

4-H FOCUS

HANCOCK COUNTY

February 2024

Welcome to the month of February! Wow! Where did January go?

I would like to give a large THANK YOU to all my volunteers/advisors who were able to attend the kickoff trainings last month. If you were unable to attend either of the kickoff trainings, you will soon be hearing from me with your next set of options.

While we have an extra day this month, I'm sure it will fly by in a hurry. The Cloverbuds met last night at the Mazza Museum, Benefit auction items are rolling in, it's Quality Assurance test out month, Shooting Sports meetings are underway, advisors get the opportunity to be creative, camp counselors have a meeting and a retreat this month, and don't forget the 4-H Benefit will be taking place on February 17. So many ways to get involved in 4-H. We can't wait to see all the activity that club meetings bring.



Of course at anytime if you ever have a question, please feel free to reach out to one of us as we are always happy to help!

Lauren, Edy, and Kathy 😊

Lauren Burner-Kitzler

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Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm

Important digital media

Website: <https://hancock.osu.edu>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OSUEHancock>

4-H Enrollment: <https://v2.4honline.com>

Enrollment is open. Remember, if you've been in 4-H before and can't find your profile, please don't create a new one. Ask us for help instead.



Dates To Remember:

February	Quality Assurance Test Out Month	Feb 14	Horse Council Meeting, 7pm
Feb 1	County Cloverbuds at Mazza Museum, 6:15pm	Feb 15	State Achievement Records due to state office
Feb 1	Buckeye Leadership Workshop due	Feb 15	Ohio 4-H Scholarship Application due
Feb 4	Junior Fair Board Meeting	Feb 17	4-H Benefit Dinner, Old Mill Stream Centre, doors open at 5pm, dinner at 6pm, auction following
Feb 4	POSTPONED: Riffle, Pistol, Shotgun Meeting, 5pm	Feb 18	Camp Counselor Retreat, 3-9pm
Feb 5	Safe Use of Guns for Youth, 7pm	Feb 19	Camp Counselor Retreat, 10am-4pm
Feb 5	Last day to purchase 4-H Benefit tickets	Mar 3-9	Ohio and Hancock County 4-H Week
Feb 7	Sewing Clinic: Advisors Make Burp Clothes, 6-8pm	Mar 3	Junior Fair Board Meeting
Feb 11	Camp Counselor Meeting, 1-3pm	Mar 3	Riffle, Pistol, Shotgun Meeting, 5pm
Feb 11	Riffle, Pistol, Shotgun Meeting, 5pm	Mar 6	Pizza Sales Start
		Mar 6	4-H Open House, 6pm

4-H Online Enrollment:



4-H Online: It is time to start re-enrolling or enrolling for the new 4-H year!! 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. Enrollment due date is April 1.

Add/Drop Projects:

New this year!! Project add / drops must be completed by May 1. There will be no projects added after May 1. Enrollment deadline is April 1 and projects must be in place by May 1.

4-H Benefit Dinner:

The 2024 Hancock County 4-H Benefit Dinner will be held February 17, 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 and available for purchase until February 5. Cash or check made payable to 4-H Advisory Council of Hancock County. Advisors should have received a letter for requests of club donations and their due date. If you have a food item, please fill out a donation paper and drop it off at the extension office to ensure we save a spot for your items.



Members with Dog Projects:

Starting in 2024, you need to submit your paperwork online. Submit your paperwork under the Animal tab on <https://v2.4honline.com>. Anything in RED is a State Required field or document. Hancock County also



requires the completed *Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate* and should be entered under the Vaccination Record area. Hancock County also requires the *2024 Permission to Participate in Ohio 4-H Dog Activities Disclosure and Release of Claims*. Enter this document under the County Document area. There will be a help document provided after January 15. Please submit a paper copy of the *Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Dog Project Identification Form and Vaccination Certificate* to the office by June 1.

