the six week SPROUTS Summer Camp. Attendance averaged 71. On a scale of 1 = none to 4 = a lot, 90% of the children marked 3 or 4 in response to the question, "How much new information did you learn?" Ninety-four percent of the children tried a new food including 63% who thought they wouldn't like it. The percentage of children who made their own snacks at home rose from 70% before to 87% after the classes.

## Preparing Youth for Success

- The Hocking County Youth Board met monthly. They sponsored three fundraisers that grossed \$1,398 and donated 15 care packages of personal, fun, and food items (valued at \$772) for soldiers, marines, airmen, or sailors serving in Iraq or Afghanistan as part of the “2008 Shoe Box for a Soldier” campaign. The Youth Board provides up to \$1,200 per year in funding for mini-grants to youth groups for community service projects and accepts proposals on an ongoing basis.
- During 2008, the FCS Program cooperated with the Hocking County Juvenile Court to offer Youth Educational Shoplifting (YES) classes. Developed by the National Association of Shoplifting Prevention, the educational program is designed to help youth understand why they shoplifted and how to avoid doing it again in the future. To fulfill the program requirements youth must complete 5–6 hours of homework and participate in the 6-hour class. Seventeen youth participated. In response to the question, “What grade would you give the class?” The mean score was 88.5%. The psychological profile showed that 11 youth had low risk potential to repeat the offense, 5 had a moderate risk, and 1 didn’t provide enough information to determine her risk.
- Twelve youth participated in the Farmer Youth Initiative (FYI), a collaborative program of Hocking Soil and Water Conservation District, OSU Extension Hocking County and others. The program taught the ethics of hunting, wildlife conservation, and communication skills, as well as gun and food safety. All of those completing evaluations indicated they learned “some” or “a lot” of new information and plan to make recommended changes.
- Developed locally, *The Family Tackle Box* newsletter was distributed to 2,040 K–5th grade students who gave the newsletter to their parents. A survey was included in the March issue to measure if readers would contact OSU Extension for educational information. The survey results showed that prior to reading the newsletter 28% of the respondents would have contacted OSU Extension for educational information, while after reading the newsletter 94% would do so.
- The 4-H educator developed a 4-H Money Camp and marketed the camp to members who had completed third through sixth grades. The objective of this one-day camp was to increase financial literacy and awareness in young people. Money Camp was conducted on July 23

with fourteen participants. The class content consisted of learning activities, discussion, and educational games. In a follow-up survey sent to participants and their parents, 100% of participants said that they have shared something learned at Money Camp with family or friends and 100% of parents said that their child is more aware of money. 4-H Money Camp was sponsored by Jacob Hill of Edward Jones Investments.

- The 4-H Junior Leaders received a \$1,000 grant from the Ohio 4-H Foundation and Jim Helt Family for a “JL Capitol Adventure” trip. On May 13, 11 teens, 1 adult volunteer, and the 4-H educator traveled by OSU bus to our State Capitol to meet with Senator Tim Schaffer and Representative Dan Dodd. The teens were introduced in both House and Senate sessions, met with both legislators, and toured the Capitol Building. All of these teens said they increased their knowledge about government and that the experience would help them in the future.
- The 4-H program partners with the Hocking County Juvenile Court System, the Ohio Highway Patrol, and other community leaders to offer CARTEENS, a traffic safety program taught by 4-H teen leaders for first-time juvenile traffic offenders. In five sessions held during 2008, 67 juveniles attended with the following results: 57 stated that the program will help them be a better driver; 58 stated that they will increase their use of seatbelts; 53 stated they will be more cautious when driving. The Hocking County CARTEENS program was recognized with a \$1,000 National Youth Safety Award.
- Afterschool programming was provided to Union Furnace and Central East Elementary Schools. An “Individual Differences” series was presented to students in grades three through five. Lessons presented to students in grades kindergarten through second included Nature Fun, Fitness Fun, Measuring, Pets, and Birds. On feedback forms, 100% of students who responded stated that they learned something new in each lesson.

## Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- Extension educators are responsible for seeking additional revenue to support their programs. Extension staff partnered with 35 different agencies and groups to best utilize funding and avoid duplication in programming. During 2008, they received approximately \$282,232 in additional grants, gifts, contracts, and volunteer hours.

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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