Dear 4-H Families and Volunteers,

I’d like to start with a big shout out to all those hearty souls who ventured out to our 4-H Kick-Off last weekend! Inside this newsletter you will find summaries of a lot of the information shared at Kick-Off. Since one of the few things that’s constant in life is change . . . We do have a number of changes highlighted here—from new project books to livestock guidelines to volunteer requirements.

Here’s hoping that this super cold and snow takes a break soon. Then we can start talking about how hot it is instead!

Let’s have a great year-

Evaluation Dates

Please plan your schedules with these dates in mind. Youth must attend the scheduled evaluations in order to qualify for county and state awards.

- Life Skills Evaluation (including Food & Nutrition Projects): Thursday, July 9, 4 - 8pm at WHHS
- Livestock Evaluation & Skillathon: Thursday, July 16, 4 - 8pm at WHHS

Again this year, we will be offering 2 pre-judging events staffed by 4-H Volunteers prior to the scheduled County Project Evaluation events.

- Pre-judging Day 1, all projects – June 23, 4:00-7:00 p.m. @ OSUE Mtg. Room
- Pre-judging Day 2, all projects – June 29, 4:00-7:00 p.m. @ OSUE Mtg. Room

Members who are unable to attend the County Project Evaluation events, will need to call the OSU Extension Office to schedule a time for their pre-judging. Pre-judging appointments will be booked on a first-come, first served basis. Members who come to pre-judging without an appointment may be required to wait for an open appointment. Projects that are pre-judged will not be eligible for County Awards and State Fair participation.

The Frozen Food Fundraiser has been discontinued.
4-H Guidelines

The 4-H age guidelines are as follows: Any child currently in third grade and who is at least 8 years old before January 1, 2015 may be a 4-H member. Anyone who became 19 years of age before January 1, 2015 is no longer eligible to be a 4-H member, but is encouraged to become a 4-H volunteer. Cloverbud membership is open to youth in Kindergarten and at least 5 years old through second grade (as of January 1, 2015).

4-H membership in two counties is not allowed. Youth are expected to join the 4-H program in their county of residence. It is recognized that limited situations may occur where membership in a county other than their county of residence may be positive. The Extension Educators in both counties must be in agreement that the change should occur. If you have any questions, please contact the Extension office.

Dress Code for Project Evaluations

It’s never too early to start thinking about project evaluations. Please pay close attention to the dress code below. This has been in effect since 2010. Members not meeting these guidelines at any project evaluation event (Pre-Judging, Life Skills Evaluations and Livestock Project Evaluations), WILL lose points or be marked down at least one level.
* Clean pants, skirts or dresses that fit properly. Shorts and Capri pants are not allowed. Skirts and dresses must be fingertip length or longer.
* Clean shirt or top that fits properly. Writing or images on shirts that may be considered offensive or inappropriate are not allowed. Tops, sundresses, etc. must have shoulder straps of 1-inch or wider.
* No hats worn during judging. Hats that are part of an ensemble or costume should be removed when speaking with judges.
* No flip-flops.

Enrollment Forms

Enrollment forms are the one time each year that we collect information about members and advisors. Everyone will start from a blank form. There is an enrollment form for 4-H Members/ Cloverbuds and a separate enrollment form for Volunteers. Please print clearly and complete as much of the information as possible - especially telephone numbers and email addresses!

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO ONE WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY RE-ENROLLED AS A MEMBER OR RENEWED AS A VOLUNTEER THIS YEAR. EVERYONE MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT AN ENROLLMENT FORM!

Please pay special attention to these areas:
- New member or re-enrolling member
- T-shirt size
- Hispanic or non-Hispanic
- Race
- Residence (almost all should answer Farm or Town less than 10,000

TSC Paper Clover Campaign

It’s almost here! The Spring 2015 TSC Paper Clover Campaign will be April 22 – May 4. As always, please encourage your friends, family and colleagues to stop in at TSC and purchase a Paper Clover. Remember that 60% of the donations from our Millersburg store will be donated to the Holmes County 4-H program.

