



# IMPACT 2024

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

Nobody wants to be #1 when calculating new lung cancer diagnoses and deaths. Therefore, Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Educators are raising awareness and educating families about radon, the second leading cause of lung cancer.

**Kentucky's Radon Awareness Program** reached 9,302 families. Their work with state partners is combatting this health challenge through various learning opportunities.

**North Carolina** Agents provided general housing education and information promoting a healthy home environment such as pest prevention and mitigation, radon awareness/testing, home safety, insect identification, housekeeping, recycling, and eco-friendly cleaners. FCS taught 736 individuals at 44 events in collaboration with 4 partners.



**Georgia's Radon Awareness Education** informs consumers about the preventable health hazard of radon in homes.

Thirty-six University of Georgia Extension County Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) outreach program conducted demonstrations, exhibits and health fairs reaching 10,510 homeowners, renters and service providers informing them about radon hazards and the availability of the radon test kits through UGA Extension. The education was delivered through the Live Oak Public Library System's 16 branches, Chatham County Health Department, 8 Cities, County Government and 58 neighborhoods.

When discussing radon with area consumers the FACS Agent identified more than 95% of consumers were unaware of potential radon hazards that could exist in their homes. A total of 509 radon tests have been completed.

*"I was unaware of radon health risks and thanks for sharing how radon can get into my home, how I can complete a radon test through UGA Cooperative Extension, and complete corrective action with home repairs."*

### Housing Emergency Preparedness

Over 130 participants from across the nation attended the 2023 Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) Conference in Savannah, **Georgia**. The largest turnout in EDEN history. Participants attending the pre-conference educational excursion learned more about coastal Georgia resiliency project.

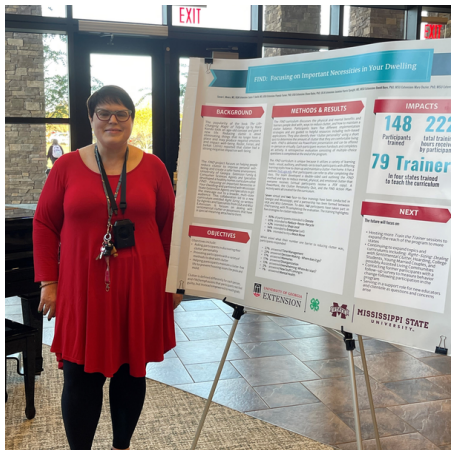
*"My favorite part was the chance to hear about disaster management experiences and the excursion to Tybee Island to get a firsthand experience of disaster." EDEN Conference Participant*



**Georgia and Michigan** Family and Consumer Sciences conducted Emergency Preparedness Response sessions during the event.

They reached over 200 participants with their curricula *Project FIND, Focusing on Important Necessities in your Dwelling* that helps individuals identify key areas to improve the health and safety of their home - Dealing with Household Clutter and Right Sizing. Clutter significantly decreases life satisfaction among older adults as well as contributing to mold, indoor allergens, and falls.

*"Thank you for this training. It is always good to reorganize and make new space."*  
FIND participant



**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; Diabetes Prevention and Management; Financial Management; Food and Nutrition; Food Safety; Healthy Homes and the Environment; Improving Children's Lives; and Protecting our Resources – Family Life. NEAFCS is an equal opportunity/affirmative action association. NEAFCS values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation. Membership is not by invitation. (Strategic Plan 1993-97)

## Home Safety

Annually, 1/3 of **Ohioans** 65 and older fall. Falls are the leading cause of injuries resulting in ER visits, hospital stays, and deaths in Ohioans 65-plus. Direct treatment charges for fall-related hospitalizations among older Ohioans is estimated at \$1.1 billion.

**Ohio's Falls Prevention Programming** taught 140 classes over 16 weeks reaching 563 participants collaborating with 14 community partners.

*"Thanks for this information & for Wednesday Tai Chi! Such a blessing for me."*

## Home Ownership Education

The **Minnesota** Extension Department of Family, Health and Wellbeing offered 8 housing-related webinars on winter energy efficiency, energy for renters, hoarding, healthy homes, and more reaching 582 individuals. Participants indicated intent to apply information.

*"Thank you for this information. We all need to be reminded from time to time to check items in our homes for our health."*

*This report was compiled by Margaret Jenkins, M.Ed., The Ohio State University, Amanda Dame, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension and Christine Zellers, NEAFCS Vice President Public Affairs. For more information, email [zellers@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:zellers@njaes.rutgers.edu).*

*Raising kids, Eating right, Spending smart*

