



Clover Connection

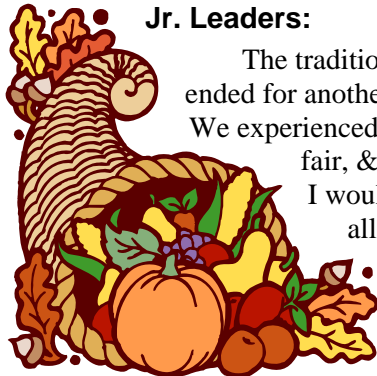
Susan E. Russell, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development
 Karen B. McDougall, 4-H Program Assistant



Fall 2010

Ohio State University Extension, Hancock County • 7868 CR 140, Suite B, Findlay OH 45840 • (419)422-3851
<http://hancock.osu.edu>

Dear 4-H Families, Advisors, Key Leaders & Jr. Leaders:



The traditional 4-H program has ended for another year. We experienced another outstanding fair, & school is in full swing. I would like to congratulate all 4-H members for the outstanding project work, participation and competition throughout 2010.

You are to be congratulated on the sportsmanship that was witnessed at many competitive events. It is an honor to observe the growth in our members from year to year.

Rabbits was our largest animal science project, with the greatest increase being in the goat projects. Photography, scrapbook and cake decorating seemed to attract the most attention in our non-livestock project area. Seven members were enrolled in the robotics projects. Weren't they cool?

Things continue to change as 4-H rolls with the times. We must keep up with those changes for the 4-H program to be a premier youth development organization. We are fortunate to have a 4-H Advisory Council in Hancock County that is willing to look at our current programs and have vision to "Make the Best Better." Thank you to all of these volunteers that devote additional hours serving on this council.

2010 was our first opportunity to conduct programs as part of the Maumee Valley EERA. New Volunteer Orientation, PAS (state fair horse qualifying shows), demonstration contest, project workshops, and Quality Assurance were all offered through collaboration with ten counties. The programs were very well received, and we have already begun our planning for 2011.

School programs are up and going as Karen will begin "Breads of the Harvest" in 3rd and 4th grades this week. Barb and I began a new program, "Choose It, Use It" in elementary classrooms last week. This program teaches kids how to make healthy choices in foods they eat and how much they eat. We also began our "Real Money, Real World" simulations in the high schools.

Peg is working to maintain our web site with current information, & Kathy is completing all of our reporting to the state 4-H office. Things just don't seem to slow down around here.

I wanted to get a fall newsletter in your hands that includes valuable information for the coming 4-H year. Please read it carefully and mark important dates and opportunities that may be coming your way. Then sit back and enjoy the next few months with your families.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Russell

Susan E. Russell
 Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development
 OSU Extension Hancock Co., Maumee Valley EERA

Calendar Dates:

Nov. 13	Horse Awards Banquet
Nov. 10	Jr. Leadership Club
Nov. 17	Volunteer Appreciation Banquet
Nov. 18	Cloverbuds
Nov. 23	Achievement Record Workshop
Nov. 30	4-H Advisory Council
Dec. 1	Camp Counselor/CIT Applications Due
Dec. 8	Camp Staff Selections
Dec. 29	Jr. Leadership Club
Dec. 30	Counselor/CIT Training

Opportunities**4-H Advisory Council Nominations**

The 4-H Advisory Council of Hancock County provides guidance and assistance to 4-H Youth Development staff in planning and conducting educational 4-H programs. This is not a policy-making group; rather it serves as an advisory group. This committee consists of two adults residing within each school district, one teen from each school district, two representatives from the Jr. Leadership Club, and four advisors-at-large. Teens are elected for one-year terms, while adults serve a three-year term. The committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, & November. (Dates may be changed at discretion of the committee)

Elections will take place during the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on November 17, 2010. Laura Breece is working on the nominating committee, and may be giving you a call to determine your interest in serving on this Council.

4-H Advisor Recognition Banquet

Hancock County's 4-H Program would be nothing without the many dedicated 4-H Advisors. A Volunteer Appreciation Banquet will be held at **6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 17, 2010 in Brugeman Lodge** (Riverbend Recreation Area) Invitations will be sent to advisors and key leaders, but please mark this date on your calendar. You deserve a night out! Advisors' meals are provided by the Hancock County Agricultural Society, but there is a cost for a spouse or guest. We hope you are pleased with the new format as the committee is looking to make this a fun and relaxing evening. Cliff Hite is scheduled to be our guest speaker.