Here are some things your club could do to promote Paper Clovers:
- Host a 4-H info table and offer to carry purchases to customer’s vehicle
- Ask shoppers to purchase a Paper Clover at the Check-Out
- Host a “Petting Zoo” in the parking lot

4-H Membership Across County Lines

Reminder: If your club has members that do not live in Holmes County (permanent/primary address), they must complete a Request for 4-H Membership Across County Lines form. This form can be found on our website (holmes.osu.edu) or picked up at the OSU Extension Office. Youth may only participate/exhibit as a 4-H member in one county.

The form only needs to be submitted once. Approval must be given by the Extension Educators in both the county of residence and county of request. After approval, the Across County Lines membership may continue until the youth ages out of 4-H. However, if there is no support for OSU Extension/4-H in the county of residence, then the Across County Lines Membership will terminate at the end of the current 4-H year.
Teen Opportunities

Do you have an older youth in your club that has shown leadership potential? Nominations are due to the OSU Extension Office ASAP.

Consider nominating them to attend
- Leadership Camp June 5-9
- Citizenship Washington Focus June 21-27

Club Officer Books

The State 4-H office no longer offers hard copy officer books. Club officer books are available for download from the holmes.osu.edu website. The online books are also available through the Ohio 4-H website www.ohio4h.org under “4-H for Youth,” then “Members,” “Officer Resources,” and then the particular officer book.

New Project Books
Rabbit Projects - Updates

Bunny Day Camp – Saturday, May 9, 1-4pm., Holmes County Fairgrounds. Topics include housing, nutrition, selection, and showmanship.

- Tattoo up to 6 rabbits per exhibitor. No “family” animals.

Quality Assurance

There will be 4 QA opportunities in 2015 in Holmes County. Many other opportunities exist including special clinics and events. Clubs that host a QA meeting must allow other members from outside their club to attend the QA session.

- Glenmont School (April 13)
- Nashville Methodist Church (April 20)
- Winesburg Fire Station (May 11)
- Holmes Co. Fairgrounds (TBA June)

The Test Out option will also be offered this year. Cost remains at $5. Members ages 12-18 may take a QA test. If they pass (70% or better), they will be exempt from QA until they reach the next division level (Intermediates 12-14, Seniors 15-18). Tests will be given by appointment only. Tests are available March 1 thru May 31, at the OSU Extension Office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30am - 5:30pm.

Poultry Projects - Updates/Reminders

New Poultry Project book
All poultry projects have been combined into one project book. Members taking poultry will receive 1 book, regardless of the number of poultry projects they are taking. You will be expected to keep separate records for each poultry project.

Reminders
- All exhibitors will be required to purchase their own birds
- May purchase from hatchery of your choice
  - Turkeys - Broad Breasted Whites
  - Broilers - Cornish Rock
  - All male chicks
- Birds will be banded at fair weigh-in
- All require pullorum free certificate from hatchery or blood test prior to fair
- Exhibitors without a valid certificate/test will be turned away at fair weigh-in

Fancies:
- Hatcheries may also offer many breeds of fancy poultry.
- Any fancy poultry hatched this year may enter the Fancy Poultry Junior class

Market Meat Duck
- White Pekin Ducks
- Approximately 8 week project
- Pen of 2, weighing 8-16 pounds (change)
- Need pullorum free certificate/test

2015 Market Lamb Giveaway

The Holmes County Sheep Committee is excited to announce a market lamb give-away for the 2015 4-H year. The lamb will be a donation from the Fair Family Farm, through the Sheep Committee in an effort to promote sheep projects for the Holmes County Fair.

The give-away is open to all 1st year sheep project participants (not just 1st year 4-Hers). To enter, applicants will submit a short essay describing themselves, how they plan to care for the project animal (including housing, feeding, showing and selling). All essays must be submitted to the OSU Extension office by Monday, March 16 at 5:30 pm. One winner will be selected and notified by the Sheep Committee.

Donations from several local businesses may also be available to help other 1st year sheep project participants. Distribution method for these donations is to be determined.

