2026 PUTNAM COUNTY
4-H HANDBOOK

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

putnam.osu.edu

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2026 Putnam County 4-H Calendar

* DATE WILL REMAIN THE SAME EVERY YEAR			
Date	Time	Event	Location
January			
1/1		Market Steer/Heifer Ownership Deadline *	
1/5		Market Beef ID Deadline (picture, ID tag, due in 4HOnline per each steer)	4-H Online - 4honline.com
1/8	Doors open - 6:00PM Meeting - 6:30PM	Advisor Kick Off Meeting - Doors open at 6:00 PM with light refreshments being served. Meeting starts at 6:30 PM. Advisor training is mandatory for all 4-H Volunteers.	Putnam County Event Center
1/8	8:30 PM	4-H Council Meeting	Putnam County Event Center
1/15	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Jr Fair Board Meeting	Putnam County Extension Office
1/29	6:00 PM	New Advisor & Make-Up Training	Putnam County Extension Office
February			
2/1		Ohio 4-H Achievement Forms Due*	
2/10	5:45 PM	CARteen Meeting	Putnam County Extension Office
2/19	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Jr Fair Board Meeting	Putnam County Extension Office
2/21		Registration Due for State 4-H Volunteer Conference	Putnam County Extension Office
2/23-3/9		Turkey Hatch Date (February 23 - March 9)	
2/26	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Camp Counselor Training	Putnam County Extension Office
2/28		Camp Palmer Counselor Training (Optional)	Camp Palmer
March			
3/1		**PUTNAM COUNTY 4-H ENROLLMENT DEADLINE ***	4-H Online 4honline.com
3/2		Tags for feeder calves and hogs will be available for pick-up.*	Putnam County Extension Office
3/11		**Turkey Possession** (hatch dates February 23 - March 9)	
3/19	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Jr Fair Board Meeting	Putnam County Extension Office
3/21		State 4-H Volunteer/Teen Conference/Recognition	Columbus Convention Center
3/26	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Camp Counselor Training	Putnam County Extension Office
3/26	7:30 PM - 9:00 PM	4-H Council Meeting	Putnam County Extension Office
3/26-4/9		Geese Hatch Date (March 26 – April 9)	
3/31	7:30 PM	Quality Assurance Program - (ALL 4-H Livestock Exhibitors taking market beef, market dairy steer, market lambs, market swine, market goats, market rabbits, market poultry or lactating dairy need to complete a QA Program. Dairy/beef/crossbred feeders need to attend QA.) Optional for parents to attend.	Putnam County Event Center

April			
4/1		**4-H Project Change Deadline ***	Putnam County Extension Office
4/3	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Camp Counselor Training - Make Up	Putnam County Extension Office
4/6-4/12		Market Rabbit - to be born between April 6 - 12	
4/9	7:30 PM	Quality Assurance Program - (ALL 4-H Livestock Exhibitors taking market beef, market dairy steer, market lambs, market swine, market goats, market rabbits, market poultry or lactating dairy need to complete a QA Program. Dairy/beef/crossbred feeders need to attend QA.) Optional for parents to attend.	Putnam County Event Center
4/11		**Geese Possession** (hatch dates March 26 – April 9)	
		Duck Hatch Dates (April 13 - April 27)	
4/14	5:45 PM	CARteen Meeting	Putnam County Extension Office
4/15		**ANIMAL POSSESSION DEADLINE** (Feeder Calf, Goats, Beef Breeding, Sheep Breeding, Rabbit Breeding, Lambs, Horses, & Swine) *	
4/15	by 4:30 PM	Club Programs Due *	Putnam County Extension Office
4/15	by 4:30 PM	Club Charter's, Constitution, & EIN Due *	Putnam County Extension Office
4/16	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Jr Fair Board Meeting	Putnam County Extension Office
4/16		Lamb, Goat, Swine, and Feeder Calf Pictures Due in 4-H Online	4-H Online - 4honline.com
4/18	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Feeder Calf Classification (all tagged feeders are to be on the grounds by 10 AM)	Putnam County Fairgrounds
4/18	10:00-11:00 AM	Quality Assurance Program (Small animals focused) (Large Animal Exhibitors are welcome to attend)	Putnam County Extension Office
4/18	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Poultry Clinic	Putnam County Extension Office
4/18	11:00 AM - Noon	Rabbit Clinic	Putnam County Extension Office
4/19	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	4-H Chicken BBQ — (carry-out only)	Putnam County Junior Fair Office
4/23	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Camp Counselor Training	Putnam County Extension Office
4/29		**Duck Possession** (Hatch Dates April 13 – April 27)	
		Meat Chickens Hatch Dates (April 30 - May 14)	
May			
5/1		**Breeding Chickens Possession Deadline** (birds recommended to be at least 6 months old at the time of the fair). *	
5/8		**QA Due - Quality Assurance must be completed 45 days prior to fair to be eligible to exhibit.**	
5/10		**Market Rabbit Possession Deadline**	
5/15	by 4:30 PM	4-H Camp Scholarships, Junior Achievement, Career Achievement Awards Due *	Putnam County Extension Office

