

Clover Creations

Huron County 4-H Newsletter

January – April 2026

Dear 4-H Families,

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Happy New Year, 4-H Families!

As we step into 2026, we're excited to kick off another year of learning, leadership, and fun in 4-H. A new year brings new opportunities to set goals, explore projects, and connect with fellow members. Whether you're returning to 4-H or joining us for the first time, we're thrilled to have you as part of our community.

This edition of the newsletter is a special **January–April issue**. There will not be another newsletter until May, as I will be on leave this spring. In an effort to make sure you have everything you need while I'm away, this larger edition includes important updates, key deadlines, and upcoming events to help you plan for a successful start to the year. From enrollment information to training dates, we've got everything you need to stay on track.

Thank you for your dedication to 4-H and for making a difference in your community. Let's make 2026 a year to remember!

Sincerely,

Haley Palmer
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development

January

6	Annual Volunteer Training, 9:30-11:30 p.m.
7	Camp Counselor Training, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
8	Junior Fair Board, 6:00 p.m.
8	Senior Fair Board, fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m.
10	Annual Volunteer Training, 9:30-11:30 p.m.
10	New Volunteer Orientation, 11:30 a.m.
13	CARTEENS, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
15	State Achievement Awards Due
15	Market Beef Bred, Born & Raised Forms Due
15	State Fair Jr. Market Beef DNA Packets Due
15	New Volunteer Process Completion Deadline
16-17	OFMA Junior Fair Conference
19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Office Closed
20	Camp Counselor Training, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
22	Annual Volunteer Training, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
28	Horse Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
30	ENROLLMENT PACKETS READY
31	Club Financial Summary's Due
31	Club Tax Exempt Forms Due

February

4	Annual Volunteer Training, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
5	Junior Fair Board, 6:00 p.m.
5	Senior Fair Board, fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m.
10	CARTEENS, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
12	Camp Counselor Training, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
15	Fingerprint Rescreening Deadline
15	Ohio 4-H Scholarship Deadline
16	President's Day, Building Closed
20	Ohio 4-H Conference Registration Due
28-1	Making Extreme Counselors Workshop

Failure to read and understand provided information is not an acceptable reason for unmet deadlines or requirements. Please ask clarifying questions.



CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

March

- 5 Junior Fair Board, 6:00 p.m.
- 5 Senior Fair Board, fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Camp Counselor Training, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 10 CARTEENS, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 16 Leader's Banquet, Expo Building, 6:00 p.m.
- 19-22 Ohio Beef Expo, OH Expo Center, Columbus
- 21 Ohio 4-H Conference
- 25 Horse Council, 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Camp Counselor Training, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 31-3 Spring Dairy Expo, OH Expo Center, Columbus

April

- 31-3 Spring Dairy Expo, OH Expo Center, Columbus
- 1 ACROSS COUNTY LINES REQUEST DEADLINE
- 1 Kevin Zimmerman Memorial 4-H Scholarship Due
- 1 Dog Possession Deadline
- 1 Rabbit Clinic, Secretary's Office, 7:00 p.m.
- 2 Junior Fair Board, 6:00 p.m.
- 2 Senior Fair Board, fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m.
- 3 State Dairy Judging at Spring Dairy Expo
- 7 4-H Committee, 5:30 p.m.
- 9-12 Ohio Equine Affaire, OH Expo Center, Columbus
- 13 Officers Training, Norwalk Middle School, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 CARTEENS, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 15 Self Determined Project Plan Deadline
- 15 Honor Club 4-H Online Enrollment Deadline
- 15 Gary W. Bauer Memorial 4-H Scholarship Deadline
- 16 QA Test Out, Willard High School, 6:00 p.m.
- 16 Quality Assurance, Willard High School, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Dairy Palooza, Wayne County Fairgrounds
- 20 Camp Counselors, Camp Conger, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 20 Dairy and Rec Goat Clinic, "General Info", Sec Office, 6-8:00 p.m.
- 21 Floriculture Clinic, NF Methodist Church, 6:30 p.m.
- 26 QA Test Out, First Baptist Church Bellevue, 5:00 p.m.
- 26 Quality Assurance, First Baptist Church Bellevue, 6:00 p.m.
- 29 Rabbit Clinic, Secretary's Office, 7:00 p.m.

Volunteer & Club Reminders:

Approval Process for New 4-H Volunteers

All new 4-H volunteers must complete the approval process before beginning their volunteer service. 4-H volunteers include club advisors, Junior Fair superintendents and others who might have "care, custody or control" of 4-H members.

Huron County 4-H will accept new volunteers from November 1, 2025 – January 15, 2026. **New volunteers must have everything completed by January 15.** After January 15, 2026, the perspective volunteer will have to wait until November 1, 2026, to apply and go through the process. This process includes

1. New Volunteer Application
2. Review References on Application
3. Interview with 4-H Educator
4. Fingerprint Background Check
5. Attend New Volunteer Training
6. Attend Annual Volunteer Training
7. Receiving denial or approval letter

To start the new volunteer process please fill out a new volunteer application:

<https://go.osu.edu/huroncountynewvolunteerapplication>

Annual Volunteer Training Requirements



Returning Volunteers must complete one of the below 2 hour sessions of annual training. These two hours include a 30 minute competency. Volunteers may choose the competency that fits their volunteer needs. Cloverbud volunteer training is offered as a competency. Training also includes 30 minutes of

Youth Activity and Program Policy and 1 hour of county updates.

New Volunteer Applicants must complete one of the 2 hour sessions of annual training plus 1 hour of New Volunteer Orientation.

Tuesday, January 6th 9:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Positive Youth Development, Youth Activity and Program Policy Training, and County Updates.

Huron County Administration Building, Basement Meeting Room



Saturday, January 10th 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Positive Youth Development or Cloverbuds (offered as a breakout room during the competency portion), Youth Activity and Program Policy Training, and County Updates.

Huron County Administration Building, Basement Meeting Room

New Volunteer Orientation 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Huron County Administration Building, Basement Meeting Room

Thursday, January 22nd 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Interpersonal Characteristics, Youth Activity and Program Policy Training, and County Updates.

Huron County Administration Building, Basement Meeting Room

Wednesday, February 4th 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Interpersonal Characteristics, Youth Activity and Program Policy Training, and County Updates

Huron County Administration Building, Basement Meeting Room

All Volunteer Training Must be completed, or you will be removed as a Huron County 4-H Volunteer for the 2026 year and will have to reapply and get a new background check to return.

