

Clover Connection

Scioto County 4-H Newsletter 2017

Volume 1



Greetings! It is hard to believe that a new 4-H Program year is already upon us! April 15 will be here before we know it, and all of our clubs will be in full swing in the coming weeks.

We have several new policies that are covered in this newsletter, as well as many reminders of events and opportunities. Please take the time to look through this newsletter closely and be sure to share the information with your club members and their families.

We want to make sure that our 4-H'ers are getting the best quality 4-H experience through their involvement in one of our great clubs, so we need your help in making sure they know and understand all of the rules and policies that go along with their projects.

We have policies and guidelines on our web page. Please make sure all your members have reviewed the rules that relate to their projects. There are also rules for judging and exhibition. Each year our 4-H members and their families sign their enrollment forms and indicate that they know and will abide by those rules, but inevitably we have folks who end up violating rules inadvertently. If we all take the time to familiarize ourselves with the rules that go along with the projects, things will operate more smoothly.

We understand that there are way too many projects to memorize all the rules for each. Josi and I can't do it, so we don't expect you to. However, we do expect that each child and their families will learn those that apply to their projects.

Thanks so much for all you do to make 4-H a great program in Scioto County. We are looking forward to this being the best 4-H year yet!

Sincerely,

Jo Williams
Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development

&

Josi Brodt-Evans
Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development

Club Packets Available for Pick Up

Club Enrollment Packets are available to be picked up at the Extension Office. These Packets include re-enrollment forms for those members and volunteers who were in 4-H last year. There are also new enrollment forms for kids you are adding to your club. If you have any new volunteers who plan to help this year, they need to contact us and complete an application, screening and training. The packets also have forms to complete for your club's yearly financial statement, constitution and by-laws, etc. All the required paperwork and enrollments must be completed and turned back in inside the club folder by April 15. You may add projects, new kids or make changes up until May 1. We will accept completed folders at the Volunteer Conference on March 21, or during office hours, M-F, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Volunteer Conference Gets a New Look in 2017

This year the Scioto Volunteer Conference will be a bit different than it has been for the last 10+ years. We will be holding the conference at the Scioto County Career Technical Center on Tuesday, March 21st. Registration and dinner will begin at 5:30 pm. We will do a welcome and update in the cafeteria, and then we will have several break-out sessions, including: Cloverbud Advisor Training, Organizational Advisor Paperwork Help Session, Food Safety, All About 4-H Camp, Livestock Rule Update, Pet Pals Program, and more.

Please plan to have at least one volunteer from your club at this training. We will also offer the Mandatory Child Protection Training at this event. All volunteers have to complete that training every year.

4HONLINE

Beginning this year, Scioto County 4-H clubs will have the opportunity to enter their own enrollments on-line. We want all 4-H Organizational Advisors to become familiar with 4HOnline so enrollment can be an easy process for you! During our 4-H Kick Off event and at the Volunteer Conference advisors will have the opportunity to explore the online system or enter enrollments (for the first eight clubs who call in and sign up).

The Scioto County Extension office relies on 4HOnline to help distribute important information to you. By allowing you access to update your clubs personal information (email, home address and phone) you can ensure that they will always receive important news and updates such as newsletters, deadline information and leadership opportunities. The 4HOnline system is a user-friendly database that was created with 4-H families in mind. The database integrates the information we need in the Extension office with information that you as a 4-H member, parent or Advisor are in need of. As we move forward with the system, there will be additional features added.

4-H Kids College a New Event for Scioto County 4-H Members

This year we will offer a 4-H Kids College event for our 4-H members. The purpose of the Kids College is to help 4-H members prepare for project judging. We will have sessions that tell kids, parents and volunteers what the requirements are for their projects at judging and we will have some sessions that give project specific help. The 4-H Kids College will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday, June 21, at the Friends Community Center. We will send more specific information out after we get enrollments entered.

