

## ***News & Notes Introduction***

For Week of May 26, 2013

Hi,

Most of us have probably heard the expression, “You only get one chance to make a first impression.” I think this a great observation to keep in mind so that one is always on his/ her best behavior, whether it be personal or professional. Creating a no-so-good first impression is hard to overcome when dealing with long term relationships. That is, if people do not feel comfortable with your persona at first meeting, it will take longer to make that relationship productive. On the flip side, a good first impression expedites all working and personal relationships.

A couple of weeks ago I was listening to a Columbus radio station on my commute home, and a point was made in one commercial. I only heard the commercial once, and I cannot even remember the product or service being advertised, so I apologize for not giving credit where credit is due. But the primary point in this commercial was how that business worked to make sure that the “last impression” was as good as it could be.

I had never dwelled on how important that “last impression” is. Of course, the people in the business using this advertisement were interested in repeat customers, as well as the satisfied customers spreading the word about final impressions of the work of that business to potential new customers. Relating to our work in 4-H youth development, I think the dimension of “last impression” is a descriptor as well as a goal.

For over 100 years 4-H had left a last good impression on literally millions of people. Probably the most important factor for that is that when youth and adults participate in 4-H Youth Development programs, they feel they receive things that are valuable – skills, knowledge, experiences, and friends. Their last impressions were very positive, which eventually turn into all those good memories that we often hear about.

Leaving a good and positive “last impression” should also be a goal, and a component of our programming that should be communicated to our volunteers. What are those things that we do that prevent our retention of 4-H membership and participation from being higher? It appears to me that the “last impression” upon those youth and their families who cease to participate perhaps could have been better.

We cannot control all the influencing factors that leave impressions about our work. Three rainy days at camp can be somewhat discouraging to a first time 4-H camper. But if we plan and work to make what we do as positive and productive as we can most of the “last impressions” will work for us.

Thanks,

Tom

### **Ohio 4-H Health and Safety Speaking Information**

The Ohio 4-H Health and Safety Speaking program is an excellent opportunity for 4-H members to expand their public speaking skills, plus gain new information about a topic

related to the home, farm, school, work and/or community. The Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives are again sponsoring the meals and awards for the area contests. Please review the area list to find the location where your members should participate in the individual and/or skit competition. Please see the information letter below for more details. Contact Judy Villard Overocker, [Villard.2@cfaes.osu.edu](mailto:Villard.2@cfaes.osu.edu)

[4-H Professionals information letter](#)

[County listings by area](#)

[Commonly asked questions](#)

[Area I registration form and participant letter](#)

[Area II registration form and participant letter](#)

[Area III registration form and participant letter](#)

[Area IV registration form and participant letter](#)

#### **4-H Shirts for Summer!**

They're back! Take a look at this FLYER if you'd like to order an "Ohio 4-H" polo for summer. In addition to white, green, red, grey and black, [there](#) are two shades of blue and yellow available. Orders need to be to Sally McClaskey, [mcclaskey.12@osu.edu](mailto:mcclaskey.12@osu.edu), by June 7.