New Cloverbud Advisors Need Special Training



All new Cloverbud advisors must attend a training program. The program is designed to prepare advisors to work with kindergarten through 2nd grade members using the

Cloverbud curriculum or similar materials in a non-competitive, activity-based environment.

PLEASE NOTE: New 4-H advisors planning to work with Cloverbuds must complete the new volunteer approval process as well as participate in a Cloverbud advisors training program. Current advisors planning to switch to Cloverbuds must attend a Cloverbud training program, but do not need to repeat the approval process.

Cloverbud advisor training programs are held as a break out session during the competency portion of the annual volunteer training (January 10th).

Volunteer Rescreening Cost to be Paid by OSU



Part of OSU Youth Activities and Programs Policy, requires all 4-H volunteers to be rescreened (BCI fingerprint background check) every four years. All current volunteers should have been fingerprinted for 2022, 2023, 2024 or 2025. Those who need to be fingerprinted by February 15, 2026, for the 2026 4-H year must turn in their receipt to be reimbursed.

New 4-H volunteers must have a BCI fingerprint background check as part of the volunteer screening process. They may have their fingerprints taken at any time during the selection process. New volunteers are also eligible for reimbursement. A simple reimbursement form must be signed and turned in with the receipt. New Volunteers have until January 15.

The BCI background check is mandatory. No one may remain a 4-H volunteer who does not complete a required background check. Again, you must notify the Extension Office when you complete your BCI.

Start (re)Enrolling on 4-H Online!

All 4-H volunteers and 4-H members must (re)enroll in 4-H Online. You may start to enroll at <http://v2.4honline.com>.

The sooner, the better. Returning members and volunteers, log in with your family email. If you forget your log in information, please call the extension office. **DO NOT CREATE A NEW PROFILE**, as this messes up our system. New volunteers and members will need to create a new profile.

Ohio 4-H Project Guide



Ohio 4-H Project Guides are being mailed in January to all returning 4-H Family. New families can get their project guides when the advisor's pick up their enrollment packet. In the meantime, the electronic project guide can be accessed here: <https://ohio4h.org/projectguide>

Download the Huron County 4-H App!

To stay up to date on Huron County 4-H, consider downloading the Huron County 4-H App! The app features a 4-H Calendar, Newsletters, Push Notifications for reminders, and more! Follow the link below to download on the App Store or Google Play:

https://grandstandsites.com/gs/index.php?c=Huron_County_4-H



Yearly Club Financial Summary & Tax Exempt Forms

Advisors have received an email with instructions and a Yearly Financial Summary form in the mail. This form details beginning (January 1, 2025) and ending (December 31, 2025) balances, as well as income and expenses of the club for 2025. Income and expenses may be grouped into categories, like “dues”, “book fees”, “cheese sale”, etc. Advisors also received a copy of the Club Tax Exempt Form to fill out. Both items are Due January 31. Failure to return the items on time will result in the club being turned off on 4-H Online, and disbanded.

Clubs trying for Honor Club who turned in their books may pick them up at the Extension Office.

Note to Clubs that Own Club Equipment

If your 4-H club owns equipment, you need to fill out the Club Equipment Inventory form. Club equipment does not include your flag set and gavel, but almost anything else your club owns. Submit the form with your club’s yearly financial summary report. The equipment inventory establishes a record of what the club owns. This could be invaluable in a dispute over who actually owns club equipment. All advisors should sign the form. Link to access form:

<https://huron.osu.edu/sites/huron/files/imce/EquipmentInventory.pdf>

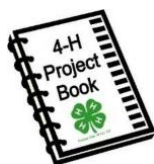
Club Enrollment Procedure for 2026

All 4-H clubs must complete the annual club enrollment process. Items that will be required for 2026:

- Financial Summary Report for 2025– Jan 31
- Tax Exempt Form – Jan 31
- Equipment Inventory – Jan 31
- Club Charter Checklist – May 1
- Planned Program of Work – May 1

Failure to submit the required documents will result in the 4-H Club being turned off on 4-H Online. Club 990 E-postcards will be filed by the Extension Office to meet the IRS annual reporting requirement.

Project Books available in Extension Office



4-H Project books are available for purchase at the extension office. However, due to price increases, we are not able to keep as many in stock as in previous years. We highly encourage books be bought through clubs’ bulk orders.

4-H Leader’s Recognition Banquet on March 16

The Huron County 4-H Leader’s Recognition Banquet will be held on Monday, March 16 at 6:00 p.m. The 4-H Committee sponsors the banquet each year in recognition of the efforts of our 4-H advisors, Junior Fair Superintendents, and other special friends of 4-H.

Volunteers completing 1, 5, 10, 15, etc. years of service receive special recognition. The youth members of the 4-H Committee have the privilege of presenting the program.

All 4-H advisors and other volunteers are invited as guests of the 4-H Committee. Spouses and other guests must pay the meal fee. An invitation will be sent in early February. Mark the date and plan to attend. This is an enjoyable evening, don’t miss it!

4-H Project Central is a Tool for 4-H Members

Check out Project Central: projectcentral.ohio4h.org.

Project Central allows one to search for projects and resources by title, skill level or topic area. It also has a Project Survey section for members and volunteers to rate projects.

Encourage members and parents to use this tool to evaluate last year’s projects and to help them decide in which projects to enroll in 2026.

Shop 4-H Affiliate Program to Benefit Ohio 4-H



National 4-H Council has initiated a Shop 4-H Affiliate Program. The Ohio 4-H Foundation will receive a 5% commission when customers make a purchase within 30 days of using the Ohio referral link. If making a purchase through Shop 4-H (formerly the 4-H Mall), please log in through www.ohio4h.org or www.huron.osu.edu.

Club Secretary & Treasurer Book Audits



All 4-H clubs are typically “audited” at least every four years by a committee created by the Extension Office. The audit looks at the secretary’s and treasurer’s books to confirm that the club is following proper procedures.

The following items should be checked yearly by the club in a self-audit:

- An accurate treasurer’s report is given at every meeting and recorded in the secretary’s minutes.
- All club expenditures are approved in the minutes with a motion, second and 2/3 passing vote prior to the money being spent.




- All fund raisers are approved by the club and recorded in the minutes with a motion, second and passing vote prior to beginning the project.
- A summary of all fund raisers is recorded in the minutes at the conclusion of the activity.
- The treasurer's book and secretary's minutes have matching information.

