



Richland County

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2007 Impact Statements

4-H Youth Development

- Helping teen drivers “make the right choice” is the theme utilized in several 4-H Youth Development programs taught/implemented by OSU Extension professionals. Making decisions about drinking and driving, reducing speed, wearing seat belts and responsible driving behavior are just a few of the driving behaviors receiving focus in the court-ordered 4-H CARTEENS and the Juvenile Driver Improvement Programs. More than 500 youth completed the two- and six-hour programs, respectively. A mock crash docu-drama, a sobering learning experience during prom and graduation season, was presented for more than 1,600 high school juniors and seniors just prior to the prom and graduation season in April. The program focused on reducing negative driving behavior and was a collaborative effort of community safety, law enforcement and business leaders. The “Grim Reaper” program, written and developed by the Richland County 4-H Youth Safety Council, was presented for more than 1,500 students at Madison Comprehensive, Lexington, Clear Fork, Plymouth, and Mansfield Christian High Schools and emphasized the impact of drunk driving fatalities and the need for positive driving behavior.
- Development of communication skills, including public speaking skills, was enhanced in teens through programs led by OSU Extension including Junior Fair Board, 4-H CARTEENS, Youth Safety Council, show announcing, committee work and public speaking contests. Seven hundred twenty-five youth and adults improved communication and speaking skills through workshops and participation in 4-H club, county and state events. Workforce development skills were learned and practiced by twenty-three 4-H camp counselors during summer camping programs. Approximately 156 youth learned independent living, leadership, citizenship and decision-making skills as participants in summer residential camps at the Richland Rural Life Center.
- 4-H teen and adult volunteers are a critical component of the Richland County 4-H program. Accumulated club and county service hours totaled 38,986 hours with an estimated value of \$282,649 donated toward the development of the county’s 1,300 4-H members/participants. Five hundred youth and adults participated in educational activities to improve their leadership roles as club advisors, key leaders, 4-H club leaders/officers

and with other leadership roles. Emphasis was placed on organizational development, officer education and practice, committee leadership, parliamentary procedure, club management, personal development and decision-making skills. Thirty-four new adult volunteers completed the requirements to successfully provide leadership to 4-H club and county programs.

- Eight hundred forty 4-H and FFA youth taking market livestock and breeding projects, plus 200 adult volunteers and parents, gained knowledge on selecting, feeding and properly caring for livestock by participating in quality assurance training, livestock clinics and workshops and livestock interview judging.
- OSU Extension, in collaboration with other educational organizations, planned and taught 1,100 third and fourth graders from Richland, Crawford, Marion, Morrow, Knox and Ashland Counties topics including nature, science, environment, agriculture, history and safety at the Richland County School Days.

Agriculture, Natural Resources and Community Development

- The 44 teachers enrolled in ECED 584 at Ashland University gained knowledge about the cost to the farm producer to protect our environment and why so many changes are taking place in agriculture.
- One hundred livestock producers gained knowledge about the animal ID program, quality assurance, avian influenza, pasture management, animal health and controlling manure odors and manure management. Dairy producers gained knowledge on dairy profitability, expanding, improving and building new housing and milking facilities. Eleven dairy producers began the development of a mission statement for their farm. Livestock producers are learning that management is the key to becoming profitable.
- Ohio Department of Agriculture requires private applicators to attend a minimum of three hours of training every three years. Pesticide recertification classes were taught on three dates to more than 100 farmers. Farmers received training on the latest research-based information on new pesticides, how to avoid pesticide spills and contamination, and how to properly record pesticide applications that comply with ODA regulations.

- Master Gardener volunteers contributed more than 1,000 hours to teaching the citizens of Richland County about ornamentals, insects, butterflies, Emerald ash borer, and many other horticultural topics through hands-on educational programs and garden displays. Richland County Master Gardeners have developed new PowerPoint educational programs to teach garden clubs and civic groups.
- OSU Extension professionals and local business people facilitated a “Real Money, Real World” simulation for 118 Madison High School Work and Family students. As a result, 86% of students planned to save money, spend wisely, try harder in school, get job training/education, have better attitude, and make overall wise personal and financial choices.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Over 500 people of all ages learned to apply healthy nutrition and food safety principles to their daily lives at meetings, health fairs, and classes with comments such as “Great ideas were presented I will use at home.”
- “Balancing Work and Family” and “Clutter Control” programs attended by nearly 150 people resulted in 85% of participants planning to change behavior such as: reminded of creating a plan, take action on plans, put important things first not last, focus on the positive family time is important, re-evaluate use of time and affect on quality of life, don’t create stress with unrealistic expectations.
- Approximately 120 people attended “Homemakers Day” programs and displays at the Richland County Fair. Evaluations noted attendees plan to try heart-healthy recipes, take a senior driving course, volunteer in the community, etc. A comment on evaluation—“Keep on Keeping on, Extension has good resources.”
- Food safety is the main concern of phone calls from local citizens. The potential for serious and costly food-borne illness is decreased by answering consumer questions regarding occasional quantity food preparation for parties, community meals, thawed and improperly cooled foods, etc.
- An apparent increase in interest in home food preservation prompted at least 30 requests for safe canning, freezing, and drying procedures. For latest research-based USDA recommendations, the FCS Educator attended OSU Extension training with the Project Director of National Center for Home Food Preservation as the facilitator.
- The grant-funded Family Nutrition Program conducted 84 nutrition education learning opportunities with more than 1,000 participants. Implementation of Food Wise classes for Job and Family Services was a new accomplishment this year. Positive comments from 116 participants included plans to improve nutrition, meal planning, shopping and spending habits, and goal setting.

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