

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Thirteen food service managers and employees were ServSafe certified. Evaluations indicated 70 percent of the participants increased their understanding of bacteria and its link to food borne illness. Ninety percent made changes in their food establishment to provide safer food for customers and have completed some training for other employees.

Over 607 individuals gained knowledge and engaged in learning activities on the Mypyramid food system. Senior citizens, food stamp recipients, youth and local organizations have been the targeted audiences.

Two County schools are participating in Snackwise, a program to increase the nutritional value of food selection from the school vending machines. As a result several contacts have been made to increase nutrition selection in organizations. The program is sponsored by the Borden Wellness Center in Children's Hospital and Ohio State University Extension.

Let's Talk Money is a multi-county effort to provide financial management education through the internet. The topics covered are budgeting, kids and money, credit, retirement, investing and stretching your dollars. The website: letstalkmoney.osu.edu is presently receiving over 300 hits a month.

Five Homemakers clubs, known as Family Community Leaders, sponsor Quilt Day, demonstrations and numerous awards at the fair, provide educational programs for members and hold a yearly Holiday Happening. They support county needs through financial contributions and volunteering.

In-depth sessions on Life Planning and distribution of non-titled property transfer were presented to 46 persons. Participants indicated the information gave them a lot to think about and planning ideas for the future.

Work Force Enhancement training was held for Type B Licensed Day Care providers with emphasis on health, nutrition, food safety and home safety. Verbal evaluations indicated an commitment to make changes in the home to better accommodate the safety of youth in their care.

One on one consultations were held with eight First Time Home Buyers to assist them in becoming better home owners. The participants gained knowledge on financial management, fair housing laws and home maintenance to meet the requirement for the Bowling Green City Housing program. As a result of completing the necessary requirement, participants close on a house within the city of Bowling Green.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

On-farm research projects conducted by Wood County Extension in 2005 include:

- Soybean insecticide and 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 aphid GPS scouting to determine insect distribution within field and population buildup over time throughout Wood County.
- Manure application study – what benefit does manure application have for corn production.

Agronomic research projects conducted by Wood County Extension in 2005 at Ohio State University Research facilities include:

- Comparing tillage and nitrogen on corn production – Six tillage systems with three different nitrogen applications.
- 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.

HORTICULTURE

Master Gardener Program

Six Wood County residents accomplished all the requirements of the Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener training program. This program was held in conjunction with O.S.U Extension in Lucas County at the Toledo Botanical Gardens. Participants attended nine consecutive weeks, (50 hours) of intense training in horticultural subject matter. In return for the training participants give back to the community fifty hours of volunteer horticultural community service.

The six Wood County Master Gardeners that completed the program volunteered 286 hours and joined the ranks of thirty re-certified Wood County Master Gardeners that volunteered 1,291 hours back to the community in 2005.

Since the Wood County Master Gardener program inception, Wood County Master Gardener's volunteered over 13,500 hours in horticultural service at area locations such as Wood County Parks, Bowling Green City Parks, Perrysburg Parks, 577 Foundation and O.S.U Extension.

Emerald Ash Borer

Ash trees Genus *Fraxinus* are deciduous trees from the Olive Family (Oleaceae). Common to Northwest Ohio including Wood County are several Ash species including Green, White, and Blue Ash. An exotic accidentally introduced beetle from Asia was discovered feeding on ash (*Fraxinus* spp) trees in Rossford. This beetle was identified as the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*). The larvae stage feeds in the cambium that contains the phloem, and outer xylem tissue producing galleries that eventually girdle and kill branches and entire trees within one to three years. When Emerald Ash Borer infects ash trees there is no control. The Wood County Extension office collaborated with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and the United States Department of Agriculture (APHIS) surveying and monitoring Wood County to suppress and limit the spread of this devastating insect.

Consumer Horticulture

Approximately 1,800 Wood County Residents gained information on horticultural subject matter via telephone calls and email. Additionally over 300 site visits were accomplished. Areas of the most importance in the year 2005 were questions and site visits responding to emerald ash borers, trees and shrubs, pond management, tree and small fruits, general outdoor landscape design questions, and insects and diseases. 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

FAMILY NUTRITION PROGRAM

Over 10000 newsletters were distributed to Wood County residents throughout the year, providing an easy-to-read resource on food safety, basic nutrition and thrifty shopping.

Of the nearly 840 people who attended demonstrations or presentations on the USDA MyPyramid Food Guidance System, Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and other nutrition topics, over 74% indicated they planned to make changes in their nutritional habits and dietary quality.

Sixty-two people learned new information regarding food safety. Fifty-seven percent indicated they intended to make changes in their handling of foods.

Sixty-eight percent of the 400 participants indicated they were planning to make changes when practicing thrifty shopping for nutritious foods. Evaluations indicated that 69% of the participants had increased their knowledge in food budgeting skills.