Members with Horse Projects:



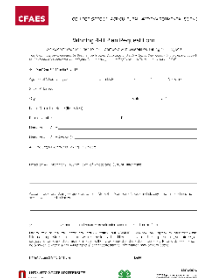
Starting in 2024, you need to submit your paperwork online. Submit your paperwork under the Animal tab on <https://v2.4honline.com>. Anything in RED is a State Required field or document. Photos will need to be current with the 4-H member included. No partial parts of the 4-H member. No pictures from 2023 or before. Don't forget the 2024 EquiSTEP will also need uploaded once completed. There will be a help document provided after January 15.

Ground Roping project:

Attention Horse Exhibitors: All exhibitors who plan to participate in a ground roping class at the state AND county level, MUST be enrolled in ground roping AND complete the correlating Ground Roping Project Book.

Winning 4-H Plan:

The Winning 4-H Plan (W4HP) assists parents /guardians in requesting accommodation plans to meet the needs of Ohio 4-H youth with disabilities. Would you like more information on how to request the Winning 4-H Plan? You can find more information at <https://go.osu.edu/Winning4HPlan>. This is an option during your enrollment. If you click yes during enrollment, you may receive an email from the state 4-H Office on the W4HP process.



4-H Camp Ohio 2nd Century Campaign:

<https://campohio.gives/>

The 4-H Camp Ohio camping program is an intentionally designed, creative, experiential learning endeavor in which participants engage with each other, older teens, and adult staff, and where youth develop decision-making skills, accept personal responsibility, and have a sense of self-determination in a carefully supervised and supportive environment that typically incorporates aspects of the natural surroundings.

4-H Camp Ohio strives to adhere to the mission of the Ohio 4-H Camping program by offering youth of all ages with personal opportunities for the development of leadership, workforce preparation, and 21st century skills. It also offers personal growth as campers experience being away from home, being away from parents/guardians, and providing a safe environment where socioemotional development takes place.

The 4-H Camp Ohio Second Century Campaign offers interested individuals several options for supporting the campaign. Please see the link for ways to support 4-H Camp Ohio.

For any questions or a desire to give please see the 2nd Century Campaign website at <https://campohio.gives/> or for more information about the needs of the camp please read their Case Statement <https://campohio.gives/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Camp-Case-Statement-8.pdf>

Rabbit Council:



The Hancock County Rabbit Department will be organizing a Rabbit Council. This is for adults, 4-H members, and FFA members. This group will work together to organize workshops, get information out to other rabbit exhibitors, assist with fair activities, and more. If you are interested, please text Bev Welty at 419-348-5378 or call after 5:30 pm. You also can email at bcwelty@msn.com. The meeting will take place at the extension office on April 17 beginning at 7pm.

Scholarship Opportunities:

Ohio State Fair Scholarship - In an effort to recognize the quality youth of Ohio, and to help those interested in furthering their education, the Ohio Expositions Commission has established a Scholarship Program for Ohio State Fair participants.



The purpose of these scholarships is to assist high school juniors and seniors and graduates who are continuing their education at an accredited institution in an under graduate course of study in any field.

The Scholarship Committee reserves the right to not issue a scholarship if no applicant fulfills the requirements.

<https://www.ohiostatefair.com/p/get-involved/scholarships>

4-H Scholarships - Ohio 4-H recognizes and rewards individual excellence, whether it is in project work, leadership, citizenship or community service. Ohio 4-H Scholarships were established in 1976 to help young people become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. In addition to the scholarships listed below, individual counties may also offer county-based scholarships. To qualify for the scholarships below you must fill out the college scholarship application by February 15. County based scholarships will be available after March 1.

<https://students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/scholarships-and-financial-aid/scholarships/4-h-scholarships>

2024 Hancock County Fair Dates:



In case you have not heard, the Hancock County Fair has been extended by one day. Livestock will move in on Monday, August 26. The fair will run from Tuesday, August 27 to Monday, September 2. For the most up to date information regarding the fair and the schedule, go to their website <https://hancockfairgrounds.org/>. If you have any questions or comments regarding the fair, please contact their office at 419-429-7344.

