

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Ohio 4-H - Making A Difference**

For more than 100 years The Ohio State University has been home to the largest out-of-school, educational program in the United States with over 7 million young people participating last year. This program, known as 4-H, was first developed in 1902 by A.B. Graham, Superintendent of Clark County Schools in Springfield, Ohio. Since those early days, 4-H has grown to include rural, suburban, and urban youth and continues to focus on critical issues facing young people in their local communities.

[**educator's full name**], Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development, further explained that Graham first initiated the concept of 4-H with the idea that if young people could "learn by doing" in the environment around them. According to [**educator's last name**], Graham's philosophy was that by learning about the soil, studying plants and how they grow, conducting experiments and research, youth could become more productive people and have a better quality of life.

Today, Ohio 4-H is still an exciting program for young people, said [**educator's last name**], with over 318,000 members "learning by doing" and developing themselves to their greatest potential with the motto "to make the best better." The vision of Ohio 4-H is developing youth to become positive, productive citizens and catalysts for effective change to improve our diverse society. The [**county name**] county 4-H program currently reaches [**number of 4-H youth**] youth.

Ohio 4-H programs are designed to engage youth in healthy learning experiences, thus increasing self-esteem and problem solving skills. [**educator's last name**] said programs address topics such as stress management, parent-teen communication, personal development, careers, environmental stewardship, and global understanding. A wide range of content offerings encourages youth to explore science, technology, and citizenship. [**educator's last name**] also talked about the statewide 4-H effort. [**he or she**] said Ohio 4-H offers over 200 different projects related to the needs of people living in a complex society.

"4-H is a dynamic program because of the many volunteers who support youth who are involved in clubs, special interests groups, and school enrichment programs, and many other programs [**educator's last name**] said. "Nearly 22,000 adults in Ohio give their time, energy and talents to guide and teach youth through various educational programs and activities."

[**educator's last name**], reported that [**number of 4-H volunteers**] volunteers are involved in the [**county name**] county 4-H Youth Development program.

For more information about the 4-H program, contact the [**county name**] county Ohio State University Extension office at [**office phone number**].

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