



# Scioto County

Courthouse, Rm. 7; 602 Seventh Street  
Portsmouth 45662, 740-354-7879



## 2008 County Highlights

### Strengthening Families and Communities

- The River Valley Farm Safety and Rural Health Coalition was established to promote safe and healthy lifestyles for farm families and rural residents in the participating counties. A total of 412 individuals participated in Sun Safety educational programs utilizing the Dermascan instrument to examine sun damage on their face. One Southern Ohio Correctional Facility employee stated, “Since I saw the amount of damage, I haven’t been back to the tanning bed one time.” Another employee stated, “I followed your advice and had my doctor look at a couple of places on my face and ended up having them taken off—now I use sunscreen all the time.” Coalition healthcare professionals conducted screenings, health education, and counseling to over 200 individuals who otherwise may not have received these services due to economic, social, and/or environmental factors.
- 94% of Scioto County’s 295 4-H adults and youth volunteers participated in annual training opportunities. At the annual Volunteer Conference, 237 volunteers learned how to create a welcoming environment at club meetings, key program updates and received an Advisor Handbook to utilize in their clubs. 91% of conference attendees reported an increase in their understanding of general 4-H policies while 93% indicated that they obtained additional knowledge relating to their 4-H volunteer roles and responsibilities that would better prepare them to be effective volunteers. One participant stated, “4-H made a great influence on me (and my daughter who is now a leader) so I want continue to help extend this to the youth in our community.”
- Learning how to better understand their children was the goal of 21 parents participating in the Systematic Training for Effective Parenting program conducted at four sites throughout the county. Parents participated in seven one-hour sessions learning and discussing why children act the way they do and how to more effectively parent them. One parent said, “This has really helped me stop and think before I say anything to my child.”
- 96 Head Start parents participated in Food Budgeting programs offered by the Family Nutrition Program. These programs included information on Managing Food Dollars, Food Shopping Strategies, and Food Safety. Participant evaluations indicate over 85% learned new information and would make changes that would benefit their families.
- The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) began in Scioto County in July 2007 and has collaborated with 10 local agencies to implement the program. A total of 139 participants have graduated from the eight-class series. Extension has served a total of 292 program families and 1,153 total for number of persons in program families. 28.6% of the participants reported making a positive change in physical activity. A mother reported back before graduation that she and her children were enjoying the physical activities that were presented in class and were taking walks four times a week as a family.
- The 4-H educator trained 21 adults and 16 youth volunteer coordinators as part of the National 4-H ATV Safety Grant program in Alpharetta, Georgia. Six events and activities in southern Ohio were conducted in an effort to reduce and prevent ATV accidents and injuries. Programming efforts concentrated on proper vehicle and rider fit, the use of safety gear, and the importance of riders receiving certified training. Locally, a total of 654 people received information pertaining to ATV safety as a result of these programming efforts.
- A total of 72 limited income adults residing in public housing increased their knowledge of nutrition issues as a result of the Family Nutrition Program. Topics focused on MyPyramid, Food Security, and Food Safety practices. 55% of those participants reported making changes as a direct result from what they have learned.
- The Scioto County Master Gardener Association in conjunction with Main Street Portsmouth held their 4th annual plant exchange to benefit the reconstruction/remodeling of Alexandria’s Point Park and downtown Portsmouth, Ohio. More than 200 people attended this event, over 200 plants were exchanged, and 150 OSU Extension fact sheets were distributed. More than 25 people had in-depth discussions with the Agriculture and Natural Resources educator about plant problems or issues concerning their plants.
- Food shopping programs were conducted at three different Even Start locations throughout Scioto County. 44 low-income parents learned the importance of meal planning and food preparation to stretch their food dollars. 75% reported learning new information with 50% of those stating they would make changes that would help feed their families all month.

