

4-H FOCUS

HANCOCK COUNTY

November 2, 2023

November is national gratitude month. According to Oxford Languages gratitude is defined as “the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness”. 4-H has given its youth, advisors, and their families many things to be grateful for over the last year as they have participated in this amazing and life changing program. We at the Hancock County Extension Office challenge you to think about all the amazing memories you have created throughout 4-H and think about who and/or what you should be grateful for and express that thankfulness this holiday season!



Wishing you gratefulness!

Lauren Kitzler, Edy Gierke, and Kathy Adams 😊

Lauren Burner-Kitzler

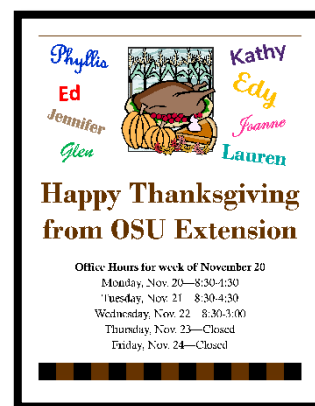
Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development

Dates To Remember:

Nov 5	Dairy Beef Boosters Meeting at 6:00pm	Nov 15	Horse Council Meeting 7pm
Nov 8	4-H Volunteer Banquet	Nov 16	Cheese/Meat Fundraiser Forms due by noon to Extension Office
Nov 9	4-H Camp Adult Staff Applications due	Nov 17	Office Closed for Staff Training and Inservice
Nov 10	Office Closed	Nov 22	Office closes at 3pm
Nov 14	Camp Counselor Interviews 3-9pm	Nov 23-24	Office Closed
Nov 16	Camp Counselor Interviews 3-8pm	Nov 28	4-H Advisory Council 8pm

Dec 1	4-H Swag order due	Dec 22	Office Closes at 3pm
Dec 7	County Cloverbuds	Dec 25-26	Office Closed
Dec 11	Cheese/Meat Fundraiser pick-up	Dec 29	Office Closes at 3:00pm

If you stop in and see one of these 3 signs on the door, we apologize in advance for the inconvenience. We are always happy to assist you and would love to see or hear from you on the following business day. Regular office hours are 8:30-4:30, Monday-Friday.



- Closed: Nov 10 in observance of Veterans' Day
- Closed: Nov 17 for office staff to attend an OSU fall conference in Toledo
- Closed: Nov 23-24 in observance of Thanksgiving

Celebration of 4-H

On October 17 at the Old Mill Stream Centre, Hancock County recognized many 4-H members for their achievements this past year. Over 400 4-H members, advisors and their families were in attendance to receive awards including: Scholarship winners, County Trip Winners, State Achievement Award Winners, County Livestock Awards, County Non-Livestock Awards, 4-H Graduates, Individual Honor Awards, Judge's Choice Awards, Club Awards, Outstanding 4-Her Award, and William H. Danforth "I Dare you" Award.

2023 Outstanding 4-Her Award and Danforth "I Dare You" Award Winners



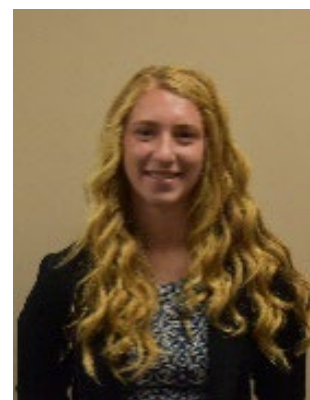
Outstanding 4-Her
Emma Garmatter
Gold Star 4-H



Outstanding 4-Her
Rebecca Betts
Millstream Farmers 4-H



Danforth "I Dare You"
Erica Patterson
Millstream Farmers 4-H



Danforth "I Dare You"
Makayla Oman
Gold Star 4-H

Dairy Beef Booster Meeting

The next Dairy Beef Booster meeting will be held November 5 at 6:30pm in the conference room of the Hancock County Agriculture Service Center, 7868 CR 140, Findlay. Dr. Amanda Wagner will speak about warts and ringworm. She will also answer any questions you may have.

