Clover Times

News from Putnam County 4-H

March 2025

4-H Enrollment Deadline

The 4-H Enrollment deadline was March 1. If you need assistance, please contact the Extension office at 419-523-6294 and we will be happy to assist you.

4-H Project Guide

The name has changed slightly from Ohio 4-H Family Guide, but the information is still the same. The 2025 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 were mailed directly to 4-H families and volunteers who were enrolled in 2024. A huge thank you to the Ohio 4-H Foundation and Kroger for making this possible again!

4-H Senior Spotlights

Parents, if you have a 2025 senior who is in 4-H, we are highlighting them through our OSU Extension Facebook page and High School Senior display in the Junior Fair Building during fair. Please send email to downing.310@osu.edu for more information.

Junior Fair King and Queen

Applications for the Putnam County Junior Fair King, Queen and Court are due May 16, 2025. Click HERE for application. Remember to complete a reference form.

Department Royalty Applications

Visit HERE for application materials for the Junior Fair Department Royalty. Remember to complete a reference form.

- Horse Royalty applications due March 21, 2025 to the OSU Extension Office
- All other department royalty applications Due March 21, 2025 to the OSU Extension Office

Youth Quality Assurance

Please read carefully for date and location changes. All feeder calves are required to attend in 2025.

As a youth livestock exhibitor taking one of the following— all 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 2025. 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, they will not be eligible to show and sell their project at the Putnam County Fair.

Last day to complete Putnam YQA will be May 9, 2025. 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 2025. Please review your options below and select one.

OPTION 1:
March 31(incorrect in Handbook as April 1) – 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 10 – 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 26 – 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 2025. 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: Test Out
Market exhibitors ages 15-18 can take an exam and test out of YQCA. If youth pass the exam, it will be good for three years. The YQCA exam is not one that you can simply show up and take without preparation. Please call our office for study materials. Test times are Monday – Friday, March 17 -28 and April 7 -18, 8:00am – 4:30pm. Scheduled times are required, but please note tests will not be given out within a half hour of office close. There will be a $10 test fee to take the exam.

OPTION 5: 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.

Poultry Show

We are monitoring the developments of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in our neighboring counties of Auglaize and Mercer very carefully. The Junior Fair is currently planning on a normal poultry schedule/show. We will continue to monitor the situation and follow any future ODA guidelines. If there would be any changes, everyone will be notified.

Egg Safety

A question we sometimes get is about egg safety. The safety of eggs depends entirely on the production practices of the producer. For a backyard or small farm, the predominant worries are fecal pathogens like Salmonella. The way that a producer keeps the eggs safe is to first, purchase eggs from a hatchery that participates in the National Poultry Improvement Plan which works to ensure through testing and stock selection that the chicks will come without pathogens. Then maintain sanitation in the coop to minimize exposure to feces after the eggs are laid.

Eggs are porous, and they come out of a hen from the same place that fecal material does, so every egg can be assumed to have some level fecal contamination. The inside of the egg gets some protection from this through the deposition of a protective layer on the outside of the egg called the cuticle. This layer is washed off when eggs are washed. For safe egg washing, an exact procedure needs to be followed using the temperature of the egg and temperature of the wash water so that a temperature gradient is not created where the external fecal matter is drawn through the pores inside the shell.

Keep in mind the most impactful strain of Salmonella, Salmonella enteritis, is deep inside the egg, attached to the yolk, so washing does not affect it. That is another reason to get NPIP chicks and is the reason why eggs are recommended to be fully cooked to a safe internal temperature, to kill and bacterial or virus present. For more information visit: The Incredible Egg: Important Food Safety Information.

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 have the opportunity to ID twice as many at possession deadline, and 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 2025. 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.

Lamb and Goat

There will be no April Lamb and Goat Weigh-In. Instead, we will use the scrapie ID tag as the official fair ID. Market goat and market sheep exhibitors are required to complete an online ID process using the 4-H Online entry system. CLEAR photos of the Scrapie tagged animal will need to be uploaded no later than April 16, 2025.

DETAILED instructions about how to submit online can be found here HERE

We will not accept any photos that are emailed or dropped off to the office. However, we are always willing to help you complete the online process.

Sheep Exhibitors: If you are planning to bring Ewes to the junior fair, you have the option to enter the project in either the commercial breeding class (they do not sell to market) or the market ewe class at the fair. To have this option, 4-H members must enroll in both the Sheep breeding *and* the Market Lamb project, complete both books, and skillathons. Ewes must be scrapie tagged and complete the online submission in April to be eligible for the market class. If all the above are met, then you must indicate which class you will enroll your ewe in at the time of Junior Fair Livestock Entry deadline (June 6, 2025).

Dairy Feeder/Crossbred Feeder

2025 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, 2025. 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 26, 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, 2024.

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.

Swine

All market Swine exhibitors are required to pick up EID Tags from the Extension Office between March 1 and April 15, complete the online submission process using the 4-H Online system, take photos of the tagged animal(s) and upload the pictures by April 16, 2025. DETAILED instructions about how to submit online can be found HERE .

