



# Ashland County

804 US Highway 250 East  
Ashland 44805, 419-281-8242



## 2007 Impact Statements

### Agriculture, Natural Resources & Community Development

**OCVN Program**—The Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program is a new OSU Extension Volunteer Program. Ashland County held one of the first programs in the state with 17 graduates in the 2007 fall class. Topics for the classes included: basic ecology, soils, entomology, ornithology, herpetology, nature interpretation, plant life, mammals, and Project Wild training. Classes were a combination of lecture, hands-on activities and field work. 100% of the participants reported that they had improved or greatly improved their knowledge in eight of the nine topics taught throughout the course. Comments from the students included: “It was a great experience—especially learning from the other volunteers in class.” One participant plans to use the knowledge gained in class, “To educate the public on the need to save and preserve our natural heritage.” The graduates have already begun to work toward their 40 hours of volunteer commitment and are in the process of organizing the Ashland County OCVN Chapter.

**Master Gardener Volunteer Program**—Since the winter of 2006, three classes of Master Gardener Volunteers have completed the 50 hour training program. Of the 27 individuals completing the training course, 24 have become active volunteers contributing approximately \$14,923.00 worth of service to the county over the past year and a half. (795 volunteer hours at \$18.77/hour, according to the Independent sector). Master Gardeners have worked with the Ashland County Park District by caring for several of the park signs, leading educational walks, and teaching a youth activity at the Park Family Fun Day. The volunteers have also worked with Habitat for Humanity, landscaped the front entrance to the Agriculture and Family Center, presented educational programs for garden clubs and various other groups throughout the county. Along with the educator, they have assisted over 200 Ashland County residents with their home horticulture questions during the 2007 growing season. The MGV program has been highly rated by participants in Ashland County. One volunteer stated, “Thank you for allowing me to be a part of such a great program. I have learned so much and enjoy giving back to my community.”

**Pesticide Recertification**—There are 253 farmers in Ashland County who hold a private pesticide applicator license and each of them must attend three hours of recertification training every three years to retain their license. Sixty applicators received recertification training and 10 new applicators participated in a certification training workshop in 2007. During each of these training sessions, farmers learned how to safely and properly handle, store and apply pesticides to maximize their crop production while minimizing the environmental impacts.

**Women in Agriculture**—The first “Women in Agriculture” program was held in Ashland County with thirty-eight women attending. Sixty-three percent of the participants found the overall conference very useful with 86% responding that they had gained

new information/knowledge from the conference speakers. One participant commented, “It was a great day, thanks! It was really well planned.” From this program, interest grew in starting the program, Annie’s Project—Risk Management for Women in Agriculture. The educator partnered with another educator to write a grant to support the program. In April 2007, a grant from the North Central Region Risk Management Education Center was awarded in the amount of \$33,000. The grant monies will be utilized to hold Annie’s Project programs in Ashland and other counties throughout Northern Ohio.

### Family Nutrition Program

The Family Nutrition Program (FNP) is funded by the USDA Midwest Region Food and Nutrition Service and is the educational component of the Food Stamp Program. The focus of the program is based on the USDA’s MyPyramid food guide and the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Programs are presented to Ashland County residents who qualify for food stamps and others who may be eligible but choose not to participate. In 2007 the grant of \$29,124 employed one half-time FNP program assistant. The majority of sessions were held at low-income senior housing complexes. New locations included The Salvation Army, Ashland County Lifeworx, Inc. (a Peer Recovery Center), Ashland County-City Health Department, Associated Charities, and adult family members recommended by Ashland County Children’s Services. Approximately 3,600 monthly newsletters (the Nutrition News) were distributed via mailings, schools, health fairs and cooperating agencies within the community.

### 4-H Youth Development

**4-H Camp**—One hundred eleven youth attended the Ashland County 4-H Junior Camp this summer. Of these, 27 were camp counselors who received over 24 hours each of training and donated more than 100 hours of their time in making the camping experience successful. Youth increased their knowledge in emergency procedures, conflict management, liability issues and skills in working with young children. Campers, ages 8–13, gained life skills in teamwork, communication, and getting along with others. When counselors were asked to name one thing they learned this year, their responses included: “How much of a difference you can make in a child’s life,” “That I can have good ideas and be a good role model,” and “How to be more organized and responsible and have more patience.”

**4-H Volunteers**—Twenty-two adults became new volunteers with the Ashland County 4-H program. Each completed a three-page written application, passed a background and reference check, participated in a 30–60 minute interview with the 4-H educator and received training on county policies and procedures. The new advisors, along with over 150 current 4-H advisors, attended at least one leader training session during the year, focusing on organizational skills, leadership development, community service opportunities, and public speaking skills.

**4-H Project Interviews**—Almost 1,000 Ashland County youth completed a 10–15 minute project interview with one of 72 adult interview judges. In the interview, the members stated their goals and described their progress to date. In addition, livestock members completed hands-on skill-a-thon stations as a part of judging.

