

# ExtraOrdinary Days in the Ring

Dee Jepsen, Christine Mason, Laura Akgerman,  
Rachel Jarman and Randy Joseph



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

# ExtraOrdinary Days in the Ring

During the summer of '24, Ohio AgrAbility staff travelled the state visiting the Ohio State Fair and 24 county fairs to attend *ExtraOrdinary Days* shows.

These non-competitive shows are inclusive livestock classes where 4-H or FFA mentors are paired with individuals with disabilities to show animals at the Fair.

# Agenda

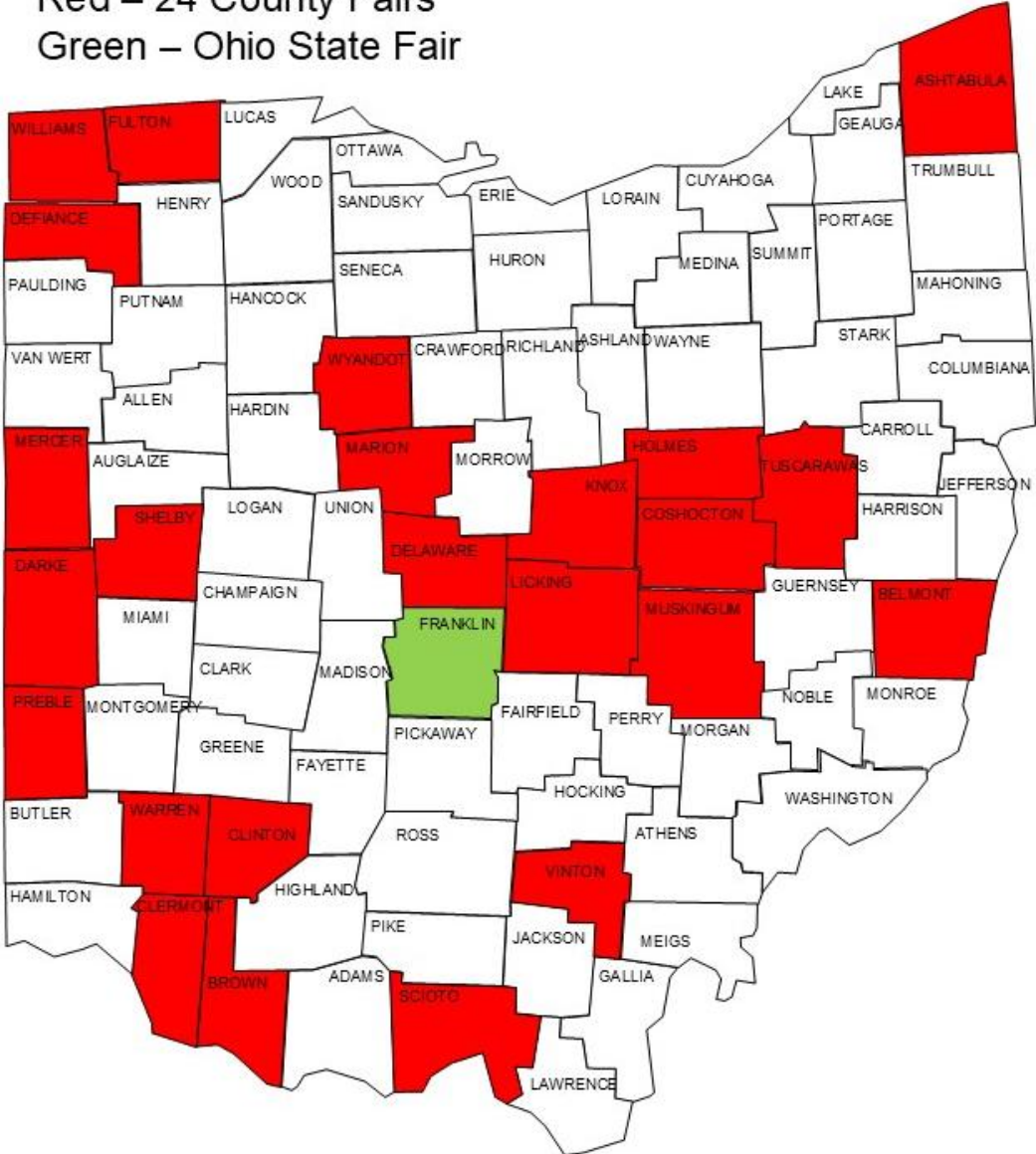
- ExtraOrdinary Days shows and state map
- Show logistics
- Supporting and engaging with show organizers
- Outreach and collaborative opportunities
- Successes and learning opportunities
- Best practices resources

