

Clover Connection

Scioto County 4-H Newsletter 2016
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

and

Josi Brodt
4-H Program Coordinator

2016 Pre Fair Calendar

The 2016 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.



Scioto County Volunteer Conference

The Scioto County 4-H Volunteer Conference will be held at the Friends Community Center at 5:30 p.m., April 14, 2016. There will be a silent auction, meal, recognition, updates and training provided. At least one person from each club is required to attend this training. We will be providing the university's new mandatory "Protecting Our Youth" training at this event, so all who attend will be current on their training. Please call the office to pre-register for this event by 4:30 p.m., March 31st.

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 April 14, or there are other options on April 2 and April 21. Please check the calendar for specific times and locations.

Volunteer Screening Process

The volunteer screening process has changed a bit on us again. ☺ The plus side of the change is – you can get reimbursed for your fingerprint background check. New and existing volunteers who need to have their background check renewed simply 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, 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 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.

Club IRS Filing

All Ohio 4-H clubs/affiliate must file their e-postcard for tax year 2015 by May 15, 2016. The IRS will be hosting 990-N epostcard filings after February 28, 2016, instead of the Urban Institute. The new web address for filing is: <https://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Annual-Electronic-Filing-Requirement-for-Small-Exempt-Organizations-Form-990-N-e-Postcard>. The process will certainly look different to advisors who have filed in the past but they will no longer be redirected to a non IRS.gov site. If you are not successful in filing, please call the IRS as instructed to find out why you were unsuccessful and send us your EIN, Name and club contact information.

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 2016.

Ohio 4-H Week

Ohio 4-H Week is upon us – March 6 through 12. 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 10. 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!

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.

Cloverbot Challenge

The Cloverbot Challenge is a really great opportunity for Cloverbuds to get more involved with the 4-H program. Cloverbuds form teams in their club or throughout the county, learn about this year's topic, Fabulous Food, and then bring their poster and LEGO project to the state event on May 21, at the Ohio 4-H Center. Feedback from participants indicates that youth that take part in the Cloverbot Challenge really enjoy their 4-H experience as it gives them a project to work on and a goal to look forward to. Every member that participates in the event receives a medal and is recognized on stage with their club/team during the ceremony that day. The deadline to register is April 15, but if clubs want to order one of the greatly discounted LEGO kits, they must register by March 11.

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 8 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.

Multi County PAS Show

Several Counties in our EERA including Scioto are 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 12th 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 SOMC Friends Center. The two-day schedule is:

Clothing and Quilting Projects will be judged at 10 a.m., Wednesday, July 20.

All Still Projects will be judged on Wednesday, July 20, beginning at 3 p.m.

Food and Nutrition and Cake Decorating Projects will be judged at 2 p.m., Thursday, July 21.

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 29, at the fairgrounds, with awards given out that day.

Sheep, Goat and Swine ID is Earlier in 2016

Please note that Sheep and Goat Tagging and Swine identification are due earlier this year than in the past. As we were trying to avoid having tagging on Mother's Day weekend, the tagging will be held on Saturday, April 30, at the fairgrounds. Sheep will be tagged at 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and Goats will be from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

As has been the case the past two years, swine project members must pick up ID forms and tags from the OSU Extension Office and return the form along with four photos of their project animal/s with the tag in its ear. Instruction sheets will be handed out with the ear tags. The forms and photos must be turned in by 4:30 p.m., Monday, May 2. **NO LATE FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

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

To become more uniform with the junior livestock shows at the Scioto County Fair, the Senior Fair Board has voted to begin all morning shows at 9 a.m. during the fair. This will allow our judges more time to get to our fairgrounds, and cause less confusion for the public on what time the morning shows begin. Please share this information with all families that may be trying to make arrangements for fair week.

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 2016. 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 April 14. Orders must be submitted to the OSU Extension Office by 4 p.m., March 31. A club representative will need to pick them up at the conference on the 14th. 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.

New Scioto County 4-H Instagram!

Josi has created a new Scioto County 4-H Instagram page! Please go follow it, and let your 4-H members know that it is available. We know that many of our young people don't use Facebook, because it is "For Old People." © Also, all remind folks that they can find our rules and policies on the Scioto County Web site, <http://scioto.osu.edu>, and that we have a Scioto County 4-H Facebook Page they can follow for updates and information.

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 15. 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 kids 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 6-8	\$65 (reg. due by May 1)
Cloverbud Overnight	K-2 nd graders	June 11-12	\$50 (includes youth and adult)
Beginner Camp	3 rd -5 th graders	June 8-11	\$136 (non 4-H \$140)
Junior High Camp	6 th -8 th graders	June 13-16	\$136 (non 4-H \$140)
Teen Camp	9 th -12 th graders	June 24-27	\$140 (non 4-H \$145)

Avian Influenza Update

We are approaching another critical time of year when it becomes wet and cold - prime time for avian influenza. If there are outbreaks of avian influenza in neighboring states and especially in Ohio, it is very likely that an immediate ban will be imposed, regardless of the time of year, which could be in the middle of fair season.

As always, biosecurity is of utmost importance. Do what you can to limit people, visitors, traffic, wild waterfowl, and control rodents. If you should experience high mortality all of the sudden (regardless of the size of your flock), call the Ohio Department of Agriculture. In all of the outbreaks, the first 24 hours are critical to containing the virus.

4-H poultry project members – Along with enrolling in your 4-H poultry projects in 2016, it might be a good idea to enroll in another 4-H project (either an animal project if you want to exhibit an animal at the county fair, or one of the other 150+ amazing 4-H projects) so you can still exhibit and/or be evaluated in a 4-H project should an outbreak occur and live poultry are banned from the fairs.

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. It is amazing, since I was just in 4-H to learn about a horse and show it at the fair.

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!

