Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Lake County commissioners took part in a tour of several Lake County Wineries this Fall. Tony Debevec, owner and operator of Cask 307, spoke with the commissioners about the excellent growing season of 2021 and some of the challenges encountered by the wineries and grape growers.

Bill and Beth Heinz, owners of Stonegait Winery, gave a tour of their processing facility and discussed the crushing, fermenting, and blending processes.

This process is used by local wineries to produce premium quality, award-winning wines. The commissioners all agreed our wineries are a local gem and draw a great number of tourists and locals to our region.

Community Development/Sea Grant

Totes, designed as an education tool on marine debris, were distributed to 35 agencies across Ohio. They were successful in educating 794 people on the importance of reducing single-use plastics. There are currently plans to make and distribute more trash totes throughout the state.

Beach cleanups were organized, and volunteers restored 37 acres along the Lake Erie shores. Fifty pounds of trash was removed from Fairport Harbor, Mentor Headlands, and Mentor Lagoons beaches.

Jill Bartolotta, Ohio Sea Grant educator, provided programming and information about Lake Erie, water quality concerns, and sustainability at 39 outreach events educating 4,673 people.

Beth Bollas, Extension program assistant, provided 118 school programs educating 2,244 elementary students on the importance of taking care of our earth.
Lake County 4-H partnered with local charities to fundraise and be of service to Lake County families. Some of the services provided were done by the Tail To The Rail and S.T.A.R.S. Leaders (Service, Teambuilding, and Academic/Career Development Raising Superior Leaders), who partnered with Asa’s Angels, raised over $1500 and shopped to provide a Christmas for those in need.

The entire 4-H program partnered with Northeast Children’s Volunteer Network to provide cards for our troops. Jr. Saddle Horse partnered with Hearts 2 Hands, a mobile food pantry to assist in distributing 200 boxes of food to local families.

Jr. market livestock club partnered with Subzero Mission fundraised, and provided hats, hand warmers, scarves, sleeping bags, coats, gloves, and tents to their mission.

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS)

**National Impact** The National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) accepted the OSU Healthy Families Trauma Informed Care team proposal to create and present, “How to Implement a Trauma-Informed Approach State Team”, which was presented at the 2021 national conference in October. The Lake County Extension educator was one of a few team members who developed the presentation.

This fall staff development training was provided to Forbes Houses staff and staff supports to Project Hope Families Program. Also, the 15-week work readiness program for residents of Project Hope was completed with success in employment of 50%.

**Award Winning** Sandra Allison (and team) awarded first for the place Central Region Excellence in Teamwork Award from the NEAFCS for Train the Trainer Instructor Training in Trauma Informed Care Approaches.

Success Story

The Lake County Master Gardener Volunteers, under the guidance of Chairperson Diane Monreal, worked with clients of the Lake County Juvenile Justice Center to raise produce in the Juvenile Justice Garden. It was a great year as 736 pounds of food were raised.

Residents learned the life-long skill of raising vegetables to eat. Most of the food produced went right to the kitchen of the Juvenile Justice center and were enjoyed by residents. Under the direction of Judge Karen Lawson, and the help of all the correction officers, the garden continues to be a great partnership.