4-H Fundraisers Help Support the Program for All

Please remember that Scioto County 4-H Policy says that each club must participate in either the countywide fundraisers or conduct their own fundraiser, with 10 percent of the profit going to the 4-H Committee. This policy is to help ensure that all clubs are helping support the county 4-H program. The money your clubs raise go to the 4-H Committee and help with: scholarships, trips, camp counselors, sending teens to the Ohio 4-H Conference, the Scioto County Volunteer Conference, Fair awards (Tablescapes, Community Service Banners, Trophies, etc.) and much, much more! So, in order for your club to be in good standing, you must participate or contribute.

This year's 4-H Fundraisers will be a candy bar and the Country Meat Snack Sticks sale. Each of those items sells for \$1 and your club keeps .25. Kids in the club can then apply for an additional .25 to be subtracted from their camp fees if they attend camp. Head Advisors need to submit a Candy/Meat Stick Sales Data form to the office by May 15th in order for us to be able to subtract the amount from the camp fee. Please call us with any questions; we know it can get confusing! ☺

Candy and Country Meat Orders must be turned in by March 10th. If you choose to do a club fundraiser on your own, you need to get it approved with Jo or Josi prior to the event. If you are preparing food for a fundraiser, please keep in mind that someone from your club will need Occasional Quantity Cook training. (There will be a session at the Volunteer Conference.) If your club absolutely does not want to participate in fundraising, they can choose to pay \$5 per member to opt out.



2017 Pre Fair Calendar

The 2017 Pre Fair Calendar is now available on our website, go.osu.edu/scioto4h. You will find the calendar under the 4-H Calendars, Schedules and Newsletters heading. Also available is a list of events in other counties such as Quality Assurance, Clinics, and PAS shows. Please remember when attending any out of county event, you should call a few days in advance to confirm time and location. There may also be a charge for those events.

Youth Protection Policy

As was established last year, all 4-H volunteers must attend mandatory child protection training. We have several opportunities for you to attend one of these trainings. We will cover the training at the Scioto County Volunteer Conference on March 21, or there are other options on April 1, 10 a.m. at the New Boston Community Center, and 6 p.m., Thursday, April 21, at the fairgrounds. If an advisor does not complete this training, they will be removed as a volunteer. If you have questions, please let us know.

Volunteer Screening Process

As of last year, you can get reimbursed for your fingerprint background check. New and existing volunteers who need to have their background check renewed will get a form from our office and take it to the Sheriff's Department to have their background check completed. Payment will be made to the Sheriff's Department (or ESC or Shawnee State), not our office. Once you have had the WebCheck done, you will bring the form and the receipt back to our office and we will send it to the university for reimbursement. Ohio State will be reimbursing all of our volunteers who submit the form and their original receipt.

New volunteers must go through this process before they can serve as a club volunteer or advisor. And has been the case for a couple of years now, existing volunteers will receive a letter letting them know when it is time for them to have their background checks updated. Those are required every four years.

If you have any questions about the screening process, please call the office and we will help you out!

Club Finances

Please remember that we need your club to complete a Yearly Club Financial Report. Your club must file the report either online or by paper copy to our office. If we do not have a report on file by the April enrollment deadline, your club will not be permitted to continue to operate. Additionally, if your club is handling any money – dues, fundraisers, or project book money – you must have a club checking account.

IRS Filing

In the past all Ohio 4-H clubs/affiliate had to file their e-postcard for the previous tax year by May. Beginning in 2017 the OSU Scioto Extension office will now file for every club in the county to alleviate some of the paperwork for our club advisors! In order for our office to file the e-postcard on your club's behalf, we must have received your Yearly Club Financial Report.

Club Reports

Kristen and Lacie will be entering club enrollments as we get them this year. Please be sure that as your members complete their re-enrollment forms, they make any corrections to those forms, including updating their t-shirt size on the form! We have been sending information using our new texting system, so it is very helpful for families to put a cell phone number and their cell phone provider so we can be sure they are on the text list. This is a great way to get information.