4-H Camp 2024

Camp Counselor Interviews

Camp counselor interviews will take place November 14 from 3pm-9pm *and* November 16 from 3pm-8pm

Please call the extension office to schedule your interview time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the office or email burner-kitzler.1@osu.edu and/or gierke.11@osu.edu

Adult Staff Applications

Are you over 19 years old and interested in being an Adult Staff member for 4-H Camp 2024? Come join the fun and apply to be a Hancock County Camp Staff Member for 2024. Applications can be found on our Facebook page, website, or in the extension office. Applications are due by 4pm on November 9. https://hancock.osu.edu/sites/hancock/files/imce/Program_Pages/4H/Forms/Camp/Volunteer%20Camp%20Staff%20Position%20Description%20Form%20and%20Application.pdf

Volunteer Recognition Dinner

To thank our volunteers for all their hard work and support this past year, the 4-H Advisory Council will be hosting a recognition dinner on November 8. All who were invited should have received an invitation in the mail and RSVP'd by the October 25 deadline! We can't wait to see everyone there!

Doors open at 5:30pm Banquet begins at 6pm



4-H Benefit Dinner

DATE CHANGE!! The 2024 Hancock County 4-H Benefit Dinner will be held February 17, 2024 at the Old Mill Stream Centre. Please be aware of this date change. Stop by the extension office to reserve your seat for this "Eclipsical" event. Tickets are \$30.00 per person. Cash or check made payable to 4-H Advisory Council of Hancock County.

Advisors be on the lookout for requests of club donations and due date coming soon.

Ohio 4-H Conference Awards

Do you know a teen or an advisor who has exceeded in their role? Or someone that has really stood out to you? Nominate them for the category that you see fit. Categories and nomination information is listed below.

Volunteers:

Hall of Fame*

Recognizes individuals who have made significant *lifetime contributions* to the Ohio 4-H program and who have also made an important positive impact upon *clubs, communities, and the state 4-H program*. Nominees must have at least 15 years of service.

go.osu.edu/halloffameaward

Meritorious Service*

Recognizes adult 4-H volunteers for a lifetime of meritorious service. Volunteers who have demonstrated exceptional service at the club or county level. Nominees must have at least 10 years of service.

go.osu.edu/meritoriousaward

Friend of 4-H*

An *individual, family, business, or corporation* that supports the Ohio 4-H Program in a *charitable manner* at the county, state, or national level.

go.osu.edu/friendof4haward

***Denotes Letters of Support Required**

Community Service

Recognizes adults and youth 4-H volunteers who have collaborated with community groups, or undertaken them with their own 4-H club or unit, community service projects or activities.

go.osu.edu/4hcommunityserviceaward

Innovator

Recognizes adult and/or youth volunteers who have developed new programs, county projects, or activities.

go.osu.edu/innovatoraward

4-H Alumni*

Nominate an Ohio 4-H alumnus

Young (ages 21-34) or **Experienced** (ages 35+) (two separate categories) who has demonstrated distinctive achievement in career or service and can attribute part of their success to participating in 4-H.

go.osu.edu/4halumniaward

Teens:

Hall of Fame*

Induction into the Teen Hall of Fame is meant to be thought of as a very high honor for current 4-H youth who are selected. It is meant to honor those who have dedicated it all to make the best better in their club, community, country, and world. Nominees must be between the ages of 15 and 18 as of January 1 the year they are nominated and must have been 4-H members for at least six years, including the current year but not including Cloverbud years.

Nominations must come from Extension Professionals and require 6 essay responses not to exceed 3 pages. Essay prompts are available at the submission link below.

go.osu.edu/4HTHOF

Teen of the Year

Honors one outstanding current 4-H'er who has had great accomplishments in the past year. This award was created to honor a select individual for their performance, dedication, and passion for the 4-H program. Nominees must be between the ages of 13 and 18 as of January 1 the year they are nominated.

Nominations must come from Extension Professionals and require 6 essay responses not to exceed 3 pages. Essay prompts available at the submission link below.

go.osu.edu/4HTOY

<https://ohio4h.org/sites/ohio4h/files/imce/volunteers/Awards%20Handout%20Fall%202023.pdf>

Nominations must be sent in to burner-kitzler.1@osu.edu before November 20.

2024 Family Guide



Exciting 4-H news! The 2024 Family guides will be coming soon to your mailbox! Be on the lookout from Jan 9th through the 18th for your 2024 Family Guide. There are new projects along with a few changes for this upcoming year.