Ohio 4-H Membership & Age Requirements

Ohio 4-H membership is based on a child's age AND grade as of January 1 of the current calendar year. Eligibility for Cloverbud participation begins when a child is age 5 and enrolled in kindergarten. Eligibility for participation in 4-H projects and competitive events begins when a child is age 8 and third grade. Any youth age 9 or above is eligible for project membership, regardless of grade level. Membership requires enrollment in an authorized 4-H club under the direction of an approved adult volunteer. A youth's 4-H eligibility ends December 31 the year they turn 19. Joining 4-H is a privilege and a responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University. There is no flexibility in these state rules.

Please note that in Huron County, FFA members who are still in high school are allowed to exhibit at the fair through FFA, even if they were 19 on January 1.

Project Book "Loanables" for 2026



Packets of all 4-H project books for clubs to use at meetings when members are deciding in which projects to enroll. Call the Extension Office to reserve the Loanables. The books are in packets based on project areas. Clubs may borrow all or some of the packets. Having the actual project books to look at, along with a Fair Requirements Letter helps members and parents make more informed project choices and increases the chance of a successful project experience.

We have several new projects for 2026!:

- 101 *How the Herd Multiplies*
- 495 *Living on Your Own*
- 594 *Knitting It Together*
- 616 *Water Matters*
- 668 *Field Crops and Forages*

Replaced:

- 446 *Empowering Personal Finance (448 Teens on the Road to Financial Success)*
- 527 *Paper Circuits (527 Magic of Electricity: Electric 1)*
- 528 *Smart Circuits (528 Investigating Electricity: Electric 2)*

Discontinued Projects:

- 351 *Staying Healthy*
- 372 *Diversity: The Source of Our Strength*
- 518 *Wheels in Motion: Bicycle 2*

Enrollment Packets Ready on January 30

Advisors may begin picking up club enrollment packets on Friday, January 30. Clubs planning to reorganize prior to that date may pick up the 2026 Project Guide to 4-H to give to new members at any time. Returning members will receive their project guide directly mailed to them from Ohio 4-H.

The packet will include a content list. Please read through the list and distribute the materials in the packet as described. *It is especially important that members have access to requirements letters in all project areas they are considering!*

Club enrollment deadlines are as follows:

- April 15 – Honor Club Enrollment Deadline. Clubs trying for Honor Club status in 2026 must have the majority of their enrollments turned in by April 15.
- May 1 – Final Enrollment Deadline. This is the final date to enroll members or change projects. No exceptions.



4-H Membership Across County Lines Policy

Youth are expected to affiliate with the 4-H program in their county of residence. OSU Extension programs are typically supported at the local level by taxes, so it makes good sense that a family participates in the county 4-H program that is supported with taxes where they reside. However, there are circumstances in which membership in a county other than where one lives is a practical and reasonable request. For information:

<https://huron.osu.edu/sites/huron/files/imce/Across%20County%20Lines%209.2025-fillable.pdf>

Huron County 4-H Club & Member Rules

1. All 4-H members (Cloverbud and regular) must meet the state 4-H membership grade & age rules.
2. Every 4-H club must have at least 5 members from at least 3 different families.
3. Every club must have two adult volunteer advisors who has completed the selection process. Clubs which accept Cloverbuds must have an approved advisor who has completed Cloverbud advisor training.



4. Each club must have a checking account with two unrelated signers.
5. All 4-H members must enroll in at least one project.
6. There is a \$12.00 per project enrollment fee. The enrollment fee includes one project book, up to \$12.00 in value. Members in the second year of a two-year project may use the same book but must pay \$12.00 to enroll in the project again this year.
7. Each club will conduct at least 8 meetings. Members must attend at least 6 meetings for completion and fair eligibility.
8. Each club should conduct a minimum of one community service project.
9. Every member, Cloverbuds included, should give a demonstration based on their club work.
10. An individual may be enrolled in both 4-H and FFA, but must take different livestock, crops, and floriculture projects in each organization. Market animals and breeding animals of the same species count as different projects. Feeder calves and market beef count as the same project because they are both market cattle. Market beef cattle and dairy beef cattle also count as the same project.
11. All clubs must complete a Yearly Financial Summary by January 31 and annual Charter Checklist (included in club enrollment packets). Clubs must also have an EIN and have adopted the state constitution template. 990e-postcards are due to IRS by May 15th, however they will be filed in the clubs' behalf, so this requirement will be met for all clubs.

- All expenditures of club funds must be approved by a 2/3 vote. This must be a countable vote and the actual count must be recorded in the minutes.
- A summary report from all club fundraisers must be included in the minutes.
- All club business, including fundraisers and community service, needs to be in the minutes with a motion, second and passing vote.
- Use the Record of Club Finances in the Treasurer's Handbook as a running total of club finances throughout the year. Totaling the income and expense columns at the end of the year provides a double check for the club's yearly financial summary.
- Each club needs to conduct an internal audit of treasury records before the new officers take over. A report from the Audit Committee should be included in the minutes of the first meeting.

Ohio 4-H Volunteer Handbook Available Online

The Ohio 4-H Volunteer Handbook is online at www.go.osu.edu/4-Hvolunteerhandbook. Please note that the address is case sensitive and requires a capital "H". The book may be viewed online (with live links) or printed. It contains a wealth of information for 4-H volunteers. Click on the picture of the handbook to view the content.



Videos to Help Volunteers Teach in the Club

4-H members should be running club meetings, not advisors. A set of videos is available for advisors to use in preparing members for Conducting a Meeting (parliamentary procedure), Giving Demonstrations, and Participating in a Project Interview. Each video contains a "poor" and "good example." Discussion guides are also included. The videos were made by real 4-H members, including Kris Simpson (4-H advisor and Macie Wilhelm (former 4-H member and Ohio 4-H Ambassador) in the project interviewing video. All resources are posted online and available at <http://go.osu.edu/4HVideosforclubs>.

Secretary and Treasurer Report Reminders

- An advisor should be designated to work with the secretary and/or treasurer throughout the year.
- There needs to be a treasurer's report included in the minutes for every meeting. It should follow this format:
 - Beginning Balance (previous ending balance)
 - Income (include source/amount/purpose)
 - Expenses (include vendor/amount/purpose)
 - Ending Balance
- It should be possible to recreate the treasurer's records from the secretary's minutes.

Ohio 4-H Participant Medical Release Form

This form includes emergency contacts, medical permission, and accommodation details, making it a valuable tool for settings where a full health form is not required (e.g., when no medication distribution is involved).

