

Clover Creations

Huron County 4-H Newsletter

November/December 2023

Dear 4-H Families,

Fall is always a reminder of change. As the leaves change, we often make changes for the new 4-H program year. I can't help but be reminded of the changing seasons with the timeless spirit of Ohio State University's alma mater:

"Time and change will surely show,
How firm thy friendship ... OHIO!"

As fall whispers through the rustling leaves, we find ourselves in a new 4-H year—

The winds of change carry with them the promise of new beginnings, fresh opportunities, and the chance to cultivate friendships that stand firm against the test of time. Ohio State University's alma mater serves as a beacon, reminding us that the roots of friendship in 4-H run deep, anchoring us through the evolving seasons.

In the midst of preparation and anticipation, let us embrace the changes that time brings, knowing that each shift is a canvas for growth and camaraderie. The heart of 4-H beats in rhythm with the echoes of "How firm thy friendship... OHIO!"

Sincerely,

Haley Palmer
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development



CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

November

- 2 Senior Fair Board, fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m.
- 10 Veterans Day Observed, Ext. Office Closed
- 14 CARTEENS, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 15 Honor Club Materials Due
- 23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday, Extension Office Closed

December

- 1 Older Youth Opportunities Applications Due
- 1 State Volunteer Award Applications Due
- 2 Cattle Weigh-in & Tagging, fairgrounds, 8-10 a.m.
- 5 4-H Committee Meeting
- 7 SFB Annual Meeting, fairgrounds, 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Senior Fair Board, fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m.
- 12 CARTEENS, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 13 Counselor-in-Training Evaluation, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 25-26 Christmas Holiday, Extension Office Closed

Important 2024 Dates

(Dates are subject to change)

- Jan 26 2024 Enrollment Packets Ready
- Feb 15 Fingerprint Rescreening Due
- April 15 Honor Club Enrollment Deadline
- April 1 Across County Lines Applications Due
- April 1 New Volunteer Deadline
- May 1 Final Enrollment Deadline
- May 1 Winning 4-H Plans Recommended Deadline
- May 18 Feeder Calf Tagging
- June 1 Quality Assurance Deadline
- June 4-7 Intermediate 4-H Camp
- June 10-13 Junior 4-H Camp
- June 14 Cloverbud Fun Day
- July 16 Fine Arts Judging
- July 17 Clothing Judging
- July 18 Foods Judging
- July 24 Ohio State Fair Begins (July 24-August 4)
- August 11 Projects Enter Fairgrounds
- Aug. 12-17 Huron County Fair
- August 18 Projects Released from Fair

Annual Volunteer Training Requirements

The Ohio State University and Ohio 4-H requires all volunteers to attend annual training.

Yearly Volunteer Training Requirements (2-hour min.)

- County Updates (1 Hr.)
- Youth Activities & Program Policy (formerly known as Policy. 1.50) (approx. 25 mins)
- Competency Training – (30 mins)

Due to the new requirements that were set last year, we realize that our structure of how we offer these trainings could use some revamping. We are currently working on a training list and will be sending that out with trainings starting in January.

New Volunteer Process

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 take volunteers from November 1, 2023 – April 1, 2024. After April 1, 2024, the prospective volunteer will have to wait until November 1, 2024, 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

There were several volunteers in 2023 that started the process and did everything except for 1 step. Therefore, were never granted volunteer status. You are not an official volunteer until everything is complete, and you receive an approval letter from the office. If you are acting as a volunteer before receiving the letter, there will be repercussions.

Older Youth Opportunities Applications Open

All current 4-H members who will be 14 or over on January 1 are eligible for many of these opportunities! (Check the specific age requirements for each activity - they vary.)

To apply, please visit <https://huron.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/older-youth-opportunities>

Each of the opportunities listed on the Older Youth Opportunities page has its own special application to fill out and submit by December 1, 2023. You will be considered for any as long as you fill out the application completely and meet the eligibility requirements.

Please read the instructions **CAREFULLY** and put some time and thought into your answers. Don't miss any deadlines! Experienced Camp Counselors and Junior Fair Board members have had to take a year off because they *turned their applications in late*. Call us if you have questions.

2024 Family Guide to 4-H Available Now!



The 2024 Family Guide to 4-H may be viewed or printed from the Ohio 4-H website or from the link on the Huron County Extension website. The state web address is <https://ohio4h.org/familyguide>. Each returning 4-H Family will be receiving their copy in the mail in January.