As they get clubs entered into the database, they will be sending out club reports. Please be sure to review this report when you receive it. It will list all your members and the projects they are taking. This will be the time for you to catch if a project has been left off of a child's enrollment. We are hoping to have all the reports sent for your review so members may still add a project by May 1st, if they didn't originally have it on their form.

Please, please be sure to review the report closely so we do not have to tell a child they cannot participate in a project they thought they had signed up for, but did not. We hope this will help alleviate any issues in 2017.

Ohio 4-H Week

Ohio 4-H Week is fast approaching! It will be March 5 through 11. In honor of Ohio 4-H Week, we would like all of our 4-H members to wear a 4-H shirt (club, camp, whatever as long as it is 4-H!!) to school on Thursday, March 9. It would be great to see a flood of green and clovers and 4-H in our schools to promote 4-H.

If you know of any great adults who would be potential club advisors, we would love to help them start some new clubs. We have many of our best clubs growing the point of explosion! We would love to start more clubs in the county and give more youth the opportunity to be a part of 4-H!

4-H Kick Off!

On Wednesday, March 8th from 6 to 8 pm at the SOMC Friends Community Center the Scioto County 4-H program will be hosting a Kick-Off event. The purpose of this program is to allow community members to stop in and discover what 4-H is all about. Hopefully this will encourage new members to join, adults to become new volunteers and we will acquire some new clubs! Jo and Josi will be present to answer questions, our camp ambassadors will advertise 4-H camps, Junior Fair Board and teen leaders will have snacks and activities.

We are asking clubs to volunteer to setup a display with completed projects (like a poster, something from pre-fair judging, pictures, stuff you would put in your booth, no live animals) from your youth or club so community members are able to see what 4-H has to offer. This will give those from the community the ability to ask questions, discover what clubs are available in their area and what they have to offer.

Jo and I will have club packets available for pickup and fundraiser information. If your club is interested in setting up a display, please let Josi know and she will be sure to add you to her list! Please feel free to disperse the flyer throughout the community.

Advisor Resources

Club Management resources can be found on our website, go.osu.edu/scioto4h and the Ohio 4-H website, ohio4h.org. Here you will find club management resources, policies and procedures to assist advisors in maximizing the 4-H experience for their members.

Club Meeting Requirements

4-H clubs must have a minimum of six (6) meetings from time of enrollment until fair, conducting business meetings which include some type of program and recreation. These six meetings DO NOT include weigh-in, clinics, workshops, etc., UNLESS an advisor holds a short business meeting and takes attendance at the event. Members must attend a minimum of five (5) meetings. Advisors can set their own meeting attendance requirements provided they meet the minimum requirements. Completion of projects is dependent upon meeting these requirements. It is up to advisors if they wish to have any "make up" dates for meetings.

Alternate Animal Rule

This year the "Family Alternate" rule is again in place. It is as follows: 4-H members taking beef, sheep, swine and goat projects may begin their project(s) by identifying and weighing two (2) animals of the same species and project. One animal may be used as an alternate (in case of sickness, etc. of first animal) and/or registered for exhibition at the Ohio



State Fair. The second identified animal in the market beef, sheep, goat, and swine projects may also be enrolled in the appropriate carcass activity. **A family alternate can be tagged per immediate family.** Each child that tags a carcass animal will be excluded from the family alternate option. The names of the children must be included on the family alternate form. *Note: 4-H'er may only show and sell one market animal (project) at the Scioto County Fair. Absolutely no substitutions or change of animals can be made after the animals have been brought to the fair for competition.*

PetPALs Group Looking for Members

We have a great opportunity available for our Scioto County 4-H'ers. Teresa Huddle, a long-time volunteer from Lawrence County, has moved here! She has served as our Dog Show Judge many times in the past 9 years or so, and she is currently serving on the Ohio 4-H Dog Committee. Additionally, she is a certified 4-H PetPALs volunteer and is looking to start a PetPALs group here.

