



Clover Connection

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December 2011

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Dear 4-H Family:

Thank you for the warm welcome to the Hancock County 4-H program. It's hard to believe two months have already passed. It has been great getting to celebrate accomplishments with you during the Celebration of 4-H, the Advisor Recognition dinner, and I had a sneak peak of the Hancock County Fair the day before my interview this summer. You all should be very proud of your efforts.

As this year comes to a close lots of planning for 2012 is happening. Everyone in the Extension Office is figuring out their new roles and we are settling in to our new team: Ed Lentz joined us as the new Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator November 1st, and once the Master Gardener position is filled the office will have a complete staff again after the first of the year. A huge thanks goes out to all of the volunteers, and the Extension Staff: Karen, Kathy, Peg, Dawn, and Barb for all of their hard work during staffing transitions to make the program go on without a hiccup!



In the 4-H area programs, events, clinics, trainings, and meetings are being gathered for the 2012 calendar. Below are some important upcoming dates for 4-H and Jr. Fair. Please mark your calendar.

The Family Guide is in progress and I'm excited to announce there are several new projects and revised project books including but not limited to: Dashboard Dining, Canning and Freezing, Cavy Resource Handbook: A guide to Guinea Pigs, Project Citizen, Make Over My Space, and em-bel-ish: A 4-H Guide to Wearable Art.

On behalf of the entire Extension Staff: May everyone have a safe and happy holiday season.

*"Maybe Christmas, he thought,
 Doesn't come from a store.
 Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a
 little bit more." - Dr. Seuss*

Cassie Turner

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 Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development

Upcoming Dates:**December 2011**

- 19 Registration due for Jr Leaders Mad River Tubing Trip
- 21 Junior Leaders Christmas Event at the Extension Office – 7 p.m.
- 28 Junior Leaders Tubing Trip to Mad River Mountain

January 2012

- 3 Beef Tagging at Fairgrounds, 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Jr. Fair Day at the Ohio Fair Manager's Conference in Columbus
- 15 Nose prints due for State Fair Market Steers
- 17 State 4-H Achievement Award Records are due to the Extension Office. Go to www.ohio4h.org to download
- 18 Jr. Leaders Meeting, 7 p.m. at Extension Office
- 28 4-H Advisor Kickoff, 9 a.m. at Extension Office
- 28 Cloverbud Advisor Training, 1 p.m. at Extension Office
- 30 4-H Advisor Kickoff Makeup, 6:30 p.m. at Extension Office

February 2012

- 1 New Advisor Applications are due to the Extension Office
- 2 County Cloverbuds Meeting, 6:15 p.m. at the Extension Office
- 7 Maumee Valley EERA Multi-county Advisor Workshop, 6:30 p.m. at OSU Extension Putnam County, 124 Putnam Parkway, Ottawa OH

Camp Gift Certificates Available

Christmas is just around the corner.

Do you need any last minute gifts?

Camp is tentatively June 26-30, 2012.

Get your camper ready for 4-H camp.

A beach towel, shampoo, soap, sunscreen, and other various camp type items . . . then top it off with a Camp Gift Certificate. Available ONLY here at the office. You name the amount. (Sorry, we do not accept

credit or debit cards.) There will also be a Cloverbud Day Camp this year on June 21st. Save the Date!

4-H Award Honorees

Congratulations to all of our youth, volunteers, and family members for another outstanding year for Hancock County 4-H.

We would like to especially recognize the following youth and volunteers:

The 2011 Danforth I Dare You Award Winners

- Ali Mowrey
- Caitlyn Streaker

The 2011 Outstanding 4-Hers

- Mikayla Brown
- Michaela Wallace

The 2011 Alumni Award Winner

- Shari Burkmier

The 2011 Outstanding Service Award Winners

- Dean Biery
- Jamie Siferd

Junior Leaders News

December 21st at 7:00 p.m. will be the next Jr. Leader meeting at the Extension Office. The group decided to bring food to share. There will also be a \$10.00 White Elephant Gift Exchange. The final part of the program will be a service project. The Service Committee suggested making fleece tie blankets to be donated. The JL group divided up by school and coordinated what food each school group would bring and each group would donate enough fleece to make a blanket. Two 1½-2 yard pieces of coordinating fleece is needed to make a blanket. Members are also encouraged to bring a pair of fabric cutting scissors.

The JL snow tubing trip is December 28th to Mad River just outside

Bellefontaine, OH.

Registration is due

Dec. 19th as well as \$10.00

for JL members and \$20.00 for guests. Have questions? Call the Extension Office at 419-422-3851.

