



Lorain County

42110 Russia Rd.
Elyria 44035-6813, 440-326-5851



2007 Impact Statements

Family and Consumer Sciences

- In 2007, 253 families were enrolled in the Lorain County Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). A series of six lessons were held with limited income families with young children in the cities of Elyria and Lorain. Adult participants learned how to use MyPyramid to plan healthy meals, read and understand food labels, stretch their food dollars, and prepare and store food safely. At the end of the series, food recalls indicated that 86% made a positive change in their nutrition practices for better health. The EFNEP program is conducted in both English and Spanish so that a diverse population is served.
- In 2007, 475 children took part in the Lorain County Family Nutrition Program's summer education program, which was held in cooperation with Elyria City Schools. Sessions targeted children between the ages of 6 and 13, educating them on the importance of nutrition and physical activity. They made healthy snacks, learned about different fruits and vegetables, and discovered new exercises.
- Over 75 "public service" cooks (such as school food service personnel, Extension volunteers, church cooks, etc.) participated in food safety education through OSU Extension in Lorain County. One-hundred percent of participants showed improvements in their knowledge of food handling principles when comparing pre-class to post-class tests. Written comments from post-class evaluations indicated participants would: do a better job of tracking temperatures of foods, try to cool foods more quickly, and wash hands more frequently. In addition, 42 food service/restaurant managers participated in the 16-hour ServSafe® for Managers training with 94% becoming Certified in Food Protection through the Ohio Department of Health by passing the National Restaurant Association certification test.

4-H Youth Development

- In 2007, the Jr. 4-H Camp at Kelley's Island had 112 youth campers for the five-day and four-night experience. Under the direction of the Lorain County 4-H Educator, 22 counselors participated in, at least, 24 hours of training for this year's camp. During training, the counselors learned about the different ages and stages that the campers will exhibit. The counselors became first aid and CPR certified, as well as explored

the issues of child abuse, neglect, and cultural diversity. This training was provided to ensure that all campers had a safe, fun, and educational camp experience. The counselors were given the opportunity to look outside of themselves to understand the diversity of Lorain County and how to effectively meet challenges head on.

- The 2007 Quality Assurance Program was a complete success. The one-hour program was offered seven times prior to the 2007 Lorain County Fair. The QA program presents ten good practices that teach youth how to correctly take care of their market animals. This program also allowed 4-H youth the chance to meet State and Federal requirements for their market project species. The exhibitors also were given the opportunity to test out of the Quality Assurance program. In 2007, fourteen youth tested out of Quality Assurance for the next three years. They showed they had a mastery of the information presented during the QA program and the program was not needed for them to produce a quality product.
- As part of the multi-county exchange event, over 40 4-H educators and 4-H committee volunteers representing seven counties throughout the northeast part of the state gathered in Wooster to exchange program information and demonstrate new and innovative ideas that will enhance the 4-H program. Each county provided a presentation that included topics such as: Quality Assurance, fund-raising, special events, after-school programs, and future cross county collaborations. As a result, over 300 volunteers in Lorain County will have access to new and cutting edge information to help enhance their 4-H programs.
- 4-H members participated in two countywide community service projects in 2007. Fourteen 4-H clubs picked up litter in April and again in October on the 13-mile Lorain County MetroParks North Coast Inland Trail. In late April, fourteen 4-H clubs participated in the annual 4-H/Easter Seals AShare the Care Campaign@ Balloon Day. Clubs secured the approval to collect donations to Easter Seals and give away balloons at business locations throughout Lorain County. A total of \$3,247.44 was collected on balloon day and donated to Lorain County Easter Seals. In turn, the money was used to send special needs children to camps with facilities and programs designed to meet the needs of these children. Many additional 4-H clubs planned and conducted a service project in their community.

Horticulture

- Educational programs in 2007 included classes for 169 consumers at gardening programs, and commercial classes serving 784 green industry professionals in the region. These classes directly contributed over \$7,000 to local businesses through purchase of services and supplies.
- Pesticide applicator certification provides the means for pesticide users to improve skills and knowledge regarding safe and minimal impact use of pesticides. To make efficient use of expertise and resources, training was offered at several schools this year as Lorain, Erie and Huron counties cooperatively ran a pesticide recertification “road show” to provide high quality training at three locations within this three county cluster—each educator provided training in their area of specialization. This office provided 432 hours of certification this year.
- A committee of master gardeners had undertaken the project of using the grounds surrounding the office as teaching gardens. This long-term project will take several years to complete and will be used to increase educational outreach to consumers and commercial clients. A total of 37 persons attended the monthly hands-on classes during the pilot year.
- For 2007, the total of greenhouse plastic film diverted into recycling stands at 98,860 pounds—almost double the total for 2006!
- In-office diagnostic services continued to provide assistance to Lorain County businesses and residents for 227 samples of plants, insects and diseases and 244 phone consultations. Of the calls, about 40 were agriculture related (including ponds), 53 were commercial businesses. The year to date, 470 consultations provided to Lorain County residents would be valued at \$9,400 in lab fees and expenses. Indirect benefits of horticulture education also include lower environmental impact from pesticide use and more efficient production of ornamental plants and food crops.
- Master Gardeners continued a partnership with Lorain County Metro Housing. Residents living in scattered sites and high-rise homes attended a horticulture-training program. Seventy residents participated by maintaining their properties with their newly gained knowledge.
- The Garden Help Line operated May through October during the growing season and Master Gardeners answered over 150 calls.
- Compost Education in cooperation with Lorain County Solid Waste was delivered to 1,305 teachers and students in schools throughout the county including schools such as Amherst, Vermilion, Avon, Midview, Lorain and the Avon and Lorain Libraries.

Sea Grant

- Hazardous chemicals and polluted stormwater runoff are common to many marina operations. Ohio Sea Grant’s Clean Marinas Program certifies marinas that have implemented EPA-approved pollution control practices. In the last year, managers from 85 marinas have attended Ohio Clean Marinas workshops and 34 marinas have been awarded certification. Another 20 marinas currently are pledged to become Clean Marinas
- Ohio Sea Grant initiated a pilot marina/boat shrink wrap and greenhouse plastic recycling effort as a “value added” project for the Ohio Clean Marina Program. Shrink wrap is now being collected from 102 coastal marinas resulting in the recycling of over 460,000 pounds of shrink wrap and 100,000 pounds of greenhouse plastic into useful products, in addition to saving 228 cubic yards of valuable landfill space.
- A result of Ohio Sea Grant’s Lake Erie tributary steelhead valuation research effort is ODNR continuing to annually stock Lake Erie steelhead, and working to secure public access to streamside parcels to support steelhead fishery angler access.
- Ohio Sea Grant’s Lake Erie Discussion Board is an interactive web-based forum allowing Sea Grant clientele to get fast, personal answers to Lake Erie questions. The board also serves as an effective teaching tool. During 2007, the Lake Erie Discussion Board experienced over 500,000 Internet hits.
- The website “Shipwrecks and Maritime Tales of the Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail,” along with a 12 page educational brochure, will be completed by the end of 2007 as a result of two grants totaling \$14K received for the development of a Lake Erie Shipwreck Underwater Trailways System.

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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