Dear 4-H Family,

It has been another great year for 4-H in Hancock County. I feel blessed that I come to a job every day that I look forward to and have great people to spend time with.

The fall has been a fun time as we have recognized the efforts and talents of our members and volunteers. Be sure to check out top awards and recognitions in this issue.

After the first of the year, the Agricultural Service Center will be getting a facelift. The offices and conference rooms will be painted and re-carpeted. Please pardon our dust when you stop in. Check out the details of how this affects Extension programming during the beginning of year in this newsletter.

Plans are underway for 2017. Calendar dates for project judging, camp, and many other activities are set. We are looking forward to kicking off a new year for our families.

We would like to welcome our newly elected 4-H Council members – Arcadia: Autumn Courtney and Shari Burkmier, Arlington: Claire Bateson and Barb Stamper, Cory-Rawson: Aubrey Price and Beth White, Findlay: Nikki Inbody and Toni Altvater, Liberty Benton: Lindsey Bishop and Les Talmadge, McComb: Abbi Brink and Linda Siferd, Riverdale: Ashlyn Fadley, Van Buren: Amanda Strapp and Lindsay Rinker, Vanlue: Caleb Breece and Laura Breece, and Council at Large: Rose Ann Campbell. Thank you to everyone that agreed to be on the ballot. Your support of the program is appreciated. All of these folks and our current council members will be representing your school districts and guiding the program in 2017.

Please read through this newsletter carefully. Reminders and updates will be posted to http://hancock.osu.edu and the Hancock County 4-H Facebook page. Be sure to visit both places often. Winter weather is upon us. Please remember if we are at a level 2 or Findlay City Schools cancel, 4-H programs are cancelled. OSU Extension will close if we are on a level 3.

OSU Extension Staff wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Yours in 4-H,
Cassie Anderson
Cassie Anderson
Extension Educator- 4-H Youth Development

Looking for information? Resources for You:
- [http://hancock.osu.edu](http://hancock.osu.edu) - Check our website for current opportunities, updates, and much more.
- Ohio4h.org – Ohio 4-H opportunities & info
- Hancock County 4-H on Facebook, Like Us!
- 4-H Family Handbook (2017 will be distributed to advisors the end of January)

Calendar Update:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December – events at Hancock Ag Service Center unless noted</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Achievement Record Workshop, 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Junior Leadership Club meeting, 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Office closes at 3:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-26</td>
<td>Merry Christmas – office closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Office closes at 3:00 p.m.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>January – events at Hancock Ag Service Center unless noted</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Happy New Year – office closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Horse Council meeting, 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Market/Dairy Steer Tagging, 9:00-11:00 a.m., Hancock County Fairgrounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – office closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Junior Leadership Club meeting, 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Achievement Records due</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>4-H Advisory Council orientation, 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>4-H Advisory Council meal, 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4-H Advisory Council meeting, 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Camp Counselor training, 6:00-9:00 p.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Awards Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Volunteers in the Know EERA wide training, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (Youth Protection Training offered), Putnam County ESC</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Volunteer Kickoff, 9:00-11:30 a.m., location TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Volunteer Kickoff, 6:00-8:30 p.m., location TBA</td>
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<tr>
<th>February – events at Hancock Ag Service Center unless noted</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>County Cloverbuds, 6:15-7:15 p.m., Black Heritage Library</td>
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<tr>
<th>March – events at Hancock Ag Service Center unless noted</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Camp Counselor training, 6:00-8:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Goat Council meeting, 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>4-H Kickoff, 6:00-8:00 p.m., location TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Horse Council meeting, 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ohio 4-H Conference, Greater Columbus Conference Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>L.E.A.D. Conference, 7:00 p.m., location TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Junior Leadership Club meeting, 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Quality Assurance, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Van Buren High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Camp Counselor training, 6:00-8:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>4-H Benefit Donations due to the office, ticket purchase deadline for the event April 1st</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Early Enrollment due for Banner Club Bonus Points</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>4-H Advisory Council meeting, 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>New Volunteer Orientation and Youth Protection Training, 6:00-8:00 p.m.</td>
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Holiday and Remodeling Information

The Extension Office will close at 3:00 p.m. on December 22 and December 30. The office will be closed December 24-26 for Christmas, January 2 for New Year’s Day, and January 16 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The Hancock Agricultural Service Center will be going through a medium size renovation after the first of the year. The office suites will be
Clover Connections

Winter 2016-2017

Painted and re-carpeted. So please pardon our dust as we are preparing for this project.