4-H PetPALs is a leader-directed, experientially-based, intergenerational program linking young people and their pets with senior adults. The program utilizes the natural bond between youth and animals to promote positive youth development. While many of the youth in the PetPALs use dogs, they can also use other types of pets and be a part of this program. If you have any youth who like working with their pets, this is a great opportunity for them to develop amazing skills.

For anyone interested in PetPALs or Dog Projects, please call us and we will put you in contact with Teresa. She will also be doing a session at the Volunteer Conference in March at the CTC.

Scioto County PAS Show

Scioto is hosting a PAS (Performance Against Standards) horse show. This is a qualifying show for those youth who wish to exhibit at the Ohio State Fair. It will be held on June 17th at Henderson's Arena in Jackson, OH. Registration information can be found on our website under 4-H News & Events.

Pre-Fair Judging and Awards Ceremony Dates Set

Pre-fair project judging and awards ceremonies will be held at the Glennwood Elementary School in New Boston. The two-day schedule is:

Clothing and Quilting Projects will be judged at 10 a.m., Wednesday, July 19.

All Still Projects will be judged on Wednesday, July 19, beginning at 3 p.m.

Food and Nutrition and Cake Decorating Projects will be judged at NOON, Thursday, July 20.

Style Review and Clothing & Quilting Awards will be at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, with line up at 5 p.m.

The Awards Ceremony for Food & Nutrition, Cake Decorating, and Still Projects will begin at 7 p.m., Thursday.

Small Animals and Dog Projects will be judged at 10 a.m., June 19, at the fairgrounds, with awards given out that day.

Sheep, Goat and Swine Tagging

Please note that Swine, Sheep and Goat Tagging identification will be held on Saturday, May 6th, at the fairgrounds.

Swine will be tagged from 7 to 10 a.m., Sheep will be tagged at 7 to 8 a.m. and Goats will be from 8 to 10 a.m.

Per the request of our advisors we will return to tagging swine projects at the Scioto County fairgrounds. Tagging livestock requires man power, so we are asking for help from volunteers, committee members, teens and parents to assist with the identification process for all three species on Saturday morning.

Health and Safety Speaking Contest

Please encourage your 4-H members to consider doing the Health and Safety Speaking Contest. There are Junior and Senior levels. Youth select a topic of human health, or safety that affects family living, in the home, on the farm, on the highway, or in public places. Our county can send an unlimited number of participants to the preliminary qualification event for the Ohio State Fair. If you have youth interested, please have them contact the OSU Extension Office for more information and rules. It is a great opportunity!



Junior Fair Livestock Show Start Times

The Scioto County Fair Board has been working the past year to arrange the junior fair schedule to accommodate those who may not be able to attend daytime shows by moving a few into the evening. In order to make improvements, change is inevitable so if this does not work then we can reevaluate before the next year.

Monday	9 am – Poultry Show
Tuesday	9 am – Rabbit Show 9 am – Pack Goat Show followed by Dairy Goat Show Noon – Pet Show 3 pm – Commercial Production followed by Market Goat Show
Wednesday	9 am – English Horse Show 9 am – Swine Show 6 pm – Lamb Show
Thursday	6 pm – Beef Show
Friday	9 am – Dairy Show 9 am – Western Horse Show 6 pm – Showman of Showmen
Saturday	11 am – Small and Large Animal Livestock Auction <i>(Sale order: Beef, Poultry, Goat, Swine, Rabbit & Sheep)</i>

Project Guidelines and Requirements

All livestock project guidelines have been updated on the Scioto County 4-H Web site. Guidelines for general projects will be updated and posted by April 1. Please be sure to have your 4-H members and their families review the guidelines for completing their projects – this includes livestock, horses, still projects, cooking, sewing, etc.

All of our projects have guidelines for completion and have project books that go with them. Members should be completing the activities and records in their book as a part of completing their projects. Tell them to be sure to review the requirements in the front of the book, as well. Some of our projects are very specific on what youth can make or what tools they can use to complete a project (quilting and woodworking are perfect examples). If a family has a question about one of the requirements that you cannot answer or find the answer to, please let us know. I would rather answer a million questions and have our kids following the rules and guidelines, than have one child go to judging and be turned away.

