



For Release
Through Ohio 4-H Agents'
News Columns, Radio/TV Programs, and Newsletters

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4-H...Educational From The Very Start

Today's 4-H program, and its "learn-by-doing" approach to education, was started one hundred years ago by a Springfield teacher named A. B. Graham. Mr. Graham had observed the difficulty many students were having in applying science to real life situations. He felt somehow, they needed a way to practice what they learned in a school outside the walls of the classroom.

In 1902 Mr. Graham recruited some students for an after-school club he created that would apply what they learned in class to the world around them. This successful idea soon became the foundation for the "Boys and Girls Agricultural Club" movement that swept the country in the early 1900's, which was the forerunner of today's 4-H program.

From this humble beginning in Springfield, Ohio one hundred years ago, America's 4-H program has become the largest youth organization in the world. There are more than six million 4-H members in the United States alone.

In Ohio, 4-H serves as the youth outreach program of The Ohio State University. This university "connection" provides 4-H members with the latest research-based information, which is distributed through a network of county OSU Extension faculty and 4-H volunteers. There are more than 250,000 active 4-H members in Ohio.

According to **[county agent name]**, **[county name]** county 4-H agent, 4-H is unmatched in its ability to engage youth in the discovery and application of "hands on" learning methods.

(more)

[Agent's last name] said there are more than 200 4-H projects offered that allow children to explore subject areas such as foods and nutrition, gardening and horticulture, mechanical and engineering science, personal development, citizenship and community service, clothing and textiles, environmental sciences, family life and child development, and animal science.

“4-H offers an environment for youth to learn new skills, work with a caring adult volunteer, and to take small steps into a world of educational discovery,” said [Agent's last name]. “We are confident we will be able to say the same thing about 4-H in another 100 years.”

To learn more about 4-H in your community, contact the local Ohio State University Extension office listed in your phone book, visit the Ohio 4-H website at www.ohio4h.org/ or call 614-292-4H4H for details.

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