



Clark County

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2007 Impact Statements

Horticulture

- Master Gardener volunteers continued to develop the Gateway Learning Gardens, a 5 acre teaching garden. Two new perennial demonstration gardens were added. The gardens which began as one research plot in 1996, now offer the following: herbaceous ornamental field trials, herb, sensory, knot, thyme, and bird and butterfly gardens, children's garden, turf research, edible garden demonstration, 5 perennial displays, compost demonstration, and over 45 container gardens.
- In the spring, volunteers celebrated the blooming of over 2000 bulbs in the gardens. Summer opened the touring season and volunteers hosted several tours of the garden. Volunteers were especially excited by a visit from the Perennial Plant Association which held its 30th annual meeting in Columbus. More than 1000 people attended the Garden Jubilee in August.
- Volunteers presented a variety of educational programs and distributed fact sheets on various gardening topics. Over 750 people attended 30 educational programs with topics including emerald ash borer, container gardening, best pest management practices and more. Ninety-eight Master Gardener Volunteers contributed more than 7,500 hours of service to the community.
- A weekly gardening column appeared in the Springfield News and Sun focusing on best management practices in the garden and timely garden tips. The paper has a circulation of more than 10,000. In addition, 36 radio spots and 2 television pieces were delivered. As a result of these articles and programs, clientele gain a better understanding of how to manage their lawn and garden pests and problems in an environmentally and economically sound manner.
- With the assistance of Master Gardener volunteers, the Horticulture Educator completed the 11th year of conducting herbaceous ornamental field trials. Results of these trials are used by the breeders and seed companies to determine if plants are suitable for the market. In addition, the Educator and Program Assistant completed 15 programs on the top performing annuals from these trials. More than 1000 people attended these programs. These programs better equip participants to make the best plant selection based upon low maintenance as well as the best varieties to use in Ohio gardens.
- The Way to Grow community garden program had 34 gardens with over 1,200 gardeners participating. Nineteen youth participated in the Southside Teens farm market project and raised over \$1,250 selling vegetables and garden-related crafts. New sites in 2007 included a church youth group that grew a garden to feed the hungry, a charter school group that planted a garden on a local farm, a mother's group participating in an inner-city garden and a garden for mentally challenged adults. Also, several existing sites were expanded and six raised beds were built for elderly participants. Over \$30,000 worth of vegetables were harvested from the gardens in 2007. Program

coordinator Terry Smith retired in December after 10 years of service.

4-H Youth Development

4-H Volunteers—Keeping Step to “Make the Best Better”

- 526 adult and teen volunteers contribute over 100,000 volunteer steps (hours) to the Clark County 4-H program, a cost benefit of more than 1.6 million dollars to the program.
- 125 4-H volunteers learned how to effectively deal with challenging 4-H parents to help ensure a positive experience for all members. One volunteer shared, “I have had almost all of those parents in my club at one time. I loved being able to learn and share with other advisors and the parent tools you created will help me do a better job of working with my challenging 4-H parents.”
- Technology has help propel the 4-H program into the “wired in” age. Whether the Clark County 4-H Family CD for learning by 1500 4-H families, to interactive Jeopardy games to teach Livestock Quality Assurance at club meetings, or the use of the X Box 360 by CARTEENS to teach first time driving offenders the affect of driving under the influence, creative technology learning tools are helping Clark County 4-H volunteers keep pace and be more efficient. “Even my husband, who is not overly ‘computer comfortable’ has been referring to the CD and guiding 4-H members and families toward using the website and CD.”

4-H for A Day ... Reaching Inner City Kids and Providing Work Experiences for 4-H Teens

- Springfield YMCA joined Tecumseh YMCA and National Trails as 4-H for A Day partners as Clark County 4-H continues to define 4-H for A Day science, engineering, technology and healthy lifestyle experiences for nearly 300 inner city kids. Seven teens developed workforce skills while serving as teachers, facilitators and mentors. Teens not only taught teamwork skills, but developed them along with communication and group processing skills.

4-H Projects & Programs Teach Responsibility, Marketing, Science Literacy & More

- Nearly 7,369 4-H members participated in 9,753 4-H projects learning the importance of time management, decision making, responsibility, budgeting, communication and marketing skills. 1,370 youth participated in Livestock Quality Assurance programs to learn essential animal production practices resulting in a safe food product for consumers. 4-Hers marketing skills encouraged 1,900 buyers to support their efforts in the tune of \$848,000. 2,294 Springfield City and Clark County students experienced “Science Learning the 4-H Way.” Teachers report students interest in science is heightened by the hands-on 4-H in the Classroom programs.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Nutrition Education

- Nearly 800 participants were reached with nutrition education through the Family Nutrition Program. Program Assistant Marjorie Brock retired on September 30, 2007, after serving 19 years with Extension.

