



# Putnam County

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## 2007 Impact Statements

### 4-H Youth Development

- Real Money, Real World** is an active, hands-on experience that gives young people the opportunity to make lifestyle and budget choices similar to those they will face as adults. OSU Extension Putnam County partnered with Columbus Grove schools and 15 local businesses to offer the program to 123 eighth grade and 10th grade students. The Real Money, Real World program consisted of three parts: pre-simulation preparation (including lessons on managing a check book, understanding a paycheck, and lifestyle choices), a hands-on budget management and decision making simulation, and a post-session evaluation of choices made. Students participated in four hours of classroom training and two hours in the simulation. The Real Money, Real World project was made possible from grant funding obtained through the Ohio 4-H Foundation Board.
- “Colors of Leadership”: Developing Future Leaders and Building Positive School Environments**—The Putnam County Extension office partnered with the Putnam County Education Service Center to facilitate a leadership program that guided junior high students through the development of a “plan of action” that they could, in turn, bring back to their schools for implementation. The teams of youth were challenged to develop a plan that would make positive impact in their school environments. 104 junior high students, representing seven school districts, attended the five hour training and learned about leadership, practiced teamwork skills and shared many points of school pride. Each group of students were coached through a series of planning stages which lead to detailing a “plan of action.” Some of the ideas generated from the students included the development of a Junior High School student council, a promotional plan to enhance school pride, a self-esteem field day, and many others. Of the seven groups attending, five have had their improvement plans approved by their school administrations.
- Putnam County Farm Safety Round-Up**—OSU Extension, Putnam County worked collaboratively with the Putnam County Health Department to conduct the third annual Farm Safety Camp. Nine school districts participated in the countywide program. Putnam County’s 3rd grade students rotated through several safety sessions including grain entrapment, pond safety, working safely around chemicals, electricity, tractors, and techniques in basic first aid. There were 603 students of a possible 631 that attended the camp. Students completed a survey with an 89% response rate. Third graders were able to recall ten out of twelve safety messages taught at the day camps with a minimum accuracy level of 70%. Youth self-reported they had more exposure to lawn mowers and yard/garden chemicals than other rural hazards. Youth also reported a low injury rate, with most injuries occurring from exposure to livestock or chemicals. Over 50% of the youth surveyed said they could follow safety rules “all of the time” and 40.3% agreed they could follow safety rules “most of the time.”
- Club Officer Training**—The Putnam County 4-H Junior Leaders coordinated a 4-H Club Officer training program this year. The goal was to develop quality leadership skills in the youth officers of 4-H Clubs. Curriculum focused on managing effective 4-H meetings (parliamentary procedure, communication and organization), proper accounting (managing the financing appropriately) and taking quality minutes of a meeting. The program had 100% club participation with 64 4-H Officers attending. The training was delivered by BGSU Collegiate 4-H members.
- Putnam County 4-H Camp**—Putnam County brought 136 campers, 33 4-H teen counselors and 5 adult volunteers to 4-H camp in 2007. This was a 65% increase since 2000. The 33 teen counselors attended more than 24 hours of training learning about camp safety, risk management, programming and youth development. 95% of the campers indicated they would like to return to camp next year.

### Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Flood Assistance Forum**—Extension organized and conducted a meeting for farmers and rural homeowners affected by the 100 year flood that heavily damaged parts of Putnam County. Disaster assistance organizations such as the Farm Service Agency, Small Business Association, Federal Emergency Management Association, Ohio Rural Development, the state of Ohio Treasurers office and the Ohio Volunteer Connection were available for an open question and answer forum. More than 100 farmers and rural homeowners attended.

- **Electronic Newsletters**—Farmers and Ag businesses received a wide variety of electronic newsletters written by Extension specialists and county educators in the areas of grain marketing, commercial horticulture, crop production and entomology. The Extension office provided timely, unbiased information to local farmers and agribusinesses with over 11,750 e-mails and 475 faxes sent in 2007. Timely, accurate electronic information was extremely helpful to farmers and agribusinesses battling crop insects, disease, and drought during an extremely dry growing season.
- **Research Projects**—Agricultural research projects undertaken by the Extension office included a 6th year of head scab assessment in wheat fields, and an 8th year of First-Year Corn Rootworm monitoring. First-Year corn rootworm trap catches indicated this insect continues its presence in Putnam County and farmers should utilize corn genetics or seed treatments to combat this pest.
- **Manure Application to Growing Crops**—Replicated research trials were conducted on wheat and corn fields where swine manure was applied to growing crops as the primary source on nitrogen. In two wheat trials manure provided crop yields equal to or higher than commercial purchased fertilizer. In three corn trials manure provided similar or slightly lower yields than commercially purchased fertilizer. The long-term goal of this research it to make better use of the livestock manure farmers currently apply to their fields and save them the expense of purchasing commercial fertilizer.
- **Agricultural Lenders Seminars**—Two educational programs were offered to Agricultural Lenders in Western Ohio on topics that included the Profitability of Wind Energy in Ohio, Why Livestock Farms are Becoming Larger, Production Costs for Corn and Soybean and Wheat Crops, Updated Farmland Survey and Current Crop Usage and Price Forecast for 2008. More than 105 Ag lenders and Farm Service Agency Personnel attended from 27 counties and learned new information they can use with their farm clientele.
- **Agronomy Night**—More than 150 Putnam County farmers attended Extension's annual Agronomy Night. Farmers learned new information on topics such as Corn Requirements of the POET ethanol plant, Extension research on Crop Responses to Livestock Manure, Use of Distillers Grain for Livestock Feed and OSU Extension's New Nitrogen Recommendations for Corn.
- **Pesticide Container Recycling Program**—Extension coordinated a pesticide container recycling program with farmers and pesticide dealerships in Putnam County for the 13th consecutive year. Eight of the nine pesticide dealerships in Putnam County participated. Recycling these used containers is much more environmentally friendly than burning or land filling them. More than 5,000 pounds (almost 6,000 plastic containers) were recycled this year.
- **Old/Unwanted Pesticide Collection Day**—Extension teamed up with the Ohio Department of Agriculture to hold a collection day for old/unwanted agricultural pesticides. Almost 10,000 pounds of old/unwanted pesticides were collected from ten Northwest Ohio counties. This was by far the most successful old/unwanted pesticide collection location in Ohio in 2007.
- **Youth Quality Assurance**—Over 114 Putnam County youth and their parents participated in livestock quality assurance programs taught by Extension Educators. Participants learned how to raise their 4-H and FFA livestock projects in a humane manner while safely contributing their market animals to our nation's wholesome food supply. Proper animal care, nutrition, reading a feed tag label, and the correct use of antibiotics were some of the topics addressed.

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