# Glossary

- **ExtraOrdinary Days** – name used for all the different shows (by Ohio AgrAbility staff)
- **Exhibitor** – individual with a disability who shows the animal (who does not show 4-H livestock)
- **Mentor** – 4-H member who works with the Exhibitors and teaches them how to show the animal

2024  
fair  
map

Red – 24 County Fairs  
Green – Ohio State Fair



# Gathering information about the shows

- Qualtrics survey sent to 4-H listserve
- Facebook posts asking for information about shows
- Internet searches
- Contacted show organizers

# Contacting show organizers

- Enthusiastic about Ohio AgrAbility attending the shows
- Verified show information
  - Date, time, location on fairgrounds, parking
  - Number of participants
  - Types of animals
  - Any other pertinent details

# Logistics and funding

- Spreadsheet with dates, time, location....
- Calendar of events/invites
- Laura (OSU) travel primarily sponsored by OSU CFAES  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion office
  - Ohio AgrAbility shared the cost for overnight travel
- Ohio AgrAbility Development fund paid for medals for exhibitors

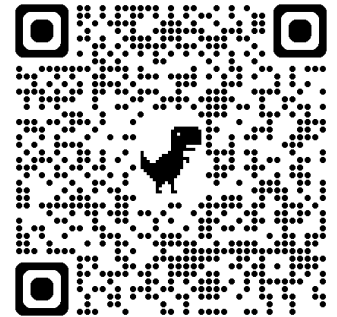


# Networking & marketing opportunities

- 4-H Educators
- County Board of Developmental Disabilities leaders and staff
- Exhibitors and their families
- Mentors and their families
- Local press and advocacy organizations

# Outreach opportunities

- Shared Ohio AgrAbility information with the audience
  - Left brochures at some shows
- Farmers attended one show and spoke about their experiences with Ohio AgrAbility
- Interviews with Ohio Public Radio, local press
  - Radio news story and news article
  - <https://www.wosu.org/2024-10-03/ag-for-all-abilities-how-ohio-county-fairs-are-becoming-more-inclusive>



# Successes

- Raised visibility and awareness of Ohio AgrAbility across the state – farmers, community members, local press, 4-H Educators, County DD staff and disability advocates
- Meeting the exhibitors and mentors!
- Visited 24 county fairs, and the Ohio State Fair!

# Learning opportunities

- Start gathering information about the shows at the beginning of the year
- Write script about Ohio AgrAbility, for use by staff and show organizers
- Develop materials to leave at the show with information about Ohio AgrAbility, *without making it seem like we sponsored the show*

# Best practices resources

- How-to manual being written by OSU Masters Student/  
4-H Program Assistant, founder of at least 2 county  
shows
  - Marketing, recruitment of exhibitors and mentors
  - Sponsorship
  - Collaborating with the community

# ExtraOrdinary Days 2025

- Talked about ExtraOrdinary shows to Senior Fair Board members at the annual conference
- Planning fair attendance schedule now
- Adding new county fairs to the schedule
- Colleague is planning a show for Lorain county

# Questions?

For more information:  
[ohioagrability.osu.edu/resources](http://ohioagrability.osu.edu/resources)

Or email Laura Akgerman, [Akgerman.4@osu.edu](mailto:Akgerman.4@osu.edu)

Ohio AgrAbility website

