Clover Times

News from Putnam County 4-H

DECEMBER 2025

OSU Winter Academic Recess

The Ohio State University will observe its annual Winter Recess from December 24 - January 1, and our office will also be closed for the holidays. We will close at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 23 and reopen on Friday, January 2 at 8:00 a.m. to assist you with all your Extension needs.

As we wrap up 2025, we want to thank our community partners, volunteers, and 4-H members for making this year a success. We look forward to reconnecting with you in early 2026!

Thank you for your understanding, and we wish you a joyful holiday season with family and friends.

4-H Enrollment Open

It is time to start enrolling for 2026. This is open to all advisors, volunteers, and members. Go to https://v2.4honline.com. Remember there is one account per family, family accounts never expire, please do NOT make a new profile! If you need assistance, please contact the Extension office at 419-523-6294 and we will be happy to assist you. The 4-H Enrollment deadline is March 1.

4-H Project Guide

The name has changed slightly from Ohio 4-H Family Guide, but the information is still about the same. The 2026 Project Guide is now available online at https://ohio4h.org/projectguide. Our office will have copies for new families, so they are welcome to stop by the office to get a copy. Copies of the Project Guide will be mailed directly to 4-H families and volunteers who were enrolled in 2025. A huge thank you to Kroger for making this possible again!

Volunteer Background check/Fingerprinting

The volunteers below are required to complete the BCI rescreening this year. Letters from our office were sent in November outlining details.

Whitney	Bardall
Mary	Brickner
Tracie	Carpenter
Gwendolyn	Clymer
Erica	Crawford
Ruth	Ellerbrock
Alexandrea	Gerding
Bernard	Goedde
Mark	Haselman
Andrew	Horstman
Garry	Kleman
Sandra	Kleman
Michelle	Kortokrax
Kody	Kuhlman
Cindy	Landwehr
Kenneth	Landwehr
Kay	Langhals
Angela	Maag
Jennifer	McVey
Caitlyn	Morris
Ashley	Niemeyer
Michelle	Prowant
Amanda	Richey
Randall	Schumacher
Dana	Shaffer
Heather	Verhoff
Darrell	Wrasman

For those who received a letter as a reminder:

- You must (re)enroll in 4HOnline before going to have your fingerprints taken.
- You MUST (re)enroll with your full legal name and verify your date of birth is accurate.
- You may choose to be reimbursed for your fingerprints. Please bring receipt of completion to the office.

Please note: even if we have a receipt from you and/or date that the check was completed, it does NOT mean you have successfully passed the background check.

4-H Advisor Kick – Off

We are asking all advisors to attend the Kick-Off training. We will review 4-H materials at this time, review program changes. The Advisor Kick- Off is scheduled for January 8 starting at 6:00pm at the Putnam County Event Center at the Putnam County Fairgrounds. We will provide light hors d'oeuvres between 6-6:30pm and start our program at 6:30pm. Make up training (and new advisor training) is schedule for January 29 at 6:00pm at the Extension office.

Ohio State Fair Steer ID Information

The Ohio State Fair requires all market beef entered in the 2026 Ohio State Fair to have individual DNA samples taken from each animal that may potentially be entered. These DNA samples must be in the possession of the Ohio State Fair by **January 15**. Note – this is for Ohio State Fair Steer Show only. These kits can be picked up at the Extension Office.

2026 Turkey Order

It is now time to order market turkeys for the 2026 Putnam County Fair. All turkey orders must be received by **4:30 pm on February 13, 2026** in order to meet the deadline with Cooper Farms Hatchery. Cooper Farms have been a wonderful supporter of the Putnam County 4-H and FFA programs and once again is offering up to five free poults for each youth taking a market turkey project. Youth may order more than five poults but must pay for each poult after five. The prices are as follows: $3.50 per extra hen, $3.88 per extra straight run, and $4.25 per extra tom. Please remember that this offer is only good for youth in 4-H and FFA who will be completing the market turkey project in 2026. The date for turkey pickup is Wednesday, March 11, from noon to 4:30pm at the Extension Office. If you ordered additional poults, your payment is due at pick up. You need to submit your order online by going to www.go.osu.edu/2026Turkeys. If you have any questions, please contact hoffman.1458@osu.edu or you may call the Extension Office at (419)-523-6294.