New Projects:

186 Gymkhana
187 Roping
210 Assistance Animals in Action
356 Relationships 101

Discontinued Projects:

185 Equine Reproduction and Genetics
352 Keeping Fit
486 Dashboard Dining

Updated Projects:

179R Uniform Rules for 4-H Horse Shows
201R Dog Resource Handbook
228R Rabbit Resource Handbook

Fall Fundraiser

Meat and Cheese Fundraiser

The 4-H Fall Fundraiser has started. Are you in the need of fall snacks? You can get beef jerky, cheese, maple syrup, and summer sausage starting NOW! Place your order TODAY using the appropriate order form!!! All orders and money must be submitted to our office no later than November 16 at noon. All proceeds will go to your local 4-H club to support programs and activities. Stop in and pick up your form if you are interested in selling. Orders will be delivered December 11 to the OSU Extension Office. We do not have extra refrigerator space so please plan accordingly.



Camp Gift Idea

Looking for another Christmas gift idea for your children or grandchildren, we have the best idea for you! Starting Black Friday, November 24, come in to purchase a Camp Gift Certificate for your favorite camper or counselor to add to their stocking or as an extra gift under the tree. Early bird camp price is \$200, BUT purchases can be made in increments of \$5. Bring your cash or check made payable to OSU Extension.



4-H Advisory Council Voting

Did you know that Hancock County 4-H has an advisory council made up of 4-H advisors, youth, and members of the community. 4-H Advisory Council supports and advises 4-H professionals about the current and future needs of county youth, volunteers, and families to promote and foster involvement in 4-H Youth Development Program.

Advisors, make sure to cast your vote for the 2024 year of Advisory Council Members. You will receive an email from Kathy Adams to vote. Voting is open until **November 17**.



Club Packets



Attention all advisors! Club Packets are ready for pick up from the extension office: If you have not yet picked up all your club members' goodies, we ask that you please stop by our office and get those items picked up by November 16.

Do you need some 4-H SWAG??

Do we have the opportunity for you!! Attached with this 4-H Focus is an order form to purchase your polos, sweatshirts, t-shirts, pullovers, or crewnecks. Order forms can also be picked up from the office and will be due December 1. Items will be available for pickup in early January. Cash and checks are accepted with checks written to OSU Extension. Please call or stop in for any questions.

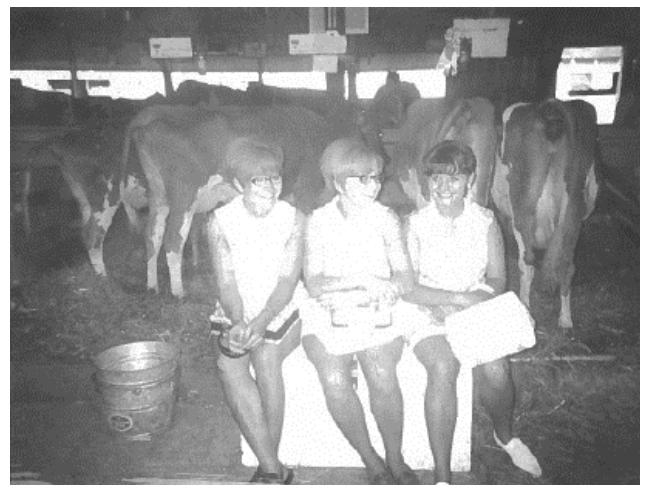
Item #	Description	Size	Qty	Price
1	4-H Polo (per dozen)			\$80
2	4-H Sweatshirt (per dozen)			\$100
3	4-H T-shirt (per dozen)			\$100
4	4-H Pullover (per dozen)			\$100
5	4-H Crewneck (per dozen)			\$100
6	4-H Hoodie (per dozen)			\$100
TOTAL DUE:				

Order due DECEMBER 1, 2023
Thank you to all who support 4-H Extension Office

Family Stories Month

Did you know that November is "Family Story Month"? Almost everyone has family traditions and stories that hold a special place in their hearts. Edy has taken the time to talk with one of our own advisors and listen to her family story of how 4-H has impacted her life.

Linda Smith, though not originally getting her start in 4-H as a youth member, has been a lover of the fair since a young age. She recalls spending every fair walking around and enjoying all the sights and sounds with her twin sisters but was always drawn to the Dairy Barn. Charles, Linda's husband, first introduced her to 4-H. He started in 4-H in 1957 and was a 10-year member of the Dairy Boosters 4-H Club where his mother was a leader. Linda met her husband Charles in 1969 and the rest is history. Linda and Charles were married in 1971 but found her way more into the 4-H world when she enrolled her son into the Lively Livestockers 4-H Club. After growing in numbers, Linda and some of the other families broke off and created their own club, known as the Country Bumpkins. Because her sons were members, Linda and her husband were always at the barn helping her kids and family friends show at the fair. In 1989, the previous advisors wanted to take a step back from the 4-H world, as



Linda with her twin sisters in the dairy barn
at the county fair



The Dairy barn was built in 1960 after that year's fair and has been around since

their kids had graduated. They approached Linda along with other club member's mothers, Stephanie Beach and Nancy Bishop, at the County Fair to see if they wanted to take over the reins. Since then, Linda has been a 33-year advisor of the Country Bumpkins 4-H club which is still alive and well today. Country Bumpkins is comprised of 49 members this year and is a primarily livestock group, although some of the members take other projects like woodworking and cake decorating.

