

February 23, 2022

Good afternoon 4-H Families,

In an effort to keep things moving forward as 4-H gears up for the year, I will try to send a 4-H Focus weekly. Along with that though, I apologize upfront for missing the mark at times and thank you for your patience as we work through limited staffing together.

Do you want the latest 4-H Calendar? Go to go.osu.edu/hancock_4hcalendar for the latest date on everything. Anything updated will be in green to easily see the changes.

If you have questions, please call the office at (419)422-3851 and we will do our best to answer your questions or point you toward a good and valuable resource.

Just a reminder for all... If you are not feeling well or have symptoms of an illness, please stay home from meetings or activities. We want to be sure that you can rest and recuperate, as well as make sure we are providing a safe and welcoming experience to those in the Hancock County 4-H Program.

Dates to remember:

Feb 28 – 4-H Kickoff

Mar 3 – Senior Goat Council

Mar 8 – Camp Counselor Meeting – 6-8pm

Mar 12 – Ohio 4-H Conference

March 14 – L.E.A.D. Conference – Van Buren School – 7pm

March 15 – Cross County Forms due to Extension Office

March 15 – BCI fingerprinting must be completed

March 16 – Junior Leadership Club – 6:30pm

March 17 – Shooting Sports Blue Ribbon Meeting – 6:30pm

March 18 – Early Enrollment – Bonus Points for Banner Club

March 21 – Shooting Sports Information Meeting – 6:30pm

March 22 – 4-H Advisory Council – 7pm

March 23 – Camp Counselor Meeting – 6-8pm

March 24 – Shooting Sports Blue Ribbon Meeting – 6:30pm

March 29 – Quality Assurance – Cory Rawson School – 7pm

PROJECT WORK:

Enroll now for 2022! You can now enroll for this year at oh.4honline.com. Enrollment deadline is April 1, 2022. If you have any questions, please let us know! More information can also be found at <https://hancock.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/4-h-enrollment-and-completion-requirements>.

Do you want to know more about a project? The county handbook will be uploaded later this week to go.osu.edu/hancock_handbook. You can also go to Project Central located at go.osu.edu/4hprojectcentral and look up project by subject. Project have the first 10-12 pages of books there where you can get an idea what the project will be like to complete. Members across the state can leave reviews on the projects and you can decide for yourself if you think it's a project you'd like to take.

Shooting Sports information meetings have begun. If you are considering a shooting sports project, please plan to attend 6:30pm on March 21 at the Hancock County Agricultural Service Center. Current Shooting Sports projects available in Hancock County are: Archery, Crossbow, Living History, Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun. Come learn the who, the what, the where, and the when.

Shooting Sports Blue Ribbon Meetings – Something new for all Shooting Sports Projects. On March 17 at 6:30pm, they will be discussing your special interest topic report, documenting your progress, and record keeping 101 so bring your project book. There will also be time spent on gun safety and safe gun handling. March 24, also at 6:30pm, topics will include great posters and auxiliary displays that pop, range etiquette and commands, how to work in shooter/coach pairs, and what to wear on the range. Both of these meetings take place at the Extension Office.

OTHER NOTES:

4-H Kick-off is a fun evening during Ohio 4-H Week where members can check out opportunities in different project areas, find out the new projects, learn about upcoming programs and celebrate Hancock County 4-H. The 4-H Kick-off will be held February 28 at the Hancock County Agriculture Service Center beginning at 6pm. While this is technically not 4-H Week, we can still kick-off the year with some great ideas.

Looking for the 2022 Hancock County 4-H Calendar? Check out the hancock.osu.edu website or go to go.osu.edu/hancock_4hcalendar.

Club Financial Statements were due on January 31. We are still missing a few clubs. Forms and instructions can be found at https://ohio4h.org/volunteers/volunteers/club-leaders/finances/clubaffiliate-yearly-financial-summary?_gl=1%2A1rniurf%2A_ga%2AMTlwNjk5NjIwMi4xNjExMjM4ODU5%2A_ga_4P9WPSHVFC%2AMTY0MTk5ODAzOS40NC4xLjE2NDE5OTgwNTUuMA

Volunteer Rescreening (Camp Counselors too) information has been sent out to those who need to complete their background check. If you didn't receive a letter and think you may need

rescreened, call into the office, and we can check to see if you are on the list. Please be sure to complete your 4-H Online enrollment (oh.4honline.com) prior to getting fingerprints taken. Receipts should be turned into the Extension Office for reimbursement and state paper trail. Rescreening must be completed by March 15, 2022. If you do not plan on returning as a volunteer, please let us know. Something to keep in mind, the background checks are taking a minimum of 55 days to get back. Plan ahead and go as soon as possible. Don't wait until March 15.

4-H Camp Ohio is building a new high ropes course for 2022 and camp needs your help (or anyone who may LOVE 4-H Camp!) Every donation will help youth build confidence, communication, and teamwork as they complete 12 obstacles 30 feet above the ground. For more information and to donate, visit <http://go.osu.edu/campohioropes>. Updates regarding the status for the \$120,000 goal will be posted periodically on 4-H Camp Ohio's Facebook page.

L.E.A.D. Conference (Learn, Educate, Advise, and Discover): L.E.A.D. Conference will be held March 14 at 7:00pm at Van Buren School. L.E.A.D. offers sessions for club officers to learn about their position, adult sessions for both parents and volunteers, and this year we are trying to offer Policy 1.50 (youth protection) Training for advisors and camp counselors. Watch the next 4-H Focus emails for more information.