EID Tags

The Senior Fair Board will provide EID tags free of charge up to the number of project animals you can enter into the junior fair. You still have the opportunity to ID twice as many at possession deadline, but you must cover the $3 cost per tag beyond what the board will provide and must document all animals tagged by ID deadlines. Taggers will be available with a $30 deposit. Deposits will be refunded if tagger is returned within two days of sign out.

Family Tagging

Market animals within the same project can be registered and tagged as family animals in 2026. Family is defined as immediate family members only. Youth must register all animals in their own 4-H online profile by possession deadline if they want the option to choose that animal by fair entry deadline.

Youth must declare which market animal they are bringing to fair by the Junior Fair Livestock Entry deadline. Changes after the deadline will make the market project ineligible for competition/champion.

Example: Smith family has two children. Child 1 and Child 2 are both enrolled in the 4-H market swine project. The family can tag up to 6 hogs (no more than three per child) and register all animals in each child 1 and child 2's own 4-H online profile by possession deadline if they want the option to choose that animal by fair entry deadline. The Smith family will have to choose which market swine animals go with which child by the junior fair entry deadline in June. Any swine tag changes or substitutions after the June deadline will make the project animal ineligible for competition/champion. The changed/substituted market project can still go through the premium sale and be sold to market.

Project Enrollment for 4-H Members and Showing Animals at County and the Ohio State Fair **(page 8 of Ohio Project Guide)**

4-H members must be enrolled in every project they wish to exhibit at any Ohio fair, including the Ohio State Fair, county fairs, and independent fairs. This includes purchasing and maintaining accurate records in the corresponding 4-H project book. Members must completely and accurately enroll in the 4-H projects via 4HOnline by March1, 2026. Members must enroll in their county in any project they enter to show in Ohio State Fair Junior Livestock Shows (including poultry, rabbits, and dogs), regardless of whether that project is offered for county exhibition.
A 4-H member cannot enroll the same animal in two separate projects, except for dog projects and 4-H PetPALS.

This is important for those members taking breeding and market projects. They must be different animals for each of the projects. Exhibitors cannot take the same animal for a breeding project and market project.

Junior Fair Steer Exhibitors

Market beef/dairy steer exhibitors are required to pick up EID Tags from the Extension office. You can pick up tags from November 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025 in our office. Please complete an ID Form, take photos of tagged animal, and send photos along with the form back to the Extension office. Deadline for materials is January 5, 2026. All materials must be sent to hoffman.1458@osu.edu by deadline.

If your steer already has an EID Tag, simply complete the ID Form and submit pictures of your steer by the deadline. The form includes DETAILED instructions about what photos are needed and how to submit them to the office. ID Forms completed after January 5 will be assessed a $10 late fee and could be ineligible for fair competition.

Beef Breeding: if you are planning to bring beef breeding to the junior fair, you must enroll in the beef breeding 4-H project and enter the animal to 4-H Online by April 16 deadline and Fair Entry by June 1.

Dairy Feeder/Crossbred Feeder

2026 beef feeder/cross bred feeder/dairy feeder exhibitors are required to pick up EID Tags from the Extension Office between March 1 and April 15 and complete the online entry process using 4-H Online. You will need to take photos of the tagged animal and submit an online entry form by April 16, 2026. If your feeder already has an EID Tag, you may use this. DETAILED entry instructions are available online. We will not accept any photos that are emailed or dropped to the office. However, we are always willing to help you complete the online process.

Junior Fair Feeder Calf Crossbred Class – There will be a feeder calf crossbred class in the Junior Fair feeder calf show. The same weight requirements will apply, and these animals will be selling in their own in the calf sale. They will show after the dairy feeders and can participate in the dairy showmanship.

Required Feeder Calf Classification Date
Senior Fair Board will be requiring ALL FEEDER CALVES to be 'officially' classified as a beef feeder, dairy feeder or crossbred feeder on Saturday April 18, from 8am -10am at the Putnam County Fairgrounds. This is to ensure proper identification for fair show/sale. All feeders are to be on grounds by 10am.

All feeders MUST be tagged prior to the Classification date. Tag and registrations are due April 16, 2026.

Each Junior Fair exhibitor is allowed a maximum of two feeder calves per class division, but no more than four total feeder calves can be entered into junior fair.

