

# COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Through Extension programs across the nation, Family and Consumer Science Extension Educators provide a multitude of educational opportunities to meet the needs of **diverse audiences**

## Healthy Homes and the Environment

Healthy indoor air, poison control, well water education, and energy conservation were topics addressed by Extension Family and Consumer Science educators. Audiences were as varied as the topics and included home owners, Extension educators, childcare providers and farmers.

### Indoor Air Quality Programs

In **Alaska** long, cold winters cause families to spend a great deal of time in homes heated by oil-based fuels and wood-burning stoves. Indoor air quality is a concern there because it affects respiratory health. Educational programs to improve indoor air quality and control mold and moisture have reached over 330 participants in Alaska. Extension educators in Alaska have become known on an international level for their expertise on indoor air quality and housing issues.

**Maryland** provided professional development for in-home and center-based child care that is necessary for licensure. Their workshop included a review of state child care regulations, discussion of potential indoor air pollutants, as well as sources and remedies to improve the indoor air quality in childcare environments. At the completion of the workshop these licensed providers indicated that:

100 % would ask guests and family members not to smoke in the home

91.6 % would carefully read labels before using hazardous household cleaning products

87.5% would clean on a regular basis to reduce

asthma and allergy triggers  
83.35% would test their home for Radon

### Outreach to the Homeless

**Maine** assisted those who are homeless through 77 volunteer homemakers that participated in community education programs assisting food pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters.

### Poison Prevention

**University of Maryland Extension** partnered with the **University of Georgia Cooperative Extension** to create a fact sheet and curriculum on *Poison Look-Alikes: Tips to Prevent Accidental Poisoning at All Ages*. Eleven programs were taught to 402 participants and 4 news releases were published.

### Well Water Education

**Maryland** developed a program that bridges Extension disciplines and provides a coordinated approach to drinking water safety, septic system maintenance and water stewardship education.



## Healthy Homes and the Environment

### Energy Conservation

The **Missouri Agricultural Energy Savings Team** called MAESTRO offered 185 programs to 1,230 participants and a 4 class series to 122 consumers. This program provided farm-house energy audits and energy retrofits for 46 clients. As a result Farmhouses owners have experienced:

- an average 34% saving in energy bills
- benefits from state and national incentives,
- lower taxes and rebates for energy saving retrofits.

Missouri Extension is a leader in serving Habitat for Humanity in Francois County with Homebuyer education, Home-study Energy and Healthy Homes courses.

**Ohio Cooperative Extension** presented 12 programs to 2,189 participants about energy efficiency and universal design along with news columns and web page on these topics.

### Disaster Education

**Oklahoma** currently ranks third in the nation for number of disaster declarations. OCES is in the process of piloting the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) Family Preparedness curriculum in eight counties across the state. Focus groups held with resident and community leaders have resulted in plans to create partnerships and increase public education.

In **Oklahoma** 85 programs were presented to over 4,000 consumers. Media coverage included one hundred fifty press releases, and 3 television programs. Program delivery was through 12 web courses, 2 podcasts and one published curriculum.

In **Utah**, 22 disaster education programs reached 3,375 consumers. Utah Extension collaborated with "Be Ready Utah" and EDEN and sponsored community emergency-preparedness fairs, expos and trainings to help individuals and families be prepared for emergencies. Over 3,000 attended the events. Evaluations indicated an increase in knowledge and confidence in preparing for an emergency.

**eXtension.org** continues to be a well-utilized resource for all Extension educators on Nutrition, Health, and Fitness. Extension educators have contributed fact sheets, programs, and resources to this site covering child care; drinking water and human health; families, food and fitness; family caregiving; food safety; parenting, and personal finance. New research-based resources are added continually for consumers and professionals.

**NEAFCS** is the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

**NEAFCS** provides professional development for Extension professionals who improve the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities and provide education in:

- Food preparation, food safety, and nutrition
- Financial management
- Healthy lifestyles
- Home and work environment and safety
- Relationships and parenting skills

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