



WARREN COUNTY COMBINED HEALTH DISTRICT

Prevent-Promote-Protect



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NEWS & INFORMATION

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Health Commissioner

Looking for Fresh Locally Grown Foods?

People worldwide are rediscovering the benefits of buying local food.

It is fresher than items in the supermarket. They are tastier and more nutritious too. It is also good for your local economy--buying directly from family farmers helps them stay in business.

Local farm markets are great places to find fresh, nutritional vegetables, fruits, and other homemade products.

The website below provides you with information on local farm markets and allows you to search for local farm markets in your area by zip code:

www.localharvest.org

Enjoy your Spring and Summer and try out your local Farm

PLAYING IT SAFE WITH EGGS

To avoid the possibility of food borne illness, eggs must be handled carefully. The most effective way to prevent egg related illness is by knowing how to buy, store, handle and cook the eggs. Here are some simple steps to help ensure your Easter egg coloring is fun and safe for the family.



- Buy only eggs from a refrigerator or refrigerated case. Make sure that the

eggs are clean and the shells are not cracked.

- Store eggs in original carton and use within three weeks. Refrigerate promptly.
- Wash hands, utensils, equipment and work surfaces with hot, soapy water before and after they come in contact with eggs and egg-containing foods.

- Cook eggs in the shell until the yolks and the whites are

firm. Boil eggs at least three minutes to insure doneness. Cool the eggs immediately by running cold water over them or submerging them into a pan of ice water.

- Cooked eggs should not sit out for more than two hours.
- Use hard cooked eggs within 1 week after cooking.
- Do not hide cracked eggs. Refrigerate decorated eggs and eat within three to four days.

STARTING A COMPOST PILE

Composting is both a practical and easy way to handle yard wastes. It is cheaper than bagging these wastes and paying to have them removed. Leaves, grass clippings, sawdust, wood ashes, fruit and vegetable peelings, egg shells, and coffee grounds are all excellent compost "raw materials". **Do not add** dog droppings, cat litter box wastes, bones, fatty food scraps such as cheese, meats, or cooking oils. These types of wastes will attract pests (rodents, flies), create a greater potential for odors, and they are extremely slow to decompose into compost. A properly con-



structed and maintained compost pile will not create an odor nor attract pests. There are numerous "How To" books in your local library on composting or you can contact the Warren County Health Department for a free brochure on back-yard composting. Do your part to recycle your food scraps and yard wastes. Your flowers and trees will benefit from the addition of compost to the soil and you will be doing your part to reduce the amount of waste going to sanitary landfills. You can reach this office at 513-695-1220, 937-425-1220, 513-261-1220 or 513-925-1220.

H1N1 Flu Vaccination Update

The Warren County Combined Health District will hold walk-in clinics for anyone who would like to receive the H1N1 flu vaccine *every* Wednesday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Starting April 10th clinics will also be held every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 9:00 -11:00 a.m. The walk-in clinics will be held at the Warren County Combined Health District 416 S. East St. Lebanon. For more information visit our website at www.co.warren.oh.us/health

TEMPORARY FOOD LICENSES AT AREA FESTIVALS AND FAIRS

Each year there are numerous festivals as well as the County Fair where organizations and individuals will set up temporary food booths. These temporary food operations must be licensed based on the type of food that they are serving and the type of organization that is operating the food booth. You must secure a license to operate your temporary food booth from the Warren County Health Department at least 48 hours prior to the event. License



fees are based on profit and non-profit organizations with this year's fees being set at \$30.00 per event for commercial, for-profit organizations and half that or \$15.00 for non-commercial, non-profit organizations. Each license is good for a single event, maximum 5 days in length, except for the County Fair where the license is good for the entire length of the fair. An individual or organizations are allowed to obtain up to 10 temporary licenses for 10 separate events each year. You can obtain

information on the requirements to set up a food booth, the required questionnaire on the booth and event, and the license application at the Warren County Health Department Office, 416 South East Street, Lebanon, Ohio. The questionnaire and application are also on the Health Department Website at <http://www.co.warren.oh.us/health/forms/34a.pdf>. If you have any questions regarding temporary food operations please contact the Environmental Health Division, Warren County Combined Health District at 513-695-1220, 513-925-1220, 513-261-1220, or 937-425-1220.

HOME SALES AND PRIVATE SEWAGE SYSTEMS

Homeowners and Real Estate Agents are reminded that care needs to be taken when marketing homes using private sewage systems to avoid disclosure problems. Private sewage systems are sized under the Ohio Administrative Code based on the severity of the soil and the number of bedrooms in the home. The number of bedrooms in the home is used as a basis for determining occupancy rates and how much water is used and wastewater is generated. When a home is built either the owner or the builder notifies the health department that they are building a 3-bedroom home and the sewage system is then sized accordingly for a 3-bedroom home. Unfortu-

nately, when the builder markets that home he often will list it as a 4-bedroom home (a 4-bedroom home is more valuable than a 3-bedroom home) or a homeowner will list it as a 4 or 5-bedroom home, because it has an optional room in it. This results in the home being fraudulently misrepresented as a larger home than it was actually approved for. The sewage system was never sized for a 4 or 5-bedroom home and it will not take the quantity of effluent being discharged into it. Typically, when it fails is when the new owner finds out that the house size was misrepresented to him and that he now has an undersized sewage system. This is when there usually is a

Civil Law Suit filed against the Seller and the Realtor for fraudulently misrepresenting the home during the sale. Prospective Buyers, Homeowners and Real Estate Agents are urged to contact the Environmental Health Division, Warren County Combined Health District whenever they are planning on buying or selling a home on a private sewage system to verify the size of the sewage system relative to how many bedrooms there are in the home to avoid possible legal difficulties later. We can be reached by phone at 513-695-1220, 513-261-1220, 513-925-1220 or 937-425-1220.

PLANTING ON OR NEAR MY SEWAGE SYSTEM

While it is always best to plant nothing but grass over your leaching tile field it is not always convenient. Several questions are posed each year to our office regarding planting over the leaching field. One common question is: *What about planting trees in my leaching field...will the tree roots cause a problem?* The answer here depends on what materials were used in the construction of the leaching tile field. If plastic pipe and washed gravel or gravel-less pipe was used in constructing the field, then tree roots are not likely to cause a problem. Even in this scenario, we recommend

that only small ornamental, fruit, or evergreen trees be used. If the tile field was constructed with the old clay tile, butted up against each other, then the tree roots will likely infiltrate and clog the leaching field. The other most common questions is: *Can I plant a garden over my leaching tile field?* The answer here is that yes, most vegetable plants will do well over a leaching tile field with no adverse health effects. You do not want to plant



any "root-type" vegetables such as potatoes, carrots, onions, etc. as the vegetable might come into contact with sewage and human pathogens. Vegetables such as Tomatoes, Beans, and Peppers do not represent any kind of a potential problem. If you have further questions regarding your private sewage system you are urged to contact the Environmental Health Division, Warren County Combined Health District at 513-695-1220 or 937-425-1220.