Local Club Recognition

The "Celebration of 4-H" is one way the county recognizes 4-Hers at the end of the 4-H year. We have shifted the focus to a big party for everyone, regardless of if you receive an award. Receiving an award, even if it's a small one, in front of your family and friends can be a big thrill. That's why every club should consider having some type of recognition program. (*Be sure to include on Banner Club form.*)

Possible things to do at this event

- Pass out certificates and pins that were included in club packets
- Recognize parents for support
- Set goals for the following year
- Evaluate the previous year
- Encourage the members to plan the event
- Give special recognition to those that were recognized at county or state levels

Camp Counselor/CIT Applications**2011 Hancock Jr Camp: June 13-17**

It is hard to believe, but we are already beginning to plan for 4-H Camp! Next year's camp is an early camp as our dates are June 13-17.

Any 4-H member that is 14 years or older as of January 1, 2011 and at least a freshman in high school, and is interested in being a Camp Counselor or CIT for the 2011 Jr. Camp must complete an application form that is available at the Extension Office, or may be downloaded from our website. The form on the web site should allow you to enter the information on the form before printing. Counselor applications are due on December 1, 2010. Counselor selections will be held on December 8. Once again the dates are earlier to allow us the opportunity to work our training meetings around very busy teen schedules. 4-H Camp Ohio is a member of the National Camping Association, and we will abide by the guidelines set forth by that group. Please keep in mind that the position of Camp Counselor carries a large responsibility. All individuals chosen for these positions will be required to complete a specified amount of training hours before actually becoming a Camp Counselor or CIT. I think you will also find that teens look back on their experiences as Camp Counselor as one of the most meaningful during their 4-H involvement.

If you have any questions concerning the camp program, please contact me at 419-422-3851.

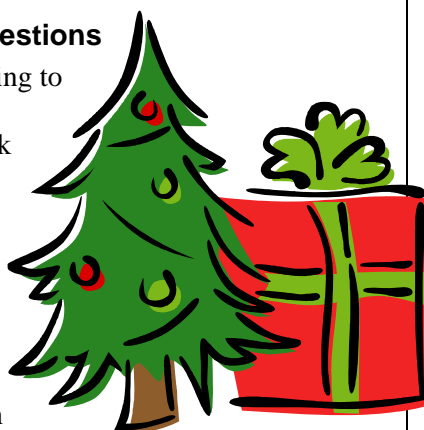
New Advisors

Please start thinking about adults that you would like to bring on board as advisors. People to consider might be parents, youth as they leave the 4-H program (must have at least one year between membership and advisor) and other interested adults. All interested adults will be required to complete an application, provide references, complete an interview and submit to fingerprinting. If you have a large club, it might be a good idea to have a group of advisors split off and form a new club. It's easy for members to fall through the cracks as the clubs get larger. Now is a great time to plant the seeds.

Volunteer packets may be picked up at our office after November 8th.

Christmas Gift Suggestions

If you are just starting to think about Christmas shopping, don't overlook the gift of 4-H Camp. There is no better gift than a 4-H camp experience. Gift certificates may be purchased at the Extension office. This certificate will then be applied toward camp fee. Camp dates are June 13-17, 2011.



State 4-H Achievement Award Applications

The Ohio 4-H Achievement Records will be available at the Extension Office by November 8th. 4-H State Achievement Awards were established to highlight overall achievement in a particular program area. Program areas include: Beef, Citizenship & Community Service, Clothing & Textiles, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Environmental Sciences, Family Life & Child Development, Food & Nutrition, Gardening & Horticulture, Health & Safety, Horse, Leadership, Mechanical & Engineering Science, Personal Development, Photography, Rabbits, Poultry, Sheep, Shooting Sports, Swine, and Veterinary Science.

A workshop will be held on November 23 at 1:00 p.m. I will also be happy to assist each member complete this form on an individual basis. Please set up an appointment with our office. Ohio Achievement Records are due to the Extension office by January 14, 2011, unless otherwise stated on the form.

We had three State Achievement winners last year. Benjamin Finsel, Garden & Horticulture, Morgan Woodward, Vet. Science, and Susan Rader,

Rabbits, were selected as winners and given the opportunity to attend the National 4-H Congress in November.

If you are not interested in completing the Achievement Record for state awards, you may still complete the record for county awards. This is the same form used in Hancock County to select representatives for State Leadership Camp, Citizenship Washington Focus, Buckeye Leadership Workshop, Carving New Ideas and other state opportunities that may arise. These must be submitted to the Extension office by January 14, 2011 to be considered for these awards.

State 4-H Scholarship Applications will also be available at the Extension office. These are also due on January 14, 2011, unless otherwise noted on the form.

