Clover Times

News from Putnam County 4-H

March 2026

2026 4-H Club Dues

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 must pay for shipping. Insurance per member rose 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 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 a facility schedule conflict, 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.

4-HOnline Review

Initial 4-H enrollment was due March 1st. If you missed enrollment but have been attending club meetings, please contact the Extension office at 419-523-6294. Advisors will be receiving an email from Anna with the club roster. All members must sign the roster to verify projects being taken by each member. Completed rosters are due back to Extension office by April 1st.

Project Add/Drop Deadline

Project additions, corrections, and changes may be made by calling our office at 419-523-6294 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.

Animal Project Books – State Fair

If you plan to take animal projects to State Fair, you will need a project book (not a record insert). Please let us know if you plan on showing at State Fair in the junior shows for our records.

Turkey Pick up

4-H members who ordered turkeys: Turkey pickup will be Tuesday, March 10, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. Please bring a box or boxes to transport your turkeys safely.

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 a High School Senior display in the new Junior Fair Building during fair. Please fill out the survey link https://go.osu.edu/2026senior. An email will also be sent out regarding senior banners.

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. Interviews will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

Department Royalty

Applications for the Putnam County Department Royalty are due April 15, 2026. Click HERE for applications. Remember to complete a reference form. Interviews will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026.

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/breeding animal they are bringing to fair by the Junior Fair Livestock Entry deadline. Changes after the deadline will make the market/breeding 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 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 off at the office. However, we are always willing to help you complete the online process.

Junior Fair Feeder Calf Crossbred Class – There is a feeder calf crossbred class in the Junior Fair feeder calf show. The same weight requirements will apply, and these animals will be selling on 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 is 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 and breeding goat and market and breeding 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 your market and breeding animals online can be found here HERE. We will not accept any photos that are emailed or dropped off at the office. However, we are always willing to help you complete the online process.

A 4-H member cannot enroll the same animal in two separate projects. This is important for those members taking breeding and market projects. They must be different animals for each of the projects. Lambs and goats must be scrapie tagged and complete the online submission in April to be eligible for the junior fair classes. By the Livestock Entry deadline (June 1, 2026) using FairEntry, you will be selecting which of your market animals will be going to market classes and which breeding animals will be going into breeding classes.

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.

A 4-H member cannot enroll the same animal in two separate projects. This is important for those members taking breeding and market projects. They must be different animals for each of the projects. Swine must be EID tagged and complete the online submission in April to be eligible for the junior fair classes. By the Livestock Entry deadline (June 1, 2026) using FairEntry, you will be selecting which of your market animals will be going to market classes and which breeding animals will be going into breeding classes.

Horse Exhibitors

The 2026 EquiSTEP program is now up and running! Please remember that all Putnam County 4-H Horse project members must complete online training by no later than May 8th in order to show in county and state 4-H equine shows.

REMINDER: 4-H/FFA members **competing in any state 4-H horse contest** (including the Junior Horse Show) **must complete EquiSTEP** and **upload their completion certificate** to their **4-H Online** account **by the contest/event's registration deadline**. Please note that some of the registration deadlines occur earlier than a county deadline.

Complete the EquiSTEP program here: http://go.osu.edu/equistep2026

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 8, 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 market 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 – 8:30pm 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 – 8:30pm 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-10am Poultry 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. Followed by 11am-Noon Rabbit Clinic

OPTION 3: Web based Online Training Option
Any Putnam County youth exhibitor (8-18) may take the online YQCA certification. YQCA Link HERE. 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.

4-H Chicken BBQ

The 4-H Chicken BBQ is scheduled for Sunday, April 19 at the Putnam County Event Center. 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 that can be picked up.

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 7, 2026.** 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, 2026. Visit HERE for application.

4-H Camp Scholarship Application. Deadline: May 15, 2026. Visit HERE for application

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.

Columbus Grove Livestock hosting Agronomy Career Event

Open to all Putnam County 4-Hers 7th grade and up. March 29, 2026
Time/Place: 1:00PM at Five Angle Construction Bldg.
Topic: Jr. High & Up - Careers in Ag
Advisors can contact Matt Langhals with questions 419-236-2371

Cloverbuds are Out of This World!

Cloverbud Day Camp 2026 - May 30, 2026 - 9:00am – Noon. Registration form can be found HERE.

4-H Calendar

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
4/15	by 4:30 PM	**HORSE LEASE AGREEMENT DEADLINE**	Putnam County Extension Office
4/16	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Jr Fair Board Meeting	Putnam County Extension Office
4/16		Horse, Rabbit, Chicken, 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)	

Join Us For

The Putnam County Fair

Line Dancing Night

Saturday, March 21st	**FOOD LINE DANCING RAFFLE**

The Putnam County Event Center
1490 S Agner St, Ottawa, OH 45875

6 pm - 8 pm	**$5 Entry Fee**

Doors open at 5:30
Lessons at 7
No skills required!
All ages welcome!

Contact Matt Langhals 419-236-2371 for questions
All proceeds go to Junior Fair Improvements!

Putnam County Farm Bureau's 3rd Annual

Youth Livestock Exhibitor T-Shirt Design Contest

Deadline to Enter is April 10, 2026

The 4-H Club or FFA Chapter that Submits the Winning Design will Receive a $300 Pizza Hut Gift Card & the Supplies to Host a Pizza Party During the 2026 Putnam County Fair!

PLUS - ALL Youth Members, INCLUDING CLOVERBUDS, from the Winning Group Receive a Shirt, Even If They Don't Show Livestock!

CONTEST RULES

1. Limit One (1) Entry Per Club or Chapter.
2. Only Scanned PDF Files will be Considered.
3. Designs **MUST** be Hand-Drawn by a Youth Exhibitor from the Submitting Group.
4. Gray-Scale or Computer-Generated Images will NOT be Considered.
5. For Questions or Rules Clarification, Please Call the Farm Bureau at **(567) 376 - 9998**.
6. To Submit a Design, Email Anna Downing at **downing.310@osu.edu**.

Cloverbuds are Out of This World!

Cloverbud Day Camp 2026

May 30th 2026
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Held at the Putnam County Extension Office

Fun and Educational Activities and Crafts!

Admission is Free

Non-4-H Cloverbuds are welcome!

Bring a Water Bottle

Lunch will not be provided

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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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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