

# 4-H FOCUS

HANCOCK COUNTY

January 2024

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE MONTH

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and wonderful start to their New Year. As January kicks-off, we want to reflect on a “holiday” new to us celebrated this month which is called Celebration of Life. The Celebration of Life months challenges you to take a step back and just appreciate all the amazing things we have accomplished. Through the holidays, we spent time celebrating our loved ones around us and all the things we are grateful for, but have we spent the time to think about and reflect on ourselves? January is the start of a new year. This observance allows us to recuperate from the holiday festivities, take a break, honor our bodies, and prepare for the year ahead. So, whether you’ve taken on a new challenge to better yourself in 2024 or you want to be more mindful of all the wonderful things around you, remember to take time to reflect on the goods and bads of 2023 to try and make this the best year yet.



Have a Happy Holiday Season and great New Year,

Lauren, Edy, and Kathy 😊

Lauren Burner-Kitzler

Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development

### **OSU Extension, Hancock County**

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Findlay, Ohio 45840

Phone: 419-422-3851 Fax: 419-422-3866

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:

Jan 1	Office Closed	Jan 20	4-H Volunteer/Advisor Kickoff, 9am-12pm
Jan 1	Market Steers must be in ownership of the member	Jan 20	Club Financials due to office
Jan 2	New Volunteer Applications due	Jan 20	Sewing Clinic, Make It Take It, 2-4pm
Jan 7	Camp Counselor Zoom, 1pm	Jan 22	State Achievement Record due
Jan 9	4-H Benefit Committee Mtg, 6pm	Jan 22	Shooting Sports Information Kickoff Meeting, 7pm
Jan 10	Horse Council at OSU, 7pm	Jan 23	Safe Use of Guns for Women, 7pm
Jan 13	Market Steer tag-in at Buckeye Building, 9-11am	Jan 24	4-H Volunteer/Advisor Kickoff, 6-8pm
Jan 13	Horse Council Award Banquet	Jan 28	Camp Counselor Meeting, 1-3pm
Jan 15	Office Closed	Jan 30	4-H Advisory Council, 6pm
Jan 15	DNA/EID kits due for State Fair	Feb 1	County Cloverbuds at Mazza Museum, 6:15pm
Jan 16	Shooting Sports Information Kickoff Meeting, 7pm	Feb 4	Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun Meeting, 5pm
		Feb 5	Safe Use of Guns for Youth, 7pm

## Ohio 4-H Conference:

The 2024 Ohio 4-H Conference will bring together 4-H volunteers and teens (age 13 and older) from across Ohio. You can participate in a variety of educational sessions that offer something for everyone! Join us as we learn from each other to make the best better for Ohio 4-H programs. The Conference will take place at the Greater Columbus Convention Center on March 9, 2024, starting at 9am. Registrations are due to the Extension Office by January 18 by 4:00pm. For more information, please visit <https://ohio4h.org/events/ohio-4-h-conference>.

This year, we have many volunteers and advisors being recognized for their years of service! If interested in attending or finding out if you will be recognized, please reach out to our office!

## 4-H Enrollment:

**4HOnline:** 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>. Remember that if you have ever been in 4-H; last year, 5 years ago, or even 9 years ago, please do NOT make a new profile! If you can't find yours, please contact the office and we will be happy to assist you.

**New Volunteers:** All applications were due to our office January 2! If you haven't done so yet, please go to <https://v2.4honline.com> to enroll. This needs completed so all background checks can be matched up and processed.

**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.

**Members:** When you enroll, please upload a current school type photo of yourself at <https://v2.4honline.com>. There are almost 800 of you. We will not use this photo for any purpose other than to remember who you are and what you look like. If you go to camp, you will still need to submit a photo with your health forms.

**Members with Dog Projects:** Starting in 2024, you will need to submit your paperwork online. Once you have enrolled your projects for the year, you can submit your paperwork after January 1. 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. This document 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.

**Members with Horse Projects:** Starting in 2024, you will need to submit your paperwork online. Once you have enrolled your projects for the year, you can submit your paperwork after January 1. 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. Must include full body of member and horse. No pictures from 2023 or before are allowed. Don't forget the 2024 EquiSTEP will also need uploaded once completed. There will be a help document provided after January 15.



**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.

**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.



## Attention Volunteers:



Mark your calendars!! Dates are set for: Saturday, January 20 from 9am-12pm OR Wednesday, January 24 from 6-8pm. Both events will be held here at the extension office. It is a mandatory state requirement for all volunteers and/or advisors to attend the volunteer/advisor kickoff to remain active and in good standing. The annual training will include completing Policy 1.50 Youth Protection Training and giving lots of valuable information for the coming year.