## Preparing Youth for Success

- 18 Cloverbuds and their parents (32 total campers) took part in an overnight camp at Canter's Cave 4-H Camp. The majority indicated archery and canoeing were their favorite new skills. Additionally, 66 Cloverbuds attended Cloverbud Day Camp at the Scioto County Fairgrounds, with 16 counselors and 5 adult volunteers providing leadership. Youth gained skills in teamwork and self-determination through activities at the camp. 179 of the 295 total Cloverbuds (61%) improved their interview and speaking skills during the Scioto County Fair.
- The Incredible Egg school enrichment project was conducted by 23 teachers in 25 classrooms for more than 534 students from March to May. With updated equipment, hatch rates were up and a success in all classrooms. 100% of the teachers indicated students increased knowledge of the life cycle and all indicated an interest in doing the project again in 2009. One teacher said, "I have done it for years and the kids always love it and learn so much from it!"
- "I don't want to grow up!" "I am not going to give my Mom such a hard time about giving me money any more!" These were two comments from the 126 youth at two schools who participated in the Real Money, Real World program in 2008. Post-event surveys showed that students gained an increased awareness about budgeting, and making wise choices, now and in the future. The teachers were impressed with the impact on students, saying that the youth continued to talk about what they learned throughout the remainder of the school year.

## Enhancing Agriculture and the Environment

- 518 third and fourth-grade students from Scioto County took part in the 5th annual Ag Adventures Day sponsored by OSU Extension and Scioto County Farm Bureau. Learning stations included label reading, great grains, bio-fuels, fibers, etc. Thirty-one older 4-H youth and volunteers helped teach. Of the 21 post-event surveys completed by teachers, 100% indicated increased knowledge and awareness about the role agriculture plays in every aspect of life. 95% of the teachers indicated a strong desire to bring their students back in 2009. "This was wonderful! Please invite us next year," was a comment a first-time teacher shared.
- OSU Extension, Scioto Soil and Water Conservation District, and Scioto County Farm Bureau jointly sponsored a meeting to educate landowners about oil and gas lease issues and changes in fence line laws. More than 100 individuals attended this meeting. All participants indicated increased knowledge of the changes in the line fence law and items to consider when leasing oil and

gas rights. Twenty-one individuals requested additional information or contacted the Agriculture and Natural Resources educator to further discuss these issues.

- A total of 836 individuals (571 youth and 265 adults) attended Livestock Quality Assurance (Q.A.) training in 2008. During the Q.A. sessions, participants engaged in a variety of learning opportunities highlighting the importance of proper animal care, production and management practices such as proper record keeping, and how to calculate medication withdrawal times. 87% of participants reported an increase in knowledge related to Quality Assurance's Ten Good Production and Care Practices.
- 29 youth and 39 adults attended interactive learning sessions in conjunction with the beef, sheep, swine, and goat market animal carcass activities. Participants engaged in hands-on learning activities relevant to the livestock meat industry and witnessed a variety of meat industry processes. All participants indicated that they would be more confident in selecting meat products for their own use after attending this program. They also expressed interest in utilizing learned information in regards to their own 4-H project and/or home herd care, selection, breeding, feeding, and marketing.

## Advancing Employment and Income Opportunities

- 155 family child-care providers attended one or more training session sponsored by OSU Extension and Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services. 10% of the clientele were new participants. 44% of those who had attended previous trainings indicated they made at least one change in their child care business. 43% stated they planned to make changes as a result of what they had learned.
- Ohio Law requires anyone applying pesticides on a public site to be trained or licensed. To meet these regulations, Ag/NR educators in Adams, Scioto, Clermont, and Butler counties provided three training opportunities in southern Ohio. More than 110 representatives from public schools, golf courses, township trustees, and other public entities were certified as trained servicepersons and were prepared for mastering the commercial pesticide applicator test.
- 27 representatives from local nonprofit agencies/organizations participated in at least one training offered by OSU Extension and Scioto Foundation. 93% of participants indicated they learned new information and 21% requested additional resources.
- Nine graduates of the EFNEP program reported using their completion certificate to apply for a job and felt the certificate helped them receive a job because of their training in food safety.

---

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