



# Wood County

639 S. Dunbridge Road, Suite 1  
Bowling Green 43402, 419-354-9050



## 2007 Impact Statements

### 4-H Youth Development

- In 2007, Wood County 4-H welcomed one new club, and the enrollment grew to 3,126 members. Of this membership 1,442 were enrolled in one of 70 community clubs, 1,684 youth participated in a 4-H School Enrichment project, 921 members participated in an overnight camp program, and 2,600 of our members were involved in an extra short-term program such as a leadership activity or training.
- Wood County's 4-H youth were taught life skills with the support of 321 adult and teen volunteers and 5 paid 4-H professionals. According to the Bureau of Labor statistics, they estimate that 4-H volunteers donate 182 hours/year to the program. If one were to calculate the value of contribution at a rate of \$12/hour it would total \$700,000 value of volunteer time donated in Wood County.
- Under the leadership of the 4-H Committee, hundreds of 4-H members, parents and advisors dipped 17,000 milkshakes at the county fair and tractor pulls. This fundraising effort, along with local donor gifts funded camp scholarships, awards and programs worth \$30,000 to 4-H members and volunteers in 2007.
- Once again 4-H Camp was filled to capacity! As a result of 24 hours of intensive training, 45 camp counselors were able to design a camp program that incorporated many of the critical elements needed in a positive 4-H experience including: a positive relationship with a caring adult, an inclusive environment, engagement in learning, an emotionally and physically safe environment, and an opportunity for self-determination. This knowledge was applied at the Wood County 4-H Camp with 255 youth in creating a safe environment for the campers.
- One of the most highly visible events in the county was the Wood County Fair. Representing five youth organizations, the Wood County Junior Fair Board with membership of 47 teens conducted events and activities for more than 2,500 youth. Twenty hours of training was conducted by 4-H staff to prepare the board for the week's activities. As a result of the training, teen board members were prepared to deal with conflict, manage livestock shows, and work as a team with Senior Fair Board members. This junior/senior Fair Board working arrangement is unique to Ohio. Undoubtedly the strength of the Junior Fair is in strong correlation with this team effort.
- Twenty teens and volunteers received four hours of CPR training in preparation for their counselor and staff involvement at 4-H Camp. 100% of the participants felt more prepared and confident to attend camp knowing they had skills to conduct CPR if needed. As a result of this feedback the program has been scheduled in 2008.

### Agriculture and Natural Resources

**On-farm research projects conducted by Wood County Extension in 2007 include:**

- Soybean fungicide study—what benefit will pesticides have if the economic threshold is not reached.

- Corn rootworm sticky trap—what amount of infestation of rootworm beetles is occurring in soybean fields.
- Soybean insect scouting—determining threshold levels weekly throughout Wood County.
- Cover Crop comparison—comparing nutrient cycling and biomass production of Oilseed Radish and Annual Ryegrass cover crops.
- Nitrogen rate study—what amount of nitrogen is needed for economic corn production.

**Agronomic research projects conducted by Wood County Extension in 2007 at Ohio State University Research facilities include:**

- Soil compaction—0, 10, and 20 ton axel load comparison on grain yield and soil tith factors.
- Red Clover—under seeded in wheat, tillage versus herbicide destruction of clover, soil nitrogen benefit values also measured.
- Long-term crop rotation systems—Six crop rotation systems with tillage vs. no-till.
- Sustainable cropping systems—Five grain cropping systems including three certified organic.
- Organic corn variety trial—Organic corn varieties evaluated for performance traits.
- Private pesticide applicator license re-certification sessions were conducted for over 150 local farmers. Participants gained information about pesticide use including wearing personal protective equipment and using pesticide management practices to protect water supplies.
- The Crop Observation and Recommendation Network (C.O.R.N.) Newsletter was distributed electronically and in print to farmers and agri-business. The newsletter provides crop scouting, integrated pest management, cultural practice and other practical information during the growing season plus updated research results during the winter months. This timely information has increased yields and reduced herbicide costs for thousands of acres of crops.
- Agronomic conferences were held to share research based production information for Wood County farmers including: Conservation Tillage & Technology Conference, Northern Ohio Crops Day, Winter Farm Fair, and OARDC Field Day.

### Master Gardener Program

- The Wood County Extension Master Gardener program is a cooperative effort between City of Bowling Green Parks and Recreation, Wood County Park District, and Ohio State University Extension Wood County. This collaboration has significantly improved the beautification of the landscape for all Wood County citizens.
- Twelve Wood County Master Gardeners completed the program in 2007. They joined the ranks of forty-seven re-certified Wood County Master Gardeners, and together volunteered

over 2,400 hours back to the community. Since the Wood County Master Gardener program inception, Wood County Master Gardener's volunteered 20,688 hours in horticultural service, at area locations such as Wood County Parks, Bowling Green City Parks, Perrysburg in Bloom, 577 Foundation and OSU Extension.