## Columbus Blue Jackets:

Join the Ohio 4-H Foundation at Nationwide Arena on Friday, February 23 to watch the Columbus Blue Jackets take on the Buffalo Sabers! A block of seats has been reserved for Ohio 4-H supporters in section 204 of the upper bowl, and with each ticket purchase \$10 will come back to support Ohio 4-H Youth Development programming. This year there will be a pre-game meeting space in the arena (with appetizers) and an opportunity to take a post-game group picture on the ice. More details will be shared with those who purchase tickets.



Tickets are available for purchase on the Blue Jackets website (<http://www.bluejackets.com/4-h>). After purchasing your ticket, keep an eye out for an email from the Ohio 4-H Foundation with additional opportunities to connect with fellow 4-H supporters before and after the game. We can't wait to cheer on the Blue Jackets with you!

## Sewing Clinic – Make It Take It:



Come to the extension office, January 20 from 2-4pm for fun afternoon creating a Make It Take It project. Joyce Schroeder, our Master Clothing Educator, will be here to guide you as you make an item to take home with you. RSVP by Friday morning, January 19, if you are able to attend.

## **Shooting Sports Information:**



Did you know that Hancock County has a shooting sports program? We offer rifle, archery, shotgun, pistol, living history, and crossbow. Members must be at least 9 years old to participate in rifle, archery, and living history. Members 11 years old and older may take pistol and members 12 years old and older may take shotgun. If you are interested in crossbow, you must be at least 12 and have already taken rifle and archery projects. Come to the Shooting Sports Information Meeting at the extension office on either January 16 or January 22, both beginning at 7pm, for information, dates, and meeting locations.

## **Safe Use of Guns:**

There will be a Safe Use of Guns for Women workshop on January 24 at 7pm. This workshop is open to women interested in gun safety. It is based on the 4-H project Safe Use of Guns. If you are timid around firearms, you have a child who is interested in taking a shooting sports project, or you just want to learn more, this is the place to be. Our certified shooting sports instructors will be leading you through this program in a non-intimidating manner.

February 5, there will be a Safe Use of Guns for youth workshop. Any member in their first year of rifle, pistol, or shotgun must attend. All members in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of rifle, pistol, or shotgun are encouraged to attend for review. Any member planning to take the project is also welcome to attend as you will complete the project before you leave that evening.

## **4-H Benefit Dinner:**

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 and available for purchase beginning January 2. 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. We ask all item donations to be dropped off by January 30th. 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.



## **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 recent Covid-19 pandemic had a significant negative effect on 4-H Camp Ohio. Closed all of 2020, camp lost nearly 95% of anticipated revenue for that year. It remained financially viable only because of financial gifts from supporters, spending down our savings and obtaining loans that we must now pay back.

2021 saw camp re-open, but at a reduced camper level. These two combined financially poor years have left camp in a financially precarious situation that has required it to put on hold all but essential facility maintenance and improvements, program expansion and capital projects. It has also forced camp to eliminate several staff positions which are vital to meeting the mission of camp, but just can't be funded if camp is to balance its budget and pay off the loans.



Over time, a list of facility improvement projects has been created. Some projects are maintenance and improvement related. Others are large capital expenditures for building new camp structures as a part of our long-range goal for the overall facility enhancement. The Second Century Campaign will help camp fund these projects, which otherwise may be put on hold for an extended period of time.

The Second Century Campaign has set a goal of raising at least \$500,000 over the next five years. Most of the funds raised will be used for the afore mentioned facility maintenance and capital improvement projects. A portion would also be used to cover the cost of a wide variety of programming supplies currently paid through camper fees.

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>

## **Advisory Council:**

Congratulations to the new members of the Hancock County 4-H Advisory Council!

Martha Boyd	Linda James	Alexis vonStein	Lori Whitmer
Mimi Burner	Dodi Newcomer	Anita Walker	Danielle Wilkin
Allan Campbell	April Smith	Kim Welch	Mitchell Wilson
Rose Ann Campbell	Barb Stamper	Bev Welty	Jill Woodward
Mychelle Dukes	Margaret Stine	Mitch Welty	

The First Advisory Council meeting of the year will be January 30, 2024. 6pm will be orientation for all members, new and returning. 6:30 will be a meet the council members mixer and 7 will begin the official council meeting.

## **Rabbit Council:**

The Hancock County Rabbit Department is 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](mailto:bcwelty@msn.com). Watch February's 4-H Newsletter for a meeting date, time, and place.

## **2024 Family Guide:**

Exciting 4-H news! The 2024 Family guides will be coming soon to your mailbox! Be on the lookout from January 9 through January 18 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

**Updated Projects:**

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

**Discontinued Projects:**

- 185 Equine Reproduction and Genetics
- 352 Keeping Fit
- 486 Dashboard Dining
- 529 Wired for Power, Level 3
- 530 Entering Electronics, Level 4



## Family Stories

Each time they stop in, or we see them at an activity, we so enjoy getting to know our advisors a little better. We wanted to continue learning about family traditions and stories from our advisors and share how 4-H has impacted their lives from the moment they started until today.

