

Welcome to the 2024 4-H Season to 4-H Advisors and Families!

There is a lot of information in this news release so be sure to read carefully!

Our 4-H enrollment is due March 1.

1. **4-H Advisor Training:** We have several 4-H volunteers that are still in need of 2024 4-H advisor training. This is required. We will be sending training information to those that still need to complete this. Watch your email for details!
2. **4-H Senior Spotlights:** Parents, if you have a 2024 senior who is in 4-H we are highlighting them through our OSU Extension Facebook page and High School Senior Board during fair. Please send email to downing.310@osu.edu for more information.
3. **Youth Quality Care for Animals Options for 2024:** As a youth livestock exhibitor taking one of the following: market lambs, market goats, market beef, lactating dairy, market poultry, market rabbits, and swine; you will be required to complete a Youth Quality Assurance (YQCA) Program in 2024. 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. There are several ways to get the YQA training in 2024. Please review your options below and select one.

OPTION 1: In Person Putnam Livestock Youth Quality Care for Animals - Parents may drop off and pick up youth.

April 2 – 7:30PM – 8:30PM at the Kalida K of C Hall

April 11 – 7:30PM – 8:30PM at the Kalida K of C Hall

April 20 - 10AM Small animal focused YQCA. Large animal exhibitors are welcome to attend, but the focus will be on small animal care.

OPTION 2: Web based Online Training Option

Any Putnam County youth exhibitor (12-18) may take the online YQCA certification.

<https://yqcaprogram.org/>

Approximate cost is \$13 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 3: Test Out Options for 15-18 (Test times are March 26-27 between 3PM-5PM and March 28, between 9AM-12PM). Pre-registration or scheduled times are not required, but please note tests will not be given out within the hour of end times. There will be a \$10 test fee to take the exam).



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Last day to complete Putnam YQCA will be May 10, 2024. Must have done 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).

- 4. Lamb and Goat Identification Deadlines and Process** - There will be no April Lamb and Goat Weigh-In. Instead, we will use the scrapie ID tag as the official fair ID. For 2024, market goat and market sheep exhibitors are required to complete an online ID process using the 4-H Online system. Photos of the Scrapie tagged animal along with the online form will need to be uploaded no later than April 17, 2024.

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. Ewes must be scrapie tagged and complete the online ID Form 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 7, 2024).

- 5. Feeder Calf Identification Deadline and Process** - There will be no Feeder Calf Weigh-In. Instead, 2024 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 system. You will need to take photos of the tagged animal and submit an online entry form by April 17, 2024. If your feeder already has an EID Tag, you may use this EID. DETAILED instructions about how to submit online are 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.

Feeder Calf Classification Day April 20, 8AM-10AM on the fairgrounds – This is required for all feeder calves coming to the junior fair. Senior Fair Board officials and designees will be verifying the feeder calf entries at this time to ensure they are a beef feeder, dairy feeder, or cross bred feeder. **Please note beef feeders are required to attend this year.**

- 6. Swine Identification Deadline and Process** – All market Swine exhibitors are required to pick up EID Tags from the Extension Office between March 1 and April 15, complete the online entry process using the 4-H Online system, take photos of the tagged animal, and submit photos along with an online form. Due no later than April 17, 2024. 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.

- All pigs entering the junior fair will be expected to be ractopamine free. Our hog buyers will be requiring exhibitors to complete an affidavit upon entry to fair.