The form is available on the Ohio 4-H website under the "General Policies and Procedures" heading. Club leaders are encouraged to review and implement this resource to ensure youth safety and preparedness.

Set a Club Goal to be an Honor Club in 2026

The Honor Club program recognizes clubs that have a well-rounded, effective club program. Points are awarded based on club performance in a variety of areas. Most clubs are already doing the requirements on the Honor Club Score Sheet. Discuss with your club areas of strength and weakness based on the score sheet. There are three different levels and prize amounts for Honor Club:

- Gold: 150 points, \$100
- Silver: 125– 149 points \$75
- Bronze: 100– 124 points, \$50

Target areas to improve and set a club goal to become an Honor Club in 2026!



The majority of your club must be enrolled on 4HOnline by April 15 for Honor Club points. You may still add or drop members and add or drop projects prior to May 1 with no penalty.

4-H Committee Membership

The Huron County 4-H Committee is our county 4-H advisory group. They support and help improve our county program. Membership is comprised of eight 4-H advisors and four youth representatives.

Four advisors are elected each year at the Leader's Banquet for two-year staggered terms. Members elected last year include Cady VerBurg, Rachel Rathburn, Robyn Rogers, and Lori Gates. Advisors whose terms are ending this year are Amy Palm, Megan Hazelwood, Meghan Chaffee, and Cara Major. ALL advisors are welcome and encouraged to run for 4-H Committee.

Four older youth are selected each year from applications as 4-H Committee members. The youth representatives for 2026 are Daniel Green, Chloe Hazelwood, Julia VerBurg, and Lilly Stein.

Membership Fee Mandatory in 2026

These funds are earmarked strictly for 4-H program use and really help to supplement our tight budget. Most of the money goes to program supplies.

In 2026 we will continue with the \$5.00 per member mandatory membership fee.

What the money will go towards –

- American Income Life Accident Insurance coverage for all 4-H members & clubs
- App Membership Fee
- Program Supplies & Materials
- Miscellaneous 4-H Expenses

The Do's and Don'ts of Fund Raising

- 4-H clubs cannot hold raffles, bingo games or games of chance.
- Keep fund raising to a minimum.
- Don't hold a fund raiser just for the sake of raising money. Have plans for what the club will do with the money raised.
- Those who raise the money should benefit from the money. Follow through with plans every year.
- A receipt should be written to the member/family EVERY time money is turned in. Copies of the receipts should be attached to the deposit slip when the money is deposited in the club account.
- Checks should be written to the club.
- Clubs CANNOT use money they raise to support any political cause.

- Clubs CANNOT purchase raffle, bingo, or games of chance tickets.
- Clubs CANNOT give money directly to members.
 - Cannot give each member \$20 to spend at the fair but can vote to use club money for a pizza party at the fair for everyone.
 - The club can vote to purchase club shirts for all club members, but if a member declines the shirt, they cannot be given the value of the shirt in cash.

Nondiscrimination Policies in 4-H

National Policy Prohibits Discrimination: Since 4-H is a federally assisted program, all 4-H programs, activities, events, and competitions must be nondiscriminatory according to federal law.

OSU Extension Nondiscrimination Policy: Huron County Extension embraces human diversity and is committed to ensuring that all research and related educational programs are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. This statement is in accordance with United States Civil Rights Laws and the USDA.

Proper Record Keeping for 4-H Clubs

Following are some reminders of protocol for 4-H clubs:

1. It is important that there are official minutes for EVERY meeting. Advisors should keep back-up records for the secretary. If the secretary is absent, another member should fill in.
2. The secretary's report should be read, corrected (if needed) and approved at the next meeting.
3. A treasurer's report should be given at every meeting and recorded in the secretary's minutes.
4. The treasurer's report should follow this format:
 - a. Beginning Balance (ending balance from previous meeting)
 - b. Income since the last report (dues or book fees turned in at the last meeting, fund raising since the last meeting, etc.)
 - c. Expenses (approved or paid since the last meeting)
 - d. Ending Balance (Beginning Balance + Income – Expenses = Ending Balance)
 - e. The report should detail the income and expenses.
 - f. It should be possible to reconstruct the treasurer's records from the secretary's minutes.
5. All decisions made by the club require a motion, second and passing vote recorded in the minutes.
6. If the motion involves spending club money, it must be approved by a 2/3 majority of members at the meeting. The vote must be a countable vote and the actual count must be recorded in the minutes.



- The club needs a Financial Review Committee to review the club treasury records before the new treasurer takes over. The committee should be two members and two advisors from at least two different families. Neither the treasurer nor any account signatories should be on the committee. The committee fills out the Yearly Audit Certificate at the back of last year's treasurer's book. They then report their findings at the next club meeting. Make sure the secretary records the report in the minutes.
- The treasurer should keep a running total of the treasury in the Record of Club Finances sheets, as well as filling out a Treasurer's Report page for each meeting.

Self-Determined Project Rules

Any project area not available in the county may be taken as a self-determined project. A Project Plan must be completed and turned in by April 15. Each plan will be reviewed to determine if it constitutes a legitimate learning experience not available through any other 4-H project. Self-determined projects may not be repeated without permission. Self-determined project ideas can be found here: <https://ohio4h.org/selfdetermined>

County Projects Not in the Ohio 4-H Project Guide

Some projects are offered in Huron County but are not in the Family Guide. These county projects are included in our project requirements and project order form:

- #150P – Pigeons
- #801 – Designing Outdoor Living Spaces
- #802 – Furniture & Woodwork Recycling
- #807 – Patched 'N Pieced Pillow (Quilting I)
- #809 – Keepsake Quilt (Quilting II)
- #842 – Sweet Treats
- #843 – Cookies, Cookies, Cookies
- #660 – Corn Production
- #661 – Small Grains Production
- #662 – Soybean Production
- #663 – Forages

Master projects in the Ohio 4-H Project Guide are not offered in Huron County. Neither are #135C – Companion-Pet Goats, #150DM – Market Duck, #150GM – Market Goose, #150H – Helmeted Guinea Fowl, and #750-#758 – Shooting Sports.

Members in Beef, Goat, Poultry, and Dairy Cattle Projects

Members enrolling in Beef, Goat, Poultry and Dairy Cattle projects need to enter all areas in which they plan to exhibit in 4-H Online. Each member needs one project book and pays the \$12.00 enrollment fee, regardless of how many areas within the project they are enrolling. Members must meet the requirements for each area. Reminder that dairy cross feeders are not a project, it is a class at the fair. If wanting



to exhibit dairy cross feeders, members must enroll in a dairy beef feeder project.

