

Clover Creations

Huron County 4-H Newsletter

November/December 2025

Dear 4-H Families,

As we turn the page on another incredible year, we're thrilled to share the latest news, upcoming events, and helpful resources in this edition of our newsletter! The next few weeks are all about celebrating accomplishments, planning ahead, and setting the stage for an exciting start to 2026.

Inside, you'll find key dates, reminders, and ideas to keep your momentum going as we wrap up the year. Thank you for the energy and commitment you bring to our 4-H community. We couldn't do it without you! Here's to finishing strong and looking forward to new opportunities together.

Warm wishes for a joyful season!

Sincerely,

Haley Palmer
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

November

- 6 Senior Fair Board, fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Veterans Day, Extension Office Closed
- 11 CARTEENS, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 15 Honor Club Materials Due
- 27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday, Extension Office Closed

December

- 1 Older Youth Opportunities Applications Due
- 6 Market Beef Tagging, fairgrounds, 8-9:30 a.m.
- 9 4-H Committee Meeting
- 9 CARTEENS, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 11 SFB Annual Meeting, fairgrounds, 6:30 p.m.
- 11 Senior Fair Board, fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Counselor-in-Training Evaluation, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 18 Junior Fair Board, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec 24 – Jan 1 Winter Recess, Extension Office Closed

Important 2026 Dates (Dates are subject to change)

- Jan 15 New Volunteer Completion Deadline
- Jan 30 2026 Enrollment Packets Ready
- Feb 15 Fingerprint Due for returning Volunteers
- April 1 Across County Lines Applications Due
- April 15 Honor Club Enrollment Deadline
- May 1 Final 4-H Enrollment Deadline
- May 1 Winning 4-H Plans Recommended Deadline
- May 15 Livestock Ownership Deadline
- May 16 Feeder Calf Tagging & Vaccination
- June 1 Quality Assurance Deadline
- June 1-4 Intermediate 4-H Camp
- June 8-11 Junior 4-H Camp
- June 12 Cloverbud Fun Day
- July 21 Fine Arts Judging
- July 22 Clothing Judging
- July 23 Foods Judging
- July 29 Ohio State Fair Begins (July 29-August 9)
- August 16 Projects Enter Fairgrounds
- Aug. 16-22 Huron County Fair
- August 23 Projects Released from Fair



Volunteer & Club Reminders:

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)

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, 2025 – **January 15, 2026**. All items in the process must be completed by **January 15, 2026**. Otherwise, the prospective 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

There were several volunteers in 2025 that started the process and did not complete or failed to complete the process. Therefore, they were never granted volunteer status. Completing the process does not automatically grant volunteer status. You must receive an acceptance letter from OSU Extension notifying you of approval. If you are acting as a volunteer before receiving the letter, there will be repercussions.

Volunteer Fingerprint Rescreening Notices Sent

All 4-H volunteers who need to be fingerprinted to remain a volunteer in 2026 will receive a notice and instructions. Fingerprinting must be completed by February 15, 2026, to maintain your volunteer status. 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. Rescreening's will be reimbursed.



Club Enrollment Procedure for 2026



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 2026:

- Club Charter Checklist
- Club Planned Program of Work
- Financial Summary Report for 2025 (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.

Livestock Sale Checks Expire in Mid-November

Members who sold livestock at the county fair and turned in thank you letters picked up their sale check in early October. All livestock sale checks will become invalid at the end of December. The cost is \$10 to have an expired check reissued.

2026 Project Guide Available Soon!

The 2026 Project Guide to 4-H may be viewed or printed from the Ohio 4-H website once available.

The state web address is

<https://ohio4h.org/projectguide>

Each returning 4-H Family will be receiving their copy in the mail in January.

2026 Project Book Increases

Like many organizations, Extension Publishing has felt the effects of rising production costs. As part of their responsibility to operate sustainably, effective November 3, 2025, there will be a price increase across all items.

4-H project books	\$12.00
Resources 52 pages and fewer	\$16.00
Resources 53 to 100 pages	\$24.00
Resources 101 to 196 pages	\$28.00
Resources 196 to 292 pages	\$44.00
Resources 293+ pages	\$60.00

End of the Year Internal Club Treasury Audits



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.

Not Too Soon to Think About 4-H in 2026

Club enrollment packets will be ready to pick up on January 30. However, advisor teams should meet before that to do some initial club planning for 2026. 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!

Mandatory 4-H Membership Fee



Thank you to our 4-H Clubs who paid their membership fees timely in 2025! Just a reminder that this is essential to our 4-H program as it helps fund:

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

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!

Changes for 2026 Get Fair Board Approval



Proposals for changes from the evaluation meetings were given to the Senior Fair Board to review. 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 2026.

County Opportunities:

Honor Club Materials Due by November 15

2025 Honor Club materials are due in the Extension Office by November 15. Clubs must apply to become an Honor Club. Honor Club may be submitted by paper form or electronic form. Both can be found on the website under club resources.

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.)

Each of the opportunities listed on the Older Youth Opportunities page has its own special application to fill out and submit by December 1, 2025. 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.

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

Huron County 4-H Camp Dates

Huron County 4-H Camp dates have been set. After careful consideration the following are dates for 2026:

Intermediate Camp June 1-4
Junior Camp June 8-11
Cloverbuds June 12

We understand that Western Reserve students are still in school a few days the week of Intermediate Camp. We have spoken with Western Reserve's superintendent - Students who attend camp will be excused as long as they maintain good attendance and stay caught up on academics, and the parents alert the school promptly for necessary arrangements.

