Welcome to the 2023 4-H Season

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

Our 4-H enrollment is finished for 2023 as of March 1, but if there are families expressing interest in joining, please have them contact our office and we can explore late entry possibilities (and in some cases discuss limitations they may have). Project book pick up is on Fridays. We have about 200 enrollments that we need to verify before we are all complete.

4-H Senior Spotlights: Parents, if you have a 2023 senior who is in 4-H we are highlighting them through our OSU Extension Facebook page and High School Senior Board in the Junior Fair Building during fair. Please send email to [downing .310@osu.edu](mailto:downing.310@osu.edu) for more information.

2023 Fair Theme: We've Got a Good Thing Growing

2022 4-H Camp Theme: Outer Space

Junior Fair King and Queen: Applications for the Putnam County Junior Fair King, Queen and Court are due May 19, 2023. Click HERE for application.

Youth Quality Care for Animals for Market Exhibitors
YQCA is required for any exhibitor bringing market swine, market beef or dairy steer, market lamb, market goat, market turkey, market chicken, market duck, or market rabbit projects. Exhibitors taking fancy or breeding projects only do not need QA. There are three options for YQCA in 2023:

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

April 4 – 7:30PM – 8:30PM at the Kalida K of C Hall
April 13 – 7:30PM – 8:30PM at the Kalida K of C Hall
April 22 - 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. Visit https://yqcaprogram.org/ for access.

Any Putnam County youth exhibitor (8-18) may take the online YQCA certification.

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. **Last day to complete Putnam YQCA will be May 5, 2023.** 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).

CHANGES: Lamb and Goat Identification Deadlines and Process - There will be no April Lamb and Goat Weigh-In for 2023. Instead, we will use the scrapie ID tag as the official fair ID. For 2023 market goat and market sheep exhibitors are required to complete an online form, take photos of the Scrapie tagged animal, and submit materials in our Fair Entry Program no later than April 17, 2023.

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Instructions for online submissions will be sent to families soon. No photos or ID forms will be accepted via email this year.

- 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 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 2, 2023).

Changes: Feeder Calf Identification Deadline and Process - There will be no Feeder Calf Weigh-In for 2023, however there is a dairy feeder/cross bred feeder classification day that is required.

Beef/dairy/cross bred feeder exhibitors are required to pick up EID Tags from the Extension Office between now and April 15, and submit materials in our Fair Entry Program no later than April 17, 2023. Instructions for online submissions will be sent to families soon. No photos or ID forms will be accepted via email this year. If your Feeder already has an EIN Tag, simply complete the online form and submit pictures of your calf. We will not accept any photo that is unclear, or directions not followed.

Dairy feeder/Cross bred feeder Calf Classification Day: **Beef feeders do not need to attend**. Dairy feeder/cross bred feeder calf classification day is April 22, 8AM-10AM on the fairgrounds – This is required for all dairy/cross bred feeder calves coming to the junior fair. Senior Fair Board officials and designees will be verifying the dairy/cross bred feeder calf entries at this time.

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 2). No changes after entry deadline or project animals will be ineligible to compete.

Changes: Swine Identification Deadline and Process – All market Swine exhibitors are required to pick up EID Tags from the Extension Office between now and April 15 from the Extension Office and submit materials in our Fair Entry Program no later than April 17, 2023.   Instructions for online submissions will be sent to families soon. No photos or ID forms will be accepted via email this year.   We will not accept any photo that is unclear, or directions not followed.

- 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.
- NEW: Breeding Gilt Division is a new fair class this year - Gilts can show in the breeding class or market class – but not both. Must decide by fair entry deadline, June 2, and both 4-H projects must be taken to choose between the classes. Gilts must be registered/tagged in April for market eligibility.

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 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 on the ID Form.

4-H Chicken BBQ: The 4-H Chicken BBQ is scheduled for Sunday, April 23rd at the Putnam County Fair Grounds. The 4-H Council will serve carry out only again this year with the help of Uncle Buck's. Tickets will be $10.00 this year and have been sent to all advisors. Please help your clubs sell tickets! 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. Hopefully we can continue the great support.   **Final ticket sales and money are due to the Extension Office no later than April 10, 2023.** WE MUST HAVE AN ACCURATE COUNT SO WE DO NOT RUN SHORT ON MEALS.

Goat & Sheep Committee Scholarship: Two scholarships will be given to senior goat or sheep exhibitors. Deadline: April 15, 2023. Application will be finalized soon and will be posted HERE

Ohio State Fair Livestock Entry Deadline Update: Because the Juneteenth holiday is close to the previous deadline, OSF has changed the deadline for livestock entries to June 21, 2023. The OSF schedule has been posted at: HERE

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: go.osu.edu/equistep2023

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 5, 2023.