Changes to the Ohio 4-H Teen Conference & Ohio Volunteer Conference

In 2010, the Ohio 4-H Teen Conference & the Ohio 4-H Volunteer Conference will both be held on March 12th at the Columbus Convention Center.

It was decided to hold conferences on the same day, yet hold separate sessions and luncheons. It is the hope of the state committee that volunteers will assist in transporting teens, and that the number of facilitators for sessions may be increased.

All older youth are encouraged to take part in this exciting event. Registration scholarships will be available to the first 25 registrations that are returned to our office. \$5 is the deposit required from the teens, and the remaining amount is sponsored by donors. Registration deadline is February 4th, and the information will be available at the Extension Office and on our web site.

All teen conference participants will enjoy a special luncheon speaker, choose from over 80 sessions to attend, participate in a community service activity and meet teens from all over Ohio.

The Ohio 4-H Volunteer Conference is designed to bring together 4-H volunteers from across the state of Ohio. The objective of this event is to learn together, & from each other in order to improve our ability to deliver programs to Ohio 4-H members. Nearly 100 sessions will be available to choose from. Our county 4-H Advisory Council is a sponsor for this event. If you would like to attend, please complete the enclosed registration and return to the Extension Office with a \$10.00 fee by February 4, 2011. It would be great to have over 20 participants from this county. Adult volunteers, spouses, and teens are welcome to attend.

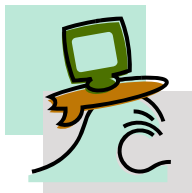
State 4-H Ambassador Program

The State 4-H Ambassadors program was designed to recognize 4-H teens that have achieved high standards of excellence in the 4-H program or project work, in community service, and in leadership. This is a great opportunity to develop skills that will enable you to be an ambassador for the 4-H program. Most meetings are held in Columbus, so please consider transportation needs prior to applying for this award.

If you have any questions at all, please give me a call. You will be amazed at everything you have done. This is also a great way to get organized for future college and scholarship applications. Ambassador applications will be available at the Extension office and are due in January.

Hancock.osu.edu

Our staff works daily to maintain an updated web site. Please visit this site and see what is available. Weekly updates are posted along with forms as they become available. We will work toward posting forms that may be completed and printed. We do our best to make everything easily accessible to all. If you experience difficulty in locating information, please contact us so we may assist you. To bring up the 4-H page, log on to <http://hancock.osu.edu> then click on "4-H Youth Development" on the (left) side panel. Check out our site! You will be amazed at the information available.



Volunteers Needed for School Programs

We have begun our school enrichment programs for another year. Thank you to Mennel Milling and Blanchard Valley Farmers Cooperative for sponsoring this program. Future sponsors are pending at this time. All classrooms have been scheduled, and this requires a great deal of time from our 4-H Program Assistant, Karen McDougall. She would appreciate any volunteers that would like to help with this amazing program. There are a few days when extra hands might be needed. Contact Karen to get your name on the list.

We also have several "Real Money, Real World" programs scheduled in local high schools. Volunteers are needed to facilitate stations that the teens visit during the simulation. Once again, this is a very worthwhile program that needs volunteers. Contact Susan to get your name on the list for this volunteer opportunity.

Items & Events

President & CEO of the National 4-H Council to Speak Locally



McComb Lions Club will be honoring Rick Little on Saturday, November 20, 2010

with a dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets for the event are

\$23.00, and are available from the McCombs Lions Club. Featured speaker for the evening is Donald Floyd, Jr. Don is the President and CEO of the National 4-H Council. He has provided leadership to the National Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century, and created the first national action agenda for youth policy. This would be a great opportunity to hear from a national leader in 4-H Youth Development.

Donald T. Floyd, Jr.
President & CEO of
National 4-H Council

Cloverbuds Meet as a County Club

It's getting close to Christmas, one of Karen's favorite holidays. One thing associated with Christmas is trees, real ones!

Have you given any thought to how many years it takes to grow a Christmas tree?

Are there different kinds of trees to choose from? What should we look

for when we choose a live tree?

What are some of the safety things we need to know about them?

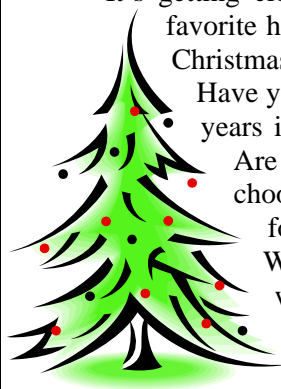
What does it take to get these beautiful trees ready from the

tree farm to your living room?

Al and Terri Price, owners of Pumpkins and Pines will share with us about getting their tree farm ready for the holidays.

