



For Immediate Release:

## **HUNDREDS OF 4-H'ERS FLOCK TO OHIO STATE CAMPUS JUNE 19-21**

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Nearly 450 teens from around Ohio will gather on the Columbus campus of Ohio State University to participate in leadership, citizenship and educational activities during the 86th Ohio 4-H Youth Expo.

The annual conference, which takes place June 19-21, allows delegates to learn new ideas and skills they can use in their 4-H clubs and in their communities, said Allen Auck, 4-H Youth Development associate for Ohio State University Extension and coordinator of the event. This year's Expo will help celebrate 4-H's centennial.

During the Expo, the 4-H'ers will participate in one of 18 small-group, hands-on workshops on topics such as roller coaster design and physics; pet therapy; government and community involvement; Ohio heritage; theater arts; sheep, dairy, beef and swine projects; clothing-related careers; and rocket science.

On Friday, four of the groups will perform community services that incorporate what they learned in Thursday's workshops. For example, one group will work with preschoolers in making hot air balloons out of tissue paper; another will take pets to visit residents at an assisted living facility in London.

In addition, 70 of the participants will take part in State 4-H Ambassador Training to ready them for a year's worth of experiences as 4-H Ambassadors, said David Farrell, coordinator of the Ambassador

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program. They will learn effective public speaking skills; how to work in teams; and how to work with elected officials, with county 4-H professionals, and with the media. A final recognition for last year's ambassadors is set for Youth Expo's opening lunch on Wednesday, June 19.

Conference delegates also will tour Ohio State's campus, experience college life by staying in student dorms, and take part in recreational and social events. Any 4-H'er ages 14 to 19 can attend the summer youth conference. Local sponsors often underwrite the costs. In addition, Wendy's International and the American Dairy Association & Dairy Council Mid East are major sponsors of Ohio Youth Expo.

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