

## **Environmental Health Monthly Report for April 2016**

### **Submitted by Stephanie Zmuda, RS**

#### Food Safety

Galion City Health Department sponsored a Level 1 food safety certification course on April 4. Fifteen students from five licensed facilities in Galion earned their certifications.

Jason Ahrens of Ohio Department of Agriculture conducted a Retail Food Program survey April 18-20. Survey results are due within 45 days of the completion of the survey.

There has been a great deal of controversy surrounding the food survey methodology used by both the Departments of Agriculture and Health. Surveys include both administrative and field aspects of the program. Successful performance during the field review requires identification of at least 80% of *all* violations in a facility; unsuccessful performance has led to a department being put on provisional status. Ohio Environmental Health Association has worked for over a year to facilitate changes to the methodology so that emphasis is placed on critical violations and items that carry the greatest risk of foodborne illness. HB 551 was introduced earlier this month by Representative Hill to make such changes to the methodology. The Association of Ohio Health Commissioners just voted unanimously to support the bill, which is an exciting development.

#### Public Health Nuisances

Nine new nuisance complaints were reported in April: 1 animal, 1 insect/rodent, and 7 solid waste. One ongoing solid waste case was finally abated after being heard in Crawford County Municipal Court for a third offense. I have been working closely with the Building/Zoning Office on nuisance abatement to prevent duplication of efforts and to handle cases as effectively and efficiently as possible.

#### Smokefree Workplace

The Smokefree Workplace contract was signed by Ohio Department of Health Director Hodges on February 8, and access to the web application was finally granted on March 15, which allows us to do work in the program. When we regained designation for the program there were open cases in Galion that needed attention. Two cases involving VFW Post #4329 have been referred to the Attorney General's Office for collection of \$500 and \$5,000 fines for cases that were opened in 2008. Open cases involving Club 922, TNT Bar, and VFW Post #4329 were investigated in April and violations were found. All will result in a letter of warning.

Respectfully submitted,

*Stephanie Zmuda, RS*