



Montgomery County

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2008 County Highlights

Strengthening Families and Communities

- The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is a USDA grant-funded community nutrition education program targeting limited resource, food-stamp eligible families with children and youth. EFNEP staff partnered with 116 volunteers and over 60 local organizations to enroll 769 families (2,510 individuals) and 734 youth. Fifty-one percent of participating adults completed a series of lessons to graduate. Instruction was provided in English, Spanish, and Arabic. Participants were 80% female with responsibility for 1,077 children. 90% of enrollees reported positive changes in planning meals, comparing food prices when shopping, and no longer running out of food. 72% showed improvement in making healthier food choices, reading nutrition labels, reducing dietary salt, and feeding children breakfast. Over 70% of enrolled adults increased use of recommended food safety practices.
- As a partner in the “Marriage Works!” federal grant at Elizabeth’s New Life Center, we provided four booster sessions on financial management in marriage enrichment programs. Participants reported having better communication about financial issues and planning to improve record keeping systems and shopping strategies.
- The Master Money Mentor training program, co-authored by the Montgomery County FCS Educator, is provided to agency/organization staff and volunteers. Participants are trained in basic budgeting, credit/debt management, and working with people requesting this information. Seventeen were trained in the county and all will use the information with their clientele through one-on-one and small group programs. Several participants reported that their clientele are required to attend sessions before receiving financial assistance and this material is used as the curriculum. The educator also chaired a statewide in-service for Extension programming staff to share the newly revised training manual and ways to implement a Master Money Mentor program in their county. The ultimate goal is to enable participants to make appropriate financial decisions to gain better control of their money.
- More than 700 have participated in sun safety programs and the Derascan assessment to determine possible facial skin damage. Staff or trained volunteers conducted screenings at health fairs, job sites, senior citizen centers, and community events to stress the importance of protecting our skin year round.
- In partnership with 4C for Children, 99 home-based child care providers attended four-hour sessions to update knowledge and skills in home safety, first aid strategies, food safety, and feeding young children. Participants rated the training as one of the most useful they receive.
- General financial management issues are addressed through community programs on credit, savings, current consumer issues, money and emotions, and financial literacy for youth. Audiences included participants at the Teachers Academy through the Treasurer of the State of Ohio and Wright State University Center for Economic Education, senior citizens centers, congregate living sites, retirement groups, the media, and Senior Companions.
- As a way to stretch the food dollar, consumers are considering home food preservation and taking steps to assure foods are safe. Consumer groups, school food preparation staff, Extension volunteers, pantry operators, and health support groups gained knowledge and skills to assure foods are handled safely.
- The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) works with limited resource single adults and seniors who may be eligible for food stamps. In fiscal year 2008, 1,593 individuals attended at least one of 134 FNP classes. 89% of the participants completed end of program surveys. 95.5% of those participants indicated they learned some to a lot of new information; 84% intend to make some to a lot of healthy meal planning, food shopping, food safety, and meal preparation changes; 502 plan to use MyPyramid when planning meals; and 608 plan to utilize the low cost food shopping information to help stretch food dollars. In addition 12,332 indirect contacts were made by distributing the Family Nutrition Newsletter and nutrition calendars and brochures to the Dayton Montgomery County public libraries, Job and Family Services, WIC, food pantries, homeless programs, senior service agencies, and Latino community and outreach clinics. Two food budgeting/meal planning/budgeting lessons a month were taught at the Samaritan Clinic for the Homeless.

Preparing Youth for Success

- 967 youth in 27 classrooms throughout Montgomery County school districts participated in “4-H in the Classroom” Chick Embryology curriculum. Classrooms were provided with an incubator, 10 fertilized eggs, and science study materials. Several teachers commented that they appreciated this life sciences curriculum and the “hands-on” opportunities for their students.
- 256 children were enrolled as 4-H members at Wright-Patt Air Force Base. Youth participated in 4-H Clubs at the Prairies Child Care Center, the Teen Center, and the summer 4-H Program at the Prairies. Prairies staff members conducted weekly sessions during the school year and summer on woodworking, photography, international foods, drama, rocketry and aerospace, puzzles and creative thinking, geography, citizenship, athletics, and dance. 90%

of the school year 4-H participants received recognition for attendance and participation in service activities.