For any information related to the essay or other questions with 4-H sheep projects, please contact the following Sheep Committee member Nate Klink 330-231-6457.
Dairy Feeders—Reminder

Continuing - Mandatory Dairy Feeder Vaccination Program. At Tag-In, all dairy feeders will be given an injection of Bovi-Shield Gold One Shot™ (covers 4 major viruses & Pasteurella) administered by East Holmes Veterinary Clinic staff member. Cost for the vaccine is $5 per animal. Animals not vaccinated will NOT be able to exhibit at the Holmes Co. Fair. PLEASE COME TO DAIRY FEEDER TAG-IN PREPARED TO PAY FOR THIS VACCINATION!

DairyPalooza 2015

May 2—Trumbull County
May 9—Auglaize County


Registration form is currently available. Schedule details will be coming soon!

Holmes County Fair

August 10-15, 2015

2015 Youth Poultry Clinic

Saturday, March 28, Fisher Auditorium, OARDC Campus, Wooster.

Event is open to anyone interested in small flocks and 4-H. Program schedule was not yet available when this was written.

Registration due by March 14. Cost $18, includes lunch. Go to oardc.osu.edu/4hpoultry for more info.

OSU Junior Swine Day

Saturday, March 28, ATI, Wooster

Registration due by March 20. Cost is $10. Go to holmes.osu.edu to download a brochure.
Continuing Education Requirements for Volunteers

Starting in last year, Holmes County instituted an annual volunteer continuing education requirement. 4-H is all about learning and we want to encourage our volunteers to continue life-long learning as well. Simply put, each volunteer will be required to complete at least one (1) continuing education event each calendar year. Failure to fulfill this requirement by December 31 of the current year will be seen as resignation of your volunteer status.

The Ohio State University Board of Trustees recently approved significant changes to the University’s Youth Protection Policies (also known as OSU Policy 1.50). Since OSU Extension and the Ohio 4-H Youth Development program is part of The Ohio State University, 4-H staff and volunteers are subject to the University’s policies and must comply. One of the requirements established by the board of trustees is that all OSU volunteers must attend annual training on Recognizing and Reporting the Signs of Child Abuse and Neglect.

All 4-H advisors, volunteers, and committee members must attend one of these trainings to be eligible to continue as a 4-H advisor, volunteer, or committee member in 2015. Additional dates may be added as needed.
- March 24, 7-8 pm, OSUE Meeting Room
- April 7, 7-8 pm, OSUE Meeting Room
(Please note that this meeting room is accessible by stairs only. If you require other accommodations, we will do our best)

Tax Exempt Update

Just a reminder - All chartered 4-H clubs and duly authorized eligible & qualified 4-H affiliated organizations must file the appropriate 990 tax form on time. 990-N (e-Postcard) filing must be made by May 15, 2015 for the Tax year of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. Filing the 990 or 990-EZ or 990-N (e-Postcard) is the club’s responsibility and the Extension Office staff cannot provide professional tax advice about filing the tax forms.

A PowerPoint tutorial to assist volunteers with reporting their 4-H club/affiliate 990 e-Postcard. It has been posted to: http://www.ohio4h.org/4-h-parents-volunteers/club-leaders/finances

Cloverbud Connections Newsletter

For all Cloverbud volunteers (and parents of Cloverbuds), check out the latest issue of the Cloverbud Connections Newsletter at www.go.osu.edu/cbc. This issue’s theme is Cloverbuds Building Relationships.

Also, don’t forget about our Click it, Print it, Do it! Webpage where you can find over 30 different activities that are ready to go for your next Cloverbud meeting: www.go.osu.edu/click.

Community Service Grants from CSB

Clubs that are interested in getting a mini grant to fund a community service project they are planning to do must submit their application by June 1 to the Extension office. Applications are available on our website. A report of the service project & receipts of the costs are to be submitted to CSB by September 1.