Honor Club Materials Due by November 15

2023 Honor Club materials are due in the Extension Office by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15. Clubs must apply to become an Honor Club. Copies are available from the Extension Office.

Older Youth State 4-H Opportunities Due January 26

Members interested in applying for Achievement Awards based on project work, Local Government Award, and/or National Dairy Conference must submit completed applications by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 26. Applications are available at <https://ohio4h.org/awardsandscholarships>.

End of the Year Internal Club Treasury Audits

Clubs need to monitor their financial records at the end of each year. Each club should elect or appoint an audit committee of two advisors and two members from at least two different families to serve as the audit committee. No one on the audit committee should be an authorized signer on the banking accounts or related to the treasurer.

The committee needs to look over the check register, see that it has been reconciled to the bank statements, and examine the receipts supporting the checks written during the year. They then report their findings back to the club at a regular meeting and fill out the Yearly Audit Certificate on the last page of the Treasurer's Manual.

The Yearly Summary Report, also on the last page, should be completed each year. The treasurer should complete the Summary Report prior to the internal audit being conducted. The Secretary's Manual and Treasurer's Manual should become a part of the club's permanent records, along with the News Reporter's records.

Club Enrollment Procedure for 2024

All 4-H clubs must complete the annual club enrollment process. All clubs have already adopted the required constitution. Items that will be required for 2024:

- Club Charter Checklist
- Financial Summary Report for 2023 (This report may be submitted online or in paper form). A form will be sent to Organizational Advisors near the end of the year.

Club 990 E-postcards will be filed by the Extension Office to meet the IRS annual reporting requirement.

Not Too Soon to Think About 4-H in 2024

Club enrollment packets will not be ready to pick up until January 26. However, advisor teams should meet before that to do some initial club planning for 2024. Advisors need to set tentative meeting schedules, discuss the duties for which each advisor will be responsible and set some advisor goals for the club. A little time spent now can set the stage for a great year!

2024 Ohio 4-H Conference will be March 9

The 2024 Ohio 4-H Conference will be on March 9. It will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

All volunteers will be invited to participate. Registration is due by Friday, February 9, 2024. More info and how to register is at the link below.

<https://ohio4h.org/events/ohio-4-h-conference>

Changes for 2024 Get Fair Board Approval

Proposals for changes from the evaluation meetings were given to the Senior Fair Board to review. They were voted on at their meeting on November 2. All changes that impact the Junior Fair must be approved by the Senior Fair Board for permission to implement. Check the January Clover Creations newsletter for details on changes for 2024.

Huron County Agricultural Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Huron County Agricultural Society will be held on Thursday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Secretary's Office. The regular meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Thanks to Clubs for Voluntary Membership Fee



Many clubs supported our 4-H program again this year with a voluntary \$5.00 per member fee or a flat amount donation. 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. If your club has not participated in the voluntary member fee, please check your club treasury now, to see if you can contribute. We work hard to conserve the financial resources we have, but still need some help. Club support of our county 4-H program is greatly appreciated.

We will still be accepting the voluntary member fee in 2024. However, in 2025 we will be making the voluntary membership fee mandatory. Updates and explanation will be to come during annual volunteer training.

Volunteer Fingerprint Rescreening Notices Sent

All 4-H advisors and superintendents who need to be fingerprinted to remain a volunteer in 2024 will receive a notice and instructions. Letters went in the mail this week. Fingerprinting must be completed by February 15, 2024. All 4-H volunteers will be rescreened within a four-year period (and every four years after that). Failure to rescreen will result in removal as a volunteer.



Livestock Sale Checks Expire in Mid-November

Members who sold livestock at the county fair and turned in their thank you letters received their sale check in late September. All livestock sale checks will become invalid in mid-November. The cost is \$10 to have an expired check reissued.

Please Call Ahead for Office Appointments

If you need to meet with Haley or Mary please call ahead to see if we are available. There are many times we are out of the office conducting programs or flexing our hours for the week due to nighttime and weekend work commitments.

There are also times when we are in the office but unavailable due to meetings, projects, or deadlines. We would hate for you to come all the way to the Extension Office and we are unavailable!

Important Non-Discrimination Reminder

We do not discriminate within our 4-H program.