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.

- No ractopamine free forms will be collected in 2025
- Market Swine weights: 210lbs – 290lbs.

If you are planning to bring Gilts to the junior fair, you have the option to enter the project in either the breeding class (they do not sell to market) or the market gilt class at the fair. To have this option, 4-H members must enroll in both the Swine breeding *and* the Market Swine project, complete both books, and skillathons. Gilts must be tagged and complete the online submission in April to be eligible for the market class. If all the above are met, then you must indicate which class you will enroll your gilt in at the time of Junior Fair Livestock Entry deadline (June 6, 2025).

Horse Exhibitors

The 2025 EquiSTEP program is now up and running! Please remember that all Putnam County 4-H Horse project members must complete the online training by no later than **May 9th** in order to show in county and state 4-H equine shows. Full instructions can be found HERE Please remember that each member must log in with a unique email address. You cannot use the same email address for multiple youth completing EquiSTEP.

SPECIAL NOTE: Those members competing in Horse Bowl, hippology, etc. must complete the training at least one week prior to the state contest for which they are entered.

Complete the EquiSTEP program here: https://go.osu.edu/EquiSTEP2025

The certificate will be emailed to the participant's email address. You will need to forward to our county's 4-H email address FAES-PutnamExtension@osu.edu Please be sure to select our county (Putnam) when completing this process. Deadline for completion is May 9, 2025.

Fair Board Notes

- **Livestock Premium Sale Trips** – exhibitors will be awarded one trip through sale regardless of the number of champions. If an exhibitor has multiple champions, the sale auctioneer will acknowledge this, animals can be brought to ring, and pictures with buyers and champion animals will still be provided.
- **Feeder Calf Auction in 2025:** A note that Junior Fair feeder calves will be sold individually, as opposed to grouping them in the base bid sale for 2025. Beef feeders will be sold by weight, starting with champions, then we will move to crossbred feeders, then dairy feeders, selling in the same way. Invoices for buyers will be generated Thursday after the sale and bills can be paid at the Junior Fair office until load out time on Sunday. No calves will be released without a paid receipt. The Junior Fair office will need to time to develop invoices, so no payments for calves will not be accepted the evening of the feeder calf sale. Location for the feeder calf auction will be the entertainment tent, and buyers will receive a fair pass for gate entry.
- **Market Swine** sold through the premium sale will be loaded for market on Friday evening of the fair. All other breeding and market hogs will be released by decision of Junior Fair Committee, but no earlier than Saturday at midnight.
- **Junior Fair Animal release** - No earlier than midnight of last night, but to be determined by barn superintendents and Junior fair livestock committee at time of fair (after load outs).
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4-H Chicken BBQ

The 4-H Chicken BBQ is scheduled for Sunday, April 27 at the Putnam County Fairgrounds. The 4-H Council will serve carry out only with the help of Uncle Buck's. Tickets will be $12.00 and will be distributed to head advisors and/or put into book order piles to be picked up Fridays.

HEAD Advisor's: Please distribute tickets and help your clubs sell them! If you need more, contact our office. The success of our BBQ is critical to help offset the costs of providing 4-H books and scholarships to our 4-H youth. **Final ticket sales and money are due to the Extension Office no later than April 14, 2025.** WE MUST HAVE AN ACCURATE COUNT SO WE DO NOT RUN SHORT ON MEALS.

Scholarship Opportunities

Two $500 college scholarships are available to senior goat or sheep exhibitors sponsored by the Putnam County Goat and Sheep Committee. Deadline: April 15, 2025. Visit HERE for application.

Farm Bureau T-Shirt Design Contest

Details:

- 1 T-Shirt Design (front design only) entry per Putnam County 4-H Club
- Club gives rights to Farm Bureau to use their design
- Designs are asked to be in black and white *They will be printed in color
- Designs are to be submitted via PDF to Anna's email (downing.310@osu.edu) by April 1 at 4:30 PM
- Winning Club will receive a free pizza party the Thursday of Fair June 27 during their Kid's Dream Day Event

Farm Bureau will print extra shirts if there are members in your club who don't show livestock and don't receive the shirt at skillathon.

Early Bird 4-H Camp Registration Open Now!

Early bird registrations now until June 13: $220
From June 14 - July 1: $235,
Non-4-H members - $250
Deadline for camp registrations at full cost is JULY 1st!
July 2- July 7th, late registration $250 *Due to the high number of campers, no registrations will be accepted after July 7th

2025 4-H Calendar

Take a quick moment to review the 4-H Calendar to get your 4-H Judging dates/locations, fair and camp on the calendar. As a result of our new event center, we do have some judging schedule changes and location changes so watch those closely. 2025 4-H Calendar

Missing Ottoville Blue Ribbon Winners Finance Records

We are still looking for the misplaced Ottoville Blue Ribbon Winners Financial statements and records. We believe these were placed in another clubs 'pick up pile' at the August 4-H Awards Open House. Please take a few moments to look through your 4-H Club materials to see if they landed there. Thanks!

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: 4honline.com

Fair Entries: Fairentry.com

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