May Continued			
5/16		Rabbit Tattooing — (Arrive by 10:00AM) Rabbit Barn	Putnam County Fairgrounds
5/21	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Jr Fair Board Meeting	Putnam County Extension Office
TBD		Entries Due for Junior Fair Horse/Pony Show (PAS)	Putnam County Extension Office
5/16		**Meat Chickens Possession** (Hatch Dates April 30 – May 14)	
5/21	7:30 PM	4-H Council Meeting	Putnam County Extension Office
5/22	by 4:30 PM	KING/QUEEN APPLICATIONS DUE	Putnam County Extension Office
5/28	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Camp Counselor Training	Putnam County Extension Office
5/30	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Cloverbud Camp	Putnam County Extension Office
June			
6/1		**JUNIOR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRIES DUE**	Fair Entry - fairentry.com
6/1		Club dues turned in to the Extension office	
6/9	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Camp Counselor Training	Putnam County Extension Office
6/9	5:45 PM	CARteen Meeting	Putnam County Extension Office
6/10	8:30 AM – 2:30 PM	**Skillathon Judging** — (**need to pre-register for a time online at putnam.osu.edu; will receive email when registration is open)	Putnam County Event Center
6/10		King/Queen Interviews	Putnam County Extension Office
6/12	by 4:30 PM	**4-H Camp Early Bird Registration Closes**	Putnam County Extension Office
6/12		Horse/Pony Fun Show - Putnam County Fairgrounds	Putnam County Fairgrounds
6/13		Horse/Pony Fun Show - Putnam County Fairgrounds	Putnam County Fairgrounds
6/14		Horse/Pony/PAS Show -Putnam County Fairgrounds	Putnam County Fairgrounds
6/15	9:30 AM - 2:00 PM	Junior Fair Board Work Day	Putnam County Fairgrounds
6/16	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM	**SPECIAL INTEREST & MISCELLANEOUS (STILL PROJECTS) JUDGING** **All Special Interest and Miscellaneous (Still Projects) that are not judged on the 16th or 17th will need to contact an advisor to have their projects judged.	Putnam County Event Center
6/16	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Jr Fair Board Meeting	Putnam County Extension Office
6/17		Silent Auction Items due	Putnam County Extension Office
6/17	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	**MAKE-UP JUDGING (call office for appointment at 419-523-6294)**	Putnam County Extension Office
6/17		**Fair Booth Set-Up**	Putnam County Event Center
6/18		**Fair Booth Set-Up - By Appt Only**	Putnam County Event Center
6/21		State Fair Livestock Entries Due*	
6/20		Fair Parade / Booth Set-Up	
6/22 - 6/27		**PUTNAM COUNTY FAIR**	
July			
7/1		Sweepstake Awards & Woodworking Awards Due to Extension Office *	Putnam County Extension Office
7/1		State Fair Horse Show Entry Deadline	
7/1		**4-H Camp Registration Due***	Putnam County Extension Office

7/6	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Camp Counselor Training	Putnam County Extension Office
July Continued			
7/9	10:00 AM - NOON	Camp Counselor Training/Make-up Meeting	Putnam County Extension Office
7/14 - 7/18		**PUTNAM COUNTY 4-H CAMP**	4-H Camp Palmer
7/20- 7/24		State Fair Packet Pick Up - replaces Orientation Meeting	Putnam County Extension Office
TBD	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Cloverbud Camp	Putnam County Extension Office
7/29 - 8/9		***Ohio State Fair***	
August			
8/1		Secretary/Treasurer Books, Financial Report & Honor Club Application Due	Putnam County Extension Office
8/11	5:45 PM	CARteen Meeting	Putnam County Extension Office
8/24- 8/28		Livestock Checks can be picked up	Putnam County Extension Office
TBD		Interviews for Returning Camp Counselors and Junior Fair Board members	Putnam County Extension Office
September			
October			
November			
11/2		Camp Counselor and Junior Fair Applications Due	Putnam County Extension Office
11/2- 11/6	Exact Days TBD	Interviews for First Time Camp Counselor and Junior Fair Applicants	Putnam County Extension Office

DRESS CODE FOR SKILLATHON AND JUNIOR FAIR SHOWS

Dress Code Guidelines for all Exhibitors:

◊ Full-length pants and belts are strongly encouraged. No Shorts

◊ Hard soled shoes or boots are suggested for large animals. No slides, sandals, athletic shoes or Hey Dudes

◊ Shirts should have collars, sleeves and be tucked in. No halter-tops or bare midriff.

◊ Dress code and equipment needed for each species can be found below.

SPECIES	EXHIBITOR DRESS CODE	EQUIPMENT
DAIRY	Dark pants/jeans, collared shirt with sleeves.	Show halter
GOATS	Dark pants/jeans, collared dress shirt with sleeves.	Nylon or metal choker preferred. No lead strap needed.
BEEF	Jeans with back pocket or holster to carry a scotch comb. Collared shirt with sleeves.	Show stick/show halter/scotch comb
DAIRY FEEDERS	Jeans with back pocket or holster to carry a scotch comb. Collared shirt with sleeves.	Show stick/show halter/scotch comb
SWINE	Jeans with back pocket or holster to carry a small hand brush. Collared shirt with sleeves	Driving stick. Small hand brush
SHEEP	Jeans. Collared shirt with sleeves.	No special equipment needed.
RABBITS	Jeans. Long-sleeved shirt, preferably white and collared. May also wear white show coat. No exposed jewelry.	No special equipment needed.
POULTRY	Jeans. Long-sleeved shirt, preferably white and collared. May also wear white show coat. No exposed jewelry.	No special equipment needed.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION ~ PUTNAM COUNTY

OFFICE INFORMATION
Address: 1206 East Second St.
Ottawa, OH 45875
Phone: (419) 523-6294
Office Hours:
Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Website: putnam.osu.edu
Facebook: OSU Extension Putnam County

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We would like to welcome you and your family to Putnam County 4-H! By belonging to 4-H you are joining over 750 other Putnam County boys and girls in one of the largest youth organizations in the world. This 4-H Family Handbook has been prepared for the benefit of you and your family. Please read it carefully. If you have any questions or concerns at any time about 4-H, please contact our Putnam County office. Our address, phone number and e-mail address are listed above.

Welcome To Putnam County 4-H!

We hope you have an enjoyable year in 4-H and that you can take part in the many 4-H activities planned for your education and enjoyment!

