

## News Release 6/3/2016

### Columbiana County offers food safety course to all residents of Columbiana County.

Lisbon-With the farmer's market season just starting, the Columbiana County Health Department along with the East Liverpool City and Salem City Health Department stresses the importance of food safety and offers free farmer's market course for residents of the county.

A farmer's market that **only** offers for sale the following types of food items is not required to be licensed by the health department but should be registered with the Ohio Department of Agriculture for free @ [http://www.agri.ohio.gov/public\\_docs/forms/foodsafety/Food\\_3800-03.pdf](http://www.agri.ohio.gov/public_docs/forms/foodsafety/Food_3800-03.pdf)

- fresh unprocessed fruits or vegetables;
- maple syrup, sorghum, or honey [properly labeled];
- properly labeled products of a cottage food production operation;
- 100 cu ft display commercially prepackaged food that is not potentially hazardous.

Keep in mind that home canned potentially hazardous items are prohibited unless the business is licensed as a cannery through Ohio Department of Agriculture.

In Ohio in 2015, 1 person died of botulism and 24 were sickened from a potluck church picnic in Fairfield County, Ohio where home canned potatoes were most likely the source.

Cottage foods that are permitted include: non-potentially hazardous bakery products, jams, jellies, candy, fruit butters; granola, granola bars, granola bars dipped in candy and popcorn. For a complete list see of approved cottage foods see below link:

<http://www.agri.ohio.gov/divs/FoodSafety/foodsafety.aspx#tog>

The Health Departments wants an open door policy for farmers, food vendors and consumers to ask us about food safety practices. Here are a few simple tips to help ensure food safety practices:

Keep cold food cold. Place cold food in a cooler with ice or frozen ice packs. Cold food should be stored at least 41 degrees Fahrenheit or lower to prevent bacterial growth.

Clean and sanitize your hands and surfaces to reduce the potential for bacteria contamination.

Check your food source to ensure the food product is received from reputable food suppliers.

Label all ingredients on all food products so consumers can check the product to avoid an allergic reaction.

**The health departments are offering the free farmer's market course for any resident of the county on June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Columbiana County Health Department at 7360 State Route 45 Lisbon, Ohio.**

For more information and to register for the course, please contact Shannon Sellards, Registered Sanitarian at the Columbiana County Health Department at (330) 424-0272 or visit the health departments websites at <http://www.columbiana-health.org/food.html>, <http://www.salemcityhealthdistrict.org/environmental.htm> or <http://eastliverpool.com/healthdepartment.html>