Important Fair Notes

News from Putnam County 4-H Jr Fair. & Senior Fairboard

June 2026 - 2.0

Showmanship

If you did not sign up for showmanship on Fair Entry, you can still sign up at the Fair Office until the night before your show by 5:00pm. Once the sign up closes the night before the show, the show order will be randomized. We will ensure family members are in different heats, and not together. The list will be available on our website as soon as registration closes and classes are broken into heats.

2025 Buyers List for Thank You's

Exhibitors who sold in the premium auction last year were provided with a thank you list, please call or email our office if you are unable to locate the list and we will provide a new one to you.

Pen and Stall Requests

The link for the pen and stall requests is: https://forms.gle/u4BkZCGdCKj31D1EA Deadline to request is June 9, 2026. Requests are only for hogs, sheep, goats and cattle.

Pen/Stall Tags

Stalling will be posted Thursday June 18th. Please remember that nothing is to be in the barns or outside around the barns including tie-outs and marking fitting areas until Thursday, June 18, 2026. Anything that was not approved by the superintendent will be removed. The only exception is tack and bedding brought in for Equine.

DUNF Requirement

The Putnam County Senior Fair Board and the Ohio Department of Agriculture has made it mandatory that exhibitors fill out a Drug Use Notification Form (DUNF) for ALL MARKET ANIMALS AND LACTATING DAIRY. FEEDERS started in 2025. The DUNF will need to be completed online per ODA requirements. Please make sure your DUNF is filled out before Sunday arrival. This is needed 1 per animal (Poultry and rabbits are 1 per pen). The DUNF online link will be distributed at skillathon judging and needs to be completed prior to start of the fair. Please prioritize this requirement and deadline. If you have any questions, feel free to call the Extension office at 419-523-6294.

Pullorum Testing – Breeding & Market Chickens

All breeding and market chickens (not necessary for ducks or turkeys) **must be certified pullorum-free upon entering the fairgrounds**. If you purchased your birds from a hatchery or supplier within the last year, they may have supplied you with NPIP paperwork or a bill of sale indicating they are from a NPIP

hatchery. If not, your birds need to be tested before fair. The Extension office offers complementary pullorum testing by appointment only (Please call the office) from 8 am to 4:30 pm on June 10 (same day as livestock Skillathon). Bring your birds to the extension office, and the testing will be conducted within approximately 10 minutes. To schedule testing, or if you have any questions, please contact Beth at Scheckelhoff.11@osu.edu or by phone at 419-523-6294.

Wristbands for Fair

Jr. Fair exhibitors will be admitted into the fairgrounds free of charge. However, 4-H'ers must have a Jr. Fair Wrist Bands to show their involvement with the program. All 4-H/FFA members who exhibit at the fair can pick up their wrist bands at the following events; Still Project Judging, Tuesday June 16th, Booth Set Up/Make Up Judging Wednesday June 17th, and Sunday, June 21st at the Junior Fair Office.
Please note: Bands must be securely attached, secure enough not to be removed or slid over wrist and worn upon entry to fairgrounds. Bands will be issued to individuals, signed for, and cannot be picked up as a pack for club members.

* Lost or broken wristband passes can be replaced, but there may be a charge to get a new one if old one is not traded in.

Livestock Project/Grade Premium Money

Livestock project/grade premiums ($3 per entry) will be available for pickup at the fair on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 1:00–3:00 PM. Any livestock project/grade premiums not picked up during this time will be forfeited and made as a donation to the livestock account.
Non-livestock project/grade premiums has not changed, they will be sent after the fair.

Fair Sale Premiums

Exhibitors' sale premiums will be deducted if projects are not taken care of throughout fair week. This includes continual washing, feeding, watering and stall cleaning. If an exhibitor receives one notice for a dirty pen, they must clean pen within 12 hours. If the same exhibitor receives another "clean pen sign"; they will forfeit sale premium money.

Small Animal Show Arena and Area

There will be no storage of fitting equipment or likewise or fitting space available in the small animal show arena including the area on the east and west sides. Any equipment not for small animals will be removed.

Junior Fair Animal Release

Market swine sold through the premium sale will be loaded for market on Friday evening of the fair. All other breeding, and market animals not selling will be released per schedule of Sunday at 4:00AM

Barn Meetings

There is a barn meeting at 12:15pm in the small animal show arena for families in poultry and rabbits.