Be sure to check out our 4-H web pages for the latest and greatest in Putnam County 4-H! The web page offers 4-Her's, volunteers, and parents a way to get information about the 4-H program in Putnam County. The web page contains our newsletters, forms and applications for a variety of activities, including Junior Fair Board, Camp Counselors, and Junior Fair Entries.

The 4-H Handbook and current Calendar of Events are also posted. The web page can be a valuable tool for everyone! If you have suggestions on how to improve the site, please give us a call. Feedback is always welcome. 4-H is a voluntary, educational program designed to meet the needs and interests of boys and girls. Membership to the 4-H club program begins when a child is at least age 8 AND enrolled in 3rd grade as of January 1 of current year. Ohio 4-H membership ends December 31 of the year in which an individual attains the age of 19. Cloverbuds membership begins when a child has reached age 5 and is enrolled in kindergarten as of January 1 of current year. Participation and membership are open to all such youth without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnic background, social-economic situation, or place of residence.

4-H ……. What Is It About?

The purpose of 4-H is to provide learning experiences and opportunities for boys and girls which will help them grow and develop to the fullest of their potential. Projects, programs, and activities are tools used to help members in this regard. They should be adapted to fit the needs and interests of each person or group of persons. Although competition is a necessary part of 4-H, we must all be careful to remember that the real benefit comes from learning and not winning. Skills learned and friendships made in 4-H will long outlast any ribbons and trophies won!

Although it is not mandatory, most 4-H members exhibit their 4-H projects at the Putnam County Fair. All 4-H members exhibiting at the fair must abide by all rules established by the Putnam County Agricultural Society. **While we try to inform all our 4-H members about county fair rules, we cannot adequately cover all rules and regulations of the Putnam County Fair in this handbook. It is the responsibility of members to obtain a copy of the Putnam County Fair Book when it is published in early spring to become better informed.

4-H ENROLLMENT AND COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

1. PROJECTS: Members must select at least one 4-H project. Projects should be selected from the list of approved Ohio 4-H projects listed in the 4-H Project Guide. The county may make changes in the projects offered. Special projects may also be taken with the approval of the Extension Office.

First Year Members - may enroll in only two projects and be a member of only one club the first year.

Second Year Members and beyond - may enroll in and carry a total of five different projects. Any incomplete project from the previous year limits any member to one project for the current year.

2. ENROLLMENT: In order to join a 4-H club, each potential member must complete their 4-H enrollment online at 4honline.com using their email address and creating a password. There is one account per family, family accounts never expire. This online enrollment must be completed no later than March 1st. Project additions, corrections, and changes may be made by calling our office until April 1st. (Any livestock project changes after this date will be considered ineligible for competition in 4-H & Junior Fair and will be judged for a grade only. Any Still Project changes after deadline will not be eligible for County placing and Ohio State Fair judging.)

**Please Note: The 4-H Enrollment online does not enter your livestock project in the Junior Fair. A Junior Fair Entry must be completed on Fair Entry in June to be entered. **

3. BOOKS: All 4-H project books will be distributed to the 4-H members by the club's advisor. Advisors may pick up project books from the Putnam County Extension Office. Some project books will have an additional charge to the member above and beyond the local club dues. For example: all livestock resource books will be offered at an additional cost. Book pick up for Advisors is any Friday throughout enrollment season.

4. PROJECT GUIDELINES/REQUIREMENTS: Project guidelines and judging/exhibit requirements for all 4-H projects are included in the member's project book(s). In addition, the Putnam County Fair Book must be referred to for additional fair rules. These guidelines are very important in knowing what to bring to the project judging, so, when receiving project books, be sure the guidelines and requirements sheet(s) is included within the book.

5. PROJECT COMPLETION: For completion, all 4-H projects will be interview judged at a specified date prior to the fair. 4-H members will be required to have their completed project book and livestock record book at the interview judging to receive an "A" grade. (Please refer to page 13 for grade guidelines.) Depending on the classification of the project, the 4-H member has the following options:

A) 4-H Still Projects: All still projects have an assigned county wide interview judging day. Dates are listed in the calendar of events. Most projects judged at these events are eligible for county awards. If unable to attend these dates, make-up judging must be completed by scheduling a time during make-up judging date or contacting a club advisor to judge the project. The advisor must call the Extension office with the project grade before the start of the Putnam County Fair.

B) Livestock Projects: All livestock projects must participate in a Skillathon judging day. Dates for the county wide Skillathon judging day and the make-up Skillathon judging day are listed in the calendar of events. This is mandatory to be eligible to show at the county fair.

6. ATTENDANCE: All members /advisors are expected to attend at least six local club meetings per year. Individual club constitutions may provide for some type of make-up meetings. Fulfilling club attendance requirements is part of being in good standing and is required for Camp Counselor, Jr. Fair Board, and fair participation.

Members not fulfilling the attendance policy above within their clubs will be given a grade of incomplete in their project(s)! Incomplete projects cannot enter in the junior fair.

7. PUTNAM COUNTY FAIR - OPTIONAL: Exhibition at the Putnam County Fair is optional for all 4-H members and does not determine whether a project is complete or incomplete. Only those projects that are exhibited at the fair will be eligible for a fair premium. (Refer to the Fair Premium Book for exact amounts and number of entries allowed.)

8. DEMONSTRATIONS: Each member should give a demonstration/illustrated talk pertaining to their project or approved topic by advisor at one of their local club meetings to practice/prepare for judging

9. GRADES: Final project grades are received at interview judging. Projects exhibited at the fair will also include a fair exhibit grade to determine money paid.

10. Any project made for competition or for a grade in any activity, such as FFA, FHA, school, or similar organizations, cannot be entered as 4-H projects at the county fair.

11. No individual may be a 4-H member in 2 or more counties simultaneously. Youth are expected to affiliate with the 4-H program in the county of residence. However, in instances

where youth live out of the county, membership considerations will be given by the 4-H Educators in the county of residence and the county of participation when a positive educational experience will result. An “Across County Line” membership form must be on file for all 4-H members residing outside of Putnam County. Please refer to our website for state policy.