Scrapie Identification Requirements

Every sheep and goat exhibited at the fair must have proper scrapie identification. Scrapie ID numbers trace the animal back to where it was born. The breeder should identify animals before they leave their premises. Please remind your members who are purchasing sheep or goats of this requirement. It is much easier to have a breeder identify an animal when it is picked up, rather than having to go back later. Sheep and goats use their scrapie ID as their fair identification.

Livestock Identification Information

The date for livestock ownership is May 15. All feeder calves (beef, dairy, and dairy cross) must be brought to the fairgrounds on May 16 from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Market Hogs, Market Goats, Market Lambs, Dairy and Dogs must be in Fair Entry by May 15th. All other animals will be submitted while creating entries for the fair by June 30th.

Future 4-H Projects

Just a reminder: The Ohio 4-H Curriculum Committee needs input to determine what new projects Ohio 4-H should offer. Please encourage your 4-H volunteers, members, and families to take this short survey—especially at volunteer trainings: Attention 4-H members, families, and volunteers! Ohio 4-H would like to know what project topics you would like to see that are not currently offered. Please take the very short survey at go.osu.edu/oh4hprojects and share your project ideas today.

Cloverbuds:

The 4-H Cloverbud Program and Competition

Do you ever wonder why the 4-H Cloverbud program does not include competitive activities? It is all about being age appropriate and focusing on our overall goal of healthy development by advancing life skills. As a result, Cloverbuds are engaged in activities that are noncompetitive without setting up categories or classes that create inequities. Children of this age have a difficult time understanding winning and losing. Feeling and fact are often merged and especially when they lose, they relate negative feelings to their self-worth. Competition is usually connected to external awards/approval and in these settings, they begin to define themselves extrinsically, which is a weak foundation for their developing self-concepts. Cloverbuds in noncompetitive activities are more likely to develop confidence, creativity and competence than do children in competitive situations. Ohio has a strong Cloverbud program because it is based on the developmental level of the age group.

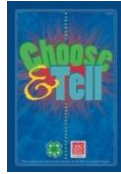


Cloverbud Connections Blog

Looking for new ideas and programming tools for your 4-H Cloverbuds? Check out this blog! You can subscribe to the site and receive an email when new posts are added. The site is searchable by key words and topic to help readers find content. The blog provides a unique blend of education, activities, and fun to build and challenge 4-H Cloverbud Volunteers teaching kindergarten through second grade youth. u.osu.edu/cloverbudconnections/

Nine Cloverbud Activity Kits Available

Nine Cloverbud Activity Kits are available for Cloverbud advisors to borrow. The kits are “Weather Fun”, “Fitness is Fun”, “Our Country”, “Food Fun”, “The Science of Sound”, “Connect to College”, “Choose & Tell Cards”, Clover Cubes, and Cloverbud Bingo games.



- The first five kits have many activities that relate to sections in The Big Book of 4-H Cloverbud Activities. There are enough activities for several meetings.
- “Connect to College” follows a hedgehog to college in a story designed to start our youngest members thinking about the possibility of college in the future.
- The “Choose & Tell Cards” are a colorful deck of 4”x6” cards to introduce Cloverbuds to public speaking and communication skills. There are 49 easy and engaging activities, divided into four difficulty levels. You must assemble some items listed on the cards.
- Clover Cubes are 12 small cardboard cubes with questions on each side, covering various topics. They are designed for small groups of Cloverbuds to roll a cube and answer the question that lands on top.
- Cloverbud Bingo is a variety of picture bingo games. The topics are Safety Signs; Bread & Cereal; Dairy Food; Meat, Beans & Eggs; Fruits; and Vegetables.

Contact the Extension Office to reserve a kit.

Don’t forget that the Cloverbud website contains a plethora of information and activities. Check it out at u.osu.edu/cloverbudconnections

County Opportunities & Info:

Approved Changes for the Jr. Fair in 2026

Below is a list of changes from the Senior Fair Board. More details and explanation will be coming in the requirements letters.

Goat

- No bells on collars during the show
- Short lead, less than 1 foot (no dog leashes)

Beef

- Add rule that states “Beef committee has the discretion to test the champion dairy and dairy cross classes. Consequences is removal of all premiums (sale and class premiums). Percentage must be at least 13% dairy to stay in the cross division. 87% or higher will be considered dairy.”

Dairy

- Add a record book award that is worded the same as the dairy poster contest
- Changing the poster contest to have topics
 - Seniors – Trending issues or new technology in the dairy industry
 - Intermediate – Diseases or deficiencies
 - Junior – Dairy products & health benefits

Swine

- Continue to keep hogs over for open show
- Open up premier exhibitor to any age, can only win premier exhibitor once
- Require each exhibitor have their own 840 tag. Still tag with county fair visual.

Sheep

- Sheep would like to eliminate the novice category for skillathon
- 3 divisions for breeding, papers in family name, bring them to the fair
 - Wool Breeds
 - Purebred meat
 - Crossbred meat

Turkey

- Cara Major added as assistant turkey superintendent

Poultry

- All chickens must be hatched in the same year with the exception of hen and egg.



- Change class Fancy Poultry – 2 entries per class with a max of 6 entries
 - 1A. Bantam Pullet (pen of one)
 - 1B. Bantam Cockerel (pen of one)
 - 1C. Bantam Hen (pen of one)
 - 1D. Bantam Cock (pen of one)
 - 2A. Standard Purebred Pullet (pen of one)
 - 2B. Standard Purebred Cockerel (pen of one)
 - 2C. Standard Purebred Hen (pen of one)
 - 2D. Standard Purebred Cock (pen of one)
- Market Chickens – increase to a 27 lb. limit for total pen weight
- Eric Green added as assistant poultry superintendent

Rabbit

- Skillathon would like to move to before fair Aug 8. Makeup on Monday, August 10, 7-8

Horses

- Remove the Groom and Clean class- It requires too much preparation and volunteer help.

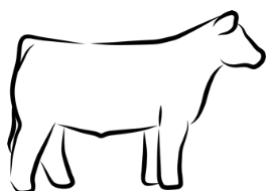
All other departments had no formal changes.

December Market Beef Weigh-in and Tagging

The annual Junior Fair Market Beef Weigh-in and tagging was held on Saturday, December 6 at the fairgrounds.