Food Safety Policy

Is your 4-H club involved in a food event? Do club advisors/parents/members ever prepare and/or serve food to others for sale or donation? According to the OSU Extension Food Preparation/Service, if you answered yes, you need to attend the Food Safety Training. This training is available as an on-line course or in-person for groups of 5 or more. Please call the OSU Extension Office for more information.

Exceptions to this policy are carry-in, covered dish, or pot-luck dinners. If your club is involved in these types of food events, it is suggested that you distribute the USDA Cooking for Groups fact sheet to encourage safe food handling. You can contact the OSU Extension office for this fact sheet or download it from http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/pubs/cfg/7steps_1.pdf.

Reminder - 4-H Project Book Order Process

In an effort to keep costs down, we have reduced the book inventory we keep on hand. What does this mean to you? We will place book orders on Mondays. Typically, it will take 1-2 weeks to receive the books, if they are in stock. When your club’s book order is ready to be picked up, we will contact the Organizational Advisor. Project books will NOT be given out to individual families/members.
Knolmes Co. 4-H Camp

Save the date! Our Knolmes (Knox/Holmes) Co. 4-H camp will be June 6-10 at 4-H Camp Ohio. Details will be sent out in May.

Other Camping Opportunities

Does your 4-Her love to do go to camp? There are LOTS of cool camping opportunities through 4-H! Call the OSU Extension Office for more details.

Sea Camp
July 11-15, 2015 @ Kelly’s Island
“Get your feet wet” as you learn about one of Ohio’s most important resources: Lake Erie! You’ll be in, on, and around the water as you explore the science of the lake, learn marine-related skills, and discover the history and recreational uses of our great lake.

Watersports Adventure Weekend
June 12-14
Campers can choose from four of the five areas of Fishing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Aquatic Discovery, and Stand up Paddleboarding/_snorkeling. Check out ohio4h.org/waw

Space Camp
June 16-18 @ Marietta College
Build and fly a hot air balloon; Test some laws of physics; Try your skills at landing on the moon; Experiment with the principles of flight. Check out http://spaceadventurecamp.cfaes.ohio-state.edu

Shooting Sports Camps
4-H Shooting Education Camp @ Canter’s Cave 4-H Camp
http://www.ohio4hshootingsports.org/shootingedcamp.htm
Shooting Sports Camp @ Camp Peidmont - June 5-6
www.go.osu.edu/sscamp

Ohio: Operation Military Kids @ Kelleys Island
August 10-14 for kids with family in military service
Check out http://www.ohio4h.org/omk

Permission to Photograph

Almost hidden on the back side of 4-H Member/Cloverbud and Volunteer enrollment forms is a little section asking about permission to photograph or video record your image. If this section is not completed, publicity about this child’s participation will not be used by Ohio State University Extension.

Ohio State University Extension would like to share the positive results of youth participation in Extension and 4-H Youth Development events. However, in some cases, parents or guardians may prefer not to permit such publicity.

(Please select one) ❑ I GIVE ❑ I DO NOT GIVE the Ohio State University permission to publish in print, electronic, or video formats the likeness or image of my child. I release all claims against the University with respect to copyright ownership and publication including any claim for compensation related to use of the materials.

Please help us keep our members safe and meet the wishes of 4-H families. Make sure you have answered this question on your enrollment form.
Dates to Remember!

March
3/1-5/31—Quality Assurance Test Out Dates
3/8-3/14—Ohio 4-H Week
3/16—Lamb Give-away essays due
3/24—Child Abuse Prevention Training for 4-H Volunteers
3/28—Poultry Clinic @ OARDC, Wooster
3/28—OSU Junior Swine Day @ ATI, Wooster

April
4/1—4-H Enrollment Due for Honor Club Points
4/7—Child Abuse Prevention Training for 4-H Volunteers
4/13—Quality Assurance @ Glenmont School
4/15—4-H ENROLLMENT DUE TODAY
4/20—Quality Assurance @ Nashville Methodist Church
4/22-5/4—TSC Spring Paper Clover Campaign
4/25—Spring Beef Clinic/Show

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Holmes County
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