12. ALL 4-H projects must be the work of the individual 4-H member. Help from parents, advisors, and other interested adults is encouraged as long as it is of an educational nature. The final exhibit must be the work of the member.

13. County 4-H Staff in consultation with the Putnam County 4-H Council and State 4-H staff shall have the final authority in any controversies arising in the Putnam County 4-H Program. Problems or concerns dealing with the Jr. Fair will be under the final authority of the Sr. Fair Board.

14. CLOVERBUDS: Eligibility for Cloverbud 4-H membership begins when a child has reached age 5 and is enrolled in kindergarten as of January 1 of the current year. The philosophy of the program is to be activity based. Cloverbuds are not eligible for out-of-county activities, competitive events, residential camps, and/or projects designed for 9-19 year olds and are not to hold offices, but can lead pledges, etc. County Junior Fairs are open to participation by Cloverbud 4-H members for exhibit only. This program is optional for Putnam County 4-H Clubs. Parents should be strongly encouraged to be present and participate in the meetings with their K-2nd grader.

PUTNAM COUNTY 4-H ~ A YOUTH ORGANIZATION WITHIN THE JUNIOR FAIR

There is a special relationship between 4-H and the Fair. 4-H does not solely signify “Fair” (or Junior Fair) nor does the “fair” solely signify 4-H. The Putnam County Fair serves as a showcase for youth participating in 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, and Farm Bureau. It provides the opportunity for youth to exhibit the results of their project(s) and to compete for awards and prizes under the Junior Fair Division of the fair. Participation in the fair is not required for completion of 4-H projects.

1. The Putnam County Junior Fair is open to all boys and girls, no older than 19 as of January 1st, regardless of race, gender, creed, national origin, and who are bonafide current members of a Putnam County Youth Organization (4-H, FFA, FCCLA, Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts).

2. Junior Fair Member Age & Eligibility — For 4-H members to compete in fairs or other exhibitions, the following membership statements apply: membership to the 4-H program begins when a child is at least age 8 and enrolled in the 3rd grade as of January 1 of the current year. All Junior Fair participants must successfully meet all requirements of their youth organization before being eligible to exhibit in the Junior Fair.

3. No Junior Fair participant may exhibit in more than one Junior Fair. Youth are expected to affiliate with the youth program in the county of residence. However, in instances where youth live out of county, membership considerations will be given by the 4-H Educator/FFA/FCCLA Advisor only when a positive educational experience will result. An “Across County Lines”

application form must be on file for all members residing outside of Putnam County or Putnam County School District boundaries.

4. Every exhibitor shall hold primary responsibility for their own projects and individually share the care of group exhibits as directed by their leader.

5. Premiums — Premium money is paid by the Putnam County Fair for exhibition of project work. The premium disbursed is based upon amounts set by the Putnam County Agricultural Society for each category or department on an individual or group basis. All premiums for 4-H projects will be based on a combination of project grades. For livestock, this includes the skillathon grade, exhibit, and an interview grade.

6. Ribbons will be awarded based on grades from project judging.

FAIR EXHIBITS

1. Each club displaying projects in the Junior Fair Building will be assigned a fair booth. 4-H members whose club does not have a booth will have a designated area for their project display.

2. Although reasonable effort will be made to protect 4-H exhibits from damage or theft, neither the Putnam County Fair Board or the Extension Office are responsible for the safety of any Junior Fair exhibit. All exhibits, including livestock, are placed on display at the risk of the member.

3. Clubs can set up their booths during booth set-up day.

4. All exhibits must be removed from the Putnam County Fairgrounds on booth tear down day.

PUTNAM COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR LIVESTOCK

1. All Junior Fair livestock projects (except horses) MUST BE COMPLETELY AND FULLY OWNED (as evidence by bill of sale or registration papers), including all showing rights, and in complete possession and continual care of the exhibitor. 4-H horse projects may be owned or formally leased, and 4-H members must have complete and exclusive showing rights during the lease/ownership time. A copy of the lease must be on file at the Extension Office by April 15th.

2. The following possession dates for Junior Fair Livestock must be adhered to for eligibility at the Putnam County Fair.

Mkt Steer/Heifers .....January 1st	Mkt. Goats.....April 15th	Meat Duck.....April 29th
Turkey.....March 11th	Mkt Hogs.....April 15th	Breeding Poultry.....May 1st
Geese.....April 11th	Beef/Dairy/Crossbred Feeders .....April 15th	Market Rabbits.....May 10th
Horse/Pony.....April 15th	All Breeding Beef/Goats/Lambs/ Swine.....April 15th	Meat Chicken.....May 1th
Mkt Lambs.....April 15th	Breeding Rabbits.....April 15th	

*Substitutions for animals made after the possession dates listed must be made at the discretion of the youth organization (4-H/FFA) involved. Any animal substituted after the possession date will be ineligible for championship classes at the Putnam County Fair or the Ohio State Fair.

3. Members must refer to the Putnam County Fair Premium Book for a complete list of rules and regulations regarding exhibits at the Putnam County Fair. This includes number of entries allowed, showing rules, dates and times of shows, and many other regulations. Please read over sections that pertain to you and the livestock species you plan to exhibit.

4. QUALITY ASSURANCE: It is mandatory for ALL 4-H Livestock Exhibitors taking dairy/beef/crossbred feeders, market beef, market dairy steer, market lambs, market swine, market goats, market rabbits, market poultry or lactating dairy to participate in a Quality Assurance. There will be two trainings at the Putnam County Event Center on March 31st and April 9th starting at 7:30 PM. A small animal focused QA will be held on April 18th at the Extension office starting at 10AM.