Advisors: Register now for your Club Booth!!!!

During the Advisor Kickoffs last month, Lauren asked you to start thinking about the size fair booth you are interested in for 2024 and that we'd do our best to accommodate your wishes. There are three different sizes of booths: 8-foot booth with 2 back panels, 12-foot booth with 3 back panels, and 16-foot booth with 4 back panels. We ask that only one advisor from your club enter the size booth you are requesting. Even if you don't want to change sizes from last year, please enter your request. Go to https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_81aB7w9b0wyrPrU or use the QR code to the right.



Quality Assurance Test Out:

- Members, 4-H or FFA ages 15-18 as of January 1, 2024, have the chance to test out of the annual QA requirement. This requires taking a thorough exam. Members should have a good grasp of QA concepts.
- Tests will be offered for small animals (includes rabbits and poultry), and large animals (beef, dairy, goats, hogs, lambs). Those who pass will be exempt from attending any further QA training.
 - 50 multiple choice questions

- Must score at least 70% to gain exemption from annual QA training. Those scoring less than 70% must attend QA. They may try to pass the test again next year.
- QA exemption testing will take place the month of February at the Extension Office. Please call ahead for an appointment. 419-422-3851.

Sewing Clinic:



February 7, our Master Clothing Educator, Joyce Schroeder, will have baby burp clothes ready to be stitched together by our advisors. Bring your sewing machine to the extension office from 6-8pm for an enjoyable time together.

4-H Week:

March 3-9 is Ohio and Hancock County 4-H Week. As you begin to have 4-H meetings, plan NOW how to increase membership, get into the schools, and CELEBRATE 4-H.

4-H Open House:

During 4-H Week, we are planning a 4-H Open House on March 6 to be held at the extension office from 6-8pm. Bring your friends as a way to introduce them to 4-H. Not sure what project to take? Come and visit with other club members and advisors and get some ideas.

Advisors, this is a time to promote your club. Give us a call to reserve your table for the evening. Is there a craft or activity you want to do, let us know and we can add that to the list.

Plant the Seeds of Greatness:

Plant the Seeds of Greatness Month is celebrated in February annually to bring out the greatness within each of us. Now is the time to reaffirm ourselves to the cause of betterment. As 4-H Advisors, members and families of advisors and members, we are all called to spread seeds of greatness everywhere we go. As the founder of 4-H, A.B. Graham set the following concepts of 4-H and extension service including,

- "To elevate the standard of living in Ohio;
- To emphasize the importance of hard work and habits of industry which are essential to building a strong character;
- To acquaint boys and girls with their environment and to interest them in making their own investigations;
- To give the boys who shall become interested in farm work an elementary knowledge of agriculture and farm practices and to give girls the essential facts of domestic economy;
- To educate adults in the elementary science of agriculture and in the most-up-to-date farm practices;
- To cultivate a taste for the beautiful in nature;
- To inspire young men and women to further their education in the science of agriculture or domestic science." (<https://ohio4h.org/about/history-4-h>)



So take the month of February to focus on planting seeds for the future. You can achieve greatness in life by focusing on the 4 "H"s of 4-H, head, heart, hands and health. Greatness is not an accident, and it cannot be achieved through luck, you have to plant the seeds of greatness in your life every day.

Toledo Walleye:

The Toledo Walleye will host the 4-H and FFA Nights this season on February 25 and March 1! We are excited to have these organizations join us in the arena for Kids Take Over Night and STEM Night. We will have special giveaways both nights for kids only and so much more catered for them.

Sunday, February 25 - Kids Takeover Night- \$17 ticket (<https://fevo.me/kids4hffa>)

The kiddos are taking over! This kids-focused night will include specialty jerseys designed by local children at ProMedica Russell J. Ebeid Children's Hospital and a Spike squishy pillow giveaway, presented by ProMedica.