How does this affect you? The Extension Office will be moving into the large conference room from January 3 until January 13. The week prior we will be packing and preparing to move. We will be open but services and accessibility to phones may be limited. We love when 4-Hers want to get an early start over the holidays on project work. We encourage the purchase of project books on or before December 22 and after January 17. We will not be able to sell books while we are in the large conference room.

For the months of January, February, and March the large conference room will not be available for meetings or programs. As we confirm alternative locations, it will be advertised. Please pay close attention to locations when you receive notices.

**News**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

Individuals interested in becoming a new 4-H volunteer please contact Cassie by February 1 to start the process. Applications and information about background checks are available at [http://hancock.osu.edu](http://hancock.osu.edu). Once a candidate has completed the required steps, orientation training is needed. Currently there are two scheduled: January 26, 6:30 p.m. at the *Volunteers in the Know Training* at the Putnam County ESC and February 21 at the Hancock County Agricultural Service Center.

**Volunteer Rescreening and Training**

If it is your year to complete a rescreening for a background check, you should have received a letter from the office with details on how to complete this process. Thank you to everyone that has already taken care of this requirement. All rescreening will be reimbursed with a receipt by Ohio State University. Rescreening should be completed by year end. Please contact Cassie if you need more time.

Advisors are also required to complete yearly youth protection training. This is an important training for youth safety as well as protecting you, our volunteers. Training must be completed prior to the April 3 enrollment deadline. If you do not plan on being an advisor in 2017, please let the office know as soon as possible.

**Youth Protection Training Opportunities include:**

- January 26, *Volunteers in the Know* training, Putnam County ESC, 6:30 p.m.
- January 28, Volunteer Kickoff, 9:00-11:30 a.m., location TBA
- January 31, Volunteer Kickoff, 6:00-8:30 p.m., location TBA
- February 21, New Volunteer Orientation, first hour, 6:00 p.m., Hancock County Agricultural Service Center
- March 11, Ohio 4-H Conference, Greater Columbus Convention Center
- March 13, L.E.A.D. Conference, 7:00 p.m., location TBA
- March 29, New Volunteer Orientation, first hour, 6:00 p.m., Hancock County Agricultural Service Center

There is also an online option. Contact Kathy Biery, biery.12@osu.edu, to schedule online training after the first of the year.

**Volunteer Kickoff**

All volunteers are encouraged to attend one of our two volunteer kickoffs, January 28, 9:00-11:30 a.m. or January 31, 6:00-8:30 p.m., location TBA. Volunteer Kickoff is a great way to visit with fellow volunteers, find out about upcoming opportunities, complete required training, win fun prizes, and get your club Hancock County 4-H Newsletter.
materials. All clubs are required to have at least one volunteer attend one of these two kickoff events.

**4-H Achievement Record - What is it? Why should I complete it?**

Scholarships, trips, and state level recognition are all potential outcomes of completing the Ohio Achievement Record. The record is a summary of your 4-H career. Your leadership, projects, awards, 4-H participation, and community service are all part of the record. The achievement record can be saved and added to from year to year. The document can be accessed at: [http://go.osu.edu/OH4Hawards](http://go.osu.edu/OH4Hawards). We will be covering how to complete the record at a Parent/Youth workshop on December 19 at 6:00 p.m. I will work with individuals, by appointment, that are not able to attend. Final drafts of the achievement record are due January 23 to the Extension Office. I will review drafts the week of January 16.

Completing an Ohio Achievement record is not a quick or easy process. So why should you do it? It will help you develop your writing skills, it makes completing college scholarships much easier, and there are many opportunities for trips and awards. At the county level, achievement records are used to select youth to attend Ohio Leadership Camp, Buckeye Leadership Workshop, Sea Camp, Forestry Camp, and Citizenship Washington Focus. The county awards committee selects the youth that will represent Hancock County for the State Achievement Awards. The different project areas are: beef, citizenship & community service, clothing & textiles, companion animals, dairy, dairy goat, environmental science, family life & child development, foods & nutrition, gardening & horticulture, health & safety, horse, leadership, meat goat, mechanical & engineering science, personal development, photography, poultry, rabbits, sheep, shooting sports, swine, veterinary science, and woodworking. The youth that win at the state level will attend National Club Congress in Atlanta, Georgia.

If you have questions about the Achievement Record process, please contact Cassie.

**Hancock County Junior Leadership Club**

Junior Leadership is open to all teens (they do not have to be current 4-Hers) that are 14 years old and a freshman in High School. The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Hancock County Agricultural Service Center from 7:00-8:30 p.m. An average meeting starts with the officer led business portion and is followed by a program. Topics are determined by the club members. In 2016 topics included: communication skills, workforce skills, surviving college, cooking, and much more. The group also assists with many events throughout the 4-H program. Junior Leadership is a great club to have a direct say in what you want to learn, develop useful skills, have fun, and make a difference in our community.