Exhibitors may take Quality Assurance Online for a fee per person. QA is due 45 days before the fair, and you will not be allowed to exhibit at the fair unless you have completed QA.

5. EQUISTEP: Training is required by Ohio State University Extension for all 4-H members enrolled in a horse/pony/draft horse project. The training must be completed every year. EquiSTEP for horse exhibitors is due May 8. Links to trainings will be sent to enrolled horse youth.

6. STATE FAIR: In order to be eligible to show at the Ohio State Fair, the exhibitor must be enrolled in the project, and meet all eligibility requirements of the Putnam County Fair and the youth organization in which they are involved. All State Fair Livestock Entries will be approved by the 4-H Educator or FFA Advisor in order to qualify. They will be approved by the State Fair Office.

A 4-H or FFA member cannot enroll the same animal in two separate projects.

4-H members who are also FFA members may raise animals of one species to enroll in separate projects—but only if the animals have different purposes (for example, market vs. breeding).

JUNIOR FAIR LIVESTOCK ENTRIES

All members wanting to enter livestock in the Putnam County Junior Fair must complete a Junior Fair Entry. Junior Fair Entries will be made/submitted through an online format at fairentry.com. Instructions and help guides are available on our website. This process does not enter your project(s) in the open class show. You must enter all open class animals at the Putnam County Fair Office.

Junior Fair Livestock Entries Due – Friday, June 1, 2026

**All entries turned in after the 1st will be charged a $25.00 late fee per week until the entries are submitted. NO ENTRIES will be accepted 72 hours prior to the start of the fair. **

GUIDELINES FOR 4-H CLUBS AND ADVISORS

1. It is required that your 4-H club hold at least 8 meetings or activities during the year. All members/advisors are expected to attend at least 6 club meetings in order to be considered in good standing & complete for the year.

2. 4-H clubs may organize when a minimum of 5 youth express an interest in membership. At least 1 adult (18 years or older) must agree to register as the club advisor. 4-H clubs are required to draw up constitutions. Rules and by-laws must meet the minimum regulations set by OSU Extension and Putnam County 4-H Council. Clubs are urged to establish regulations which may include policies for dues, number of members in the club, types of projects which may be allowed, meeting attendance, and project completion requirements as set forth by the County 4-H staff.

3. All new advisors MUST complete an application form, attend the NEW ADVISOR ORIENTATION meeting (see calendar), and adhere to volunteer selection guidelines as set forth by Ohio State University Extension prior to receiving 4-H advisor status.

4. The "Standards of Behavior" form must be signed and on file at the Extension Office for all volunteers. All advisors must abide by the guidelines listed on the "Standards of Behavior" document.

5. Officer books (club's secretary /treasurer books) need to be turned into the Extension Office. These books are due the first Friday of August along with the Honor Club application and financial form an advisor must fill out.

6. Advisors must attend one of the two advisor trainings offered. Advisors can attend the Kickoff or the make up training with new Advisors.

7. Advisors are encouraged to inform the Extension Office of any club problems that may arise.

8. All clubs must meet chartering guidelines. Check with OSU Extension for details and timeline.

Honor Club Award — As a part of the 4-H Advisor Recognition program, a prize will be presented to a 4-H Honor Club drawn during the program. Honor Club applications must be turned in with Secretary /Treasurer books & financial forms by the August deadline.

4-H ADVISOR INFORMATION

Putnam County 4-H Council — Members of the 4-H Council serve to give suggestions and to evaluate the Putnam County 4-H Program. If you have questions or suggestions for improving the county program, feel free to contact one of these individuals.

Kristina Hoffman	Amy Jo Schumaker	Cynthy Kleman	Marilyn Calvelage
Diana Recker	Connor Hovest	Mary Siefker	Jane Warnimont
Ben Smith	Melissa Maag	Cherie Verhoff	Matt Maag
Lois McKnight	Tracy Unterbrink	Amy Burgei	

4-H Lingo

DUNF -Drug Use Notification Form — This online form indicates your project animal has met all drug withdrawal periods at time of exhibition. ODA requires this form for exhibition of dairy/beef/crossbred feeders, market beef, market dairy steer, market lambs, market swine, market goats, lactating dairy. For Market Rabbits and Market Poultry one DUNF per pen.

Enrollment — Your child must complete 4-H online enrollment by March 1st.

Fair Entry — Fair entries are due in Fair Entry for exhibiting your animals at the fair.

Fair Premiums — Fair premiums, paid by the Agricultural Society for completed projects based on participation and Fair exhibition, will be issued by your 4-H Club Head Volunteer.

Livestock Sale Check — Market checks are issued in July, Premium checks are issued in August. Thank you buyers list is included with the market check. An outline of all deductions is included with the premium check. All sales include a 4.5% commission deduction. Lambs, hogs, and cattle have an industry required check-off amount deducted from their check. You will see all deductions taken from the premium check.

PAS (Performance Against Standards) — Horse project members may choose to participate in Performance Against Standards (PAS) Show(s) to quality to participate in the State Fair Horse Show. A member may show only one horse in a maximum of four classes and must qualify in two classes to show at the State Fair.

Project — 4-H members explore a topic or interest area through hands-on activities, sequential learning experiences, goal setting, and evaluation. 4-H'ers keep records and documentation of project experiences in a Project Book.

Project Judging — Evaluation of a project member's knowledge through interview with an adult judge, review of project book records and exhibit of project item and/or educational display.

Project Requirements — Sheet outlining possession dates, deadlines, project judging/skillathon guidelines, resources, fair rules, judging dates, county and beyond county opportunities, and much more.

Skillathon — Evaluation of livestock member's project knowledge through participating in hands-on skill stations that allow the member to apply knowledge/skill to real word situations. Mandatory and held during livestock book judging.

