



DELAWARE County

HEART OF OHIO EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- In partnership with The Salvation Army, a **part-time Extension staff person was funded** in part by United Way of Delaware County. Diverse audiences were reached through the Department of Job and Family Services, Habitat for Humanity, Delaware County Jail: Re-Entry Program, Woodward Family Resource Center, area school systems, Family Promise and the Salvation Army. Participants learned basic budgeting, consumerism, how to save money and wise use of credit. More than 300 participants completed classes. Ninety percent of participants reported increasing their knowledge of at least one new concept.
- **For the Children** is a monthly 2.5-hour court-mandated parenting education program for couples going through a divorce or dissolution whose children are under 18. Two hundred twenty-seven parents completed this program. Program evaluations showed that 92% of program participants learned new information in the class and that 87% reported they felt better prepared to co-parent as a result of the program.
- In a collaborative effort to reduce recidivism with the Delaware County Jail's Re-Entry Program, 72 young female inmates were reached with **local community resources**. These resources helped the inmates build basic life skills including effective parenting, good nutrition, financial literacy and the building of positive relationships with community resource people.
- The **SNAP-Ed** program provided information on nutrition, food safety and thrifty food shopping to 261 adult participants through 109 direct education classes (either

single lessons or as part of a series) for a total of 595 direct contacts. One hundred percent of the participants reported they had learned new information, and 94 percent of the participants said they planned to improve their nutrition and food safety practices and food shopping habits as a result of the new information.

ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- In 2013, weather and diseases affected crop yields across Delaware County. OSU Extension led the effort to combat the financial effects of these issues by providing farmers with information on how to deal with crop-related pressures and their economic impact. To deliver this research-based information, Delaware County conducted **two field days and one Agronomy Day Workshop**. These programs educated more than 160 farmers on methods to reduce the impact of crop-related issues.
- Phosphorus runoff into streams is a major cause of toxic algal blooms in Ohio waters. The blooms have led state agencies to identify the best ways to decrease this runoff. OSU Extension educators work with farmers to apply just the amount of nutrients that a growing crop uses, making sure to account for all sources of nutrients in calculations, whether commercial fertilizers, animal manures, compost or biosolids. This helps limit phosphorus runoff. In fact, Ohio farmers reading **Extension's C.O.R.N. Newsletter** reported applying phosphorus at crop removal rates, based on state average yields. In Delaware County, more than 140 farmers and agribusiness professionals were brought up to date

on phosphorus agronomic issues by receiving the C.O.R.N. Newsletter every week. These farmers represent more than 120,000 of the acres cultivated in Delaware.

- In 2013, more than 650 farm business owners from Delaware County and around Ohio learned how to use **social media** to cultivate new business and interact with current customers. Seventy-eight percent of business owners attending the sessions said they would utilize this new technology to enhance their business, and 55% said they would incorporate the use of social media in their marketing plans.
- Ohio ranks in the top 10 states for direct-to-consumer food marketing sales. Producers view direct marketing as an alternative market outlet to increase their income, while consumers see it as a way to get fresher, healthier, higher-quality food at lower costs. OSU Extension is a leader in developing these marketing channels. For example, OSU Extension's Delaware County office partnered with local organizations to conduct five **direct marketing workshops**, delivering information to more than 80 farmers to help them enhance their family farm operation through the direct marketing of local foods.
- OSU Extension trained 16 new **Master Gardener Volunteers** in 2013. Master Gardener Volunteers help OSU Extension share research-based information with gardeners through workshops, community gardens and one-on-one consultation. In Delaware County, Master Gardeners shared research-based information with the public through the Master Gardener Helpline, the weekly "Dig In With The Master Gardeners" article in the *Delaware Gazette*, and gardening seminars and workshops. These programs reached more than 21,000 county households. Master Gardener Volunteers donated more than 6,500 hours to OSU Extension-sponsored research-based programs and a variety of community projects in 2013, representing a total economic impact of \$105,124 to Delaware County.

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- Delaware County supported 60 **4-H Clubs**, involving almost 1,250 youths, ages 5 to 19, and 320 adult volunteers. Volunteers contributed more than 20,000 hours of time to teach youth life skills such as leadership, decision making and communication skills, representing an economic value of more than \$400,000.
- **4-H Camp** helps build critical life skills for both campers and youth counselors by emphasizing teamwork, communication and leadership. In 2013, 169 youth ages 9 to 16 attended 4-H Camp at 4-H Camp Ohio. Eighty percent of campers reported trying something they had never tried before,

and 92 percent of campers said they learned how to be responsible for themselves.

- In cooperation with Delaware County Juvenile Court, first-time teen traffic offenders get powerful lessons through the **4-H CARTEENS** auto safety program. About 445 teens attended CARTEENS sessions in 2013. About 80 percent of the participants said they think the program will make them better drivers.
- More than ever, youth need an understanding of how to manage finances. Enter **Real Money, Real World**, an OSU Extension signature program that teaches middle school students how current income and life choices affect future income. Participants learn what to expect to pay for housing, transportation and childcare. In 2013, this hands-on program reached 935 Delaware County eighth-graders. Ninety percent of them believed the program helped them better understand what is involved in earning, spending and managing money.
- The 4-H school enrichment program, **ChickQuest**, uses science, engineering and technology to investigate the life cycle of an embryonic chicken egg. Through hands-on activities and demonstrations, 155 third-grade students collected data, made predictions and recorded observations. This program meets Ohio's third-grade science standards.
- **Quality Assurance Training** included four sessions in spring that provided an interactive approach to training youth on proper handling, treatment and record keeping for animals that will be used for food. A fifth Quality Assurance Training session combined with a Carcass Judging Competition gave youth the opportunity to see how treatment of market animals connects to the condition of the meat at the processor. This year, 408 youth and 58 advisors took part in Quality Assurance Training.

Delaware County receives \$21,000 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.