

- 2024 Turkeys ready for order:** It is now time to order market turkeys for the 2024 Putnam County Fair. All turkey orders must be received by **4:30 pm on January 23, 2024** 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 offering up to five free poult for each youth taking a market turkey project. Youth may order more than five poult 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 2024. The date for turkey pickup is Thursday, February 29, from noon to 4:30 pm at the Extension Office. If you ordered additional poult your payment is due when you pick up your poult. You need to submit your order online by going to www.go.osu.edu/2024Turkeys. If you have any questions, please contact hoffman.1458@osu.edu or you may call the Extension Office at (419)-523-6294. We look forward to seeing all your hard work at the 2024 Putnam County Fair. Good luck with your project!

- Attention Junior Fair Steer Exhibitors**

There will be no Steer Weigh-In for 2024. Instead, 2024 market beef/dairy steer exhibitors are required to pick up EID Tags from the Extension office. You can pick up tags from November 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 in our office. Please complete an ID Form, take photos of tagged animal, and send photos along with the form back to the Extension office. Deadline for materials is January 5, 2024. All materials must be sent to hoffman.1458@osu.edu by deadline.

If your steer already has an EID Tag, simply complete the ID Form and submit pictures of your steer by the deadline. The form includes DETAILED instructions about what photos are needed and how to submit them to the office. ID Forms completed after January 5 will be assessed a \$10 late fee and could be ineligible for fair competition.

Beef Breeding: if you are planning to bring beef breeding to the junior fair, you must enroll in the beef breeding 4-H project and enter the animal to 4-H Online by April 17th deadline and Fair Entry June 7.

- Putnam County 4-H Advisor Kick-Off and 4-H Council Meeting– January 9th**

We will conduct our Advisor Kick-Off training face to face in 2024. We are asking each club to send all advisors to the Kick-Off training. We will review 4-H materials at this time, review program changes, and coach everyone through the online enrollment process. The Advisor Kick-Off is scheduled for January 9, 2024 starting at 6PM at the Putnam County ESC Assembly Room. We will provide light hors d'oeuvres between 6-6:30PM and start our program at 6:30PM. Make up training (and new advisor training) is schedule for January 25th at 6PM at the Extension office.

- 4-H Family Guides:** The 4-H Family Guides have been sent directly to your homes this year (mailed in November). Our office will have copies for new families, so they are welcome to stop by the office to get a copy. The 4-H Family Guide can also be downloaded at: <https://ohio4h.org/familyguide>
- 4-H Project Books** – Project books will be available at our Extension office, and we plan to distribute as we have in the past (through advisors once your enrollment is complete). They are provided to you at no additional cost beyond your club dues. Advisors can pick books up at our office on Fridays through the 4-H season.

6. **4-H Enrollment** – We will again be conducting online 4-H enrollment in 2024. All enrollments (members and advisors) will be submitted at <https://v2.4honline.com>. There is one account per family, family accounts never expire. If you need assistance, please contact the Extension office at 419-523-6294. The 4-H Enrollment deadline is March 1.

7. **Youth Quality Assurance Schedule and 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 (YQA) 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.

Last day to complete Putnam YQA will be May 10, 2024. Must have complete 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 2024. Please review your options below and select one.

OPTION 1:

April 2 – 7:30PM at Kalida K of C Hall – no pre-registration required.

In Person Putnam Livestock Youth Quality Assurance. Parents may drop off and pick up.

April 11 – 7:30PM at Kalida K of C Hall – no pre-registration required.

In Person Putnam Livestock Youth Quality Assurance. Parents may drop off and pick up.

OPTION 2:

April 20 – 9AM Small Animal Clinic followed by small animal YQA 10AM-11AM at the fairgrounds – 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 2024. 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.

*NEW THIS YEAR: OPTION 4: Test Out

Market exhibitors ages 15-18 can take an exam and test out of YQCA. If youth pass the exam, it will be good for three years. The YQCA exam is not one that you can simply show up and take without preparation. Please call our office for study materials. 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.

OPTION 5: 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.

8. **4-H Council Members:** We are looking for volunteers/parents who would have interest in serving on the 4-H Council. These are three-year terms, and the council meets four times annually. The council coordinates the chicken BBQ, the silent auction, the distribution of scholarships, and provides input and guidance to the 4-H program. If you have interest or want to learn more, please contact Jason before the January Advisor Kick-Off.

9. **Volunteers that need re-screening before February 15, 2024:** The volunteers below are required to complete the BCI rescreening this year. Letters from the 4-H State office were sent in November outlining details.

Kennedy	Brown
Heather	Echler
Kurt	Ellerbrock
Darrin	German
Wendy	Hedrick
Casey	Kahle
Becky	Karhoff
Morgan	Keith
Marge	Kosch
Christina	Landin
Craig	Maag
Matthew	Maag
Melissa	Schnipke
Sharon	Siebeneck
Kelly	Slattman
Geri	Steffan
JoAnn	Sudlow
Kindra	Theisen

10. **4-H Camp Dates** – July 14-18, 2024

11. **Putnam County Fair** – June 24- 29, 2024

12. **Scholarship Opportunities**

- a. Putnam County Beef Committee Scholarship: Visit <https://go.osu.edu/2024cattlemenscholarship> for more information. Application deadline January 19, 2024. The winner will be announced at the 2024 Cattlemen’s Association Banquet on January 31, 2024
- b. Grow Ag Leaders, a Bayer Fund program, awards scholarships to students pursuing ag-related fields of study. To learn more about Grow Ag Leaders, program rules and eligibility requirements, visit www.fund.bayer.us Application deadline January 11, 2024.

