



# Lorain County

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



## 2008 County Highlights

### Strengthening Families and Communities

- Consumer Horticulture Programming**—OSU Extension in Lorain County conducted Consumer Horticulture programs in 2008. Extension staff and Master Gardener volunteers provided these programs. More than 620 people, including long-time gardeners and several people who reported they had never gardened but wanted to grow their own produce, were a part of the classes offered. These events providing or enhancing gardening knowledge are more important in light of increased grocery costs and rising unemployment—the garden is again being looked at as a means of stretching the food dollar. Master Gardener training enhances the outreach of OSU Extension staff to consumers through their own circuit of programs.
- Family Nutrition Program**—In 2008, 908 children took part in the Lorain County Family Nutrition Program's summer education program, which was held in cooperation with Elyria City Schools, Salvation Army, and Horizon's Activity Centers. Sessions targeted children between the ages of 6 and 13, educating them on the importance of nutrition and physical activity. They tried healthy snack foods, including fruits and vegetables that they may not have tried before, and discovered new ways to be physically active.
- Financial Education**—The tougher 2005 bankruptcy law requires filers to take an approved financial education class before discharge of their case. OSU Extension in Lorain County is offering "New Start for Financial Success," as part of this approved program for bankruptcy filers. Participants learn to make budgets and start putting money aside for emergencies. They increased their knowledge of spending habits, credit reports, and basic budgeting as a result of attending class. One hundred percent of class participants agreed that they learned new information from the class and would work to keep their debt to less than 20% of take-home pay.
- Consumer Horticulture Programming**—two schools by providing healthier snack options and discontinuing the sales of candy bars and regular fried chips. One school is also providing nutrition labeling for all foods sold on the school lunch line.
- CARTEENS**—In 2008, Lorain County CARTEENS helped 511 first-time juvenile traffic offenders get back in the driver seat after attending the CARTEENS driver safety training. Youth drivers between the ages of 16 and 18 and a parent or legal guardian participated in the mandatory driver safety education. CARTEENS meetings are held twice each month throughout the year. According to surveys, 85% of the teens stated that the sessions will help them reduce the chance of having another traffic violation, and 100% plan to be more cautious while driving.
- 4-H Advisor Training**—63 4-H advisors and "key leader" volunteers participated in 16 two-hour training sessions over a five-month period. Training sessions included parliamentary procedure, how to conduct a meeting, essential elements of 4-H, conflict resolution techniques, Cloverbud news, and horse issues. Ninety percent of the participants reported that they gained "new" knowledge and strategies that can be used immediately to enhance their 4-H clubs. Others reported a greater sense of confidence in fulfilling their 4-H advisor obligations.
- School Enrichment Program**—324 students in 4 urban city schools located in the cities of Lorain and North Ridgeville participated in the "Incredible Egg" science project. Six classrooms of 4th and 5th graders were able to observe the process of baby chicks being hatched and observed the early growth process. Teachers report that "The Incredible Egg Project" has caused students to become excited about science.
- Volunteer Recruitment**—In 2008, over 46 new volunteers completed the OSU volunteer application process. Each completed the criminal background check, participated in a face-to-face interview, and signed the "Standards of Behavior Agreement." Volunteers reach our Lorain County youth by being 4-H Club Advisors or Co-Advisors.

### Preparing Youth for Success

- School Nutrition**—OSU Extension conducts school nutrition programming throughout Lorain County. A total of 251 students and 15 teachers, parents, and administrators were reached with direct school nutrition programming. Parent handouts containing information on nutrition and physical activity were provided to elementary and middle school students in nine school districts. School vending choices were improved in

### Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- Horticulture Diagnostic Services**—Every week consumers and farmers are faced with challenges in growing produce, maintaining landscapes, and managing household pests. In-office diagnostic services continued

to provide assistance to Lorain County businesses and residents for 208 samples of plants, insects, and diseases and 406 phone consultations. These professional consultations carry a value of \$10,000 to consumers and businesses. Indirect benefits of this agriculture and horticulture education also includes lower environmental impact from pesticide use and more efficient production of ornamental plants and food crops.

- **Ohio Shipwrecks Web Site and Brochure**—Ohio Sea Grant created a comprehensive web site and a 22-page promotional guide designed to help Ohio residents and visitors locate and learn about the many historical, cultural, and recreational shipwrecks in Ohio's Lake Erie waters, and to promote coastal tourism and business development. Both products will not only effectively serve to promote cultural and coastal tourism as tools to expand Lake Erie tourism revenues, but will also be valuable assets in the conservation and protection of important shipwreck sites. Both the guide and the web site highlight known, popular shipwrecks in four separate sectors of Ohio's Lake Erie shoreline: the Erie Islands, Vermilion-Lorain, Cleveland, and Fairport-Ashtabula. As of November, over 800K web site hits have been recorded, with over 13K brochures distributed. The web site may be viewed at: [www.ohioshipwrecks.org](http://www.ohioshipwrecks.org)
- **Clean Marinas Program**—During the past three years, owners and managers of 85 marinas have attended Ohio Clean Marinas certification workshops. Currently, 40 Lake Erie coastal marinas have been awarded Ohio Clean Marina certification, with another 20 marinas currently pledged to become Clean Marinas. The Ohio Clean Marinas Program has received a total of \$275K in grant funding since 2005, with a recent proposal for 2008–2009 approved for \$75K.
- **Shrink Wrap Recycling**—During 2008, approximately 335,000 pounds of boat shrink-wrap was recycled from 112 marinas along Ohio's Lake Erie shoreline. This was a 26% increase over the 260,000 pounds collected in 2007, and a 235% increase over the 100,000 pounds collected in 2006. In addition, approximately 287,000 pounds of shrink-wrap was collected from marinas in southern Michigan, an effort that began with assistance from the Ohio Clean Marina Program (OCMP).

## Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- **Pesticide Applicator Training**—Pesticide applicator training and certification provides the means for pesticide users to improve skills and knowledge regarding safe and minimal impact use of pesticides. "Green" is the buzzword for businesses in our green industries. Additionally, cost of inputs—fertilizer and pesticides—has more than doubled this year. Pesticide applicators are inquiring about information to customize applications to reduce inputs for two main reasons: to satisfy customers that want a "green" service and to reduce the cost of providing the service. At ten events, agriculture and horticulture professionals gained the knowledge and advanced training to assist them in achieving these goals. Further, their business was enhanced by providing over 385 hours of recertification credit needed to maintain state pesticide applicator licenses.
- **Food Safety**—In 2008, OSU Extension in Lorain County conducted three ServSafe Manager Classes and three Person-In-Charge classes with school food service personnel, restaurant managers, childcare providers, and Extension volunteers. One hundred percent of participants showed improvements in their knowledge of food handling principles when comparing pre-class to post-class tests. The class average for the Person-In-Charge was 94%. One-hundred percent of the Manager Training participants who took the National Certification Test passed with an average score of 92%. 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. One participant stated, "I will be more aware of what I am doing as to not contaminate food."

---

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