

As of March 1, 2010 the Ohio Department of Health requires all new food service operations (FSO) or retail food establishments (RFE) to successfully complete a **Certification in Food Protection Program**. The objective of the certification is to educate and train food personnel on effective food safety practices for preventing foodborne illness. There are two level choices in the certification in food protection training:

### **Level One Training**

This new level of training - Level One Certification - is a minimum mandated training for the person in charge per shift of all FSO's and RFE's in the following instances:

1. When a new FSO/RFE is licensed after March 1, 2010 unless the individual has already successfully completed an equivalent or more comprehensive certification in food protection course.
2. When a FSO/RFE has been implicated in a foodborne disease outbreak.
3. When the Williams County Health Department has documented a failure to maintain sanitary conditions as per the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code.

Anyone interested in completing the Level One ServSafe Starters course can do so by going on-line to the following website and following the prompts. The cost of the course is \$15.00. At the end of the training (takes about 2 hours) you will be able to take an exam and print off a certificate that shows you have successfully completed the course. Click on the website link below to get started:

<http://www.servsafe.com/catalog/ProductList.aspx?MS=SST&SCID=52&RCID=21>

### **Level Two Training**

Level two training is a much more comprehensive training program for managers. There are over 350 training bases for this certification throughout Ohio. For more information concerning Level Two Training, please contact the Environmental Division at 419-485-3141