Fundraising is Mandatory for All Clubs

Once again, Scioto County 4-H will be participating in candy bar and meat sticks fundraisers for 2017. Scioto County 4-H Policy states that all clubs must help support the program by taking part in the county fundraiser, completing a club fundraiser and contributing at least 10 percent of the profit or by paying \$5 per member in their club. These funds must be paid in full to the 4-H Committee by June 15, in order for your club to be considered to be in good standing. Any club fundraisers must be approved by the OSU Extension Office prior to the event. No games of chance are allowed.

Candy bars and Country Meat Snack Sticks will be handed out at the Scioto County 4-H Volunteer Conference on March 21. Orders must be submitted to the OSU Extension Office by 4 p.m., March 8, or you can bring the orders to the 4-H Kick-Off event at the Friends Center. A club representative will need to pick them up at the conference on the 21st. 4-H'ers can earn their way to 4-H Camp by participating in these two county fundraisers. Advisors should complete a candy/meat stick data sales sheet, so youth will get credit for what they sold and have the correct amount credited toward their camp fee. Those forms are due by the end of May.

Canter's Cave Open House a Great Club Field Trip Opportunity

Canter's Cave 4-H Camp will hold an Open House from noon to 4 p.m., May 7. This is a great opportunity for your club to take a field trip and experience some of what our camp has to offer. There will be free food, silent, live and kid auctions, canoeing, and hiking, Flying Squirrel (think of a reverse zip line!), crafts and more. Clubs and families can come spend the afternoon playing and exploring our beautiful camp. Canter's Cave is located at 1362 Caves Road, Jackson,



OH, 45640, just off US 35, about 9 miles north of Jackson. We have had a few clubs hold meetings at the Open House the last couple of years, and those have been great! We hope to see even more there this year!

Speaking of Camp ... Here are the Dates!

As many of you already know, 4-H Camp is my (Jo) favorite part of this crazy job. It is the place where I get to actually know many of our 4-H members and I get to work with our teen counselors. I feel the rewards of working with the kids that you get as advisors. There is nothing better than watching kids grow and become successful and confident! And, camp is the perfect place for that. I remember going to camp for three years as a really shy child. I went by myself. And I survived. Better yet, I made friends, and came out of my shell! I taught other kids how to bait a hook – and they thought I was cool for touching the worms and taking the fish off the hooks when we caught them. Camp is where some of my fondest 4-H memories were made. Encourage your 4-H'ers to go to camp (and non-4-H'ers, too!). Now, you can have the dates ...

Spring Fling	3-6 th graders	April 22-23	\$30
STEM Camp	5 th -7 th graders	June 5-7	\$65 (reg. due by May 1)
Cloverbud Overnight	K-2 nd graders	June 16-17	\$55 (includes youth and adult)
Beginner Camp	3 rd -5 th graders	June 12-15	\$136 (non 4-H \$140)
Junior High Camp	6 th -8 th graders	June 26-29	\$136 (non 4-H \$140)
Teen Camp	9 th -12 th graders	June 23-26	\$140 (non 4-H \$145)

A last thought for the Coming Project Year ...

As you are working with your 4-H members this year, please remember to take time to talk to them about what they are learning, what is going well, what is not going so well, and how they can improve things. I think we often get so caught up in the Doing part of “Learning by Doing,” that we forget to help the kids be intentional in their Learning.

We all know that 4-H is fun and we make new friends, but we would love to hear our kids talk about the skills they are learning, while they are doing their projects. As we grow up and look back on our 4-H careers, it is easy to say what we learned. I KNOW I learned how to follow instructions that I increased by interview skills, that I learned the importance of giving back to my community, and so many, many more things.

Josi and I are so thankful that you give you time to help make the best kids in Scioto County better by serving as leaders and role models for them. Push them. Question them. Encourage them. Praise them.

Thanks so much for all you do! If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please let us know!