Family Money Management

- New Start for Financial Success is a program to address the new mandates of The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. Anyone filing Chapter 7 or Chapter 13 bankruptcy must complete a financial literacy class before the case can be discharged by the court. This class helps participants evaluate current financial resources, set financial goals, and establish a personalized plan to meet those goals. It also helps bankruptcy filers develop and carry out a plan to discharge debts and manage personal finances as they move forward. During 2007, nearly 100 people attended these classes. Of those returning six month follow-up evaluations, 100% reported that “they believe they can change their financial behaviors, they feel more successful in managing their money, and they continue to use the learning materials that were received during the program.”

Food Safety

- ServSafe™ is a nationally recognized food safety course for food service managers. Taught jointly by Carol Miller, Extension Educator and the registered sanitarians of the Clark County Combined Health District, sixteen restaurant owners, managers, and other food service personnel completed this 16-hour training which addresses critical food safety issues such as personal hygiene, facilities and equipment, and the safe purchasing, storing and serving of food. 100% of the participants in 2007 passed the certification exam with an average score of 90%.
- ServSafe Employees™, a one-day course introduced in 2006, trained fourteen food service supervisors and other employees in basic food safety principles. With pre- and post-tests of basic food safety competencies, an average 18.5% gain in knowledge was documented.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

- The 2007 “Dollars & Cents” Agronomy School was held in conjunction with Clark, Butler, Montgomery, Warren and Preble County Extension offices that focused on delivering valuable, scientific, non-biased agronomic information to producers and industry people. Agronomic data presented by OSU specialist and County Educators informed and updated the audience on issues that growers and consultants would face in 2007, aiding in sound decision making to minimize inputs and maximize yield. Speakers addressed topics from the economics of raising a crop in 2007, crop scouting tactics and management strategies for field insects & agronomic weed control as well as new fertilization strategies for corn and soybean production. Over 60 people attended from all over Southwest Ohio, representing producers farming 20,000 acres and industry consultants & industry advising producers on over 393,000 acres. 86% of the people attended said they

would attend again, while over 60% said they gained at least one valuable principle that they would implement on their own farm.

- 21 Clark County youth (ages 14-15) attended OSU Extension Clark County Tractor Safety course in March and April. The course taught proper safety techniques and tractor operation that met and exceeded the state of Ohio requirements for youth to operate machinery and equipment for hire. This certifies that youth are capable to work for someone, other than a parent, and can operate agricultural machinery. Youth spent over 20 hours in the class room, 3 hours on a tractor, followed by a written and a maneuverability test to be certified. Over 40% of the youth completed the entire course, including passing both tests.
- 20 people attended an interdisciplinary two-day “Forages for Horses” program with OSU Extension Clark County, Hancock County as well as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The program addressed equine owners that needed information on soils & soil fertility, pasture establishment & renovation, manure management, plant growth, pasture management, paddocks and watering systems. Participants took home a large binder filled with additional, in-depth information on the addressed topics as well as many others. People came from three counties including Clark, Greene and Clinton. A survey concluded that 90% of people that attending said they would attend a program like this again, and 75% said they took home useful information that will improve their current practices.
- A Clark County study began in 2007 evaluating nitrogen sources (urea, urea-ammonium nitrate & polymer coated urea) and nitrogen rate that is best for Clark County in soft red winter wheat production. The trial is a two year study funded by a \$5,000 grant from the Conservation Tillage Clinic. Test plots were established in the summer of 2006 at Western OARDC (Ohio Agricultural & Research Development Center) in South Charleston, Ohio. Data collected will be shared with Clark County producers to aid in sound management decisions. 2007 preliminary data was already shared through county communications to agronomic producers.
- The first annual Clark County pasture walk was conducted with OSU Extension Clark County and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on a modern day buffalo (Running Bare Bison Ranch) farm in Clark County. 15 people attended to gain knowledge on proper pasture grass & forage specie identification and selection, pasture establishment and managing cool season grasses. All information is adapted for producers for any livestock such as sheep horses, beef, dairy, and goat producers.
- 26 people attended a Honey Bee Meeting in Clark County. OSU Extension-Clark County and specialists from Ohio State University and The Ohio Department of Agriculture addressed issues on managing the modern bee hive and coping with honey bee problems in hives that relate to hive health, mite control and the most asked question “where did the bees go?” Attendees came from three counties and 100% of the participants responded in a post-program survey that they would attend a meeting like this again. Attendees stayed for 90 minutes after the program to ask additional questions and talk to the speakers.

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