

IMPACT 2014

# 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 & the Environment**

The American dream of home ownership is one which stands the test of time even as times change drastically for housing markets amid serious environmental concerns. Family and Consumer Science educators across the country were able to address the local needs of homeowners, thereby increasing home ownership and ensuring healthier home environments.

**Universal Design for Homeowners**

Helping “baby boomers” make changes to their homes enabling them to live independently for as long as possible is crucial. A six-page article on universal design and aging in place penned by a FCS educator was published in the **Kansas** City Star Magazine, reaching over 700,300 households. In **Ohio,** 16 Universal Design workshops for homeowners attracted 3,382 citizens.

**Kentucky’s** "Stand Up to Falling" program has helped 3,000 older adults reduce their risk of falling, learn the safe way to get up from a fall, and “fall-proof” their residence.

**Healthy Home Environments**

Having a safe and healthy home is important to the security and overall health of a community. It can also help residents save money on supplies and utility bills. In **Missouri,** 167 workshops on housing issues dealing with green cleaning reached 9,176 people while in **Kentucky**, over 45,000 residents experienced a positive change in



|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **NEAFCS National Office** | **20423 State Road 7, Suite F6-491** | **Boca Raton, FL 33498** |
| **(561) 477-8100** | **FAX (561) 910-0896** | [**www.neafcs.org**](http://www.neafcs.org/) |

their knowledge of healthy home maintenance practices and stress management techniques.

In **New York,** energy costs take a significant portion of consumer’s financial resources. FCS educators presented 218 New York State Energy Research and Development Authority/CCE developed “Save Energy, Save Dollars” EmPower workshops designed to help consumers reduce their energy bills by implementing low- and no-cost energy conservation practices. Over 2,440 participants engaged in hands-on learning with each household receiving three free CFL bulbs.

**“Participants were excited to learn how to make homemade cleaners and save so much money while still doing something good for their home environment. Many stated they had someone at home with asthma or allergies and this was really going to help.”** -- **Missouri FCS Educator**

One hundred seventy-ninecontractors in **Montana, Idaho, Wyoming** and **North Dakota** attended the **Montana** Extension Weatherization Training Center, taking 28 training courses in such areas as: Heating Systems; Mobile Home Weatherization; Lead-paint; Asbestos Inspection; Home Energy Audits; OSHA; Respirators Fit Testing; Insulation Systems; Weatherization Monitoring; and On-Site Weatherization Skills Training. Training contributed to an average Montana home energy reduction of 31%.

Seven hundred eighty-one radon test kits were distributed in **Georgia**, resulting in552 test results. Outreach and collaborations helped increase radon

mitigations to 1,187 across the state.In **Ohio,** radon testing kits and outreach education reached 1,284 homeowners during 42 workshops while FCS educators in **Kansas** utilized social media education to increase the number of homeowners testing their homes for radon.

The **Montana** Extension Ecostar pollution prevention program recognizes businesses that surpass state and federal requirements to reduce solid and hazardous waste generation, and conserve water, energy and clean air. Last year, 22 Ecostar businesses from 17 communities were recognized at a Governor’s reception. All totaled, 6,980,307 gallons of water was conserved, and 2,587,983,186 BTUs were saved. Hazardous waste was reduced by 41,493 pounds, resulting in a dollar savings of $427,735.

In **New York**, 228 adults learned about purchasing items made from recycled content and ways to transform objects otherwise destined for the landfill into festive holiday decorations.



**Disaster Preparedness**

Natural and man-made disasters are devastating to

families and communities. Educating people on how to be prepared when disasters strike can help lessen the stress families face during these difficult times.

Through demonstrations, exhibits, and news articles **Oklahomans** are identifying the recommended supplies for building their own emergency preparedness kits. Nineteen disaster preparedness workshops reached 1,952 people, during which participants were encouraged to take the “Build a Kit” challenge.

**Utah** collaborated with Be Ready Utah and EDEN (Emergency Disaster Extension Network) sponsoring community emergency preparedness fairs, expos, and trainings aimed at helping individuals and families be prepared for an emergency. Over 3,000 attended emergency preparedness events. Evaluations from preparedness events indicated an increase in consumer knowledge and confidence in preparing for emergencies.

**Minnesota** trained 261 frontline disaster professionals via a webinar on identifying resources and key strategies to assist disaster survivors in making informed financial recovery decisions.

*This report was compiled by Sonya McDaniel, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension, Public Affairs Education Subcommittee member, and Theresa Mayhew, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Vice President – Public Affairs. For more information, email* [*tcm5@cornell.edu*](mailto:tcm5@cornell.edu)*.*