

For Immediate Release

Source: Ryan J. Schmiesing and Vicki Schwartz, Interim Co-State 4-H Leaders & Assistant Directors, Ohio State University Extension

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Ohio 4-H Week to be Celebrated Statewide

Ohio 4-H Week will be celebrated across the state on March 8-13, 2009 as 4-H youth and volunteers will be actively informing Ohio citizens about the 4-H program and how it can and will benefit participants, families and their communities.

According to Vicki Schwartz, Interim Co-State 4-H Leader & Assistant Director, Ohio State University Extension, people in Ohio will be hearing and seeing something about 4-H in locations around the state. Mall shows, window displays, school and community center visits, newspaper articles and radio programs will be some of the 4-H promotional methods utilized around the state.

Schwartz said the special statewide promotional effort is specifically intended to increase public awareness of the 4-H program, excite current 4-H members, and to recruit new 4-H members and volunteer leaders in all 88 counties in Ohio.

"With its emphasis on the learn-by-doing approach, the 4-H program is really appealing to young people and allows them to explore current and new interest that they may have," Schwartz said. "We really put an emphasis on encouraging kids to try new things in 4-H." Some new and/or innovative programs that are available across Ohio include the 4-H PetPals program, CARTEENS, workforce preparation initiative, animal quality assurance, and military 4-H camps and clubs.

Locally, there are plans to hold some special activities to promote the 4-H Youth Development movement. According to **[educator's full name]**, the **[county name]** county OSU Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development, they are **[insert list of local 4-H week activities using as much space as needed]**.

"We're hoping that anyone who is interested in learning more about our local 4-H program and the many opportunities it offers will attend one of these events," said **[educator's last name]**. Now is the time of year when new 4-H clubs are forming, and it is an excellent time for youth to enroll in the 4-H program, **[educator's last name]** added.

For more information about the 4-H program and local Ohio 4-H Week activities please contact the **[county name]** county OSU Extension office at **[office phone number or website]**.

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