

V.I.P. NEWS

Dear Volunteers:

Happy 2024! As we start the new year, let us remember that we are here to provide learning and leadership opportunities to young people. Our purpose is for children to learn, feel good about themselves and others and have fun. I'd like to update you on a few items. If you have any questions or concerns, give me a call or email.

Sincerely,

Beth Miller

Elizabeth M. Miller

Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development

Auglaize County

Membership 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 in 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 or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or an approved adult volunteer. A youth's 4-H eligibility ends December 31 the year the member turns 19.

Annual Financial Reports & Club Charters

A reminder that your club's financial summary and equipment inventory are due by January 31. We will not process your members' enrollment without these forms. Club charter checklists are due by April 15.

Youth Programs & Activities Training

All returning volunteers need to complete the Minor Protection (Policy 1.50) training by April 15, 2024. Instructions are included with this letter. I will offer one in person training (see volunteer training information with this letter) or you can complete online (instructions included with this letter).

Training Requirements

Please carefully review the additional information included with this letter regarding state training requirements. ***Please note there is a separate training for Cloverbud advisors this year.***

Advisor Rescreens

If this is your year to be rescreened, remember you need to be re-enrolled on the database and have your fingerprints taken by February 15, 2024 to remain an advisor. You should have received a letter if you are scheduled for rescreening this year.

Advisor Re-enrollment

Every advisor must re-enroll through 4-H Online, 2.0 including acceptance of all documents to be reviewed by April 15, 2024 to be an approved volunteer. ***We cannot make you active on the database until we have your online re-enrollment and required trainings complete.***

Organizational Volunteer Training

There will be a meeting for organizational advisors (or their representative) on February 12, 7:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

Ohio 4-H Grab & Go Club Meeting Toolkit provides 4-H volunteers and teen leaders with seven (7) club meeting agendas to help plan for the 4-H year.

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



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\$2 Per Member Program Fee

The 4-H Committee has voted to make this fee a requirement annually. Clubs failing to submit the \$2 per member program fee will have their club charter held on a probationary status until the fee is paid. Clubs with a probationary charter are at risk of losing their recognized 4-H club status and are not eligible for honor club recognition. These fees help us provide program events for all volunteers and members so the committee feels that every club should be contributing. Clubs not paying this fee do not receive member year awards. This fee should be paid to the committee's P.O. Box by July 1. More information will come to organizational advisors in the spring.

New Advisors

If you have new advisors, they must complete an application, BCI screening, schedule an interview and complete child protection, club (or Cloverbud) volunteer and new volunteer orientation trainings. This process must be complete by April 15 for them to appear on your club roster for 2024. This is at least a 6-8 week process to complete so please submit applications soon! It would be ideal to have everyone in process by February 1!

New Member Recruitment

We will be contacting all 3rd and 4th graders about joining 4-H through informational flyers distributed through the schools. We will have potential new members contact you as they come to us. It helps us to know how many new members you are willing to accept. Organizational advisors, please be sure to return the club survey.

4-H Recognition Banquet

The banquet will be held Monday, March 4, 7:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds. Details soon.

Cross County Membership Applications

All cross county membership requests need to be submitted AND approved before a member enrolls in 4-H Online. I suggest that these forms be submitted no later than March 1 so that families can make alternate plans if their request is not approved. Please review the acceptable reasons listed on the application when requesting cross county membership.

Calendars, Family Guides and Project Requirements

The 4-H calendar is posted on our website. We will not print copies for distribution. Each family will receive a Family Guide through the mail. Officer books can be picked up at the office or printed from the state 4-H website. There are some excellent officer resources on the state 4-H website! There is information for members who think they might want to run for an office. Each family will receive the project requirements by email.

Food Safety Program

If your club does fund raising with food products, advisors must be certified in Food Safety.

Certification is required every 5 years. The course is online, contact the office for information. A reminder that bake sale items must list the ingredients on every package. You don't have to share great aunt Suzie's secret recipe, BUT you must list all ingredients for potential food allergy concerns. Also each package must be labeled "Made in a home kitchen" in a minimum of a 10 point font.



Ohio 4-H Project Central!

Members and project helpers can preview project books AND share feedback about their project experiences on a website called Ohio 4-H Project Central. Check out the website now at www.ohio4h.org/projectcentral for easy instructions and a direct link.

4-H Committee Candidates

The 4-H Advisory Committee is looking for candidates to run for the committee. There is one parent representative per district. Parent representatives may not be advisors, and must have children enrolled in the program. They are elected by ballot at the banquet like all other committee reps. Parents must be nominated by an advisor of the club in which their child is enrolled. ***If you are in District 2 and have a parent who you feel would be a good representative, please contact them and ask to have their name placed on the ballot.*** You have some great parents out there, ask them to become involved! We need advisor representation for all districts, please let us know if you would be interested in running for the committee serving. We also need nominees for a youth representative (14 and older), please nominate your teen leaders. All names should be submitted to me by February 10th.