There is a barn meeting at 1:15pm in the main show arena for families in swine, goats, sheep, feeders, and beef.

Barn Fans

In the Dairy Barn, Swine Barns, and Goat & Sheep Barn; fans are supplied and will blow north

NEW THIS YEAR fans will be supplied in the north hog barn this year.

Rabbit / Poultry Barn Fans – fans are provided by committee. No personal fans permitted.

Fans – under the guidelines of the Fire Marshall there will be no fans used in the barns that are considered "indoor fans" (box fans). All fans must have ground plugs. Surge protectors need to be plugged directly into outlet without use of extension cords.

Fair Activities

Be sure to check out the non-livestock shows at the fair this year!
Cloverbud Recognition: All cloverbuds are welcome to attend! Cloverbuds will get recognized for their hard work during the 4-H year. This program is on Tuesday June 23, and starts at 11AM, so please arrive a little bit early in the entertainment tent.

Style Review: All clothing projects are invited to participate in the 2026 Style Review on Tuesday, June 23 at 7:00 PM. If interested, the 4-Her will need to fill out a Clothing Narration Card about their project to get announced at the style review. The member will be able to model their clothing they made. This is not mandatory; however, the results of clothing projects will get announced that night. So, all participants are encouraged to attend and participate!

New in 2026 4-H Award Recognition: All 4-Hers are invited to attend our revamped recognition ceremony of our program as we present first place winners, 1st, 5th and last year members will also be recognized. Any 4-Her that will be receiving one of these awards will be welcomed on stage during the program.

Barn Games: Wednesday, June 24 - 8:00 PM; This is a fun-filled time for all Jr. Fair exhibitors, other youth and adults to get together and have fun with various games and activities in the Main Show Arena. Planned by the Jr. Fair Board, activities are held for all age groups from toddlers up to adults. Come and join the fun! No entry or registration is needed.

Decorated Animal Contest: This event is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24 - 7:00 PM; Decorate your animal and yourself and enjoy the fun at the annual Decorated Animal Contest. These activities will be split into small animals (rabbits, poultry, chickens, goats) and large animals (sheep, cattle, horses and pigs). Each Jr. Fair Exhibitor will be judged on their originality and creativity. Registration is required. Forms are available on-line. Prizes will be awarded. This event is sponsored by Ag Credit. A short narration card is to be completed prior to the event.

Weigh-In Schedule for Sunday June 21

All Animals to be in by 1PM (except Rabbits/Poultry by 12PM).

Rabbits/Poultry: 8AM-12:00 PM, animal will be weighed at arrival. (Rabbit/Poultry Barn)

Swine: 2:00 PM (North and South Swine Barn)

Lamb/Goat: 2:00 PM (Lamb/Goat Barn)

Feeders: 3:30 PM (Dairy Feeders/Cross Bred Feeders weigh in the South Swine Barn & Beef Feeders weigh in the North Swine Barn)

Steers: 3:30 PM following Beef Feeders (North Swine Barn)

Reminder: Gate 1 by the barns is exit only. Please don't park vehicles by the barns on Sunday. Drop off only.

Every animal that gets weighed at the fair will be issued an index card. We will distribute these cards prior to weigh in. The cards will need to be presented with your animal at the scales. Each card will have a unique bar code that will be used to identify its tag, entry information and exhibitor. You will be asked to circle whether or not the animal will be sold to market and participate in the sale or be taken home with no participation in the sale.

Bred and Fed Forms

Bred and Fed Link HERE Due: At fair weigh in. Form will be collected at the scale

Junior Fair Premium Sale

One trip: Each exhibitor gets one trip through the sale. The sale will go in order of last name starting with “A” to “Z” this year. Exhibitors must attend sale or have a designated stand in - no shows will not sell!

No animals will be brought through the sale arena (except Grand and Reserve). All sale animals will be sold by premium only.

All Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market animals must be sold through the sale and be slaughtered.

Exhibitors will be awarded one trip through sale regardless of the number of champions. If an exhibitor has multiple champions, the sale auctioneer will acknowledge this, champion animals can be brought to ring, and pictures with buyers and champion animals will still be available.