Please plan on joining us on **Thursday, November 18, 2010** from 6:15 – 7:15 p.m. at the Hancock County Agricultural Service Center for the next Cloverbud meeting. We'll have a special "make and take" craft you won't want to miss. Please RSVP by November 17th by calling 419-422-3851 or e-mail mcdougall.1@osu.edu

As always, it is requested that a parent stay with the child. Can't wait to see you on the 18th!



4-H Age Requirements

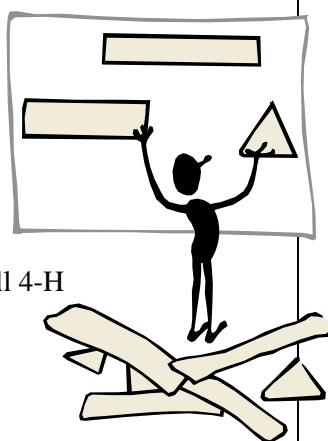
Eligibility for 4-H membership begins when a child has reached 5 and is enrolled in kindergarten as of January 1 of the current year (Cloverbuds); membership to the 4-H “Club Program” begins when a child is at least 8 and enrolled in 3rd grade as of January 1 of the current year. This has not changed over the last several years. There are no exceptions, so please make sure parents are given accurate information.

Junior Leadership Club Changes Meeting Days

The Hancock County Jr. Leadership Club has decided to meet on the **3rd Wednesday** of each month. This club is for all 4-H members, ages 14-18, as of January 1, 2011. Each month we meet at the Hancock County Agricultural Service Center. (The November meeting will be the 2nd Wednesday due to another event previously scheduled)

This past year has been a busy year for the club. We participated in numerous community service projects, assisted at many 4-H events, and listened to speakers that will assist in the development of leadership skills.

Many good programs are being planned for this year. If you're interested in becoming a leader in 4-H and your community, this club could be for you. Officers will be elected in November. If you plan to attend but have been unable due to sports practices, please e-mail Susan so that your name gets added to the roster. (After November, reminders will only be sent to those enrolled.)



Club Finances

All clubs must submit their Treasurer book to the 4-H office. An audit should be conducted by a 3-member committee of club members and Advisor. Please get this done by the end of the year. Thank you to the 17 clubs that have already submitted treasurer books.



Things to remember regarding club finances:

- Checking accounts should be in the established club name
- Two signatures required to write a check
- Bank statements should be sent to an advisor, or someone not writing checks. After review, it should be given to treasurer for reconciliation.
- Bills should be approved for payment by club members
- Accurate records in treasurer's book

This office filed 990 for all clubs with an EIN

**Members will never learn the role of treasurer if advisors do not allow them to do their job.
Work with them; do not do it for them.**

Club Donations

As we wind down the 4-H year, please keep in mind the opportunity for clubs to sponsor awards for “Celebration of 4-H”, give to 4-H Camp Ohio Improvement Campaign (building of a new adventure tower), contribute to the 4-H Endowment Fund, sponsor trophies for Jr. Fair, or donate for special areas in the 4-H program such as shooting sports, county events, etc. Show Arena, & Goat Pen projects are also accepting donations. Please do not keep large sums of money in your club treasury. 4-H is a non profit organization. Please do not spend club funds for all personal items.

Jr. Fair

2011 Jr. Fair Board Members Selected

Congratulations to Jr. Fair Board members that were selected for 2011. Interviews were very competitive, and unfortunately, not all applicants could be accepted due to the large number of applicants. These teens will work very hard to make the 2011 Jr. Fair the best ever.

Olivia Altvater	Miranda Palmer
Kaleb Berger	Rachelle Palmer
Justin Bower	Katelyn Rader
Mikayla Brown	Brooke Rehus
Jenny Burkmier	Lindsay Rinker
Shawn Burkmier	Marisa Rose
Lauren Burner	Ashley Russell
Jared Corbin	Hannah Saltzman
Britta Fenstermaker	Luke Schaffer
Kody Frysinger	Michael Schlumbohm
Kirsten Glick	Ashley Siferd
Corrine Heflinger	Susie Stoepfel
Tyler Horn	Caitlin Streacker
Alyssa Hunker	Mara Wallace
Anthony Jones	Michaela Wallace
Marie Keefe	Brent Warren
Mikael Keiffer	Kaity Weidman
Andrew McDaniel	Jaron Welty
Alexis Moser	Chase Wilson
Ali Mowery	Morgan Woodward
Edy Mowery	Shelby Woodward
Erika Nigh	

Jr. Fair Day at Ohio Fair Manager's Conference



Jr. Fair Day at the Ohio Fair Manager's Conference will be on Saturday, January 8, 2011. The committee made this on a Saturday so more members would have the opportunity to attend.

Please let Nicole know if you plan to attend this event.

The Importance of a Thank-You

Each year thousands of dollars are spent to support the Jr. Fair livestock sale. These buyers are showing support for the youth in Hancock County. It is very important that members show appreciation to these individuals and businesses that spend a holiday sitting at the Hancock County Fair during the sale. Please send a nice thank you to both the base bid buyers and those that purchased through the sale ring. Not only should you say thank-you, but also include what your 4-H or FFA experience has meant to you. They love to hear personal stories that show the impact of their investment in young people. Considering they gave up a day to attend the sale, won't you spend 10 minutes to write a thank you? It's the right thing to do!

Please contact the Jr. Fair Office if you need additional information concerning the buyer(s) of your animals.

Beef Tagging & Registration

Market beef registration, tagging and weigh-in will take place on **Tuesday, January 4th, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Hancock County Fairground.** (Includes all independent or finished dairy beef steers, calf club, and born & raised) This is how exhibitors will register steers for the 2011 Hancock County Fair. You will not need to register this project on-line this year.

Tagging will only be cancelled in the event of Level 2 weather conditions. If cancelled due to weather, tagging will be rescheduled for January 11th. Contact Nicole at 419-423-1373 with any questions.

Please share this information with those that may plan to join 4-H in 2011.

Excellence in Booth Exhibits

We applaud all clubs that took the time to create such wonderful booths. It was great to see so many members participating in the fun.

4-H Advisory Council has supported the decision that all clubs with a minimum of five non-livestock projects must be responsible for displaying a club booth in the youth building at the fair. All clubs will be assigned a booth, with the exception of the horse clubs that combine for one large booth. Four clubs have requested extra large booths for 2011. All clubs should let us know of needs for 2011, as we will be posting that diagram soon.

Awards & Recognition

Top 4-H Awards Presented

Our top 4-H awards are the Danforth “I Dare You” award and the Outstanding 4-Her award.

The Danforth award is presented to outstanding 4-H youth recognizing excellence in character, balanced personal development and qualities of constructive leadership. The 2010 Danforth winners are Mikayla Brown and Chase Wilson.

Mikayla Brown is the daughter of Garth & Carmen Brown of Findlay. She is a junior at Findlay High School and an 8-year member of Prospectors 4-H Club and K-9 Best Friends. She is a member of Jr. Leadership Club, Jr. Fair Board, Camp Counselor, State 4-H Ambassador, and State Teen Council. She has attended State Leadership Camp, Citizenship Washington Focus, and National 4-H Congress.

Chase Wilson is the son of Kent & Colleen Wilson of Jenera. Chase is a junior at Bluffton High School, and an 8-year member of Jolly Jacksons 4-H Club. He is a member of Jr. Leadership Club and Camp CIT. He has attended the Ohio 4-H Volunteer Conference, and Citizenship Washington Focus.

Outstanding 4-Her award is considered the highest recognition received by county 4-H members. Selection is based on leadership in the club, outstanding achievement in project work and participation at the local, county, state and national level. Winners are Susan Rader and Alexis Moser.

Alexis Moser is the daughter of Bart & Joy Moser. She is a senior at Cory Rawson High School, and a 9-year member of Gold Star 4-H. She is a member of Jr. Leadership Club, and Jr. Fair Board. She has served on State Fashion Board, and attended Ohio Teen Conference and Buckeye Leadership Workshop.

Susan Rader is the daughter of Brian & Barb Rader, and a graduate of McComb High School. She is a 10-year member of Northwest Stars 4-H Club, and active in Jr. Leadership Club, Camp Counselor, and Jr. Fair Board. She has attended Buckeye Leadership Workshop, State Leadership Camp, Citizenship Washington Focus, and will attend National 4-H Congress in November 2010.

**Congratulations
to all award winners!**



Celebration of 4-H

Over 300 4-H members, families and friends attended the “Celebration of 4-H” on October 7th. There are a few items to be picked up by club advisors so members may receive their awards. Certificates are also available, and should be signed and distributed to club members.

All advisors have received premiums for still projects exhibited in club booths. That money should be given to members as soon as possible. **Please notice the date by which checks need to be cashed.**

Thank You to Award Donors

We would like to give special recognition to those that sponsored awards for our “Celebration of 4-H”.

Donors include:

- 4-H Advisory Council of Hancock County
- Hancock County 4-H Endowment
- Hancock County Agricultural Society
- Hancock County Jr. Leadership Club
- Ag Credit, ACA
- Joyce Schroeder, Master Clothing Educator

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Keith L. Smith, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for
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