Horse Member Annual Training

A reminder that all horse project members will be required to complete the online EquiSTEP training. Information has been sent to 2023 horse members and advisors.



Have you returned your Advisor Interest Sheet? If not, please do!! Don't keep us guessing regarding your plans for 2024.

Weather Note

On case of bad weather, meetings may be changed to a virtual format. We will post information of our 4-H Facebook page. If it is a committee meeting, we will send an email out to the group. I will not hesitate to cancel meetings or go virtual when the road conditions are questionable, especially meetings that involve youth. Please listen to WCSM or call the office before 4:30 p.m. for actual cancellations. Cancellations will also be posted on our website during the week. For weekend events, we will notify the radio station and *try* to get it posted on our website and WLIO, Lima.

Cloverbud Clubs

A few reminders about Cloverbud club guidelines:

1. Cloverbud clubs are to teach lessons from the Cloverbud curriculum/state blog, which can be purchased from our office. There is also a Cloverbud horse curriculum.
2. Cloverbud lessons are designed to be active and group oriented. "Group" implies that more than one child is to be enrolled in your Cloverbud club. In addition a volunteer cannot be alone with one member.
3. Any club having Cloverbuds must designate a minimum of one volunteer that specifically works with the Cloverbuds. That is not to say other advisors don't jump in occasionally but you must have an approved Cloverbud leader. It is suggested you have 1 volunteer for every 6-7 youth but parents can help fill this role.

The state will be offering a theme for club activities for 2024. We are planning to have an optional fair activity this year. More details to follow on both opportunities.

Auglaize Co. Fair - August July 28 – August 3

2024 Fair Changes

Check your fair book for complete details. See March Gazette for any additions or changes to this information.

Quality Assurance

First year QA members ages 8 to 11 as of January 1, must have a parent attend an in person quality assurance program. First year QA members 12 and over are not required to have a parent attend and may choose the test out option or program attendance.

*If a parent is required to attend a quality assurance with their first year member and they attend an in person out of county program - **written** proof from the sponsor must be submitted by the parent as proof of attendance.

REMINDER: All QA must be completed by June 10, 2024 to meet our county and state fair dates. There can be no exceptions. The state will not be extending the completion deadline of 45 days prior to a county's fair this year.

Test Out Option: Members, ages 12-14, can test out of Quality Assurance for up to three years. This means a child who passes the QA test would not have to take the test again until they reach the 15-18 age division. Members, ages 15-18, can test out of QA permanently. A member must take the test at the scheduled time and achieve a score of 70% or higher to test out of the program. Members failing to test out of QA participation will be required to attend a QA program for that year. They may attempt to test out of the program again the following year. There is no testing option for members ages 8 to 11.

YQCA Online: we will offer the national online QA program this year. There is a cost for this program, per child. Many national livestock shows require this certification. Families who are interested in this option should contact the office for more information. *First year QA members ages 8 to 11 as of January 1, must have a parent attend an in person quality assurance program so online training is not an option.*

There are several dates on the calendar for Quality Assurance programs and testing. I do not plan to add additional dates. Preregistration is not required for QA programs or tests, but please remind families to arrive early so we can start on time!

ALL LIVESTOCK ENTRIES INCLUDING SHOWMANSHIP:

All livestock entries, including showmanship sign up, will be done as part of Fairentry online. Entries will be due July 1. **Entries after July 1 will be handled as follows:**

If entries are submitted between July 2 and July 8, there will be a \$10.00 cash late fee per entry, regardless of reasons or lateness. If entries are submitted between July 9 and July 16, the late fee is \$25.00 cash per entry, regardless of reason or lateness. **NO entries will be accepted after July 16 for any reason.** This rule applies to showmanship entries. Late entries will not be official until the fine is paid in full in cash. Late entry fee information will be submitted to the Junior Fair Board along with the cash fee.

Showmanship reminder: Entries can be scratched after July 1 (as with any entry) but will face a late entry penalty if added after July 1. Best advice - tell all of your members to sign up for showmanship by July 1!

Entry corrections: all entry corrections must be done by noon Saturday before the opening day of the fair. This rule *does not allow for adding additional late entries*, but correction of an entry if for example a wrong breed was entered accidentally, or perhaps a pen of pullets was entered as bantam, but are really production standard. All entries are final in all departments as of this deadline.

Leasing of breeding animals: The state now allows breeding animals to be leased. Market animals (including feeder calves) **CANNOT** be leased, they must be owned. Lease agreements and other paperwork must be turned in by the **May 1** possession date for livestock. The paperwork must include the cover sheet, pictures **and an actual lease** agreement written and signed by both the owner and the exhibitor/parent. Horse leases will use the same forms as in the past. Dairy lease information has been updated. Lease information is available at:

<https://auglaize.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/junior-fair-information>

General Rule Changes:

Late arrival: Animals arriving late from other shows (including state fair) will have 24 hours to be on grounds after they are dismissed from the other show. Proof of participation at the other show must be provided. The junior fair board reserves the right to confirm show dismissal times at other shows. Requests for early/late arrivals should be made to the junior fair board by July 15.