All market beef which will be shown at the 2026 Huron County Jr. Fair must have been tagged on December 6 or submitted Identification to Fair Entry. Exhibitors with beef steers or heifers that are eligible for the Bred, Born and Raised in Huron County division must turn in a qualification form by January 15.

Market Beef Bred, Born & Raised (BBR) Forms



Market Beef BBR forms were distributed at weigh-in and tagging on December 6. The forms are due in the Extension Office by January 15. The form must be signed by the breeder. Submitting the form by the deadline allows the steer or heifer to be shown in the BBR division at the fair. However, the exhibitor has the option of showing in the commercial division. All forms will be confirmed by the Huron County Cattlemen's Association, who conducts the program. Rules for the Bred, Born & Raised program may be viewed at www.huroncountycattlemen.com.

Market Beef State Fair DNA Kits Due by January 15

All market cattle that might be exhibited in the Ohio State Fair Junior Market Beef show must have an EID tag. DNA sample and information kit must be turned into the State Fair Livestock Office by January 15. Ohio State Fair entries are due by June 21.

Barrow Carcass Applications Due May 1

Hog exhibitors are invited to apply for the 2026 Huron County Junior Fair Barrow Carcass program. The deadline for applications is May 1. You no longer have to have 1 year of experience showing swine to participate! Carcass hogs do not have to be specifically identified until weigh-in at the fair.

4-H Officer's Training on April 13



The annual Officer's Training Conference will be held on Monday, April 13 from 7:00-8:15 p.m. at Norwalk Middle School. All officers will be trained in fulfilling the duties of their office and attend an additional educational activity. If members cannot attend, please see the website for training alternatives.

Video Officer Training Resource

Officer training videos are still available for all officers on the state 4-H website (www.ohio4h.org) under "Families". Click on "Members" and "Officer Resources". Officers who are already elected may want to view the videos now.

Floriculture Clinic on April 21

A floriculture clinic will be held on Tuesday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the North Fairfield United Methodist Church. The church is located on State Route 162 on the west side of town. *This clinic is mandatory for all 1st year floriculture exhibitors!* Parents, other interested members & advisors should also attend.

Huron County Rabbit Clinic in April

Clinics are a great way to improve your knowledge and 4-H project. April clinics will be held in the secretary's office at the fairgrounds.

1. Wednesday, April 1st 7:00 p.m.
2. Wednesday, April 29th at 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Dairy and Recreation Goat Clinic

April 20 - 6-8p m at the Secretary's Office on the fairgrounds: Get Ready for the 2026 Season!

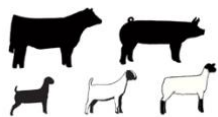
- We will discuss the general information and requirements for the 2026 fair. We will go over what is needed to bring to the fair for the week, what is needed to show and discuss the use of scrapie tags and other identification.



The education meeting will last from 6-7pm. The rest of the time will be available for people to ask questions and for kids to work on their book.

If anyone has any questions, they can contact me at 567-224-0973 or buurmapressley@gmail.com

Livestock Quality Assurance (QA) Training for 2026



All Junior Fair Livestock exhibitors, except those only with horses, must be certified in QA to exhibit livestock at the fair. Each exhibitor must attend a training session or test out of the program.

Sessions being offered in Huron County include:

Thursday, April 16 at Willard High School

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Test Out

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. QA

Sunday, April 26 at First Baptist Church, Prairie Rd, Bellevue

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Test Out

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. QA

Sunday, May 3rd at Western Reserve High School

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Test Out

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. QA

Tuesday, May 19 at South Central High School

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. QA

YQCA Online Training

If you are unable to attend one of the Huron County Sessions, you can complete the online training at yqcaprogram.org for a fee of \$12/youth. Youth may complete the online YQCA course. This is the only approved online course. Youth must complete the correct course for their 4-H age. If youth plan to do this, it must be completed before June 1st. Please send a copy of the completion certificate to Huron4H@osu.edu so that we are sure to receive the correct completion information and can assure that youth select the correct course. If we do not receive it before June 1st, it will be an incomplete and you will not be able to take your livestock project to fair.

Horse EquiSTEP - Mandatory Training

All members taking a horse to the fair are required to complete EquiSTEP training. Horse clubs will be notified when dates and online training are available.

County 4-H Memorial Scholarship Deadlines

Members must submit applications for the Kevin Zimmerman Memorial 4-H Scholarship by April 1 to the Zimmerman Family. This scholarship is in memory of 43 year 4-H advisor and 4-H youth



advocate, Kevin Zimmerman. The scholarship is open to all Huron County 4-H members.

The Gary Bauer Memorial Scholarship will be due on April 15. This will be a \$500 scholarship and will be a fillable online form. More information will be posted in the upcoming weeks on our county website.

Applications are available on our county website at www.huron.osu.edu.

Western Reserve 4-H Scholarship

Western Reserve seniors who have participated in 4-H during high school are eligible to apply for a \$500.00 scholarship in the spring. We would love to have more donations to the WR 4-H Scholarship Fund so that someday a bigger monetary amount can be offered. If any individuals or 4-H clubs would like to contribute to this scholarship, checks can be sent to: WR 4-H Scholarship Fund, Rita Daniels, 4240. Ogan. Road, Wakeman, Ohio 44889.

Application Information:

<https://www.western-reserve.org/page/online-application-form>

Camp Work Day on Saturday, May 9

Camp Work Day will be held on Saturday, May 9 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Camp Conger. Entire clubs, individuals and families are invited to the annual Camp Conger Work Day to spruce up camp for the camping season. Bring cleaning supplies, brooms, buckets, wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, etc.

2026 Huron County 4-H Camps

- Intermediate Camp (for members in grades 6, 7 & 8) will be held on June 1-4.
- Junior Camp (for members in grades 3, 4 & 5) will be June 8-11.
- Cloverbud Fun Day will be Friday, June 12.



Ohio State Fair:

Ohio State Fair Information

State Fair livestock rules and entry information may be found at www.ohiostatefair.com under “Competitions”. 2026 information should be posted sometime in March. Entry deadline for Junior Livestock shows is June 21. Entries must be made online. The Extension Office must confirm that each entrant is a member in good standing and that they are enrolled in each project area they entered.

Ohio State Fair Scholarship Applications Due April 1



In an effort to recognize outstanding Ohio youth and to help those interested in furthering their education, the Ohio Expositions Commission has established a scholarship program. Scholarships will be awarded to junior exhibitors during the Ohio State Fair. Applications will be judged on scholastic standing, citizenship & leadership, Ohio State Fair participation, county fair participation, and financial need.