State Fair Selection — Member(s) selected to represent the county at the Ohio State Fair for a given project or project area. Most projects may select one member per project to represent the county. Non-state fair projects will be awarded county awards. Animal projects can enter to attend the Ohio State Fair.

PROJECT GUIDELINES / EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS

A listing of 4-H project guidelines and exhibit requirements for Putnam County 4-H will be included with each member's project book(s). In order to standardize judging as much as possible, all members who bring their project(s) to judging and the fair should follow the judging and exhibit requirements listed for each project. Members who fail to do so may be penalized at the discretion of the respective judge.

A, B, C INTERVIEW GRADE GUIDELINES

For 4-H project interviews, judges will award grades based on the following guidelines:

A member will receive an "A" for their project interview if they meet ALL the project requirements listed for the project, and they demonstrate adequate knowledge of the project.

For most projects, the requirements include: bringing complete and/or up-to-date project and record books, an exhibit or display, constructed items, etc.

A member will receive a "B" for their project interview if they meet merely SOME of the project requirements and demonstrate only a fair amount of knowledge.

The following examples would constitute receiving a B interview grade (if required for your project):

Forgetting project books, record books, or your sewing pattern

A member will receive a "C" for their project interview if they do not meet ANY of the project requirements listed for their project and/or demonstrate little or no knowledge of the project taken.

*Livestock Skillathon grades will be determined by a point system on each of the various stations.

Many still projects require an exhibit or poster for judging. Although displays are encouraged, posters are acceptable. Listed below are some guidelines for making posters. Members are not limited on number of posters, but each one used should follow the guidelines.

1. Remember only one poster should be displayed at the fair for each project. (Need to ask advisors what size they want in the booths.)

2. Make it as colorful and attractive as possible. Any color may be used as long as it has good visibility.

3. Make your lettering large enough to be read from a distance of 4 to 8 feet. Captions should be in bold face lettering.

4. Exhibitor's name and club should be on the back of the poster.

5. Central theme of the poster must be easily seen and understand.

PUTNAM COUNTY 4-H PROJECT JUDGING SCHEDULE

Judging	Date	Projects to Be Judged	Comments
Livestock Skillathon Judging	Thursday, June 11th	Livestock projects only! (Including horses)	Any member wanting to exhibit a livestock project at the fair must have their skillathon grade completed prior to the fair. Need to register for times at: putnam.osu.edu
Still Project Judging - Special Interest & Miscellaneous	Tuesday, June 16th	Cooking, sewing, leadership, cats, pet rabbits, dogs, small animals, bicycles, woodworking, crops, natural resources, plants, airplanes, rockets, lawn care, welding, and STEM	Judging will be scheduled by project areas. *Members are asked to leave projects they plan to exhibit at the fair in their club booth after judging.
Make-up Judging for Livestock Skillathon & Still Projects	Wednesday, June 17th	All 4-H projects must be interview judged. Livestock projects cannot be judged by an advisor. Any member who could not attend the original Skillathon date must attend the make-up date. Any members taking special interest or miscellaneous projects who cannot attend the respective judging date above will have to be judged by an advisor or schedule a time during the make-up date.	Judging will be done by appointments only. You need to schedule a time when the judging schedule is released. If an advisor judges a member's still project, they will need to contact the Extension office to report the grade.

All members must participate in an interview judging in order to have a complete 4-H project and be eligible to exhibit at the fair. Members planning to exhibit livestock must take part in a Skillathon judging prior to exhibiting their animal at the fair. Livestock exhibitors who do not attend Livestock Skillathon Judging must attend the make-up judging day at the Extension Office in order to show at the fair.

4-H MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

PUTNAM COUNTY 4-H CAMP — The 2026 4-H Camp will be held July 14 through July 18 at 4-H Camp Palmer. Camp is open to all youth in third grade to the completion of 8th grade. Camp is an opportunity to meet new friends, experience new things, and enjoy the outdoors.

Email will be sent to all eligible members in early June. Mark your calendars now!

CAMP COUNSELOR — 4-H Youth that are at least current freshman in high school desiring to be a camp counselor need to submit an application form to the Extension Office by the first of November. The counselor interviews will be held in November; applicants are responsible for checking on dates and times of interviews. Individuals need to be able to display leadership abilities, cooperate in a group, and assist in planning the camp program. Due to the planning involved, counselors must be committed to attending all meetings. (Counselors selected will be responsible for paying a portion of the camp fee.) To serve as a camp counselor you must be a 4-H member in good standing for the current camp year.

Camp Counselor interviews are held in November, and applicants are responsible for calling for dates and times of interviews. Applications are available at the Extension Office or online.

CARteens — The Ohio State University Extension's 4-H CARteen Program is a traffic safety program for first time juvenile traffic offenders. The program's primary goal is to reduce the number of repeat juvenile offenders. Therefore, the participants attend only one session. Program topics include drinking and driving, seatbelt safety, consequences of unsafe driving, and tips for safer driving. The CAR in CARteens stands for Caution And Responsibility while teens refers to the teenagers who help prepare and present the program. A program might include video presentations, speeches given by CARteen members, personal testimonies from law enforcement personnel and medical professionals, skits demonstrations, etc.

Responsibilities as a CARteen:
- Assist with planning program format
- Assist with record keeping
- Prepare evaluation forms
- Assist with tallying evaluation forms
- Be a good driver and a role model for your peers

JUNIOR FAIR BOARD — Members must be freshmen through senior in high school, must be enrolled in a 4-H or FFA program, and exhibit a still project and/or animal project at the county fair. Junior Fair Board members must be willing to assume leadership responsibilities and to assist in carrying out the Junior Fair Program. Some members will serve two-year terms on the board, other members will be selected to serve one-year terms (at the discretion of the selection committee). Members meeting the above requirements must submit an application form to the Extension Office by the first of November in order to be considered. To serve as a Junior Fair Board member you must be a 4-H/FFA member in good standing for the current fair year.

