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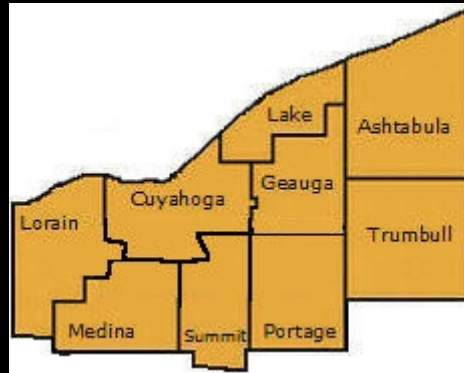
What is the Western Reserve EERA?



2011 WESTERN RESERVE EERA DEADLINES:

Enrollment in County Club Programs must be entered in each county on or before April 15th of 2011 (Enrollments can differ in each county please make sure to check your county dates).

Quality Assurance (QA) must be completed and proof presented to local Extension Office by June 1st of 2011.



Questions? Please contact Jackie Kreiger at Kreiger.50@osu.edu or call 330-928-4769

What is the EERA?

In response to the economic constraints, the Ohio State University Extension system has restructured the state's 88 counties into nine multi-county areas. Ohio's extension educators will work across county lines in multi-county areas called Extension Education and Research Areas or EERA's. The development of these EERA's allows extension educators to share their specialized knowledge across a broader geographic area and allow OSU Extension to address local and state needs at a greater depth and in a more efficient manner. All four Extension program areas (4-H Youth Development, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family & Consumer Sciences, and Community Development) will be addressed by educators working in the EERAs.

The Western Reserve EERA

The Western Reserve EERA consists of nine northeastern Ohio counties: Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, Summit, and Trumbull. While the 4-H Youth Development program will continue to be county focused; county educators will work together to plan and deliver educational programming in areas needed by all counties within the EERA such as Volunteer Training and Quality Assurance. These programs will offer county volunteers and 4-H members additional opportunities for self determination and engagement in learning all while achieving their county requirements.



What can you expect to see from the EERA?

The Western Reserve EERA Educators and 4-H programming staffs goal is to provide quality educational programming for youth and adult volunteers. When achieving this goal the 4-H professionals in the Western Reserve EERA keep the highest educational expectations in mind. Each professional has a specialized area and programming will be based from each professional's area of expertise. Other programs that are offered throughout the EERA are

programs that are needed by each county, like QA (Quality Assurance). The idea is to provide better educational offerings without recreating the wheel. What one does, many of us do; so in order to better serve you, the consumer, we are looking at ways to provide you with a better 4-H Youth Development experience. We realize that some offerings may require you to drive farther, but the quality of the programming will be more extensive and worth the drive.

Quality Assurance (QA)

Quality Assurance must be completed by June 1st of 2011

In order to qualify to take your market animal or lactating animal to the county fair you must complete a Quality Assurance session. Many of the nine Western Reserve EERA counties will be offering one session in 2011. In order to get credit please make sure to sign in and get proof of attendance. This proof needs to be presented to your local OSU Extension office to be put on file for credit. A test out option is available to youth age 12 and up in some counties. Please contact your local Extension Office for details on the test out option.

Prepared by: Becky Holmes: Ashtabula County Extension Educator; 4-H Youth Development, Michelle Adkins: Trumbull County Extension Educator; 4-H Youth Development and Alisha Faudie: Geauga County Program Coordinator; 4-H Youth Development

We gratefully acknowledge the continued help and financial support of our local county commissioners. We appreciate their input and participation in our programming efforts.

Ohio State University Extension embraces human diversity and is committed to ensuring that all research and related educational programs are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, or veteran status. This statement is in accordance with United States Civil Rights Laws and the USDA. Keith L. Smith, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Director, Ohio State University Extension TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or 614-292-1868



4-H Membership and Enrollment Guidelines

4-H is the youth development initiative of Ohio State University Extension and is open to all boys and girls in Ohio. Youth involved in Extension based programs are enrolled as either 4-H Members or 4-H Participants. Youth may enroll in 4-H at any time. 4-H clubs and other types of 4-H programs may begin any time throughout the year. Local 4-H clubs and groups may establish (in their constitutions) dates by which youth must be enrolled in order to participate in their group. In addition, County Extension 4-H Programs may establish reasonable deadlines by which members must be enrolled and enrollment forms turned in to the county Extension Office in order for members to participate in specified activities (such as project evaluation, fair, and awards).



Are you into it? 

The
Power
of Youth 

How Do You Enroll Your 4-H Club Membership?

Members must enroll annually. Members may join a 4-H club anytime, but every county has an enrollment deadline for 4-H participation in Junior Fair. Obtain enrollment information and materials from your County Extension Office. The 4-H enrollment process will ask the member and his/her parent/guardian to provide the following information:

- Personal and Demographic
- Projects Enrolled
- Offices and/or Committees
- Parent/Guardian Contact
- Photo Release
- Code of Conduct

Members that live outside of your 4-H club's home county must complete an Across County Line 4-H Membership Form. Members only need to complete once, unless special circumstances warrant a future request. Returning volunteers must also re-enroll or indicate continued commitment to the county 4-H Program. New 4-H volunteers must complete the multi step 4-H Volunteer Selection, Screening and Orientation Process and be accepted as a 4-H volunteer, before you may include them as part of your 4-H club leadership.

