Clover Times

News from Putnam County 4-H

JANUARY 2026

2026 4-H Club Dues

On January 8, 2026, The Putnam County 4-H Council met to discuss strategies to address the 30% cost increase for 4-H project books and the American Income Life Insurance cost increases we are seeing in 2026. The average project book price will be around $12. In addition, we now must pay shipping. Insurance per member rises from $1 to $1.50. Club dues cover a portion of the 'book bill' and insurance costs for 4-H members. The remainder of the cost is subsidized by the 4-H Chicken BBQ and Silent Auction fundraisers. Although our BBQ continues to be a success, we have also seen a slip in revenue in our Endowment Auction.

The 4-H Council voted to raise Club dues from $10 to $15 per member to address these rising costs. 4-H Club invoices will be developed after enrollment and are due June 1, 2026

Skillathon Judging and Junior Fair King and Queen Interview Date Change

Due to the Putnam County Event Center availability, the 4-H Skillathon Judging will now be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at the Putnam County Event Center. The Junior Fair King and Queen Judging will be held at the OSU Extension Office the evening of June 10th.

4HOnline

Now is the time to start re-enrolling or enrolling for the new 4-H year!! 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.

Handbook and 4-H Calendar

The 2026 Putnam County 4-H Handbook and 4-H Calendar are available online to you. These resources include everything you need to plan for the year ahead.

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!

4-H Advisor Training

Make up training (and new advisor training) is scheduled for January 29 at 6:00pm at the Extension office. We will review 4-H materials at this time, review program changes.

4-H Senior Spotlights

Parents, if you have a 2026 senior who is in 4-H, we are highlighting them through our OSU Extension Facebook page and High School Senior display in the new Junior Fair Building during fair. Please fill out the survey link https://go.osu.edu/2026senior

Junior Fair King and Queen

Applications for the Putnam County Junior Fair King, Queen and Court are due May 22, 2026. Click HERE for application. Remember to complete a reference form.

Ohio 4-H Conference

Mark your calendars for March 21, 2026! The 2026 Ohio 4-H Conference will bring together 4-H volunteers and teens (age 13 and older) from across Ohio. Participate in a variety of educational sessions that offer something for everyone! Join us as we learn from one another to make the best better for Ohio 4-H programs. If you are interested in attending, contact our office. Registration is due by February 13.

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.

Mary	Brickner
Tracie	Carpenter
Gwendolyn	Clymer
Erica	Crawford
Ruth	Ellerbrock
Alexandrea	Gerding
Mark	Haselman
Sandra	Kleman
Michelle	Kortokrax
Cindy	Landwehr
Angela	Maag
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.

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 March 1, 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.

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.

Lamb and Goat

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, 2026. DETAILED instructions about how to submit online can be found here 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.

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. **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. 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 1, 2026).

Swine

All market Swine exhibitors are required to pick up EID Tags from the Extension Office, 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, 2026. 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 2026
- 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. **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. 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 1, 2026).

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!

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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