- If a club's by-laws prevent a member from rejoining for specific reasons (ex. Incomplete project or didn't fulfill specific club requirements), that member may be told they need to find a different club. That member is, however, still welcome to be a 4-H member, just in a different club.
- If a club's by-laws set a maximum number of members, only allows siblings of current members to join, or only accepts certain projects (ex. horses), etc. then potential members who don't meet the criteria may be told they need to find a different club. Refer them to the Extension Office if they need help finding a club. We have a brochure that lists all the 4-H clubs in Huron County.
- It is NEVER okay for clubs to vote on whether to allow a member to join!

Cattle Weigh-in and Tagging on December 2, 2023



December Weigh-in & Tagging is Saturday, December 2, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m. at the Huron County Fairgrounds in the Doug Wilson Building.

All market cattle will be tagged with EID tags.

Cattle that already have EID tags are not required to attend tagging but are required to upload information on 4-H Online by Dec 2. Cattle choosing not to come, will not be eligible for rate of gain. Instructions for upload:

https://huron.osu.edu/sites/huron/files/imce/animals%20tab%204honline_0.pdf

All others must be brought to the fairgrounds on Saturday, December 2nd, 2023, between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Market cattle will be weighed and tagged on a first come, first served basis.

- Market cattle must be owned, without horns and on feed by December 1, 2023. All males must be castrated.
- Family members may tag in cattle by family name, without identifying which family member is planning to show which animals. ALL family members who might exhibit the animal must be recorded.
- Cattle must be haltered for weigh-in and tagging.
- A maximum of four beef animals (any combination of beef steers and beef heifers) and/or four dairy steers per exhibitor may be weighed and tagged. However, only two beef market animals (any combination of beef steers & beef heifers), two dairy steers and/or one beef carcass animal may be exhibited at the fair.
- Exhibitors must call the Extension Office immediately if a tag comes out to have the animal retagged.

State Fair Cattle Identification Protocols

The Ohio State Fair Beef Department has protocols for identifying market beef animals. These protocols include the use of an electronic identification (EID) ear tag that has a unique 15-digit number and a DNA hair sample that must be submitted for all market beef animals, including crossbred heifers, that exhibitors plan to enter in the 2024 Ohio State Fair Junior Market Beef Show. The DNA envelope must be signed by an Extension professional for 4-H entries or the FFA advisor for FFA entries.

DNA collection will be in the form of a hair sample that will be submitted to the Ohio State Fair by January 15, 2024. Along with the DNA hair submission, each market animal's 15-digit EID tag must also be included on the DNA packet. A few DNA packets will be available at tagging. Cattle will be tagged with EID tags this year at tagging. This will cover the Ohio State Fair EID tag Requirement and the BEST show EID tag requirement.

Filing a DNA packet does not constitute a state fair entry. Actual entry must be made online by June 21.

Cattle Bred, Born & Raised in Huron County

The Huron County Cattlemen (HCC) have a program to recognize market cattle and beef feeders at the county fair that are bred, born, and raised in Huron County. Exhibitors with eligible cattle that are tagged in on December 2 will be given a qualification card to fill out and return to the Extension Office by January 15. Beef feeder exhibitors will receive their verification form on May 18 and must return the signed form by May 31. Exhibitors with qualified market cattle, who turn in the verification form, must declare at the fair in which division the animal will be shown. Beef feeder calves with a qualified verification form will automatically show in the Bred, Born & Raised division. The breeder must be a member of HCC when the calf is conceived and when the calf is shown.

2024 Huron County Livestock Dates

The following dates have already been established for the 2024 4-H year. Dates are subject to change and additional dates may be added.

- May 15 – Livestock ownership deadline
- May 15 – Market Kid, Market Lamb, Market Hog, and Dairy Identification Deadline
- May 18 – Feeder calf tagging & vaccination
- June 21 – Ohio State Fair entries due
- July 17 – Rabbit tattooing
- July 16-20 – Horses at the State Fair
- July 24-August 4 – Ohio State Fair
- August 11 – Livestock enters the fair
- August 12-17 – Huron County Fair
- August 18 – Projects released 8 a.m.-noon
- December 7, 2024 – Cattle weigh-in and tagging



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Ohio State University
Extension, Huron County
180 Milan Avenue, Suite 1
Norwalk, Ohio 44857

Phone: 419-668-8219
Fax: 419-663-4233
www.huron.osu.edu

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu. For an accessible format of this publication, visit cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility.