Junior Fair Board interviews are held in November, and applicants are responsible for calling for dates and times of interviews. Applications are available at the Extension Office or online.

PUTNAM COUNTY 4-H MEMBER AWARDS

PUTNAM COUNTY 4-H CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD — A $100.00 cash award is presented to the top Putnam County 4-H'er at the Annual 4-H Achievement Day Program. The 4-H exhibitor is selected on the basis of their overall 4-H career record. Members need to fill out an Achievement Form and turn it in by May 15th.

4-H CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS — Each year a number of 4-H members are selected to receive partial scholarships to attend Putnam County 4-H Camp. Any 4-H'er of camping age is eligible to apply. Camp will be held July 14-18, 2026. Camp Scholarship Application forms are due to the Extension Office by May 15th.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS — Youth ages 12-16 years old desiring to apply for a Junior Achievement Award can do so by submitting an application form by May 15th to the Extension Office. Two $50.00 cash awards will be given. (Previous year winners not eligible.)

JUNIOR FAIR KING AND QUEEN — Applicants must complete: an application form, essay on "Why I Want to Become Putnam County Jr. Fair King/Queen," and also a resume listing their various activities and accomplishments. All applicants will be interviewed by a panel of judges. The judges will select the King, Queen, and members of the Court based on the application, resume, and interview. Announcement is made prior to the Band Show at the Putnam County Fair. Application deadline is May 22nd.

FAIR PREMIUMS AND RIBBONS — The Putnam County Agricultural Society provides premiums and ribbons for all Junior Fair Exhibitors.

SPECIAL INTEREST SWEEPSTAKES — General guidelines: Must be a 4-H member enrolled in Putnam County. Must be enrolled in at least one special interest/misc. project for the current year. Must display the project(s) at the county fair. Must complete the Sweepstakes Application and return it to the Extension Office by the deadline. Can only be eligible to win every other year in each division. Winner will be notified.

OTHER STATE- WIDE 4-H OPPORTUNITIES

OHIO 4-H ACHIEVEMENT RECORD - All 4-H'ers 14 years of age and older are eligible to complete the Ohio 4-H Achievement Record to compete for various state opportunities and recognitions. Opportunities available include: State Achievement Awards in various project areas, Ohio 4-H Scholarships, State Jr. Fair Board, and other conferences. District nominees in each category are selected to send down for state consideration. Selections are based on program and/or project work, participation in 4-H events, exhibited leadership, community service, and perceived interest. Forms are available online at putnam.osu.edu and must be turned in by February 1st.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS - 4-H'ers entering college as freshman to an accredited university, OSU, or OSU branch, may apply for a number of scholarships offered through 4-H. Those applying for Ohio Scholarships must complete an Ohio 4-H Achievement Record. All application forms are available online at putnam.osu.edu and must be turned in by February 1st.

STATE 4-H AMBASSADOR PROGRAM - Each year, county delegates are selected to serve a one year term as a State 4-H Ambassador. Selection is based on accomplishments in leadership, public speaking, and community service. Following training at 4-H Youth Expo, Ambassadors are then eligible to represent 4-H youth at various state and local events. Interested individuals must be 14 years old. Application forms are available from the Extension Office and are due February 1st.

STATE FAIR PARTICIPATION — In the Ohio 4-H Project Guide, many projects are shown as being eligible for STATE FAIR. However, this does not indicate that someone will be sent in every project listed in the Family Guide. It only means that the project is eligible for judging at the State Fair. The county judges will make the decisions as to who will be the representatives at the State Fair. Therefore, not all project area winners are automatically eligible, and all projects may not be represented. State Fair participants will be notified via email.

STATE FAIR LIVESTOCK PARTICIPATION — Any individual wishing to exhibit an animal at the Ohio State Fair must submit entries before June 21st. To enter, youth must be a current member of a 4-H or FFA club, be enrolled in that project area, and be eligible to compete at the county level. Entry will be confirmed by the Educator through an online State system.

TEEN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL — The Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council (TLC) is a statewide group of 4-H teens and young 4-H alumni that provides a youth stakeholder perspective in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of Ohio 4-H programming. In this process, council members develop knowledge, skills, attitudes, and aspirations needed for future success. Council members share advice and recommendations to 4-H professionals in order to improve, strengthen, and expand the Ohio 4-H program. Members also make recommendations regarding opportunities for Ohio 4-H teen programming. They serve as a sounding board for Ohio 4-H program direction.

STATE CLOTHING AWARDS - Fiber awards are for 4-H members who have chosen to use wool or a wool blend within their 4-H clothing construction project. If they are chosen to participate at the Ohio State Fair Clothing Days, they will be evaluated by the project judges.

Another type of award given is the special awards. For these awards, the 4-H member must be nominated by their county. If nominated, they may be required to fill out a Clothing Awards Application, a clothing coversheet, a 4-H story, and an Ohio 4-H Achievement Record. Each of these materials must have a focus in clothing, though other interests may be included if space allows. They must bring these applications with them to judging at the state fair to be considered.

2026 PUTNAM COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR
LIVESTOCK REQUIREMENT SUMMARY

Note: This information may not be complete. Please check rules in the Fair Book.

IMPORTANT: Drug Use Notification Forms are required for market animals & lactating dairy.

All animals must have a Jr. Fair Livestock Entry turned in by June 1st. A $25 fee will be charged per week for all entries that are turned in after the 1st. No entry will be accepted 72 hours prior to load in at the Putnam Co. Fair.