Applications are available on the Ohio State Fair website.
<https://www.ohiostatefair.com/p/get-involved/scholarships>

Completed applications must be submitted by April 1, 2026. All applications and supporting documents must be submitted online.

Ohio State Fair Camping Lottery Reservation System

Reservations for camping at the state fair will be starting soon. Camping is now a lottery reservation system. Check out details on the state fair website at <https://ohiostatefair.com/camping/>.

Project Enrollment for Showing Animals at State Fair

4-H members must be enrolled in their county in the project in which they enter to show at the Ohio State Fair Junior Livestock Shows (including poultry, rabbits, and dogs), regardless of whether that project is offered for county exhibition. For example:

1. To show in a gilt class at the Ohio State Fair, youth must be enrolled in project 140 *Swine Breeding Project*.
2. To show a dairy feeder at the Ohio State Fair, youth must be enrolled in project 117DF *Dairy Beef Feeder*.
3. To show breeding poultry (chickens) at the Ohio State Fair, 4-H members must be enrolled in project 150CE *Exhibition Chickens*; to show breeding poultry (ducks), they must be enrolled in project 150DE *Exhibition Ducks*.
4. To show a dog in agility at the Ohio State Fair, 4-H members must be enrolled in project 201P *Performance*; to show the same dog in obedience, project 201O.

Ohio State Fair Updates & Reminders

- Exhibitors **MUST** be enrolled in the project they want to exhibit at the state fair, even if the county doesn't offer it at fair (i.e., swine breeding).
- All Junior Exhibitors **must enter their projects online**. No late market **or breeding** entries

Once updated:

- Livestock schedule can be found at: <https://ohiostatefair.com/agriculture-livestock/livestock-schedule/>
- Department rules, entry info, etc. <https://ohiostatefair.com/agriculture-livestock/livestock/>
- Skillathon information will be found at: <https://ohio4h.org/animalsciences/ohio-4-h-skillathons>
- Livestock Judging Contest information will be found at: <https://ohio4h.org/events/ohio-state-fair-4-h-livestock-judging-contest>

State & National Opportunities:

Backyard Poultry Certificate Course

Backyard Poultry Certification Course. This course is perfect for urban residents who needed this to be able to legally keep poultry in their city or for those interested thanks to the uptick in Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. It contains 6 modules as a self-paced course to learn about husbandry, nutrition, biosecurity, egg production, and disease prevention in backyard poultry. Go to the link below to access the course which costs \$25.

<https://reg-continuing.ed.osu.edu/search/publicCourseSearchDetails.do?method=load&courseId=1018616>

State 4-H Award Applications Due January 15



Older 4-H members who interested in applying for State Achievement Awards, State Junior Fair Board, etc. must submit their completed applications by January 15.

<https://huron.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/older-youth-opportunities>

Ohio 4-H Scholarship application must be completed online by February 15. For more information: <https://ohio4h.org/awardsandscholarships>

Toledo Walleye Announce 4-H Night

The 2025–2026 Toledo Walleye season is quickly approaching, and tickets are already selling fast. We're excited



to share that for the very first time, the Toledo Walleye will host 4-H Night at the Huntington Center.

Event Details

- Date: Sunday, March 22, 2026
- Location: Huntington Center, Toledo

Special Offer for 4-H Clubs and Families

- Discounted tickets at \$17 per person
- Reserve a block of tickets now, with final details confirmed three weeks before the game

Highlights of the Night

- Walleye players will wear specialty fishing-themed jerseys
- Fun activities for 4-H clubs throughout the evening
- Postgame skate on the ice for anyone interested

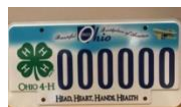
Reserve Your Tickets If your club would like to attend, please reach out:

- Call or text: 419-725-9285
- Email available upon request

We would be thrilled to see the Huntington Center filled with 4-H clubs and families for this historic first-ever 4-H Night.

4-H License Plates Available in Ohio

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) is offering a specialty license plate dedicated to Ohio 4-H Youth Development. A portion of the annual plate fees collected from 4-H specialty plates is given directly to Ohio 4-H and is earmarked for 4-H programming.



Buckeye Leadership Workshop

Buckeye Leadership Workshop (BLW) is a recreational leadership workshop held March 18-22 at Recreation Unlimited (about 30 miles north of Columbus). The cost is \$425. Participants must be in high school or older, adults welcome! Partial scholarships are available. Go to www.buckeyeleadership.com for more information.

Ohio 4-H Conference on Saturday, March 21

The Ohio 4-H Conference will take place at the Columbus Convention Center on Saturday, March 21. This event is designed to bring together 4-H volunteers and teens from across the State of Ohio. There will be nearly 150 sessions from which to choose. The cost is \$40. Carpools will be arranged. Registration deadline is February 20.



Mike Rowe Work Ethic Certification Virtual Training

Open to all Ohio high school youth.

Dates: Every Monday and Wednesday from April 22 - May 8

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Must be able to attend all sessions.

[Click here to register.](#)

Registration is due April 12. Limited to 20 participants.

Learn more at <http://go.osu.edu/mrworkethic>

Ohio Beef Youth Council

OBYC is a youth education initiative serving the youth of Ohio and investing in the next generation of beef industry leaders. Funded by the Beef Checko and OCA, it provides youth with the tools to become more effective industry leaders and inspires them to continue their engagement in Ohio's beef industry as adults.

Open to all youth ages 8-21, parents welcome

9 a.m. - Registration Opens

10 a.m. - Ohio Beef Youth Council Launch & Agriculture Professionals Panel

12 p.m. - Complimentary Luncheon hosted by the Ohio Beef Council

<https://www.ohiocattle.org/>

Firelands Electric – 2026 Youth Tour to D.C.

Each year, Firelands Electric Cooperative sponsors up to two high school sophomores or juniors on an all-expenses-paid trip to Gettysburg and Washington, D.C., as part of the annual Youth Tour. Firelands, in cooperation with Ohio's Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA), offers this unique opportunity to students who live in a home receiving their electricity from the cooperative. Selected delegates will travel to our nation's capital with students and chaperones from co-ops throughout the state of Ohio. Once in the nation's capital, they will be joined by students from across the country. Participants have the opportunity to meet congressional and government leaders, visit historical sites, and make lifelong friends.



Applications for the 2026 Youth Tour, which is scheduled for June 14-20, 2026, are now open. Sophomores and juniors who reside in a home receiving its power from Firelands Electric are eligible to apply. (To see a map of our territory, visit www.firelandsec.com/service-territory.)