Youth Quality Assurance

As a youth livestock exhibitor taking one of the following—feeder calves, market lambs, market goats, market beef, lactating dairy, market poultry, market rabbits, and swine-- you will be required to complete a Youth Quality Assurance (YQA) Program in 2026. This requirement is mandated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The Putnam County Ag Society has asked OSU Extension, Putnam County to coordinate this educational effort. If FFA and 4-H members do not complete YQA this year, you will not be eligible to show and sell your project at the Putnam County Fair.

Last day to complete Putnam YQA will be May 8, 2026. YQA must be completed 45 days prior to fair. Note: The BQA/PQA online courses do not meet the Ohio Youth Food Animal QA certification requirement. QA calendar year (October 1st – September 31st).

There are several ways to get the YQA training in 2026. Please review your options below and select one.

OPTION 1:
March 31 – 7:30pm at the Putnam County Event Center – no pre-registration required.
In Person Putnam Livestock Youth Quality Assurance. Parents may drop off and pick up.

April 9 – 7:30pm at the Putnam County Event Center – no pre-registration required.
In Person Putnam Livestock Youth Quality Assurance. Parents may drop off and pick up.

OPTION 2:
April 18 – 9am Small Animal Clinic followed by small animal YQA 10am-11am at the Extension Office – no pre-registration required. In Person Putnam Livestock Youth Quality Assurance. Parents may drop off and pick up.

OPTION 3: Web based Online Training Option
Any Putnam County youth exhibitor (8-18) may take the online YQCA certification. Web link will be released early 2026. Approximate cost is $12 per child and a completion certificate must be submitted to our office for each youth. Certificates have individual completion numbers so one certificate cannot be used for all youth in the same family.

OPTION 4: Youth can attend other county/regional YQCA trainings but must ensure their attendance is sent to the Putnam County Extension Office from the hosting event. Call our office for other dates and locations in NW Ohio.

Important Dates

4-H Camp Dates – July 14-18, 2026

Putnam County Fair – June 22- 27, 2026

Scholarship Opportunities

a) Putnam County Beef Committee Scholarship: Visit https://go.osu.edu/2026cattlemenscholarship for more information. Application deadline January 16, 2026. The winner will be announced at the 2026 Cattlemen's Association Banquet on January 28, 2026

b) Ohio 4-H Scholarship Application
- Are you a high school senior? Don't miss your chance to apply for Ohio 4-H scholarships!
- Application Information
  • Opens: December 1, 2025
  • Priority Deadline: February 15, 2026
- Two Application Pathways:
  1. Students attending The Ohio State University
     o Apply through ScholarshipUniverse.
     o Log in using your lastname.# credentials.
     o New students must apply for admission before accessing ScholarshipUniverse.
     o Indicate you are a current or former Ohio 4-H member to access the 4-H scholarship questions.
  2. Students attending any other university
     o A separate survey link will be emailed to you.
     o You'll answer the same Ohio 4-H scholarship questions plus details about your chosen institution and intended major.

What You'll Be Asked:
• Years of active Ohio 4-H membership
• Counties of membership
• Most impactful 4-H activities (service & leadership focus, 200 words or less)
• 4-H achievements at club, community, state, national, or international levels (200 words or less)

Encourage your seniors to apply!

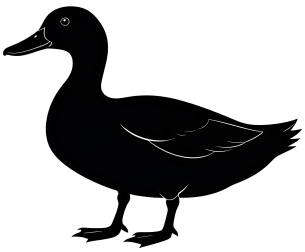
2026 Small Animal Updates

Putnam County Junior Fair

The following small animal projects have updated requirements for 2026 (in italics). There are no changes to market chicken or breeding poultry projects.

Market Turkeys (*15-17 weeks old at start of fair*)

Hatch dates: February 23 to March 9
Possession deadline: March 11
Minimum weight: 15 pounds
Maximum weight: No limit



Market Ducks (*8-10 weeks old at start of fair*)

Hatch dates: April 13 to April 27
Possession deadline: April 29
Minimum weight: 6 pounds
Maximum weight: No limit

Market Rabbits (*10-11 weeks old at start of fair*)

Born between April 6 and April 12
Possession deadline: May 10
Tattoo date: May 16
Minimum weight: 3.5 pounds
Maximum weight: 5.5 pounds

Breeding Rabbits

Maximum of five breeding projects per exhibitor.

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION, PUTNAM COUNTY

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Putnam County Websites

Office Website: putnam.osu.edu

Facebook: OSU Extension Putnam County

4-H Website: v2.4honline.com

Fair Entries: Fairentry.com

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