



# LORAIN COUNTY



## WESTERN RESERVE EXTENSION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AREA

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### STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- The **Master Gardeners** have a continued partnership with the Lorain County Housing Authority. Residents living in scattered sites and high-rise homes attended horticulture training programs. Seventy residents participated by maintaining their own properties with their newly gained knowledge. A strong emphasis was placed on seed starting, growing vegetables, and using their produce.
- Five **Home Food Preservation** classes were conducted throughout Lorain County this past summer with 55 individuals receiving information on safe methods of canning and freezing local produce. Before attending classes 49 percent of the participants stated they did not follow current OSU Extension and USDA guidelines for safe food preservation of foods. After the classes, 85 percent of the participants stated they always follow the recommendations.
- A total of 542 children took part in the Lorain County **Family Nutrition Program's** summer education program, which was held in cooperation with Salvation Army of Elyria and Lorain, and the Elyria City School district summer outreach programs. Sessions targeted children between the ages of 6 and 13, educating them on the importance of nutrition and physical activity. They tried healthy snack foods, including fruits and vegetables that they may not have tried before and discovered new ways to be physically active.
- In all, 1,434 adults participated in the Lorain County **Family Nutrition Program**. Topics focused on nutrition information using the new MyPyramid, increasing fruits and vegetables in the diet, food safety, and reading nutrition labels.
  - 73 percent of participants indicated they learned new information from the program.
  - 64 percent of participants indicated that they are planning to make changes in their health habits as a result of attending a session.

- The **Family Nutrition Program** is funded by grant dollars from the Midwest Food and Nutrition Service, USDA through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and targets food stamp recipients and other limited resource audiences.

### PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

- The **4-H Youth Development** program conducted seven summer camp sessions hosting 244 youth teaching skills in equine management, clothing and sewing, outdoor recreation, and social relationships. Forty-nine teens participated in over 60 hours of camp counselor training to assist with conducting the camp sessions.
- Forty-five teens participated in the **Real Money, Real World** financial literacy program. Because of the program, 76 percent indicated that they would improve having a spending plan for wants and needs; and 69 percent indicated they learned more about making wise financial decisions.
- 105 first-time driving offenders participated in the Lorain County **4-H CarTeens** training program. Sixteen classes were conducted and facilitated by 12 volunteers. 82 percent of the participants indicated that they will eliminate distractions and adopt safer driving practices in an effort to save their life and the lives of others while operating a motor vehicle.
- 126 elementary students who were at risk of failing basic science participated in the **4-H school enrichment** Chick Quest project. Chick Quest integrates the concepts of chick embryology into easy-to-use math, science, and language arts lessons. Of the participants, 71 percent indicated that they wanted to participate in more hands-on fun science activities. The teacher reported new excitement by students who now want to learn more about science and language arts.
- Over 4,000 students in 13 Lorain County Schools received a Wellness Page on nutrition and physical activity for

children designed for the back of the school lunch menu that was developed by OSU Extension in Lorain County. The pages are posted on the [lorain.osu.edu](http://lorain.osu.edu) website and one of the school district websites as well.

- **Choose it! Use it!** is a new program being used this year for elementary school children. The program teaches about good nutrition choices and using your muscles in physical activity. Currently an elementary school and an after-school program are participating. We hope to expand this program to other schools in 2011.

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Pesticide applicator certification** provides the means for pesticide users to improve skills and knowledge regarding safe and minimal impact use of pesticides. To make efficient use of expertise and resources, training was again offered at several schools this year in Lorain, Erie, and Huron counties. Additionally credits were also offered at schools throughout the season. Through this office, 313 pesticide applicators received 864 hours of credit toward renewal of their Ohio Department of Agriculture licenses.
- **In-office diagnostic services** continued to provide assistance to Lorain County businesses and residents for 100 samples of plants, insects, and diseases and 590 phone consultations. This included consultations handled by the educator as well as those covered by **Master Gardener Volunteers**. Samples this year again included another increase in the incidence of bedbugs; the local health departments have used this office to confirm bedbug identification and consult regarding control methodology. The year-to-date total of 690 consultations provided to Lorain County residents and businesses would be valued at \$17,250 in lab fees and expenses.
- **Compost education** in cooperation with Solid Waste was delivered to over 625 teachers and students in schools throughout Lorain County including Amherst, Lorain, and various youth groups, church schools, and clubs. Composting adult education was delivered to over 477 adult groups throughout the county including churches, groups, libraries, clubs, and newspaper articles.

## ADVANCING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

- Continued work with county **blueberry growers** providing consultation, fertilizer and pesticide recommendations, marketing advice, and networking opportunities. Six growers regularly use the OSU Extension office's services to increase marketable harvest and potential income from local food production.

- A total of 59 food service workers attended **ServSafe Manager Classes** conducted by OSU Extension in Lorain County with 56 of them obtaining their State and National Certification. This National Certification is required for some individuals to keep their current jobs.
- Sixty-two food service workers attended **Serving Safe Food Level I Certification Classes**, with 94 percent of the participants achieving certification. Class participants included food service workers from nursing homes, day care centers, grocery stores, and local school systems. Of the class participants, 100 percent plan to use the information learned and felt more positive about the topic as a result of attending the program.

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Lorain County's support of OSU Extension helped leverage an additional \$37,731 in federal funding for nutrition education for low-income people in 2010, thanks to Extension's local-state-federal partnership.

The following grants were also received for Ohio Sea Grant:

- **A Comprehensive Regional Public Outreach Campaign on AIS—\$147,704**  
*Educational outreach for aquatic invasive species and preventing their spread (Great Lakes Restoration Initiative).*
- **Undo the Great Lakes Chemical Brew; Proper PPCP Disposal (Meds)—\$66,748**  
*Educational outreach for proper disposal of unwanted medications, providing funding for medication collections, assist in educational efforts at medication collections in Lorain and Cuyahoga counties (Great Lakes Restoration Initiative).*
- **Extending AIS-HACCP and the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers Campaign Through Fishing Tournament Organizers and Professional Anglers—\$25,966**  
*Outreach education for angling tournaments and directors—National Sea Grant Program AIS Grant.*
- **Revise and Rewrite the State of Ohio AIS Plan and Rapid Response Plan—\$25,000**  
*Update and rewrite using new information and science to develop realistic planning and response to AIS issues—ODNR/Division of Wildlife.*
- **Ohio Clean Marinas Program Grant—\$72,605**  
*Continue to coordinate the OCMP, Clean Boater, and shrink wrap recycling programs, ODNR—Office of Coastal Management Assistance Grant Program, Cycle 14.*



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