



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

Ohio Investigative Unit • Robert W. Booker Jr., Executive Director
www.oiu.ohio.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Julie Hinds, Public Information Officer
(614) 752-2401

July 6, 2011

OIU OFFICIALS ENCOURAGING VISITORS TO FOLLOW ALCOHOL LAWS AT COUNTRY CONCERT AND JAMBOREE IN THE HILLS

(Columbus) – Over the next few weeks, many music fans will be heading to one of Ohio's two country music festivals. Each year, Country Concert and Jamboree in the Hills draw large crowds from Ohio and neighboring states. For some individuals, these concert festivals usually involve drinking alcohol throughout the day.

"We want a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone attending these music festivals," said Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) Executive Director Robert Booker. "We know alcoholic beverages will be consumed, we just ask that if you are legally not permitted to drink alcohol, don't. Also, if a friend has had too much to drink, please do not allow that person to consume any additional alcoholic beverages."

Employees at nearby liquor permit establishments should also watch for underage individuals attempting to purchase beer – often with a false identification. Clerks should also look out for individuals 21 and older purchasing alcohol for a person who is not yet 21. In Ohio, it is illegal to share in the cost of alcoholic beverages with a minor, or attempt to do so – even if the sale is refused.

Anyone convicted of attempting to purchase alcohol as a minor, sharing in the cost, using false identification or furnishing alcohol to a minor may face a maximum sentence of six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

If convicted of a minor misdemeanor for public intoxication, individuals may be fined \$100. If convicted of a fourth degree misdemeanor for public intoxication, the penalty may be 30 days in jail and/or \$250.

OIU agents are primarily looking for alcohol violations, and are plain-clothed, fully-sworn peace officers. Each agent carries a badge and proper OIU identification. If an individual is criminally charged with a violation, they may be issued a summons-in-lieu of arrest or transported to jail.

Country Concert in Ft. Loramie runs from July 7 – 9 while Jamboree in the Hills in Belmont is held July 14 – 17.

Weekly activity reports, including any arrests at the music festivals can be viewed by logging onto http://www.investigativeunit.ohio.gov/weekly_activity.stm. The weekly reports are updated each Monday. Also, arrest information will be updated on Twitter following the event. Please follow OIU on Twitter by logging onto http://twitter.com/Ohio_OIU.

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The Ohio Investigative Unit is a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Agents are undercover sworn peace officers who enforce the state's liquor and tobacco laws, as well as food stamp fraud. Individuals who believe food stamp fraud is being committed are encouraged to contact OIU toll-free at 1-877-4MINORS. All complaints will remain anonymous.