- Pregame Gates 6:00-7:15pm
 - Giveaway is the first 1500 kids who are 12 and under.
- Game starts at 7:15pm

Friday, March 1 - STEAM Night- \$17 ticket (<https://fevo.me/ffaand4hkids>)

- Pregame Gates 6:00-7:15pm
 - Giveaway is the first 1500 kids who are 12 and under.
- Game starts at 7:15pm



Ohio 4-H and FFA Hockey Game with the BUCKEYES:



Friday, February 16 is the Ohio 4-H and FFA Hockey Game with the Buckeyes. Ohio State is thrilled to be hosting our annual FFA Game again this season and this year the invitation is being extended to Ohio 4-H. We also are excited to announce a continued partnership with The Ohio State University, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences to provide academic programming prior to the game.

The CFAES team will reach out to all groups requesting tickets to determine interest in their pre-event programming prior to the Buckeye Hockey game versus Wisconsin! The program that afternoon from 3-5pm will include time with the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences exploring topics related to the undergraduate majors offered by the college.

Tickets are \$11 per person at the group rate. The earlier you purchase the better!

* Parking is FREE. Attendants will be outside directing traffic and will help with parking locations.

Reminder that the Schott is a cashless arena.

* If purchasing tickets, please contact Isaiah Eichler at eichler.40@osu.edu or by phone at, 614-247-9182.

* If you are purchasing for a large group in bulk feel free to reach out to avoid fees!



Family Stories

Evelyn Graham by Edy Gierke

In the month of February, a lot of people think about love and how love has brought them to experience new things whether as a couple or introducing your spouse to different activities or ways of life. When talking with longtime advisor Evelyn Graham, I found out that love brought her to an organization she has been able to be part of for over 50 years now. 68 years ago this January, Evelyn married her husband Carl and was introduced to a new chapter of



life. As a child, Evelyn grew up in Tiffin not knowing what a farm was, but after marrying Carl, her life changed from city to country life. For a while after being married, Evelyn had never heard of 4-H but when their first-born daughter Linda turned 9, Carl said, "We are putting her in 4-H!" and the rest is history. Though Evelyn had no idea what 4-H was at the time, 57 years later it still plays an active part in her life day to day.

When Evelyn and Carl first enrolled their daughter into 4-H, there was only one girl's club for the town of Arcadia run by Lucina Huffman which had 72 girls. When Evelyn enrolled Linda into 4-H, there were too many new girls wanting to join, so they decided to divide Arcadia into 4 sections to create 4 clubs. At this time, Lakeland Lassies was created due to the Lakeland Golf Course built nearby. The other



girls' clubs in town now were, Spoon and Needle, Stick and Stir, and Arcadia Girls 4-H Club. Though Evelyn was not the head advisor of the Lakeland Lassies 4-H club, she helped the club and learned a lot from the 3 ladies that originally ran Lakeland Lassies. As the advisor's children aged out of the program, the ropes were turned over to Pauline Lowery who was the head advisor of Lakeland Lassies and had Evelyn jump on as an advisor to help run the club. As children began to age out, parents who were advisors would still come and go but for the last 57 years, one advisor remained the same, Evelyn Graham.



Club planting a tree at the County Home



As an advisor, Evelyn has had the opportunity to work with over a 1000 kids and parents. In this time, her club has had some changes to help everyone feel involved. In 1996, all clubs had to begin welcoming boys and girls changing the club's name from Lakeland Lassies to Lakeland Leaders. In the first year as a coed club, they had 2 boys, Mike James, and Troy Baird. Since then, there has been a lot of growth. At one point the club had stated in their constitution they could only have

30 members but when approached by members wanting to join that would put them over their 30 members Evelyn talked with her husband Carl and they decided that they would take more members. Since then, their largest year of membership was 52 members which made them transfer their meeting location from originally taking place in Evelyn's basement or Mrs. Bowman's house to the Arcadia Church on Brown Road. Here you will see just a few pictures of some of the clubs Evelyn has overseen since her time as an advisor.