**MEETING DATES FOR 2016-2017**

- December 21, 2016; Program: Cooking Class Night: learn how to prepare and share a meal.
- January 18
- February 15
- March 15
- April 19
- May 17
- June 21
- July 20
- August 16
- September 20
- October 18
- November 15
- December 20

**Hancock County Pig Club**

The Hancock County Pig Club had a great 1st year. The main goal of the club is to provide educational support and opportunities for its members interested in the swine industry. Educational meetings are held throughout the spring and summer teaching about ear notches, quality assurance, meat cuts, breeds, parts, and housing. Members also learn how to prepare for a show and proper showing techniques. If you are interested in taking a 4-H swine project this
year and are not sure where to begin, then the Hancock County Pig Club is just for you. Please contact Bob May at 419-348-5358 or Beth James at 567-429-9645 to get started.

**County Cloverbuds**

Details are being finalized for the County Cloverbud program for 2017. Cloverbuds are youth ages 5-8 and in Kindergarten through 2nd grade. County Cloverbuds meet February 2, April 6, October 5, and December 7, from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

Cloverbuds and their adult partner are invited to go on a multi-cultural adventure at the Black Heritage Library February 2. We will meet at the library located 817 Harmon Street in Findlay, 6:15 p.m. There is off street parking behind the library. Weather policy – if Findlay schools cancel, there will not be a Cloverbud meeting. Questions, feel free to contact Beth Marshall at 419-422-5322.

Cloverbud Day Camp is scheduled for June 15, 2017.

If you would like to be a part of the County Cloverbud program, please complete a current enrollment form and drop it off at the Extension Office.

**Opportunities**

**Chamber Agri-Business Committee Holds Annual Bulk Sausage Distribution**

The Agri-Business Committee of the Findlay•Hancock County Chamber of Commerce will take orders for their annual whole hog bulk sausage sale beginning March 1, 2017. Sausage is sold either seasoned (salt and pepper) or unseasoned. Donation for the sausage is $9.00 per 3 lb. bag. Orders will be available for pick up Saturday, April 8 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Legacy Lawn and Pet, 6566 Township Road 236, Findlay. Donations benefit the Agri-Business Scholarship Fund for area students pursuing a degree in an agricultural related field. Orders may be placed at the Chamber, 123 East Main Cross Street, Findlay or by calling their office at 419-422-3313.

For more information, contact The Findlay•Hancock County Chamber of Commerce at 419-422-3313 or via email, lpoland@FindlayHancockChamber.com.

**Club Fundraiser Opportunity**

4-H Advisory Council of Hancock County will coordinate the Little Caesar Pizza Sale again this year. The sale will begin March 13 and conclude April 10. Clubs make approximately $5.00 per item sold. Last year, as a county, we sold $23,000+ in sales. This is a user friendly fundraiser that is great for clubs to raise funds or members to raise money toward attending camp.

**Hancock County 4-H Camp June 25-29**

Looking for a great Christmas Gift? Buy your camper a gift certificate for camp! Get in at the early bird rate of just $160. Checks are to be made payable to OSU Extension Hancock County.

**Junior Fair Items**

**Finished Beef Tagging**

All members planning to exhibit Market and/or Dairy Steers at the 2017 Hancock County Fair must bring their animal(s) to the steer tagging January 14 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Hancock County Fairgrounds. All livestock must attend. If there is a conflict with the youth member, a representative may bring the animal for them. If you know of new members with finished beef projects, please
Anyone planning on exhibiting steers at the Ohio State Fair must submit a DNA registration kit by January 15 to the State Fair entry office. It is the exhibitor’s responsibility to request the kit. We do not have them at the Extension Office.

Dairy Feeder Tagging - Vaccinate - Weigh-In
The Dairy Feeder tagging is July 15 from 8:00-11:00 a.m. in the Buckeye Building at the fairgrounds.

Members planning on attending the State Fair with their Dairy Feeder must have their calf tagged before June 1. State Fair calves may be tagged at the fairgrounds on May 22 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Contact Lynae Stacy (419-722-6096) if you have any questions.

Celebrations

Volunteer Celebrations
Congratulations to our Outstanding Service to 4-H, 4-H Alumni and Hall of Fame winners. These volunteers were presented their awards at the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet in November.

Outstanding Service to 4-H
- Jeff Ewing
- Phil Reigle

4-H Alumni Award
- Bob Christy
- Brad Breece

2016 Hall of Fame
- Joan Biery
- Betty Flinn

If you would like to nominate a deserving volunteer, nominations for these awards are accepted through November 1.

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clients on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.