Save the Date on April 2 for the Hancock County 4-H Benefit Dinner. 4-H Benefit Committee has been planning and are excited to share information with you soon. Watch your 4-H Focus for ticket information.

4-H Camp Counselors have decided on a theme. They are excited and planning and getting ready for you. Keep an eye out for updates. Camp will be June 25-29 this summer.

Scholarship Application will be available sometime in March. Camp scholarships and academic scholarships will be due April 15.

Take A Leap flyer is attached to this email. Thanks to a grant from the Ohio 4-H Foundation, "Take a Leap: Career Readiness Day" will be held at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center on Saturday, April 2 from 12pm-4pm. This event is open to any 4-H member ages 13-18 and is completely FREE!!! Several Teen Leadership Council members have been planning this event and are excited to facilitate this opportunity for their peers. This day is jam-packed full of opportunities for participants with some highlights listed here:

- Learn about 4-H opportunities at the state level
- Rotate through career preparation workshops covering topics such as resume writing, interview skills, entrepreneurship, goal setting, and more
- Network with peers who are also interested in preparing for their future

Participants can register at go.osu.edu/taketheleap by March 19.

LIVESTOCK:

Quality Assurance will be held March 29 at Cory Rawson School and will begin at 7:00pm. All members with livestock projects are required to complete Quality Assurance. Get this date on your calendar. We are offering 2 sessions this year, March 29 at 7pm and June 4 time TBA.

YQCA: For those of you who have completed their Quality Assurance through the online platform and wish to continue to do so, it will be transitioning to a new platform. ONLY members age 12 as of January 1 and older may complete YQCA. In the past, this has been a \$12 course. Please see the note below from Lizz Share with regards to the updates of YQCA.

Hello,

If you or family members have elected to use YQCA's online platform to complete your QA this year, we have some important updates:

- YQCA will no longer be working with RegistrationMax and will be transitioning to a new platform. They are preparing for the move to the new platform which will launch on March 23, 2022!

What this means for youth that use YQCA to complete their 2022 QA requirement:

- Each youth that has a current and valid certification (taken from October 1, 2021 to now) will need to download their certificate **before March 23, 2022**.
- *If you plan to use YQCA but haven't purchased the course, please wait until March 23 when the new platform is launched.* YQCA will host a webinar open to the public announcing the change and answering user questions sometime in March. This will be followed by a final webinar that will provide a tour of the new and improved online experience. As these dates are announced, we will pass them along.



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Quality Assurance Test-Out Option is available from now through March 15. For those of you who have been waiting patiently to take the test, please call the office at 419-422-3851 to schedule your test time. Any member 15 years old as of January 1 who has completed at least one in-person Quality Assurance session may choose the QA test out option. You must pass the test with at least a 76% to excuse you from QA training for the duration of your 4-H/FFA career. If you do not pass this test, you must attend an in-person Quality Assurance session or complete YQCA, AND you must wait until the following February to retest.

JUNIOR FAIR UPDATE:

New Cross Breed Cattle Show Information meeting: There will be 2 informational meetings on the NEW cross breed show at the 2022 Hancock County Fair. The first WAS Tuesday, February 22 at 7pm. The 2nd will be on Sunday, February 27 at 4pm, at the Old Mill Stream Centre, 1017 E Sandusky St, Findlay.

****NOTE UPDATED DATE** From the Dairy Feeder Boosters Team:** Future, present and inquisitive Dairy Feeder participants and families are cordially invited to join us February 27, 2022 for an informational meeting. The Hancock County Dairy Beef Youth Boosters is proud to host the gathering at the Hancock County extension office starting at 6:30 PM. 4-H advisors and FFA teachers are also encouraged to attend (knowledge is power).

Come to ask questions, meet other participants, and meet our new superintendent, obtain important dates, win prizes and most importantly learn new information from our speaker.

We are excited to have Levi Richards from Kalmbach Feeds present to us his recipe for bottle-to-ring feed program. He will also touch on how to pick out calves early on and answer any questions you may have. Levi is the regional sales manager and formula of champions program director at Kalmbach Feeds and is also an accredited judge. He wants to help our youth know what judges are looking for in the ring.

We look forward to seeing everyone! If you have questions, please contact Becky Curtis, HC Dairy Beef Youth Boosters VP at (419)957-1096.

Hancock County Junior Fair Sheep Scholarship: Scholarship is available online at <https://hancock.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/animal-project-resources/sheep>. To be eligible, you must have been a sheep exhibitor at the Hancock County Junior Fair for a minimum of three years, showing market lambs and/or breeding sheep. There are 3 scholarships being awarded in the amounts of \$1000, \$1000, and \$500 and will be awarded to high school seniors or students in college who still pursuing a degree. The completed application is due March 25, 2022 to either the Extension Office before 4:30 or mailed to Tom Begg.

4-H EDUCATOR UPDATE:

The Hancock County 4-H and Youth Development Extension Educator position is posted until Monday, **February 28**. If you or someone you know is interested, applicants can apply at <https://go.osu.edu/hancock4h2022>. Make sure it is position number **R39403**.

Have a great rest of your week and stay safe.

Kathy