2026 Huron County Livestock Dates

The following dates have already been established for the 2026 4-H year. Dates are subject to change and additional dates may be added.

- May 15 – Livestock ownership deadline
- May 16 – Feeder calf tagging & vaccination
- June 21 – Ohio State Fair Entry Deadline

- July 22 – Rabbit tattooing
- July 19-24 – Horses at the State Fair
- July 29-August 9 – Ohio State Fair
- August 16 – Livestock enters the fair
- August 16-22 – Huron County Fair
- August 23 – Projects released
- December 5, 2026 – Market Cattle Tagging

Cattle Weigh-in and Tagging on December 6, 2025

December Weigh-in & Tagging is Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 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 **Fair Entry by Dec 6**. Cattle choosing not to come, will not be eligible for rate of gain. Instructions for upload:

[Click here](#) for instruction on how to upload Animal ID to Fair Entry.

- Market cattle must be owned, without horns and on feed by December 1, 2025. All males must be castrated.
- 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.

Cattle Bred, Born & Raised in Huron County

The Huron County Cattlemen 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 6 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 16 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.

State & National Opportunities:

Older Youth State 4-H Opportunities Due January 15

Members interested in applying for Achievement Awards based on project work, Local Government Award, and/or National Dairy Conference must submit completed applications by January 15 to the Huron County Extension Office. Applications are available at <https://ohio4h.org/awardsandscholarships>.

2026 Ohio 4-H Conference will be March 21

The 2026 Ohio 4-H Conference will be on March 21. 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. More info and how to register will be out soon on the page below:

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

Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council Members Selected

Congratulations to the Huron County 4-H Members serving on the Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council!

JP Lawson is serving as Chair of Healthy Living.

2026 National 4-H Conference

Applications for the 2026 National 4-H Conference are open now at <https://go.osu.edu/N4HC>. Youth must be aged 15-18 as of 1/1/2025 and enrolled as a current Ohio 4-H member to apply. Applications are due Dec. 1, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.

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 2026 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, 2026. 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.

Apply for free to Ohio State's regional campuses!

To align with our mission of affordability and accessibility, we're covering the \$60 application fee for first-year applicants who apply directly to a regional campus between October 1 and December 1. Our regional campuses are already dedicated to providing Ohio students and families with an excellent college education at one of the lowest tuition rates in the state.

Just enter fee waiver code RCW2026 when prompted in the [online application](#) to your regional campus of choice by December 1 for these big benefits:

- No application fee
- Automatic consideration for scholarships
- Quick admissions decision (typically under three weeks!)

Ohio 4-H Leadership Camp

Are you a teen 4-H member looking to grow your leadership skills and connect with other youth from across Ohio? The **Ohio 4-H State Leadership Camp** is a fantastic opportunity to do just that!

Dates: June 1–5, 2026

Location: 4-H Camp Ohio

Check-in: 2:00 p.m. on June 1

Dismissal: 10:30 a.m. on June 5

Note: Full-time attendance is required.

Cost: \$35!! State-wide sponsors and the Huron County 4-H Committee pay the remainder of the fee.

Interested in attending as a delegate for Huron County?

Apply through the **Older Youth Applications** to be considered!

If you have any questions or need more information, feel free to reach out. We'd love to see Huron County well represented at camp!

[Explore Maine's Aquaculture Industry with Virtual Field Trips from Maine 4-H](#)

Virtual Field Trips (VFTs) are an innovative way for youth to explore and learn about places and people that would otherwise be infeasible! These immersive, online experiences bring Maine's thriving aquaculture industry to life—no travel required. Accessible at no cost, the Virtual Field Trips are designed to break down geographical and financial barriers, making high-quality, hands-on learning available to all. Register online to receive a link to the VFTs. Each field trip also comes with complimentary 4-H activity guides and lesson plans to help facilitate meaningful engagement with youth. The first VFT currently available features the University of Maine's Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research (CCAR), a large-scale, land-based aquaculture facility in Franklin, Maine. Additional virtual field trips are in development and will be rolled out throughout 2025 and 2026. These experiences offer insight into seafood production, workforce development, career exploration, and STEM concepts related to aquaculture technologies.

To register for a virtual field trip, visit extension.umaine.edu/hancock/aquaculture/vft.

For more information: contact Carla Scocchi, 4-H Youth Development Professional at carla.scocchi@maine.edu.

[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.

[2026 National 4-H Conference Delegate Opportunity!](#)

Applications are open for Ohio 4-H members (ages 15–18 as of January 1, 2026) to represent our state at the prestigious National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C., April 9–15, 2026. This event centers on civic engagement, civic education, and personal development, bringing together youth leaders from across the country. Interested members must apply online by December 1 at 11:59 p.m. Learn more and apply here: <https://go.osu.edu/N4HC>

[2025 National 4-H AI Challenge](#)

Teens ages 13–18 are invited to take part in the 2025 Fall National 4-H AI Challenge! Participants will identify a real-world problem in agriculture, brainstorm AI-powered solutions, and pitch their ideas in a short video presentation. This is a great opportunity to learn about artificial intelligence and its impact on the ag industry.

Challenge deadline: November 15, 2025

Access the project and get started here:

<https://events.projectboard.world/4HAIinAg>



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