Additional forms are also available.

The Junior Leaders group will elect officers and plan the 2012 program year at the January 18th meeting.



Interested in starting a new Club or becoming an Advisor?

If you are interested in starting a new 4-H Club, please contact Cassie (turner.280@osu.edu or 419-422-3851). Folks interested in becoming an advisor will need to complete the following selection process:

- Pick up and complete an advisor application (by February 1st)
- Submit 3 complete references
- Complete a BCI background check
- Review and agree to a volunteer job description and standards of behavior
- Schedule a new volunteer interview with Cassie
- Successfully complete new 4-H volunteer orientation.

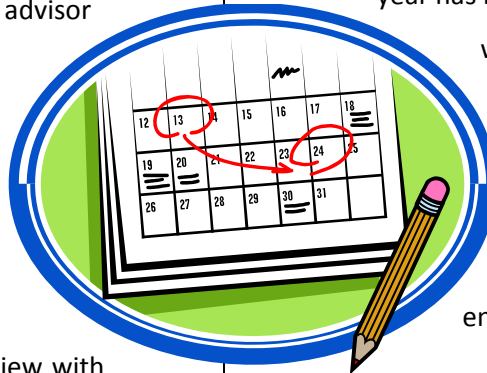
A new volunteer orientation is scheduled for February 7th at the Multicounty Volunteer Training at the Putnam County Extension Office. Additional orientations will be scheduled if needed.

Advisor Training Opportunities

Hancock County 4-H program is great. Part of this is due to the high expectations and standards that we set for ourselves. The youth individual honor program, wonderful State Fair representation, and other State and National honors for our youth are due, in large part, to the top notch Advisors and volunteers in the county. To support and help advisors to provide the best for our kids, volunteer development training requirements were put into place. All advisors must complete a volunteer training each year to maintain their volunteer status.

Understanding that being volunteers, a variety of options are needed to meet this requirement. This year, there will be eight options at physical locations and varying days and times as well as an online option. Once the training requirement for the year has been met, the 4-H Advisory Council

will be giving advisors a 4-H Polo Shirt (sizes will be collected on enrollment forms). All advisors need to complete their training module by enrollment time (April 2nd).



Important Dates for Advisors

Advisor Kickoff

– Saturday January 28th 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Cloverbud Training

– Saturday January 28th 1:00 - 2:30

Advisor Kickoff Makeup

– Monday January 30th 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

EERA Multicounty Building Blocks Advisor Training

– Tuesday February 7th 6:30 p.m. in Putnam County

Volunteer Workshop (topic TBA)

– Wednesday February 29th 5:30 to 7:00

Ohio Volunteer Conference

– Saturday March 10th Columbus

LEADS Conference

– Monday March 19th 7:00 p.m. Location TBA

EERA Multicounty Building Blocks Advisor Training

– Tuesday, March 20th 6:30 p.m. in Henry County

Online Training Opportunities

– schedule with Cassie

A Couple of Notes:

- All clubs must have a representative to either the January 28th Advisor Kickoff or the makeup on January 30th. All Club Enrollment packets will be distributed at these events. The packets will not be ready until these meetings. Important dates and information for January will be on Facebook and the Hancock.osu.edu website. This will be an excellent time to network with other club advisors, meet the training requirement, and recharge your 4-H battery for the upcoming year!
- The Cloverbud Training is open to adult and teen volunteers wishing to work with Cloverbud-age youth in the club setting. Adults need to be or working towards becoming a registered volunteer. Teens should be a member of the club they will be helping with. This will be a fun, hands on training. It is a great opportunity for teens to meet a mentoring requirement in a lot of the leadership projects.

**2011 Cloverbud Graduation**

Congratulations to our 2011 Cloverbud Graduates: Jeri Bower, Jacob Dukes, Kelsey Hall, Caleb Kreinbrink, Caitlin Quinlan, Jacob Walters, & Paige Wolford.

County Cloverbuds Schedule:

County Cloverbuds meeting date is moving! Cloverbuds will still meet with Mrs. Karen at 6:15, the meetings are just moving to the first Thursday instead of the third Thursday.

Planned meeting dates are as follows:

- February 2
- April 5th
- October 4th
- December 6th

Youth may participate in County Cloverbuds and in their 4-H Club Cloverbuds.

A "Day Camp" for ALL Cloverbuds will be held June 21st at the Extension Office. More details to come.

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Keith L. Smith, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Director, Ohio State University Extension

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