- Breeding Gilt Division is a fair class this year - Gilts can show in the breeding class or market class – but not both. Must decide by fair entry deadline, June 7, and both 4-H projects must be taken to choose between the classes. Gilts must be registered/tagged in April for market eligibility.
 - New Market Swine weights: 210lbs – 290lbs.
7. **EID Tags and Cost (for all animals that get EID tagged)** – The Senior Fair Board will provide EID tags free of charge up to the number of project animals you can enter 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 on the ID Form.
 8. **Family Tagging** – Families may register animals at possession time by immediate family (January for steers and April for sheep, feeders, goats, and hogs, breeding projects). Must designate which animal belong to which sibling by livestock entry deadline (June 7). No changes after entry deadline or project animals will be ineligible to compete.
 9. **4-H Chicken BBQ:** The 4-H Chicken BBQ is scheduled for Sunday, April 21st at the Putnam County Fairgrounds. The 4-H Council will serve chicken carry out only again this year with the help of Uncle Buck's. Tickets will be \$12 this year and will be sent to all advisors soon. Please help your clubs sell tickets! The success of our BBQ is critical to help offset the costs of providing 4-H books and scholarships to our 4-H youth. Hopefully we can continue the great support. Final ticket sales and money are due to the Extension Office no later than April 12, 2024. WE MUST HAVE AN ACCURATE COUNT SO WE DO NOT RUN SHORT ON MEALS.
 10. **4-H CLUB DUES:** Thanks for supporting Putnam County 4-H again this year! Club dues will again include annual group accident insurance for members/advisors. The 4-H Council met in January to discuss club dues and has decided a need for an increase was necessary to meet the rising costs of project books. Although the 4-H BBQ and Silent Auction help offset the book bill that the council pays, club dues make up a large percentage funds that pay the bill. We will send club head advisors an invoice after 4-H enrollment deadline. Payment due June 7th but 4-H Council would like to request early payment of dues if possible. Club dues for 2024 are as follows:
 - a. \$10 per member annually (\$9 per member and \$1 for insurance)
 - b. \$11 per horse member annually (\$9 per horse member and \$2 for insurance)
 - c. \$1 per 4-H Advisor
 - d. \$2 per Horse Advisor
 - e. \$1 per Cloverbud member
 11. **Misc 4-H Items:**
 - a. Skillathon judging will be scheduled by time slots using Qualtrics sign up as we did last year. Online sign up to be released in May.
 - b. Club Booth requirements – we ask that you have name of club and displayed exhibit cards on all projects securely. We will have a booth prototype set up in our office soon so you can begin thinking about how to design and decorate your new booth space. Keep in mind we must follow a few guidelines for booth decorations this year. Booths cannot be taller than 6' high. We are not permitted to use glitter of any kind (including

on poster boards and displays) and no helium balloons permitted in the building. We will have a complete list of guidelines released this spring.

12. Misc Junior Fair Items:

- a. Junior Fair Livestock Sale is Friday of fair. Will sell alphabetically A-Z. One trip per exhibitor unless you have multiple champions.
 - b. All the open class Bred and Fed Shows have been scheduled on Thursday of fair.
 - c. Drug Use Notification Forms for market livestock entering junior fair will be collected online this year per ODA requirements. Information and links to the online DUNF will be shared later in the 4-H season.
 - d. No -shows at the premium sale will be skipped and not sold.
 - e. Add-ons cannot be done if exhibitor has no animal participant in the livestock premium auction.
 - f. We will only accept 2024 Add-On Forms. No old forms will be accepted this year.
 - g. Dropping Beef 2% shrink deduction on market beef.
 - h. Animal release times: NO earlier than midnight, but to be determined by barn superintendents and Junior fair livestock committee at time of fair.
- 13.** Putnam County 4-H Camp is being held July 14-18, 2024. Click [HERE](#) for camp scholarship forms (due May 15th) and registration materials.
- a. Early bird 4-H Camp registrations now until June 14: \$215
 - b. From June 15 - July 8: \$230
 - c. July 8-12th, late registration \$245
 - d. All non-4-H members - \$245

14. Attention 4-H Horse Exhibitors: EquiSTEP (Equine Safety, Training, and Education Program)

EquiSTEP is an annual statewide requirement for all youth participating in Ohio 4-H Horse Program activities. EquiSTEP is designed to be completed online by each participant individually through Scarlet Canvas similar to QA for livestock market projects. Here is the link to enroll in/access EquiSTEP: <https://cfaesosu.catalog.instructure.com/courses/equistep-2024>

To complete EquiSTEP individually, a participant must enroll using their own unique email address. (Participants should not use their school email addresses as the course enrollment invitation will be blocked by the school's email system.) Participants must view all five videos (introduction and STEPS 1-4) which last approximately one hour in total. Once the videos are completed, participants will be able to access the 10-question quiz. Participants must complete the quiz associated with the training and achieve a minimum score of 7 (out of 10) to pass the training. Once the quiz is successfully completed, participants will need to complete the course survey to trigger a certificate of completion.

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 10, 2024.