New in 2026, Bred & Fed winners will no longer be able to switch their selling animals in the Jr Fair Sale. They will still be recognized in the sale program if they are already participating in the Jr. Fair Sale.

To cover advertising, ribbons and supplies for the show and sale, a deduction of 4 1/2 % of gross sales on beef, swine, lambs, poultry, rabbits, goats and dairy will be made.

The Single Fryer rabbits will not go through the livestock sale. All single fryers will be sold to fair and loaded on market truck (if buyer agrees to take them). If you plan to take your single fryer home, you will need to designate that at the scale on load in day.

If Exhibitors are talking to potential buyers, please check to see how the buyers would like to process fair request. Some buyers are asking for exhibitors to fill out a form online instead of asking.

Are you selling market animals to Junior Fair or bringing them home?

To help Junior Fair officials prepare for the livestock sale and provide accurate numbers to our livestock buyers for base bids, exhibitors must declare if their market project animal will be going to market through the fair or taken home at weigh in time on Sunday of load in. Exhibitors will also need to indicate if they are participating in the livestock auction (premium sale). If animals are taken home, exhibitors cannot participate in the premium sale. No private purchases of animals at premium sale (cannot mark animals for 'fair' or 'home' at sale). Exception – families can make changes if they have multiple market entries and if their entries in the market projects win as Jr. Fair Champions. In these cases, families can change sale trips/pull non champion animals by visiting the junior fair office within an hour after the show and completing a request form. If this form is not submitted, exhibitor's market livestock will be required to sell (either through the ring or at market value).
Reminder: All junior fair market Champions/Res Champions must sell to fair.

Dairy/Beef/Crossbred Feeder Calf Auction

All feeder calves (exhibitors) which are base bid selling will go through the sale arena as "fair" animals. Thus, each feeder calf will have a base bid prior to exhibitor entering the sale arena. Base bid animals will be auctioned individually this year. **The sale will take place at the Entertainment Tent starting at 7PM on Wednesday, June 24**. The feeders will be organized by class, gender and weights and then base bids will be given on each. These animals must go to the fair with the highest base bidder receiving the calves.

Late arrival/early release of animals at fair

Any Putnam County Junior Fair nonmarket animal requesting late arrival or early release due to another show, must provide proof of entry to that show. This documentation and request must be provided to the Senior Fair Board Livestock Committee and Horse Committee (if applicable) and be preapproved to arrive late or leave early. Requests will be considered if it does not conflict with the animal showing in the Putnam County Junior Fair show.

Putnam County Fair Book

Please be sure to review the 2026 Putnam County Fair Book and take time to read through the Junior Fair section. Putnam County Fair Book Link HERE

Manure Bins

Senior fair board wants to remind everyone that only manure is to be placed in the manure bins provided on the fairgrounds. No trash. When placing manure in bins, do not dump it at entrance of bin.

Campers/Parking

Campers and power cords – all cords providing power to campers must be rated at 30 amps and not spliced. If an extension is needed to reach power supply, they must be connected via plug only.

Per Putnam County Sheriff's Department: All campers must be registered to someone over theage of 18 and this individual will be held liable and responsible for all activities at the site.

There will be no parking permitted on the grounds or around campers. The only exceptions include staff parking, handicap parking and fair judge parking. The infield of the track will be opened for buyers only to park on sale day and must be removed following the sale.

No parking is permitted along south/north swine barns during Sunday's animal load in day. Weigh-ins are throughout the day, and Sr. Fair Board needs those lanes open.

There will be limited requests to move vehicles that are illegally parked. They will be towed more often without announcement. Please follow all parking guidelines and traffic patterns.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION, PUTNAM COUNTY

Extension Staff

Beth Scheckelhoff - Educator, Ag & Natural Resources
scheckelhoff.11@osu.edu

Anna Downing - Program Coordinator
downing.310@osu.edu

Nicole Hoffman - Office Associate
hoffman.1458@osu.edu

Office Information

Address: 1206 E Second St
Ottawa, OH 45875

Phone: (419) 523-6294

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm

Putnam County Websites

Office Website: putnam.osu.edu

Facebook: OSU Extension Putnam County

4-H Website: 4honline.com

Fair Entries: Fairentry.com

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Putnam County
1206 E Second St
Ottawa, OH 45875

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu. For an accessible format of this publication, visit cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility.