Welcome to Hancock County 4-H

This 4-H Family Handbook has been prepared as a resource for you and your family. It contains valuable information that can help your family members get the most out of the 4-H year. We hope you have an enjoyable year and take part in the many 4-H activities planned for your experience.

What is 4-H?
- 4-H is a youth development program for youth ages 5-18 years old. Members either participate as Cloverbuds or Project 4-H members depending on their age. See following for the specifics.
- A voluntary, educational program designed to meet the needs and interests of boys and girls.
- The purpose of 4-H is to provide learning experiences and opportunities for boys and girls that will help them grow and develop to the fullest of their potential through projects, programs and activities.
- Although competition is a part of the 4-H program, the real benefit comes from learning, not from winning. Skills learned and friendships made in 4-H will long outlast any ribbons and trophies won.
- Although it is not mandatory, 4-H members may exhibit their 4-H projects in the Hancock County Fair Junior Fair.

4-H Membership Eligibility
- 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.
- A youth’s 4-H eligibility ends December 31 the year he/she turns 19.

Cloverbud Program
- Register a child for the 4-H Cloverbud Program by completing a Cloverbud Enrollment Form by April 1.
- Cloverbuds participate in fun, hands-on learning activities with other youth their age.
- Cloverbuds are able to exhibit what they have done in a booth at the fair and will receive a ribbon.
- Cloverbuds are not eligible for competitive events, county awards, or 4-H camp.
- Cloverbud opportunities include: special countywide Cloverbud activities including Day Camp and activities during the Fair.
- Clubs with Cloverbud participants must have a trained Cloverbud volunteer.
- All Cloverbuds may participate in County Cloverbuds, first Thursday in Feb, Apr, Oct & Dec at 6:15pm.

Enrollment & Completion Requirements
- Members must select and complete at least one project from the list of approved Ohio and Hancock County 4-H projects in this handbook or the current Ohio Family Guide.
- Completed Enrollment Forms (for new members and those without an email address) must be submitted to the 4-H Office no later than April 1 by club advisor.
- All project changes due in writing by June 1. Form available at: http://go.osu.edu/forms
- Dairy Feeder projects may NOT be added after April 1.
- Shooting Sports projects may NOT be added after April 1.
- Clubs may submit completed Enrollment packets and online submitted club membership by early deadline for Banner Club bonus points.
- When repeating a 4-H project, the project book may be reused, but needs replaced if the book is new or revised. If repeating a project, you must have records and learning experiences for the current year. A binder with work in it is encouraged. A new project book for most still projects is necessary.
- Project guidelines and judging/exhibit requirements are listed in this book for all projects.
- 4-H Still Projects may be judged in one of the following ways:
  o County Judging event, dates included in this handbook.
  o County Make-Up Judging event, date listed on 4-H Calendar (not eligible for county placings).
  o 4-H Advisor may judge the project (not eligible for county placings). Advisor must report grades to the Extension staff by August 1 to be able to display at the county fair.
- Project grades are to be given as follows:
  - County Judging event: Superior, Outstanding, Fair, Needs Improvement.
  - County Make-Up Judging event and by 4-H Advisor: Outstanding, Fair, Needs Improvement. Outstanding is the top grade a member may receive for attending the Make-Up Judging or to be judged by a 4-H Advisor. To receive Superior, member must attend the County Judging event for that project.
- All 4-H members are responsible for bringing completed project to appropriate judging event and scheduling an appointment when required.
• Completion of a 4-H year requires youth:
  o To complete the requirements of at least one of the projects enrolled in at the beginning of the 4-H year.
  o Have at least one completed project evaluated during the county 4-H project judging or by a club advisor.
  o Be in good standing in the club including attending the required number of meetings.

• Jr. Fair Book may contain additional rules. It is your responsibility to be familiar with Jr. Fair policy if you choose to exhibit there. You must be in good standing with 4-H to participate in Jr. Fair.

Instructions for Completing Paper Enrollment Forms (New members and any member without an email address)

Please read and complete everything carefully in BLUE or BLACK ink!

- Please use blue or black ink and print clearly!
- One (1) form must be completed for each club the member is enrolled in, list name exactly the same on each form.
- Address should be the one designated by the Post Office. Include house number, road or street, post office box if appropriate, town and zip-code. If different, include parent address.
- Please include your county of residence. If out of county, you must be accepted and proper paperwork on file. Form available at http://hancock.osu.edu and submitted prior to March 15, 2020.
- Please indicate if you would like to receive text alerts and the service provider. Note, there is no fee for this service however, standard text message rates apply.
- Please include e-mail address and notify office staff when that address is changed.
- Write parents’ names as they should appear in any 4-H publication.
- Include club name on form.
- Ages should be as of January 1 of the current year.
- Parent Signature is a must!
- Advisor should check all information for accuracy and sign.
- Enrollment Forms are due April 1. Submit to your advisor before the 1st.
- If you have a child with special needs that will need an accommodation, please list and call the office to schedule a time to meet with Cassie.

Instructions for Online enrollment (Returning members only)

- Login to http://oh.4honline.com and follow the instructions available in the “Need Help?” section. There is a printable step-by-step guide and a short video. ALL RETURNING MEMBERS HAVE A PROFILE! Do not create a profile!
- Update personal information
- Read the Additional Information page carefully and select the correct check box and type your name in the box. This page will lock after you submit your enrollment. Scroll to the bottom and click Continue.
- Update the Health Form page with accurate information. Click Continue
- Review & Edit your clubs. Only those clubs you participate in should be listed. Add and/or Delete any club to make this listing accurate. Click Continue.
- Review & Edit projects. Only projects you will complete should be listed. Add and/or Delete any project to make this listing accurate. Click Continue.
- Click Submit Enrollment. After clicking Submit Enrollment, you may only update address, email, phone or emergency information. All other updates will need to be addressed by the Extension Office staff.

Add/drop forms

- Complete an Add/Drop Form for any project you wish to add after you have submitted your enrollment and before June 1.
- Complete an Add/Drop Form for any project you wish to drop after you have submitted your enrollment and before the first county judging date. After August 1, it will be marked as incomplete.
- Print neatly and make sure the form is completely filled out.
- Member and Advisor signatures must be completed on the bottom.

Project Guidelines & Exhibit Requirements

This handbook contains a listing of 4-H project descriptions, guidelines & exhibit requirements for Hancock County. In order to standardize judging as much as possible, all members who bring their project to judging and the fair should follow the exhibit requirements listed in this handbook.

Members who fail to do so may be penalized at the discretion of the respective judge.

**Project Skill Level Description**

Project skill level indicates the project’s intended audience.

- B = Beginning level - for members with little or no experience in a project area, or 8 to 10-year olds.
- I = Intermediate level - for members with some experience in a project area, or 11 to 13-year olds.
- A = Advanced level - for experienced members in a project area, or 14 or older.
- X = All levels - for all skill and age levels. Exceptions to these age guidelines are noted.