**Acres of Adventure**—The Ashland County 4-H Program formed a partnership with the Ashland County YMCA and the Beacon After-School Program to secure a grant for the new Acres of Adventure programming kit. Group leaders attended a training where they received the \$450 kit of materials and had a chance to plan how they would cooperatively implement the curriculum. The 4-H educator and summer program assistant used the program once a week for the ten-week YMCA summer camp with approximately 30 children. Three programs were done at the Beacon After School Group. Because of the success of this program, the YMCA leaders asked the county 4-H program to establish an after-school 4-H club at the Y beginning in September 2007. Currently this program serves 36 children with once-a-week activities.

**4-H Endowment Funds**—Miranda Braun received the first Ashland County 4-H Committee Scholarship of \$500 to use to begin her college career in the fall of 2007. The scholarship, administered through the Ashland County Community Foundation, was endowed in 2006 through fundraising efforts of the Ashland County 4-H Committee.

**4-H Recognition Banquet**—Over 200 4-H members, volunteers, and family members attended this year's annual 4-H Recognition Banquet in November to celebrate the accomplishments of the past twelve months and look forward to new opportunities in the future. "I Dare You" youth leadership awards were presented to three outstanding youth, two advisors were recognized for their outstanding contributions and five community leaders were lauded for meritorious service.

**Junior Fair Board**—Thirty-five teen leaders served on this year's Junior Fair Board and were in charge of all junior fair events at the seven-day county fair in September. The 4-H youth development program coordinates all aspects of the Junior Fair and includes FFA, FCCLA, Scouts, Industrial Tech, VICA and Farm Bureau. Junior Fair Board members learned and practiced leadership skills, decision-making, program planning, conflict management and team building during their regularly scheduled meetings and other events.

**4-H Carateens**—The Ashland County 4-H Carateens program reached 136 teen drivers in 2007. Five teen volunteers facilitate the once monthly two-hour sessions. All first-time juvenile traffic offenders are sent to this traffic safety education program by the Juvenile Court Judge. The program involves troopers from the State Highway Patrol and insurance agents. Participants learn about the importance of wearing safety belts, the consequences of speeding, traffic laws and driving distractions.

## Family & Consumer Sciences

**Dining with Diabetes**—In partnership with Samaritan Regional Health System, two series of Dining with Diabetes classes were held in 2007. Each series consisted of three two-

hour sessions with a three-month follow-up class reunion. Each session included a lecture by a certified diabetes educator and/or a registered dietitian and a cooking/tasting demonstration by the Extension FCS educator. Participants (74) were people with diabetes and their family members. They learned information about what diabetes is, how it affects the body and ways to control it by making healthy food choices, controlling portion sizes and increasing physical activity. They also learned the importance of having regular physical exams and what tests should be included. Ninety-seven percent of the participants felt their knowledge of diabetes had increased after attending the classes. Changes they started making included eating smaller portions, using the plate method to control portions, counting carbs, using less salt, and exercising more. One person said he lost 4 pounds in 3 weeks by eating smaller portions. One class member said they had a "more positive attitude towards diabetic cooking."

**Food Safety: Occasional Quantity Cooks**—Food safety is a growing concern in today's society. In order to provide volunteers with accurate up-to-date information on safe food handling, three sessions of The Original Food Safety Training for Occasional Quantity Cooks were held in the spring. A total of fifty-six people attended the sessions and included 4-H club advisors, representatives from local churches, Lions Clubs and other community organizations. Participants learned information about bacteria that cause foodborne illnesses, how to buy, store, cook and serve food safely, how to use food thermometers and how to handle leftovers.

**Homemakers Day at the Fair**—OSU Extension has a rich tradition of working with volunteers and the Ashland County Senior Fair Board to present Homemakers Day at the Fair each year. In 2007, 516 people registered for the event. Participants learned information about Medicare's Prescription Drug Plans, the importance of financial planning for women, new ideas for home decorating, how to embellish clothing, opportunities for life-long learning and a variety of domestic and creative skills. To be eligible for door prizes, participants were asked to complete evaluations. Of the 210 forms returned, the majority were quite positive about the programs. One person shared the following comment: "I have been coming for 20 years. This has to be the best Homemakers Day ever—great programs, enthusiastic presenters. We didn't have enough time to see everything!! Great Job!!"

**Nutrition for Seniors**—As the senior population increases, so does the need for nutrition education. The Extension educator presented four lessons at senior meal sites, one at a senior living complex, one for the Cancer Association and had two displays at community health fairs on nutrition for seniors. Specific topics included: MyPyramid, Snacking for Seniors, Choosing Whole Grains and The Facts about Eggs.

**Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate**—"Who Gets Grandma's yellow Pie Plate?" continues to be a requested program in the county. The class deals with passing on your personal non-titled property and is an integral part of estate planning for families. In 2007, the FCS Educator presented it to a class at Ashland University on "Death & Dying," a Republican Women's Luncheon, an evening study club and as an Extension sponsored class. Participants learned information on setting goals, deciding what's fair in the family, distribution options and the consequences and how to settle conflicts if they arise.

---

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