



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

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Hamilton County Public Health Food Protection Program Recognized as the Best in the United States and Canada

HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO – College football has the Heisman Trophy. The National Hockey League awards the Stanley Cup. And of course, those annual matchups like the World Series and Super Bowl crown champions in their respective sports. In the world of environmental health, the Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award recognizes unsurpassed achievement in providing outstanding food protection services to communities and recognizes Hamilton County Public Health as its 2013 winner.

The Crumbine Award, sponsored by the Conference for Food Protection, is a prestigious international award given annually to local environmental health jurisdictions that demonstrate excellence and continual improvement in a comprehensive food protection program. The purpose of the award is to encourage improvement and stimulate public interest in food service sanitation. The award is named in honor of Dr. Samuel J. Crumbine (1862 – 1954, and an 1888 graduate of the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery), a sanitarian-physician and public health pioneer who was renowned for his innovative methods of improving public health protection.

NEWS

Since 1955, the Award has been presented annually to one local governmental health agency that has demonstrated unsurpassed achievement in providing outstanding food protection services to its community.

“This is the preeminent award in food protection, so naturally we’re thrilled,” says Hamilton County Health Commissioner Tim Ingram. “We have worked extremely hard to develop a program that not only protects the citizens of Hamilton County, but also works closely with our partners in the food service industry with an emphasis on *education over enforcement*. The award is particularly exciting in that this is the 50th anniversary of the last time Hamilton County Public Health received the award,” Ingram adds.

Criteria for an award-winning program include:

- Sustained excellence as documented by specific outcomes and achievements and evidenced by continual improvements in the components of a comprehensive program;
- Demonstrated improvements in planning, managing and evaluating a comprehensive program;
- Innovative and effective use of program methods and problem solving to identify and reduce risk factors that are known to cause foodborne illness; and
- Providing targeted outreach, forming partnerships and participating in forums that foster communication and information exchange among regulators, industry and consumer representatives.

“We have implemented several innovative programs over the years, such as our *Clean Kitchen Award* that recognizes our partners who really grasp the concept of food safety in their facilities,” Ingram continues. “We also provide our inspection reports for the public on our Website. These two program components have become very popular with our facilities and the public. When you eat at one of our award winning facilities, you can be sure they take their responsibility seriously.

NEWS

“We’re particularly proud that we’ve been able to continually advance our food program while holding the line on costs,” Ingram continues. “We are one of the lowest-cost food licensing agencies in Ohio, which provides significant benefits to our partners while most importantly, maintaining no increase in foodborne illness to the consuming public in our jurisdictions.”

“But perhaps most satisfying,” Ingram concludes, “is the ability to say: *We’re Number One!*”

Hamilton County Public Health works to assure the 460,000 citizens living outside the cities of Cincinnati, Norwood, Sharonville and Springdale are safe from disease, injury and contamination.

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