Club picture taken every year to record who was involved. The left one was taken in front of the fireplace in Evelyn's basement before moving the meetings to the church on Brown Road

Throughout the 57 years as an advisor, you can imagine that Evelyn has a wide range of memories and experiences involving 4-H. Whether it is pleating the skirt around fair floats, giving demonstrations on how to sew a button on a shirt or attending judging all day to support her club members, there are memories to last a lifetime. Here are some interesting facts about the Lakeland Leaders and Evelyn Graham.

- Lakeland Leaders 4-H club does not accept Cloverbuds. They want to give the kids something to wait and look forward to.
- At the beginning, members of the club took more still projects than livestock projects. Now, members take more livestock projects than still projects.
- Each club members must give a demonstration at a meeting. The demonstration does not have to be about a project they are taking, but everyone must present, even the advisors. Some of the demonstrations included Evelyn teaching how to sew a button or dip chocolate pretzels. Her daughter Linda showed everyone how to play the organ. Her granddaughter Beth taught everyone how to make a photo board. One of her members gave a demonstration on how to check and change the oil in a variety of machines including a car, lawn mower and other power equipment.
- All 4 of Evelyns daughters competed at the State Fair in the Demonstration contest.
- This year, there will be 3 generations in the club, Evelyn, her daughter Linda, her granddaughter Beth (all advisors). Next year they'll add a great grandson to the club to make it 4 generations!
- Carl, Evelyn's husband, was in 4-H and started with Chickens because his mom wanted to sell the eggs.



Through the years, Evelyn has had many Extension Agents or Educators but remembers learning the most from Joe McClanahan. "He related well with kids, and you could always see him out their line dancing with the members". Like many of the educators, Evelyn always practiced that she would not ask her members to do things she wouldn't do herself. Whether that was competing in competitions like, shopping bag, or health

bowl, giving demonstrations to the club or helping create and put up the fair booth each year. Evelyn likes to not only get her members involved, but also herself.



As Evelyn continues to be involved in Hancock County 4-H, she has learned some valuable tips and tricks as well as advice to carry her throughout her time here. As an advisor, she has always enjoyed watching the kids grow and have more responsibilities from the first year as a member until they age out. Communication is key and important not only for 4-H but for life. She states, “as an advisor you must give everyone a fair chance. Every youth member is different and even though 2 members are from the same family, they can and will be very different from each other”. The memories and connections she has made over the years from the

advisors and parents to kids are still strong today. Even when she goes out shopping or attends the yearly 4-H Benefit, she will see previous members and it brings a smile to her face knowing how far she has come. To advisors she really wants them to remember to “love the kids and make the best better. Each year it will get a little easier so don’t give up”.

With 57 years of volunteering under her belt, it is no surprise there are lots of high and lows, memories, funny moments, and lives that Evelyn has impacted during her time here in Hancock County 4-H as a volunteer. In 1982, Evelyn was awarded the Outstanding Service to 4-H Award and was inducted into the Hancock County 4-H Hall of Fame in 2014. Evelyn and her family have had so much impact on Hancock County 4-H, her husband Carl, was awarded the Outstanding Alumni Award in 1996, her daughter, Linda James was awarded Outstanding 4-H Alumni in 1985 and her granddaughter, Beth James was awarded Outstanding 4-H Alumni in 2021. With a family history so rich in 4-H support, we can’t help but appreciate all she has done and supported in Hancock County for over 57 years. So, whether it is at booth set-up, the 4-H Benefit or everywhere in between, you will see Evelyn giving a helping hand, leading a meeting, and giving advice to anyone who needs it. Evelyn continues to have an impact on 4-H today and we can’t wait to see what she does next!

