

# 4-H FOCUS

HANCOCK COUNTY

December 14, 2022

Hello 4-H Families,

Happy Wednesday! This is a special shout out to all of my online shopping fans... National Free Shipping Day! What is not to love about this fun holiday? This holiday was started in 2008 while the coupon portion was then launched in 2017 to use as a resource for online savings providing shoppers with coupons and free shipping codes from top retail partners.



Luke Knowles is known to be the founder of this holiday. This was something that struck him as during all of the seasonal hustle and bustle a perfect event like free shipping and then guaranteed on-time delivery was exactly what the holiday season was missing. On December 17, 2008 Knowles officially kicked off the first ever Free Shipping Day earning \$764 million in online sales and soon became one of the top 10 highest earning days during the holiday season that year! So, to all of my online shoppers- will you be partaking in this National Holiday?

We want to be one of the first to wish you Merry Christmas this year. Remember to spend quality time with your families and friends. This is the greatest gift you can give them.

On that note, President Johnson has gifted the employees of The Ohio State University with a gift this holiday season. This gift includes Hancock County Extension as well as all the other extension offices. We will be closed from Thursday, December 22 at 3:00pm through Monday, January 2, 2023. If you plan to stop in, keep this in mind.

Our office is always available to help answer any questions that you may have. Please feel free to contact our office at (419) 422-3851. Our scheduled office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm. 😊

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

|                |   |        |  |
|----------------|---|--------|--|
| Dec 7          | Camp Counselor Interviews                       | Jan 7  | Market Steer Tag-In, 9am-11am                |
| Dec 8          | Camp Counselor Interviews                       | Jan 11 | Horse Council Mtg, 7:00pm                    |
| Dec 12         | Achievement Workshop,<br>CANCELED               | Jan 15 | Camp Counselor Mtg, 2:00pm                   |
| Dec 22         | Office Closing at 3:00pm                        | Jan 16 | OFFICE CLOSED                                |
| Dec 23 – Jan 2 | OFFICE CLOSED                                   | Jan 18 | Make It and Take It Sewing Clinic,<br>6:00pm |
| Jan 1          | Market Steers MUST be in<br>Ownership of member | Jan 21 | Horse Council Awards Banquet                 |

## **PROJECT WORK:**

**4-H Online:** Now is the time to start re-enrolling or enrolling for the new 4-H year!! This is open to all advisors, volunteers, and members. Go to <https://v2.4honline.com>. If you have any questions at all, please contact the office and we will be happy to assist you.

**4-H Project Books:** The cost of project books is changing. Effective immediately, all books previously sold for \$6 will now be \$8. Any other books, sold for more than the previous \$6, may or may not have changed in price. If you have questions, contact the office prior to purchasing. As before, we accept cash or check.

## **OTHER NOTES:**

**Club Financial Statements: CHANGE FOR 2023!!** We will be conducting club audits for all 4-H clubs this year. Organizational advisors please be sure to watch your mailboxes as letters have been sent with more information.

**New Volunteers:** Are you wanting to join our 4-H team as a volunteer? Be sure to contact our office for more information. All applications are due to our office January 25, 2023!

**Volunteer Rescreening:** Information has been sent out to those advisors who need to be rescreened. Keep an eye out in your mailbox for the letter and instructions.

**Sewing Clinics:** Thank you to Joyce Schroeder who will be hosting sewing clinics with new topics for the coming year! Be sure to watch for more information on those clinics.

The first clinic, "Make It and Take It!", will be held Wednesday, January 18, starting at 6:00pm here at the OSU Extension Office This is open to all our 4-H families. Please contact our office at 419-422-3851 to reserve your spot!

## **JUNIOR FAIR:**

**Rabbit Exhibitors:** The rabbit department is looking for junior high and high school aged exhibitors in either 4-H or FFA who are willing to meet with adults to improve the Junior Fair Rabbit Department. If you are interested, contact Bev Welty at 419-348-5378 or [bcwelty@msn.com](mailto:bcwelty@msn.com).

### Rabbit Projects: Changes for 2023!!

The state has updated the rabbit books! We have new numbers and a new project book. Once they are available, you will be able to stop in and decide which project you are interested in. Here are your options:

| Project Number | Project Name    | County Judging | State Fair   | County Fair   |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--|---|
| 228BR          | Rabbit Breeding | August 7       | Member makes state fair entry  | Rabbit shows at fair  |
| 228MA          | Rabbit Market   | August 7       | Member makes state fair entry  | Rabbit shows at fair  |
| 228PE          | Rabbit Pet      | July 6         | Member must be selected during July 6 judging day to attend state fair | Rabbit does <b><u>NOT</u></b> show at fair. Educational display in club booth |

### Market Hog Projects: Changes for 2023!!

- 1) New hog weights for the 2023 fair- Minimum weight is 215 and Maximum weight is 285.
- 2) Market hogs can be farrowed on or AFTER January 1.

**Market Beef Projects:** Tagging and Weigh-In will be held Saturday January 7 starting at 9:00am at the Hancock County Fairgrounds in the Buckeye Building. This is MANDATORY to attend if wanting to participate in the 2023 Hancock County Fair.

Reminder- If you are planning on exhibiting Hancock County Calf Club, Market Steers, or Dairy Steers at the 2023 Hancock County Fair, be sure animals are in your possession by January 1, 2023.

**Market Beef Projects DNA Kits/EID Tags:** The Ohio State Fair DNA Sample Collection Kits and Cards are now available and ready for pick up at our office. These Kits and Cards **MUST** be received to the Ohio State Fair by January 15, 2023. We will not be open from December 23 through January 2, so please keep this in mind when you are planning.

**Horse Projects:** The end of the year banquet will be held January 21 at the Fostoria YMCA. Doors will open at 5:30pm with dinner at 6:00pm. Be sure to bring a dish to share, your own drinks, and \$25 in door prizes.

**EquiSTEP: NEW for 2023!!** Is a mandatory requirement for all horse project members participating in the Hancock County Horse Program. This online training does not open until January 1, 2023. The EquiSTEP certificate of completion is due to the Extension Office on June 1 at 4:00pm.

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

**Ohio 4-H Conference:** Will be taking place at the Greater Columbus Convention Center on March 11, 2023. Registrations are due to the Extension Office by January 20 by 4:00pm. For more information, please visit <https://ohio4h.org/events/ohio-4-h-conference>.

**Hockey Game:** The Toledo Walleye will host the FIRST EVER 4H and FFA Nights this season! We are excited to have these organizations join us in the arena and would love your support in getting the word out to different clubs and chapters. These specialty nights will be held on Saturday, March 25th and Sunday, March 26th. A \$19 ticket allows groups to join in on an exclusive pregame open skate and group seating for the Walleye game. We also will be offering hotdog or pizza vouchers as well for an additional cost. To make your reservation, please email an estimated number of seats you would like us to hold for your group! A final number and payment will not be due until 2 weeks before your selected game. My name is Maddie Recker, and my number is (419) 725-9271. We hope to fill the arena with these wonderful youth organizations!

**Wishing everyone a great week! 😊**