Six 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. Almost 22% of the people attending Family Nutrition Program presentations in 2005 were age 60 or older.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

1) In 2005, Wood County 4-H welcomed two new clubs, 15 new volunteers, and the enrollment remained strong with 3400 members. Of this membership 1300 were enrolled in one of 70 community clubs and 2100 youth participated in a 4-H School Enrichment project.

2) Wood County's 4-H youth were taught life skills with the support of 250 adult volunteers, hundreds of teen leaders 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 \$546,000 value of volunteer time donated in Wood County.

3) Wood County 4-H members completed an active year of service to their community. Thirty youth and mentors learned the art of quilting while stitching lap quilts later donated to residents of the NW Ohio Hospice Center. To offer support to infants of the Help Me Grow program through the Wood County Health Department, 50 teens from the Food, Fashion and Family Board made polar fleece blankets for Ohio 4-H Make a Difference Day. One thousand dollars was raised and a 4-H team was organized to walk in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Four hundred comfort pillows were constructed by youth and donated to hospice patients in NW Ohio. Youth donated useful items for the Hoytville Youth Community Outreach program and the Wood County Dog shelter. Grant funding totaling over \$1200 was utilized to conduct many of these projects on the county level

4) Once again 4-H Camp was filled to capacity! As a result of 24 hours of intensive training, 47 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 263 youth in creating a safe environment for the campers.

5) It's been a banner year for Wood County 4-H in the news! Publicity through numerous feature articles increased not only on the local level, but on the state and national level as well. Wood County was featured on two occasions in the National 4-H On-line newsletter regarding the high level of community service offered by teens. The 4-H program has been offered a permanent home in the Wood County Historical Museum after a year of temporary displays. The Wood County 4-H Website has increased it's viewer support with over 10,000 visits in 2005. Members and volunteers offer appreciation for the up-to-date information available.

6) One of the most highly visible events in the county was the Wood County Fair. Representing 5 youth organizations, the Wood County Junior Fair Board with membership of 57 teens conducted events and activities for more than 2500 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 Fairboard working arrangement is unique to Ohio. Undoubtedly the strength of the Junior Fair is in strong correlation with this team effort.

7) Under the leadership of the 4-H Committee, hundreds of 4-H members, parents and volunteers dipped 23,000 milkshakes at the county fair and tractor pulls. This fundraising effort, along with local donor gifts funded camp scholarships, awards and programs worth \$35,000 to 4-H members and volunteers in 2005.

8) In 2005, the Wood County 4-H program offered 2700 projects in 50 classrooms. In addition two new programs featuring a traveling farm and quilts in the classroom was offered to 530 youth in Bowling Green and Northwood school districts. These programs enriched the school's classroom curriculum in the areas of mathematics, history, and science with valuable hands-on activities. Teens teaching in the classroom added necessary support and offered valuable career exploration as a result.

9) A new advisory committee, to support the growing 4-H Horse program in Wood County was formed in 2005. Nine adult and four teen volunteers were selected to develop new educational opportunities, support the junior fair board and teach sportsmanship and safety to the more than 220 youth taking a 4-H horse project.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

You and Your Medications program provides information on medication and provides medication consultations. All participants indicated the workshop provided useful information and the one-on-one session was very valuable to the participants. Eighty-two percent of the participants learned new information about their medications. The program is a cooperative effort of University of Toledo pharmacy students, Wood County Hospital and OSU Extension.

Women In Agriculture program was conducted for 150 farm/ag business operators and partners. Ninety-seven percent reported information from the program will increase farm family communications. Ninety-five percent indicated a gain in knowledge that would be applied to their family operation. Ninety-nine percent believed they will make changes in personal lives as a result of the program. Sixty-one percent of participants who had attended multiple conferences stated they had made changes in their farm operations.

Women in Agriculture committee organized an educational trip to Washington D.C. for farm individuals. Forty-one participants gained knowledge of the nation's capitol, and networked with other farm business persons. The highlight was a visit with Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Johanns, Teresa Lasseter, Administrator for Farm Service Agency, and Carolyn Cooksie, Deputy Administrator for farm loans, John Johnson, Deputy

Administrator for the Farm Service Agency.

Chamber of Commerce Ag Program was held for Leadership BG adult and youth classes to learn more about the agriculture in the county and how it influences the economics and education of the community. Agriculture was given a more significant role in the Career Forum held by the chamber with local farm community members presenting their information.

Over 500 participants took control of their health by participating in Health Fairs at their place of employment or organizational sponsored health fairs. Sixty-one percent expressed an interest in making changes in their health behaviors.

A Problem for Community and Farm:

Methamphetamine Labs. The objective of the program was to help people become aware and gain knowledge of the drug's influence in the county. The questionnaires completed as a result of viewing the display indicated individuals can recognize the drug is a stimulant and that meth labs are very portable. Only half of the participants realized that 5 to 6 pounds of environmental waste resulted from drug manufacturing. As a result of the education, the display was part of the Extension Educators annual conference and a presentation was made on the topic at the annual conference.
