



Huron County

180 Milan Avenue, Suite 1
Norwalk 44857, 419-668-8219



2007 Impact Statements

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- The 2007 highlights all seem to center on team work. In January, February, and March, I helped present a program titled "Building for the Successful Transition of Your Agricultural Business," which was funded by a grant from the North Central Risk Management Center. The program included four two-day seminars strategically placed across the state. Sessions were taught by Educators from the OSU Extension Ag Management Team as well as Ohio State University faculty. Two more dates are set for 2008. A fact sheet series was also part of this project. One of the fact sheets was the first that I had written and taken through the review process.
- I spent much of 2007 forging alliances with other local educators. With two Ag Educator's positions vacant in surrounding counties, it seems prudent to team with other educators to serve not only our own counties, but also the counties that need outside help at this juncture. To better serve the southern part of Huron County as well as Richland and Crawford Counties, Dr. Steve Prochaska and I held an area agronomy meeting in Willard on December 11th. This was my second opportunity to host an agronomy day with Dr. Prochaska, as we conducted a very successful agronomy day in Bellevue on September 6th.
- I plan many programs (particularly pesticide applicator training) with the help of my colleague Zach Rinkes, Extension Educator in Erie County. With Zach's help I provided applicator recertification credits to over 300 private applicators in Erie, Huron, and Lorain Counties. I will team with Zach again in 2008 on many programs.
- The Huron County Master Gardener Program continues to bloom and grow. Twelve new candidates completed the Master Gardener training and will become full members upon completion of their volunteer service requirements. This class will bolster the membership roster to more than 50 strong. This organization has become invaluable to the community and I am extremely proud of their hard work and dedication.

4-H Youth Development

"4-H is a community of young people across America learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills." Youth are involved in hands-on, experiential education that allows learning by doing. All 4-H programs focus on active involve-

ment and quality experiences which stimulate lifelong learning of values and skills. 4-H programs are leader-directed and youth-focused.

- One hundred ninety-six adult volunteers give their time to coordinate activities for 1,031 youth in 52 4-H community clubs.
- Every 4-H member must enroll in at least one 4-H project. Members enrolled in a total of 1,816 projects with a 91% completion rate.
- Cloverbuds is an activity-based, noncompetitive program for members in grades K-2. Fifty-three specially trained advisors guided 194 Cloverbud members.
- Adults from 16 middle management teams are responsible for conducting educational and evaluation portions of the 4-H program. One hundred ninety-four middle managers conducted 93 clinics, judgments, and skillathons. They coordinated activities for 957 members who competed in the Junior Fair.
- Camping is an integral part of the 4-H program. Huron County 4-H Camp Conger has been utilized for 4-H camping since 1925. Forty-eight older members received 24 hours of training to serve as camp counselors at resident camp.
- Sixty-eight 4-H members in grades 6 to 8 participated in Intermediate Resident Camp. Eighty 3rd through 5th graders stayed at Camp Conger for Junior Resident Camp. Seventy Cloverbuds enjoyed a day at Camp Conger for Cloverbud Day Camp. Overall attendance at camp was up 7% from 2006.
- CARTEENS is a non-traditional 4-H program offered in partnership with the juvenile court system. First-time juvenile traffic offenders are sent to a 4-H CARTEENS educational program. Over 200 traffic offenders attend CARTEENS each year. CARTEENS stands for Caution and Responsibility in Teen drivers. Older 4-H members conduct the program with the State Highway Patrol, a retired EMT and a parent who lost a child in a traffic accident.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Good Foods for Good Health

- Programs were held monthly in partnership with Norwalk Parks and Recreation with 188 people attending.
- An impact study revealed significant results. There was a 26% increase in knowledge, a 22% improvement in

nutrition behaviors and a 17% improvement in food safety behaviors.

- A program participant whose husband has lost over 80 pounds said, *“I attribute his being able to keep the weight off in part to The Good Food for Good Health classes as they have given me the nutritional information I need, along with options and recipes to continue to prepare low-fat, nutritional meals for his continued weight loss success.”*

Dining with Diabetes

- Two series of classes were held in partnership with Fisher-Titus Medical Center with 42 people participating.
- Evaluation data show 90% of respondents feel their knowledge of diabetes increased and 95% were able to list at least one behavior change they were making as a result of participation in the program. Behavior changes included portion control, exercising more and using less sugar, salt, and fat.

ServSafe® Person In-Charge Food Safety Training

- This training was held three times for 42 participants.
- Evaluations show 96% rated the training as excellent or very good.
- 100% of evaluation respondents reported one or more behavior change they planned to make as a result of participation. Proper cooking methods, temperature control, and food thermometer use and calibration were listed by 62%, proper use of a slow cooker was listed by 17%, proper thawing was listed by 10%, and 10% listed other behaviors.

Family Nutrition Program (FNP)

- This program targets food stamp recipients and those eligible for food stamps.
- There were 807 individuals who attended 123 programs in the last year.
- We also sent materials to 508 homes that were involved with the Meals on Wheels and Home Delivery Program through the Huron County Senior Enrichment Programs.
- FNP also participated in a Job Fair in connection with Job and Family Services and in October 2007, a Harvest Festival was held in Willard where an estimated 700 residents attended.

Community Economic Development

- The Huron County Development Council (HCDC) began the year with new officers, elected for a two-year term. They were inducted at the Annual Meeting, which was held at the Willard Depot. The speaker for the meeting was Dr. Kay Strong from Bowling Green State University. Her topic was about “Chinafication,” speaking about the size and financial impact that China is having and can have on the United States in the future.
- The Huron County Development Council completed reports to the Ohio Department of Development with our annual report from the Tax Incentive Review Committee. HCDC is responsible for tax abatement reporting for the Villages of New London, Plymouth and Monroeville.
- The Huron County Development Council experienced a burst of new business leads all year long through efforts of the new HCDC web site, e-procure web site and trade show attendance with our regional group. The state lead generating program at e-procure generated over thirty-five leads. We had suitable suites and buildings that were submitted for ten of those leads.
- Community work involved assisting the City of Bellevue and the Bellevue Development Council with a business seminar that was held to help current business owners be aware of what is available for business assistance in that city. Other community work involved participating in the Norwalk Economic Development Corporation (NEDC) Business Appreciation Week, First Impressions Program with the City of Salem, and the NEDC business prospecting program trip to Indianapolis, Indiana. We also had completion of the Norwalk Commons grant process, and construction at the new site is progressing.
- The Huron County Commissioners passed a resolution to increase the county conveyance fee from \$2.00 to \$3.00 on real property sold, with the \$1.00 increase going to the Huron County Development Council for economic development and tourism efforts. The projected amount for HCDC for economic development will amount to approximately \$50,000 per year. The additional funds will be used to expanding marketing efforts, conduct business retention and expansion programs, and work towards the job ready sites program.

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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