



IMPACT 2023

Through Extension programs across the nation, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Educators provide a multitude of Educational opportunities to meet the needs of diverse audiences.

Healthy Homes and Environment

Indoor Air Quality, Pests and Pollutants

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers and is a preventable health hazard. **Georgia's Radon Program** distributed over 2,000 tests and 70% were used. Sixty-five percent of the homes that tested high were mitigated.

Mississippi's Healthy Homes Initiative helps older adults and families who do not know how or understand the need to keep their indoor environment healthy and safe. Approximately, 2,145 individuals, families, communities, daycare and health workers learned to improve quality of life through classes, exhibits, newsletters and social media. Topics included Indoor Air Quality Overview, Radon, Asthma & Allergies, Drinking Water, Lead, Hazardous Household Products, Home Energy, and Integrated Pest Management.

"This was a great course and I recommend anyone working with children to incorporate this in their staff training regularly." Mississippi's Health Home Initiative participant.



Home Ownership Education

Utility bills spiked considerably during the COVID-19 pandemic due to families having to shelter-in-place, parents having to telework, and children being homeschooled for safety measures. When Food Banks stopped at a location to distribute food, **Fort Valley State University's (GA) Energy Educator** set up an exhibit to distribute publications with educational information about the GREEN Project. The GREEN Project partnered with local food banks to educate clients on how to lower their utility bills during the pandemic. Evaluations suggest 5,724 people were reached by this program.

Indiana's Empower Me to Be Clutter Free was offered to 125 individuals. Clutter in the home can cause poor mental and physical health causing stress, falls, challenges breathing, and social isolation. Over 80% of participants learned and planned to implement at least one change to improve their environment.

*"I know how to do it, I'm just overwhelmed. This program taught me I can do it, step by step. Not get overwhelmed by trying it all in one day- 5 minutes here and there can make a huge difference." **Indiana's Empower Me to Be Clutter Free.***

Ohio's Universal Design program reached over 1,700 individuals. Universal Design employs architecture and design to create user-friendly homes in an attractive, seamless way to meet the needs of a variety of ages and abilities. A Universal Design Home Exhibit Virtual Tour was developed to increase awareness.

In **Kentucky**, a community need was uncovered that new Habitat for Humanity homeowners needed basic homeowner skills. Workshop topics included home maintenance, decorating on a budget, cleaning out the pantry, and using environmentally friendly cleaning products utilizing the *Green Cleaning* curriculum. The program benefited 15 homeowners.


Kentuckians have seen firsthand how natural disasters can occur any time and often come with little warning. Disasters take many forms, and most areas of family life feel their effects. To assist FCS agents, *In the Face of Disaster: An Agent Toolkit for Disaster Readiness and Response* was created. This multidisciplinary resource allows agents to select programming material by FCS content area and community need, addressing five areas of focus within FCS Extension: (1) Protecting Your Family and Home; (2) Food and Water Safety; (3) Family Finance and Resource Management; (4) Caring for Aging and At-Risk Populations; and (5) Navigating Trauma.

In response to Oregonians wanting details and tips to preserve and store food safely for disasters, **Oregon Extension** created a publication which can be accessed online.

UGA Extension received a grant to implement a small team approach to disaster response in **Georgia**. 159 counties updated Emergency Plans, a grant funded position was obtained, 35 employees were trained, and UGA will host the *2023 Extension Disaster Education Network* conference. Following the training, one agent reported *"I had to perform CPR. Because of this training, I was confident I knew what I needed to do and was able to stabilize the individual until EMS arrived. He is expected to make a full recovery."*



This report was compiled by Daniel Remley, PhD., MSPH, The Ohio State University, Public Affairs Education Committee members and Jennifer Bridge, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension and NEAFCS Vice President Public Affairs. For more information, email Jennifer.Bridge@uky.edu.

Raising kids, Eating right, Spending smart 

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