

4-H FOCUS

HANCOCK COUNTY

December 21, 2022

Hello 4-H Families,

Happy Winter Solstice. Today is the day with the fewest hours of sunlight in the whole year. That sounds very gloomy and doomy, BUT.... it only means from here on out, days have more sunlight and spring & summer are right around the corner. With spring and summer come more 4-H activities and THAT is something to be happy about!!



One of the greatest gifts to the 4-H community is all of the dedicated families, advisors, and volunteers that help make this program successful! I personally would like to express my appreciation for each of you and say **THANK YOU** for all that you do!

With the holidays soon upon us, I want to let you know that there will be no 4-H Focus sent until after the new year!

Our office wants 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 22	Office Closing at 3:00pm	Jan 15	Camp Counselor Mtg, 2:00pm
Dec 23 – Jan 2	OFFICE CLOSED	Jan 16	OFFICE CLOSED
Jan 1	Market Steers MUST be in Ownership of member	Jan 18	Make It and Take It Sewing Clinic, 6:00pm
Jan 7	Market Steer Tag-In, 9am-11am	Jan 21	Horse Council Awards Banquet
Jan 11	Horse Council Mtg, 7:00pm		

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: Do you want to join our 4-H team and be a volunteer? 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 host 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.

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 <u>NOT</u> 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 you want 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 club 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 held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center on March 11, 2023. Registrations are due to the Extension Office by January 20 before 4:00pm. For more information, please visit <https://ohio4h.org/events/ohio-4-h-conference>.

Hockey Game: A message from the Toledo Walleye Hockey organization

The Toledo Walleye will host the FIRST EVER 4-H 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. For clubs or chapters that do not want to book as a whole group I have created a link where families can purchase the discounted ticket separately. (<https://fevo.me/4h-ffa>) My name is Maddie Recker, and my number is (419) 725-9271. We hope to fill the arena with these wonderful youth organizations!

Saturday March 25th- \$19 ticket includes open Skate and Walleye Game

- Pregame open skate between 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- Gates open at 6:00 pm
- Game starts at 7:15 pm

Sunday March 26th- \$19 ticket includes open Skate and Walleye Game

- Pregame open skate between 12:00 pm - 3:15 pm
- Gates open at 4:00 pm
- Game starts at 5:15 pm

Wishing you hope, peace, and lots of Christmas cookies this holiday season! 😊