- 311 youth and teens attended 2-day to 7-day 4-H overnight camping programs. Campers learned self-responsibility, team work, appreciation of nature, and new skills. For the fourth year, Montgomery County 4-H partnered with Youth Services at Wright-Patt Air Force Base to conduct Operation Purple: Camp Wright-Patt for children with a parent deployed in any branch of the Military, National Guard, or Reserves. 52 teens participated in 36 hours of training to volunteer as cabin counselors. Counselors received instruction on camper risk management, working effectively with youth, practicing the essential elements of youth development in a camp setting, team building, and friendship skills.
- The 4-H program grew slightly during 2008, with 505 4-H club members in 28 community clubs. 218 adult volunteers were enrolled. Individual projects numbered 4,107, up nearly 360 from 2007.
- Nearly 60,000 residents of the Dayton area attend the Montgomery County Fair each year. Many of those visitors have little or no exposure to livestock or farming. Along with hundreds of educational exhibits, our Junior Fair Board team of 28 youth leaders ran livestock shows and encouraged younger 4-H members.
- Over 565 area high school seniors were part of “College 101,” a research-based program aimed at helping students prepare for college. With a 26% national drop-out rate, this is a critical issue. More than 245 of the students were Dayton Public School urban youth. This program was also offered in partnership with the OSU Office of Minority Affairs, Young Scholars program.

Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- The Miami Valley Grown (MVG) coalition, an initiative that connects local food growers with local buyers, focused on education and outreach. More than 20 newspaper, magazine, and television articles reported on the benefits of buying locally produced foods and goods. MVG conducted taste-tests at six events to show the value of local foods, taste, and freshness. A new web site and brochure features local growers. MVG conducted a “Local Foods Workshop” with 52 in attendance. Seminars included value added ideas for farmers/producers.

Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- Nearly 7,300 hours of volunteer service were given by 118 certified Master Gardeners, with 21 graduating from the 2008 class. These hours were given to the OSU Extension Office Horticulture Helpline, OSU Extension Office Gardens, Adventure Central, Aullwood Gardens MetroPark, Cox Arboretum MetroPark, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District, Prass Elementary, Sun Watch Indian Village and Archeological Park, United Rehabilitation Services, Vandalia-Butler Historical Society, Washington Township,

and Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. The Extension Office volunteers answered an estimated 750 horticultural calls.

- Two rain gardens were designed, planned, and installed by 20 Master Gardener volunteers at the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District (MCSWCD) office in Brookville.
- Two Vegetable Garden Basics pilot series (four instructional and three follow-up sessions) were conducted for The Other Place serving River Commons reaching 20 participants, and the Veteran’s Administration and Medical Center reaching eight male veterans. This program was developed in a joint effort with Five Rivers MetroPark’s Grow With Your Neighbor program.
- Montgomery County participated in the OSU Entomology group field survey for western bean cutworm and first-year western corn rootworm (the variant). The first recorded capture of western bean cutworm moth in the county occurred in July. A weed survey of soybean fields was conducted in October. The results of both surveys will be combined with other county results and used by State Extension researchers.
- The 2008 Montgomery County Farm Tour was held in October. The five stop, “drive-it-yourself” tour attracted an estimated 1,500 participants. OSU Extension partnered with Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District, Five Rivers MetroParks, Montgomery County Farm Bureau, and Montgomery County Cattlemen’s Association to conduct the tour.
- The “Forages for Horses” two-part program in November had 24 participants. Extension partnered with Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District and the USDA-NRCS (Montgomery County) to present the program. Extension personnel from four counties conducted the series.
- A “Farm Lease Negotiation and Farm Bill Update” program was held in November. Partnering with the USDA Farm Service Agency, the program had 70 participants.

Marketing and Outreach

- A marketing research project was conducted by an intern from Wright State University American Humanics Program to determine where Montgomery County residents gather information and educational topics of interest and to determine their impressions of OSU Extension, Montgomery County. Results of the survey will be used to determine marketing strategies for programs and communication with county citizens. The intern developed a marketing brochure and business card, upgraded a display case in the lobby to showcase programs, and worked with staff to revise the county web page (<http://montgomery.osu.edu>).
- Five Extension program staff share authorship of a column in the Thursday Neighbors edition of the *Dayton Daily News*. Fifty-one articles promoted programs and addressed food safety and nutrition, time and money management, family and parenting issues, horticulture, agriculture, local foods, and youth development. The newspaper reports a circulation of 176,900.

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