*Bruce Depinet* by Edy Gierke



*Bruce Depinet  
Senior Picture*

If you have ever attended the yearly Benefit Auction for 4-H you may notice a swarm of people around one or two items, especially as the tables are about to close. If you are lucky enough to sneak a look at what all the excitement over, it is probably a tray of delicious candies and buckeyes made by the amazingly talented Bruce Depinet. Now Bruce is well known throughout the 4-H community for more than his divine treats. Here we will get the chance to find more about this advisor with not only a knack for sweet treat making, but also a passion for 4-H and youth development as a whole.

Bruce began his 4-H career as a youth member in Liberty 4-H Club. Liberty 4-H Club was led by Denny and Lynn Dorman and gave Bruce the opportunity to take a multitude of projects. Though Bruce was only in 4-H for a short time as a youth member, he took projects ranging from photography to cooking, knots to small engines. Though his time as a 4-H youth member did not venture into the world of animal projects, he still found himself running around the fair each year to experience all the sights, sounds, and events that covered the grounds. As a 4-H member, Bruce remembers being dropped off in the morning and picked up at the end of the day most fair weeks. He would wander through all the displays and barns throughout the fair, but always remembers being drawn to the horses.



Indian Green 4-H Club meeting



Club members showing at fair

Though he may not have been a 4-H member his entire youth, he has been part of Hancock 4-H as an advisor/volunteer for 30 years. Bruce began his advisor career by helping a club known as Indian Green 4-H Club. This club allowed members with all projects to join. It had an emphasis on livestock. As the club grew, a portion of the members (primarily members with rabbits) decided to form their own club, known as Pride of Pleasant leaving the Indian Green 4-H club with mainly large livestock. With mainly large livestock left,

Bruce got to visit the members and their animals at their homes to see the progress they made during the year as they prepared for the fair. As the fair approached each year, besides farm visits, Bruce would help “direct traffic”, get members to their correct shows, help with weigh-ins, teach members how to properly show and was even seen helping in the Lamb Producers trailer working the grill or selling lamb burgers and gyros.

Though Bruce started as an advisor for the Indian Green 4-H club he has helped with a variety of clubs and events over the years including the Llama Legends 4-H club, 4-H Advisory Council, Llama superintendent, Horse Council, STEM clubs and projects/events, Real Money Real World, a financial literacy program put on by OSU in area schools, church youth group, and Trail Life USA (like boy scouts). After 12+ years as an advisor for Indian Green 4-H club, Chris Shultz brought him to the horse world full time to help with the Freedom Reins 4-H Club where he now serves as the organizational advisor.



Llamas preparing for show



Club traveling car wash

As the organizational advisor for Freedom Reins, horses have become a big part of Bruce’s life. Not only helping members prepare for projects each year, but also encouraging kids to take part in the Horse Bowl, compete in Groom and Clean contests, volunteer at various events and be part of the Buckeye Western Horse Association which helps pay for judges and improvements to the fair like the arena fencing installed a few years back.

Another memorable event Bruce has enjoyed during his time as an advisor is raising two beef feeders of his own. He purchased 2 dairy feeders from Amish country and raised them to compete in Open Class at the fair that year to see how much work actually goes into raising livestock to help support his youth members and their families even more. Over the last 20 years, Bruce has also worked to bring the youth of the many horse clubs together every year during the fair through his baking and candy making skills.



Dairy feeders purchased to raise and show in open class



2<sup>nd</sup> set of dairy feeders

Bruce began entering his baked goods into the open classes at the fair and brought the extra treats to the horse barn for the clubs to enjoy. Bruce says, “I feel like this is a way to bring the clubs closer together since they all come to a central location to partake in the goodies”.

Bruce also likes to make sure to support his 4-H members not only in their 4-H endeavors but to show up and be a supportive advocate in their non-4-H activities. Bruce states he “thinks it is meaningful to the kids if they see people at their school concerts, sporting events or other extracurricular activities that don’t have to be there and just show up to support them”.

As you can see, Bruce has served in many roles over the years and helped many youth along the way. His service to the 4-H community was recognized in 2017 by being awarded the Outstanding to Service 4-H Alumni Award. When asked what advice he would give to other advisors he says to remember who we are here for... the kids. We are here to help the youth of America be better and to give them morales and life skills to support themselves throughout life. If you are like Bruce who likes to help with the behind the scenes instead of front and center taking the spotlight, you can make a lot of impact on youth and their families. So, whether you recognize the name Bruce Depinet from his time in the horse barns, working with youth throughout the county or for seeing his stellar dessert at the auction, he is one amazing volunteer and advisor we are very glad to have within Hancock County 4-H.



Showing in open class