



IMPACT 2015

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

Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educators provide a variety of programming in this subject area, ranging from emergency preparedness to dealing with household hazardous waste to mitigating poor indoor air quality. Many of the programs that are delivered to consumers have money and other resource saving elements incorporated within them.

Disaster Preparedness

In **Missouri**, thirty-one percent of program participants developed a home disaster preparedness plan. These participants understood the importance of being prepared and having a plan in place prior to an emergency situation.



Being prepared for a disaster can have major impacts for survival, as well as psychological and financial well-being. Across 26 counties, 252 **Oklahoma** residents pledged to assemble Emergency Preparedness kits for themselves

and their families. Oklahomans attended safety programs covering curricula such as Build a Disaster Kit on a Budget, EDEN: Grab and Go Bags, and Progressive Ag Safety Day. Evaluation data showed that: 85% will prepare a three-day emergency kit for themselves or their family; 68% will prepare a home evacuation plan; and 75% will write an emergency preparedness plan.

Hazardous Waste & Environmental Concerns

Mississippi Extension partnering with the DEQ, DEA, Board of Supervisors and Economic Development, a grant in excess of \$60,000 was awarded to county officials to implement a recycling program. A hazardous waste day collected 64 pounds of prescription drugs. Also, a tire recycling program removed an estimated 13,000 pounds of tires from the waste stream.

"I know that I've always kept a clean home. This session was extremely helpful to me as a renter. It was good to learn more about venting a home. Thank you for showing us how to stop." – Missouri participant

Extension provided poison prevention classes to 476 **Wyoming** residents. The classes provide participants with information on how and when to utilize the Nebraska Regional Poison Centers' 1-800 number to help identify if an ingested product is poisonous and if so what to do.

Raising kids, Eating right, Spending smart



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Energy Conservation

The CEPREE/EmPower NY program conducted by Cornell Cooperative Extension educators provides information and education on using energy wisely through energy conservation workshops, displays at community events and county fairs, and newsletter articles. Energy conservation education workshops are available in all counties in **New York** State, including New York City. During 2014, over 650 workshops reached nearly 7,770 participants. Each participant received three free compact fluorescent bulbs to replace less energy efficient ones.

“As a result of attending this program, I plan on calling and scheduling a comprehensive Home Performance with ENERGY STAR assessment.” – NY EmPower program participant

Healthy Home Environments

University of **Tennessee** Extension has been an official trainer for the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) since 2008. This partnership led to train community leaders in Memphis as part of a national

initiative lead by HUD and “Strong Cities, Strong Communities” national initiative. 48 health and housing professionals were trained in 2014 with more scheduled in the future. Meanwhile, FCS agents in 50 Tennessee counties included some aspects of healthy housing principles into their programming in 2014.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension FCS program in Washington County, **New York**, working in tandem with the New York State Department of Health provided free radon test kits and hands-on education and outreach to 28 residents last year. Another 8,000 plus were reached via print, electronic and social media. Over the last seven years, nearly 500 free test kits have been distributed in Washington County. Many homeowners whose residences had tested high for radon had mitigation systems installed to lower radon readings.

This report was compiled by Sonya McDaniel, Oklahoma State University Extension, Public Affairs Subcommittee Member, and Theresa Mayhew, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Vice President – Public Affairs. For more information, email tcm5@cornell.edu.

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 the areas of: Childhood Obesity Prevention; Community Health and Wellness; Financial Management; Food and Nutrition; Food Safety; Healthy Homes and the Environment; Improving Children’s Lives; and Protecting our Resources – Family Life.