## Consumer Horticulture

- Approximately 2,500 Wood County residents gained information on horticultural subject matter via telephone calls, e-mail, and horticultural seminars. Areas of the most importance in the year 2007 were questions and site visits responding to gypsy moth infestations, emerald ash borer, pond management, tree and small fruits, general outdoor landscape questions, and pest problems. Based on direct observations and comments, approximately 80% of the clients adopted one or more of the practices taught. This resulted in savings to the consumer based on the question and the overall scope of the project between a few dollars to upwards of a thousand dollars.
- Noncommercial pond owners were educated on usage of their ponds utilizing Integrated Pest Management concepts. Participants gained knowledge in Weed Control, Pond Construction and Renovation techniques.

## Family and Consumer Sciences

- *New Start for Financial Success*, an approved personal finance course for bankruptcy filers, was offered on a monthly basis. Eighteen individuals completed the required class work, which covered developing a budget, using credit wisely, finding reliable information, and money management skills. One hundred percent of the participants indicated they planned to make changes using knowledge they gained through the class.
- Seventy individuals completed a four-hour person in charge *food safety training* covering the essentials of cleaning and sanitizing, personal hygiene, purchasing storing, preparing and serving foods. Pre-test/post-test revealed an average of 14% increase in knowledge as a result of attending the class.
- ServeSafe for manager's class was completed by 20 individuals. The average score was 90% on the certification test written and scored by the National Restaurant Association. Evaluations indicated the participants incorporated one new action in their place of business as a result of attending these classes.
- Four nutrition and wellness topics were offered to county employees, through the Wellness Committee's *Lunch and Learn Series*. Participants learned about Food Safety, Label Reading, Maximizing your Memory, Eating Healthy at Home and Away, and Planning for Holiday Spending.
- *Sun Safety* programming reached over 700 individuals, who learned how to be protected viewed their skin, under the ultraviolet light. Ninety percent of participants responded positively to recommendations to protect themselves from the sun's harmful rays.
- *Financial Management* information was taught as necessary, to those seeking assistance in money management skills, as well as weekly, throughout the year, in collaboration with the Job

Find program at Job and Family Services. Participants learned to use budgeting tools and shopping strategies to help become better money managers.

- The importance of being *healthy and safe* was taught to 155 youth between the ages of 6 and 10 in two different safety town locations. Children learned how to manage risks and deal with harmful situations.
- Over 600 *consumer inquiries* were addressed in the areas of food preservation, food safety and stain removal during the year. All participants gained knowledge and 66% of the consumers indicated they would make changes in behavior as a result of the consultation.

## Community Development

- *Women in Agriculture* program was attended by 150 women in involved in the farming industry. Eighty-eight percent of the participants indicated the program would result in increased family communications on the farm and gained knowledge that could be applied to their farming operation. Individuals who have attended in past year indicated they made changes in their farming operation as a result of past years' programs.
- *Annie's Project* offers education for farm wives on risk management's topics. Twenty-six farm women attended the six weeks session. Eighty percent of the attendees indicated an increase in the knowledge and skills to manage liability, life, health, farm, property and crop insurance. Eighty-two percent increased communication skills and eighty percent gained knowledge and began developing new skills in legal liability, contracts and marketing plans.
- *First Time Home Buyers Information Session* was held in conjunction with the City of Bowling Green's grant program. Six participants learned many facets of home ownership from obtaining a mortgage, to securing insurance, to keeping up on maintenance, while staying within their budgets.

## Family Nutrition Program

- Over 9,000 newsletters were distributed to Wood County residents throughout the year, providing an easy-to-read resource on food safety, basic nutrition and thrifty shopping.
- Over 975 people attended demonstrations or presentations on the USDA MyPyramid Food Guidance System, Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and other nutrition topics. Sixty-nine percent indicated they planned to make changes in their nutritional habits and dietary quality.
- Eighteen people learned new information regarding food safety. Ninety-two percent indicated they intended to make changes in their handling of foods.
- Sixty-three percent of the 286 participants indicated they were planning to make changes when practicing thrifty shopping for nutritious foods.
- Eight percent of the programs offered, were attended by senior citizens at congregate meal sites throughout the county, where their specific nutritional, food safety, and resource management needs were highlighted and discussed.

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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