Additional information and a downloadable application are available on Firelands Electric website at www.firelandsec.com/youth-tour-experience.

All Youth Tour applications must be received in the Firelands Electric Cooperative office by 4 p.m. on January 23, 2026.

Ohio 4-H SparKEXPO

This exciting new opportunity allows youth to explore a variety of career and educational opportunities in sessions at Ohio State's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. Attendees will get the chance to develop valuable skills, make new friends, and fuel individual



growth! They'll even get to experience The Ohio State University Campus, too. Open to all Ohio youth.

WHEN: June 10-13, 2026

WHERE: Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive, Columbus, OH 43210 on the OSU Columbus campus

COST: Thanks to generous financial support from the Ohio 4-H Foundation and others, the registration fee is \$75. Registration is not available quite yet, but I do want to ask for your help! **If you are interested in this experience please contact the Extension Office by Jan 31.**

Learn more: <http://go.osu.edu/4Hsparkexpo>.

BuckeyeNEXT

BuckeyeNext provides a clearly defined pathways of 4-H community club, project-specific, events and programs available for Ohio young people. Built like a game, the program is fun, engaging, and impactful. It gives youth a way to easily identify the opportunities available through Ohio 4-H, organized their categories of participation, and track their cumulative progress in real-time. Youth can learn more about the app at <http://go.osu.edu/buckeyenext>

You can also opt-in for an account by completing the following form: <https://go.osu.edu/buckeyenextoptin>

YOUScience

YouScience helps our students chart their path from 'I don't know' to post-secondary pursuits and career confidence and success. By completing a series of fun and engaging 'brain-games,' students learn where their natural strengths are and how they can leverage their strengths in post-secondary pursuits and beyond. YouScience combines decades of rigorous scientific research and cutting-edge matching algorithms to uniquely identify the intersection of your students' strengths, passions, and future opportunities. Learn more: <https://go.osu.edu/4hyouscience>

Youth can request access at <https://go.osu.edu/youscienceoptin>.

State-wide Camp Opportunities

- Ohio 4-H Leadership Camp: <https://ohio4h.org/camp/leadership-camp>
- Ohio Military Kids Camp: <https://ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/ohio-military-kids>
- Ohio 4-H Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp: <https://ohio4h.org/camp/forestry-and-wildlife-conservation-camp>
- Ohio 4-H Adaptive Adventures Camp: <https://4hcanterscave.osu.edu/home/experience-it/special-needs-camp>

- Ohio 4-H Sea Camp: <https://ohio4h.org/camp/sea-camp>
- Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports Camps: <https://ohio4h.org/families/members/events-opportunities/shooting-sports/4-h-shooting-ed-camp>
- Space Adventure Camp: <https://spaceadventurecamp.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/home>

Contact the Extension Office for more details about these outstanding opportunities.

Ohio Beef Expo on March 19-22 at State Fairgrounds

Contact the Extension Office for more information.



1. BEST Junior Show – Showmanship on March 20 and the Junior Show on March 22.

State Dairy Events in March and April

Contact the Extension Office for more information.



1. Ohio 4-H Dairy Judging Contest – in conjunction with Spring Dairy Expo at the state fairgrounds. Register at springdairyexpo.com
2. Dairy Palooza – Saturday, April 18 at the Canfield Fair, Mahoning County. Designed to give dairy youth, Cloverbud & adult programs included an opportunity to use the skills they learn through their projects and to learn new skills they can use both in their project and in the dairy industry.

Equine Affaire in Columbus on April 9-12

Equine Affaire is a premiere equine exposition and equestrian gathering. It will be held at the Ohio Expo Center (state fairgrounds) on April 9-12. Visit www.equineaffaire.com for information.

Livestock Information Available on State 4-H Website

Information on livestock projects, is on the state 4-H website at www.ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences. There are sections for Companion Animals, Dairy Cattle, Dog, Goat, Horse, Livestock, Poultry, Rabbit, Ohio State Fair Skillathon Information, Ohio 4-H PetPALS, and Ohio 4-H Meats Judging. Each section contains a Calendar of Events and Resources.

President's Environmental Youth Award

Encourage youth with an existing environmental stewardship project or an idea for a project to apply so that their achievements can be further recognized. The President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) recognizes outstanding environmental stewardship projects developed by K-12 youth. The PEYA program promotes awareness of our nation's



natural resources and encourages positive community involvement.

Youth must have completed their project while they were in kindergarten through the 12th grade and the project must be sponsored by an adult who is 21 or older. Applicants from all 50 states as well as U.S. territories are eligible to compete for a national Presidential award.

Visit the [President's Environmental Youth Aware webpage](#) for more information about eligibility requirements, judging criteria, and how to apply.

[Join the 2026 Aquaculture Challenge!](#)

Hosted by the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network and Lake Superior State University, this exciting science and business competition invites middle school (grades 6–8) and high school (grades 9–12) teams, homeschool groups, individuals, and education non-profits to dive into aquaponics innovation. Students can compete in categories such as designing and building aquaponics systems, monitoring chemical and biological processes, developing business plans to tackle industry challenges, or leading community outreach projects. Teams receive online resources, Zoom training, a liaison for guidance, and stipends for those in Great Lakes states. Registration is free and open until January 14, 2026, with submissions due April 24, 2026, and a virtual awards ceremony on May 7, 2026. Don't miss the upcoming Q&A sessions on December 19, 2025, and January 8, 2026 to learn more. Register your team today here and explore full details at Michigan Sea Grant's Aquaculture Challenge page. For Ohio participants, contact Nicole Wright at wright.1128@osu.edu or 330-202-3594.

[Ohio Youth Institute 2026](#)

High school students across Ohio are invited to participate in the World Food Prize Foundation's Ohio Youth Institute (OYI) at The Ohio State University on April 13, 2026. This unique event empowers students to research a global challenge impacting food security, propose solutions, and present their ideas to peers and experts. Participants will engage in hands-on activities, build leadership skills, and qualify for international internships and fellowships as Borlaug Scholars.

To take part, students must submit a Global Challenge Paper with the support of a mentor such as a teacher, 4-H leader, coach, or advisor. Registration is due by March 27, 2026, and papers must be submitted by April 1, 2026.

For details, instructions, and registration, visit worldfoodprize.org/ohio. Questions? Contact Margo Overholt-Seckel at overholt-seckel.1@osu.edu.





THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
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