Sale declarations: Each animal crossing the scale must be declared terminal or nonterminal at the fair weigh-in. **All declarations are final at weigh-in.** If an animal is not declared terminal/nonterminal at the weigh-in, it will be considered terminal. An animal's declaration (sale, terminal or nonterminal) at the fair weigh-in may not be changed unless it is chosen as a grand or reserve champion or under the guidance of the fair veterinarian. Grand or reserve champions will be designated as terminal. If an exhibitor has other animals, their designation will not be changed, regardless of specie. **Please note final wording of this rule is coming, this is the intent of the rule but wording is not final yet.*

Sale bids: An exhibitor will not receive any proceeds from the sale (in ring, online or add ons) if their animal does not go through the sale ring.

Winter/spring weigh in changes: any corrections to information sent after the winter or spring weigh-ins must be made within 30 days of the event.

Not rules but:

The Junior Fair Board requests that entry scratches be made at least 24 hours prior to the start of the show (exception would be illness/animal emergency scratches can be done as they occur).

The board also requests that requests made for another exhibitor to show or sell be made at least 24 hours prior to the start of the show/sale (exception would be illness/emergency requests can be done as they occur).

Department Changes: No rule changes for the following departments: Clothing, Dairy, King and Queen, Sheep, Showmanship Sweepstakes, Special Interest, Swine.

Beef: Showmanship classes will start at 10:00 a.m., breeding/feeder show at 1:00 p.m. and steer show at 7:00 p.m.

Goats: Mother/offspring classes - offspring can be any age/gender from an individual class. Clarification of premium payment for cart class.

Horses: Clarifications will be added based on Uniform Rules new class restrictions. These rules will be set after the Uniform Rules become available. Reviewing ground roping class requirements/name.

Nutrition: Only 1 achievement award will be given.

Poultry: Roosters competing for Best Rooster must have been shown as part of a fancy pen. A market bird weighing exactly 7 pounds 8 ounces will be considered a roaster. See the broiler/roaster rule for more details on weights. All birds must remain in their pens until the 10:00 p.m. release time.

Two changes coming for the 2025 junior fair:

Beef - Market heifers will be added to the market show. These animals will show in the market classes with the steers by weight. It will not be a separate show. Only beef breeds may participate as a market heifer, no dairy breeds.

Swine - Minimum weight for market hogs to be eligible for competition will be 240 pounds. Any hogs under 240 pounds will be considered lightweights. There will be no upper weight limit.



REMINDER!

The following rule applies to market steer, market lamb and market goat exhibitors only.

A minimum of one project animal must be registered in the individual exhibitor's name at winter/spring weigh-in to be eligible to enter and show that specie at the fair. This animal may only be entered, shown and sold in that individual's name. This animal could only be transferred to another exhibitor's name using the livestock substitution rule and would not be eligible for placings.

The remaining animals registered at winter/spring weigh-in may be listed in the family's name. These "family" animals must be owned by the exhibitor or immediate family member as defined by Ohio Administrative Code: Rule 901-19-01 | Definitions.

For winter/spring weigh-in: each family may register the maximum number of animals per department rules. For example, for steers – 3 youth in a family could register a maximum of 9 steers (3 youth x 3 steers per child), sheep and goat - 3 youth in a family could register a maximum of 15 lambs or goats (3 youth x 5 lambs/goats per child).

Fair weigh-in: the designated exhibitor of the family shared animal must be stated when the animal is weighed at the fair. After fair weigh-in, this animal could only be transferred to another exhibitor's name using the livestock substitution rule and would not be eligible for placings.

No animal can be exhibited under more than one exhibitor's name. Leasing is not permitted for market animals.

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- 1 - Junior Fair Board - 7:30 p.m., Fairgrounds
- 12 - Organizational Advisor Meeting - 7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds
- 13 - Counselor Training - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- 15 - Quality Assurance - 7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds
- 21 - Sale Committee - 7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds
- 22 - Volunteer Training - 7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds
- 26 - Volunteer Training - 7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds
- 27 - Counselor Training - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.



MARCH

- 4 - 4-H Banquet - 7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds
- 7 - QA Testing - 6:00 p.m., Fairgrounds
- 7 - Junior Fair Board - 7:30 p.m., Fairgrounds
- 9 - Ohio 4-H Conference
- 12 - Counselor Training - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- 14 - 4-H Committee - 7:00 p.m.
- 19 - Volunteer Training - 7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds
- 21 - Cloverbud Volunteer Training - 7:00 p.m.
- 25 - Quality Assurance - 7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds
- 26 - Counselor Training - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

