

Welcome to the 2024 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 2024 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. Our 4-H enrollment has increased for 2024, so thank you to all who were part of the recruitment season!

4-H Solar Glasses

With the generous support of the Ohio 4-H Foundation and the Don and Jane Schriver Make a Difference Fund, we secured 200 pairs of solar eclipse glasses for our Putnam County 4-Hers. 4-H members are welcome to swing by the office and pick up a pair while supplies last. You may want to call us for availability as the supply is limited.

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 display in the new Junior Fair Building during fair. Please send email to downing.310@osu.edu for more information.

New Event Center – 4-H Judging Schedules and Booth Set Up Changes for 2024

As we approach a new era with the construction of the new event center that will host our 4-H club displays during the Putnam County Fair, we have some new opportunities and challenges that change our schedules and general flow of work. Here is a summary:

1. **All still project judging will be conducted in the Event Center on Tuesday, June 18, 2024.** This includes Home Ec projects, Special Interest projects and Miscellaneous projects. Once projects are judged, youth can place them in club booths so they are ready for advisors during booth set up day. No Kalida judging location this year.
2. Booth Set Up Day is Wednesday, June 19, 2024. We will open the Event Center at 8AM and advisors and members can decorate their booths and arrange projects. We will share policy and guidelines for booth decorating once we get them finalized.
3. We will have a booth display set up in the Extension office very soon so advisors can stop in and see a model of what we will be working with this year.
4. Ribbon packets will be available Saturday after the parade and Sunday morning for advisors to hang in club booths.
5. 4-H Booth tear down will be Saturday evening after the Silent Auction closes and we make bidder contacts. We will need to have club booths completely torn down by Sunday, 10AM so we can remove partitions and have the building prepped for rentals.

2024 Fair Theme: A Fair Reimagined

2024 4-H Camp Theme: Lights, Camera, Action!

Junior Fair King and Queen

Applications for the Putnam County Junior Fair King, Queen and Court are due May 17, 2024. Click [HERE](#) for application.



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Youth Quality Care for Animals for Market Exhibitors

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. 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 29, between 9AM-12PM). Pre-registration is 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).

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).

Animal Identification and Registration Processes and Deadlines

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. 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 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 off 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 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 7, 2024).

Feeder Calf Identification Deadline and Process - There will be no Feeder Calf Weigh-In. 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 submission process using the 4-H Online system. You will need to take photos of the tagged animal(s) and upload the pictures 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.

- **REQUIRED - 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.**

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 submission process using the 4-H Online system, take photos of the tagged animal(s) and upload the pictures by 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.
- New 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. 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 ewe in at the time of Junior Fair Livestock Entry deadline (June 7, 2024).

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.

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.

4-H Chicken BBQ: The 4-H Chicken BBQ is scheduled for Sunday, April 21 at the Putnam County Fairgrounds. The 4-H Council will serve carry out only with the help of Uncle Buck's. Tickets will be \$12.00 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. **Final ticket sales and money are due to the Extension Office no later than April 8, 2024.** WE MUST HAVE AN ACCURATE COUNT SO WE DO NOT RUN SHORT ON MEALS.

Goat & Sheep Committee Scholarship: College Scholarships are available to senior goat or sheep exhibitors sponsored by the Putnam County Goat and Sheep Committee. Deadline: April 15, 2024. Application is posted [HERE](#)

The Annual organizational Goat and Sheep Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 8:00 PM at the Extension Office Meeting Room. Dues are \$10 for the year, due at the March meeting. The committee meets once a month throughout the year, usually the third Monday of the month. Please consider coming and checking out this committee. New members are welcome!

Attention 4-H Horse Exhibitors:

EquiSTEP (Equine Safety, Training, and Education Program) 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.

Farm Bureau T-shirt Design Contest

Details:

- 1 T-Shirt Design (front design only) entry per Putnam County 4-H Club
- Club gives rights to Farm Bureau to use their design
- Designs are asked to be in black and white *They will be printed in color
- Designs are to be submitted via PDF to Anna's email (downing.310@osu.edu) by APRIL 1ST at 4:30 PM
- Winning Club will receive a free pizza party the Thursday of Fair June 27th during their Kid's Dream Day Event

Farm Bureau will print extra shirts if there are members in your club who don't show livestock and don't receive the shirt at skillathon.

Fair Board Notes

- **Seasonal Maintenance Job** – The Putnam County Ag Society is seeking to fill a part time summer maintenance position (Memorial Day – Labor Day). Must be 17 or older and work approximately 20 hours a week with a flexible schedule. Duties include mowing, painting, general clean-up, and assist with Event Center maintenance. Email putnamcountyfair@bright.net for an application. Applications accepted until April 30, 2024.
- **There will be several fire code changes** that the fair board must implement in 2024. We will share these as they become available. Please watch for these as they will impact how we run extension cords in barns, how we use power strips, and conditions of camper power cords.
- **The Fair Premium Book** should be available Mid-April
- **Check Reissue Policy** – The Ag Society recently reviewed and made changes to their check reissue policy. Form may be obtained from the Senior Fair Office.

Checks issued by the Putnam County Agricultural Society are marked Void After 90 Days. Checks may be re-issued after that 90 days but must be prior to end of the following year. Example: Check issued on 6/1/2023 must be cashed or reissued prior to 12/31/2024, All outstanding check amounts outstanding after that date will be sent to Ohio Unclaimed Funds.

Re-issued checks will be re issued less a \$50 fee. Fee is set to cover bank fees to stop payment on original check and to cover the costs associated with re-issuing the check.

- **Feeder Calf Auction in 2024:** The Senior Fair Board approved a change to the Feeder Calf Auction in 2024. Junior Fair feeder calves will be sold individually, as opposed to grouping them. Beef feeders will be sold by weight, starting with champions, then we will move to crossbred feeders, then dairy feeders, selling in the same way. Invoices for buyers will be generated Thursday after the sale and bills can be paid at the Junior Fair office until load out time on Sunday. No calves will be released without a paid receipt. The Junior Fair office will need to time to develop invoices, so no payments for calves will not be accepted the evening of the feeder calf sale. Location for the feeder calf auction will be the entertainment tent and buyers will receive a fair pass for gate entry.