Species	Possession Date	Tag Date	Limits Weight/Age/Sex	Health Requirements	Quality Assurance
Beef/Heifers & Dairy Steers	January 1st	A form & picture is required for each beef/heifer/dairy steer registered. Due January 5th to the Extension Office.	Beef & Dairy Steer must weigh more than 900 lbs, to be eligible for championship classes. Heifers must weigh more than 800 lbs to be eligible for championship classes. Must be dehorned.	DUNF	YES
Market Turkeys	March 11th (Hatch dates February 23rd – March 9th)	June 21st Tagged at Weigh-in at Putnam County Fairgrounds	Minimum of 15lbs to be eligible	DUNF NPIP provided by hatchery	YES
Market Geese	April 11th (Hatch Dates March 26th - April 9th)	June 21st Tagged at Weigh-in at Putnam County Fairgrounds	None	DUNF	YES
Breeding Poultry & Waterfowl (Geese, Ducks, Chickens)	May 1st	At Weigh -In	None	NPIP for Chickens	NO
Market Goats Limit 2 entries	April 15th	An entry & pictures are required for each goat in 4-H Online. Due April 16th.	Must weigh 50 lbs. or more to be eligible for champion classes. See fair premium book for rules on horns.	DUNF	YES
Beef Breeding	April 15th	Tagging is not required. An entry & pictures are required for each beef breeding animal in 4-H Online. Due April 16th	Registration due at scales during weigh-in	NONE	NO

Species	Possession Date	Tag Date	Limits Weight/Age/Sex	Health Requirements	Quality Assurance
Market Lambs Limit 3 entries	April 15th	An entry & pictures are required for each lamb in 4-H Online. Due April 16th	Must weigh 85lbs or more to be eligible for champion classes. Must be dehorned	DUNF	YES
Dairy/ Beef/Crossbred Feeders Limit 2 entries per division. Max of 4 total feeder calves	April 15th	An entry, EID Tag & pictures are required for each feeder calf registered in 4-H Online. Due April 16th Must attend Classification day on April 18th	Need to weigh between 300-600 lbs. to be eligible for championship classes. Must be dehorned and castrated. Heifers will be allowed.	DUNF	NO
Dairy Goats	April 15th	Not required	No limits	DUNF	YES
Market Swine Limit 3 entries	April 15th	An entry, EID Tag & pictures are required for each market swine registered in 4-H Online. Due April 16th	Must weigh Between 210-290 lbs. for championship classes. May not be shaved or oiled for show.	DUNF	YES
Breeding Swine	April 15th	Not Required	NONE	NONE	NO
Horse/Pony	April 15th	Not Required		(see fair book for regulations)	EquiSTEP
Market Rabbits	May 10th	May 16th – Rabbit Barn	Meat rabbits must weigh between 3.5 to 5.5 lbs. to be eligible for championship classes	DUNF	Yes
Breeding Rabbits Max of 5 breeding projects per exhibitor.	April 15th	tattoo required	No weight limit	Health check at weigh – in	NO
Meat Chickens	May 16(Hatch dates April 30th – May14th)	Tagged & weighed June 21st at Putnam County Fairgrounds	Meat Chickens must weigh between 4 to 7 lbs. to be eligible for championship classes	NPIP & DUNF	YES
Market Ducks	April 29th (Hatch dates April 13th – April 27th)	Tagged & weighed June 21st at Putnam County Fairgrounds	Market Ducks must weigh a minimum of 6 lbs to be eligible for championship classes	DUNF	NO

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF 4-H PARENTS?

Help youth attend club meetings, activities, and events. Notify the club advisor if the child can't attend a meeting/activity. Transport your child to all club meetings and activities. Youth must attend a minimum of 6 of their club meetings in order to participate in the fair with that club.

- Participate in club and/or county fundraising events and pay the club dues.
- Attend special events planned by the 4-H club and/or County 4-H program.
- Encourage and guide your youth's project work. Don't do their work.
- Read the 4-H announcements sent via mail or email, project requirements, Junior Fair rules, and other information. Use the county 4-H website to print off forms, find projects and fair requirements, and find answers to questions.
- Encourage youth to participate in county project judging, clinics/workshops, 4-H camp(s), public speaking opportunities, Jr. Fair events, and much more.
- Encourage youth to keep up-to-date records and complete projects.
- Model a positive attitude, good sportsmanship, respect, and cooperation.
- Assist with 4-H club activities in areas of interest and expertise, such as teach a project skill, help with a community service project, plan a field trip, assist with fundraising, etc.
- Help out the club as needed (ex. host a meeting, provide refreshments, sponsor a county award).
- Support the club by cooperating with club advisors and exhibiting a positive attitude toward youth's personal and club 4-H goals.
- Support youth at county events and programs including the County Fair and provide supervision at such events.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF 4-H VOLUNTEERS?

- Provide advanced notice of 4-H club meetings and/or a printed schedule of club meetings for the year.
- Provide the following information at one of the first meetings: 4-H Project Guide, Putnam County Handbook, 4-H club attendance expectations/code of conduct, help in selecting projects, and information on project guidelines.
- Provide at all meetings: review the 4-H Calendar, 4-H Newsletter and/or recent correspondences from the 4-H office, provide reminders for upcoming deadlines, requirements, etc., review what's coming up in the club/county and how to get involved.
- Help in selecting, ordering, and receiving 4-H Project Books.
- Provide hands-on and mind-on learning experiences for the 4-H youth through project work, demonstrations, practice project judging, livestock quality assurance and/or field trips/tours, etc.
- Provide the opportunity for youth to give back to the community through at least one community service project (ex. flower gardens at the fairgrounds, adopt a family, picking up trash, supporting the 4-H Silent Auction, etc.)
- Provide the opportunity for youth to build leadership skills through serving as a club officer, on a committee, leading the Pledge of Allegiance or 4-H pledge, participating in a business meeting, etc.
- Provide the opportunity for youth to have FUN with friends (new and old) through recreational, social, educational and/or competitive activities.
- Provide a safe and welcoming environment for youth to learn and grow through the 4-H program and work together to "Make the Best Better."

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