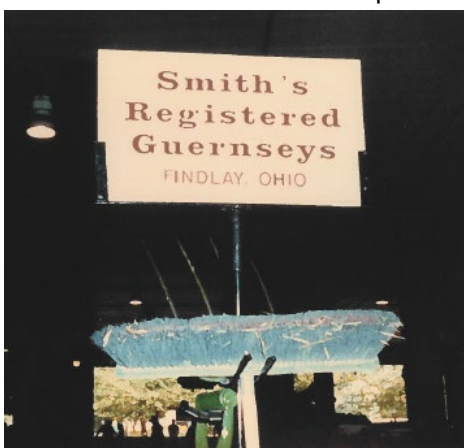
Currently, Linda has 2 grandkids and 4 great nephews in 4-H club. One granddaughter is a Cloverbud while the other is a project 4-H member taking dairy cows. Most of her family has carried on the tradition of having dairy cows but some of the great nephews have taken other animals including a rabbit and draft horse.

Dairy has become a life passion for her and her family and is carried on today as it started with her husband and brother-in-law's farm. They run the HJ Smith's Registered Guernsey's out of their farm where everyone comes together to take care of the animals and fields. Currently the family has Joy, Jasmine, "Hamburger" Patty, Raven, T-Bone and Kim also lovingly known as Kimmy. Dairy farming continues to be a love and value in her and her family's life as they continue to grow and pass on the skills to her children, nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews, and grandchildren.

Some her favorite moments while being involved in 4-H include her son winning Junior Showmanship. At a young age Marvin was quiet and shy and when she found out how well he did she burst into tears. Another fond moment is when her granddaughter won Junior Showmanship and her heifer was selected as the Grand Champion Dairy Heifer. As you can tell, dairy is a family affair, and she loves all parts of the experience. The family can all work and come together over the love for 4-H and showing dairy cattle. One year, or rather 1 summer, the family came together and showed at 12 county fairs, 1 state fair and 1 district show. She follows that up by saying "They will never be doing that again" with a laugh and a smile.



Charles and his brother with their awards from fair



New sign made and displayed in the Dairy Barn

Though Linda and her husband Charles have spent their lives and now spend their everyday tending to the fields and dairy cows, there is never a dull moment. Whether it is backing in the cows into the stall or climbing up into the hay loft to get food and bedding down, there is always room for more adventures and a few bumps and bruises along the way. Another fond moment that Linda and Charles spent together was celebrating their 40th anniversary at the fair. They brought all kinds of displays, dairy related items and even had cake to enjoy and experience while at the fair. They

just celebrated their 67th year together and Linda is curious to see what her husband thinks up to have at the fair for their 70th anniversary.

Linda's advice to all advisors both new and old is to have patience but be encouraging to youth members and their families. 4-H is a good program to be involved in but sometimes we must remind and encourage members to keep pushing through and to try other things to find where they best fit. Linda also likes to remind her members that the animals may not show well or will be jumpy at home but once you get them around other dairy at the fair and in the show arena they may do amazingly well. Unfortunately, she has to remind them that the best-behaved heifers at home may become a little wild when at the fair so be prepared for either scenario.



Charles & Linda's Sons

We'd like to thank Linda for taking the time and sharing her 4-H experiences and family traditions with us. This is the first article in a new feature for the 4-H Focus. Join us next month as Edy chats our next 4-H Spotlight Advisor.

*Remember to remain in touch with family face to face or via technology.
Celebrate your family, not just this month, but every day.*

2023 Photo Year in Review



Now that the skeletons, vampires, spiders, and



witches are put away, it is time to prepare for Turkey Day. Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and we hope you all have a wonderful holiday season! We are thankful for **ALL** our amazing 4-H members, advisors, and their families we have grown with this 4-H season. We can't wait to see what the 2023-2024 4-H year has to offer!