4- H Membership Eligibility Policy

(approved by Administrative
Cabinet May 14, 2009)

Eligibility for Ohio 4-H membership begins when a child is age 5 and is enrolled in kindergarten as of January 1 of the current year (Cloverbuds). Membership to the Ohio 4 H club program begins when a child is at least age 8 and enrolled in 3rd grade as of January 1 of the current year. Ohio 4-H membership ends December 31 of the year in which an individual attains the age of 19. Membership begins when an eligible individual is enrolled in a club or group that is under the direction of a trained adult, who has completed the OSUE volunteer selection process, and within the scope of Ohio State University Extension.

More Than You Ever
Imagined!



Western Reserve Survey Results:

One purpose of the EERA structure is for Extension professionals to offer quality educational programs to volunteers and families throughout the entire EERA, not just county specific programs. In an effort to provide a quality educational program for 4-H volunteers in the Western Reserve EERA, we conducted a needs assessment. The purpose of the needs assessment was to gather input from all 4-H volunteers within the EERA on how 4-H staff can provide a volunteer training that will meet the needs and desires of 4-H advisors and volunteers.

The needs assessment was conducted as an online evaluation that was offered to volunteers in all nine counties within the Western Reserve EERA. A total of 232 volunteers responded to the survey and the following information was learned:

- 64% of respondents prefer training on animal science updates
- 33% prefer training on non-animal projects
- 24% prefer training in club finances, IRS reporting, and auditing
- 38% prefer training in utilizing and working with club officers
- 38% prefer training in club management
- 47% prefer training on how to handle behavior problems
- 38% prefer ideas on community service and fundraising
- 17% prefer training club administration utilizing social media
- 25% prefer training in project exploration for kids
- 48% prefer new volunteer orientation
- 34% prefer training in livestock quality assurance
- 30% prefer training in the horse area, including clarification of legal bits and PAS
- 23% prefer training on risk management
- 37% prefer training on how to work with new audiences and recruiting families
- 28% prefer training about communicating across differences
- 48% prefer training on how to build a strong volunteer team
- 49% prefer training on character education
- 44% prefer training on building sportsmanship & ethics
- 25% prefer food safety & training.

The survey also discovered that 62% of volunteers would prefer to attend a training on a weeknight evening while 38% would attend a training on a Saturday. 67% of volunteers prefer to travel no further than 25 miles for a training, 28% would travel up to 50 miles, and only 5% of volunteers would travel more than 50 miles for a training.

Based on these results, 4-H professionals in the Western Reserve EERA are planning a minimum of three volunteer trainings for 2011. The trainings will be held at different locations throughout the EERA, to accommodate volunteers from different areas of our EERA.



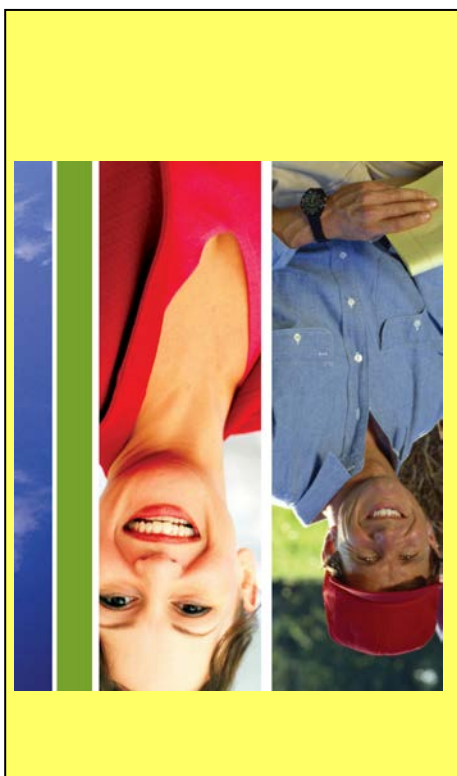
Calendar

- Volunteer Training
Tentative: Monday,
February 28th from 6 to
9pm @ Maplewood JVS
7075 RT 88 Ravenna
- Ohio Volunteer
Conference/ Teen
Conference: Saturday
March 12th at Columbus
Convention Center
- Volunteer Training
Tuesday, March 22nd
from 6:30- to 9pm @
Lorain Co JVS
15181 OH RT 58
Oberlin
- Volunteer Training
Date to be confirmed
either October 18th or
October 10th @ Kent
Trumbull Branch

(Please watch for upcoming registrations for EERA Events from your local county offices)

County Educators and Programming Staff:

- Ashtabula: Abbey Averill
- Cuyahoga: Greg Seik,
Robin Stone
- Geauga: Alisha Faudie
- Lake: Donna Maruschak
- Lorain: Minnie Taylor,
Frances Harker
- Medina: Bill Harris
- Portage: Ed Warner
- Summit: Jackie Krieger
- Trumbull: Michelle Adkins



Hello, from the 4-H Staff within the Western Reserve EERA.

Nine counties make up the Western Reserve EERA, these include: Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, Summit, Trumbull. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you, our consumer, with upcoming programming and information from around the nine county area.

Inside this issue:

- About the Western Reserve EERA
- Enrollment procedures
- Quality Assurance Information
- Western Reserve EERA Survey Results



Ohio State University Extension Western Reserve EERA News

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Trumbull 4-H Volunteers