



Ottawa County

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2007 Impact Statements

Farmers Gain Grain Marketing Skills

- A Pre-Harvest Grain Marketing Update program attracted twenty-five participants who learned about different issues related to marketing their crops. The three evening sessions presented overviews on various aspects involved when marketing commodities. Topics discussed were Budgets, Marketing Plans, Crop Insurance, Market Alternatives, Puts & Calls, Basis and Marketing Terms. Instructors included Extension Educators, State Specialists, and local Grain Marketers. Evaluations indicated an interest in future sessions that are now being planned for the winter months. The program is sponsored by OSU Extension in Ottawa, Sandusky and Wood Counties.

Asian Soybean Rust Test Plots Planted

- Working with the Oak Harbor FFA and Young Farmers Organization, several test plots were planted at the school farm. An Asian Soybean Rust Sentinel Plot was established with funding from the Ohio Soybean Council. The plot was part of the USDA Sentinel Plot system and was sampled each week throughout the summer. A soybean population study was conducted for the second year looking at how planting populations effected yield. We also conducted a First Year Corn Rootworm trapping site at two locations on the school farm. The first site was established early in the season, the second site was continuation of the FFA Site established for Monsanto. Neither site showed an economic threshold for the insect.

Insects Tracked

- Insects can cause a serious economic lost to field corn and sweet corn. Working with one of the local sweet corn growers and the Oak Harbor High School Farm we established trapping locations for European corn borer and for Corn earworms. The trapping started early June and ran until the middle of October. Results were sent to Celeste Welty, State Extension Entomologist, cooperators and were posted on VegNet, the web site for vegetable growers around the state.

Master Gardeners Volunteer

- The Sandusky & Ottawa County Master Gardener volunteer corps now has over 35 active, trained volunteers who continue to give to the community each year. These individuals provided over 500 hours of volunteer help

including their Annual Plant Sale and a Plant the Seed Program for children.

Better Nutrition for Special Audiences

- The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) teaches nutrition, food safety, and food resource management to those in Ottawa County who receive food stamps or are food stamp eligible. The goals of the program are to provide people with information to improve their eating habits with more nutritious meals. This information is presented through direct programming directed to the special audience served by the FNP program.
- This year over 3,800 newsletters were mailed to food stamp participants in Ottawa County, in addition 1,100 were distributed at programs throughout the county. The newsletter provides easy reading tips on basic nutrition, food safety, and thrifty food shopping.
- Over 115 programs were presented in 2007 with 90% of the participants indicating they planned to make changes in their nutritional habits, 85% indicating they learned new information and planned on making changes with their food handling, and 86% indicating they learned new information regarding thrifty food shopping.
- Twenty-five Senior Programs were presented at five of the Senior Centers in the county. These programs were prepared with specific nutrition, food safety and food management needs of the seniors.

Holiday Bureau Partnership

- The Family Nutrition Program also reaches out to over 820 families who benefit from the Holiday Bureau. The families receive a packet of information relating to holiday food preparation and safety as well as suggestions to help stretch their food dollars.

Bankruptcy Education

- OSU Extension was named an approved Personal Finance Instructional Course provider for bankruptcy filers. New \$tart for Financial Success, a one-time class to enhance skills in personal finance, was offered four times in 2007 in Ottawa County. The curriculum covers developing a spending plan, managing your money, using credit and sources of financial information. Six individuals and couples have attended to meet the requirements to complete their bankruptcy.

Diabetes a Major Health Concern

- Diabetes is the fifth leading cause of death in Ohio affecting more than 6% of our population. The Extension FCS Educator partners with the Magruder Hospital dietician to offer the Dining with Diabetes program. This year over 25 persons with diabetes, spouses or caregivers completed the class that was conducted in the spring and the fall. Information was presented and demonstrated on the healthy food choices and preparation, the importance of exercise and how to choose healthy food when eating out. Participants reported success in making healthy food choices as a result of taking this three-part class.

Leadership Ottawa County

- OSU Extension took on the coordination of the annual Leadership Ottawa County classes through an agreement with the LOC Board. Under the direction of the curriculum committee, Extension will plan, teach and/or conduct the nine monthly classes. Classes consist each month of a local topic such as Agriculture, Government, Business and Industry, Health and Social Services or Education, along with a leadership topic such as Communication, Boardmanship, Conflict Resolution or Goal Setting. Each class also identifies and implements a community project to address an identified need. Ten young leaders graduated in May and a new class of 15 participants began in September. These young men and women have become active leaders in their workplaces and communities.

4-H Youth Development

- The Ottawa County 4-H program has been conducting 4-H programming for the Benton-Carroll-Salem After-School Program Acorn Alley and Port Clinton City Schools After-School Program Champions for Children. To address the need for agriculture literacy, we are currently implementing themes from the book series "Acres of Adventure." Some program themes include; Agriculture Gone Wild, Insect Invasion, Fast Food Agriculture and other agriculture based themes. In addition to the programs for Acorn Alley, the three Benton-Carroll-Salem sites have established 4-H clubs and hold monthly meetings. In 2007, 151 children were served in the 4-H Afterschool Program.
- The School Enrichment program was busy with many requests for programs available through the Ottawa County 4-H Program. Fourteen different programs were offered to kindergarten through fifth grade teachers. Some of the frequently requested programs include

Character Counts, Bubble Mania, Breads of Harvest, The Incredible Egg, and Digging Those Dinosaurs. All programs incorporate hands-on learning and skill development for youth participating. Approximately 50 teachers from twelve schools in Ottawa County selected at least two programs for their classrooms.

- For the 2007 4-H Camping season, 1 out of every 6 4-H members in Ottawa County attended a 4-H sponsored camp. Any 4-H member 9-12 years old can attend Junior Camp. Teen Camp is offered to older 4-H members, age 13-16, in Ottawa County and surrounding counties. Any 4-H member enrolled in a horse project can attend Horse Camp. For younger 4-H members age 5-8 a day camp is offered, Cloverbud Camp. The Ottawa County 4-H Program offered a total of four fun-filled camps. Activities are focused on team building, self-esteem, socialization, and recreation.

Partnerships and Collaborations

OSU Extension works with many local agencies and groups to deliver educational programming and research vital to clientele interests and needs.

- Ottawa County Commissioners
- Ottawa County Health Department: WIC
- Ottawa County Emergency Management Agency: Davis-Besse Emergency Response
- Ottawa County Juvenile Court
- Ottawa County Sr. and Jr. Fair Boards, Jr. Fair Coordinator
- Ottawa County Improvement Corporation/Job Store
- Ottawa County Department of Jobs and Family Services
- Ottawa County Holiday Bureau
- Leadership Ottawa County
- United Way
- Salvation Army
- Transitional Housing
- WSOS Child Development Programs
- Local Food Pantries
- Magruder Hospital
- All Local Schools K-5 classrooms and Afterschool
- Port Clinton and BCS Wellness Advisory Councils
- Family and Children First Council
- Council of Health and Social Concerns
- Ottawa County Cattlemen Assoc.
- Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District
- Farm Service Agency
- Oak Harbor Young Farmers
- Farm Bureau
- Ottawa County Senior Resources
- Chamber of Commerce

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