A note from our State 4-H Director...

Dear 4-H Families, Volunteers, and Supporters,

It’s hard to believe that just three weeks ago we were preparing to welcome 1200 volunteers and teens to the annual Ohio 4-H Youth Conference in Columbus. We know much has changed since that time for all of us, but what hasn't changed is the commitment of Ohio’s 4-H professionals to the youth in their counties.

I want to update you with information about how the 4-H program is moving forward during this global pandemic. OSU Extension offices temporarily closed to help reduce opportunities for the virus to continue to spread. 4-H professionals and their OSU Extension colleagues worked quickly to transition their materials and resources to be able to continue working from their homes. In just a few short days, they connected with you via email, began offering virtual meetings and regularly updated web sites and social media with current information and resources. I could not be prouder of their willingness to handle this challenge and seek ways in which to keep 4-H programming alive and well.

For many of our families, virtual (or online) meetings seem to be working well, however I recognize it doesn't work for everyone due to accessibility issues in parts of the state. We are continuing to explore options and will share solutions in the next few weeks. In the meantime, there are tip sheets for club leaders with options and ideas for holding virtual club meetings at go.osu.edu/4hadvisorinfo. Keep checking this site, because we will continue to add information to help you.

We know the spread of coronavirus also presents great uncertainty about upcoming 4-H events—Will camps happen this summer? Will we be able to exhibit our projects at fairs? What about project judging? And the answer is that right now, we just don't know. At this point, all 4-H activities, club meetings, events and programs must be held virtually or cancelled until May 15. The situation is dynamic and changes daily, so we will continue to monitor conditions and reevaluate as needed. This ban may need to extend beyond May 15. During this time of unprecedented health concerns, we will work together to keep you updated and informed.

We understand concerns that some fairs may not be able to take place this year due to the global pandemic health emergency. Any decision to cancel a local fair, festival, parade or other large group gatherings will be made by those authorized to protect the health and wellbeing of all Ohioans. 4-H members and their families should consider a number of factors as they make their decisions to purchase 4-H market livestock projects. Risks and rewards must be taken into account. For example, we encourage families to consider their overall available...
budget, space to care for livestock, availability of alternative markets, availability of local processing, family freezer space, and needs of local food pantries.

OSU Extension and 4-H will continue working together to support our 4-H members, families, volunteers and local partners, including senior fair boards, classroom teachers, and magistrates, as we navigate this health emergency. As Governor DeWine shared earlier this week, we are “in this together Ohio.” Thank you for your continued patience and perseverance.

Yours in service to 4-H,

Kirk Bloir
Assistant Director, OSU Extension
4-H Youth Development

---

Dear Volunteers, Members, and Parents,

As many of you are aware, the OSU Extension Administrative Cabinet declared on March 23 that all existing activities scheduled through May 15 will be postponed, canceled, or offered virtually. No new Extension-led activities will be planned until further notice. **The ban on in-person gatherings may be extended past May 15.** The situation is dynamic and changes daily. We will continue to monitor conditions and will reevaluate as needed.

I know you are all very disappointed by that message. That was difficult for us to hear, too. There’s a lot of uncertainty, but we in Extension are doing our absolute best to still provide families with resources, tips, and tools to have a positive 4-H experience.

Many people are feeling inconvenienced or irritated that we are being asked to socially distance ourselves and stay home for the good of the whole. We are in unprecedented times. Schools are closed for weeks, quite possibly until the end of the school year. Businesses are closed, people are working from home, our healthcare workers are out battling to keep us safe, and we are finding out which workers are truly essential to keep us safe and healthy.

In 4-H, we are facing tough questions about if this summer’s activities will be the same. It absolutely breaks my heart to think these activities may be canceled - our volunteers, youth, and families are feeling it too. Nearly 1,100 youth in Tuscarawas County participate in a 4-H community club and their summers are highlighted by meetings, service projects, camps, judging experiences, and the county fair.

We’re doing our best to field your questions and get you the answers that you seek. I am putting out a weekly update which is sent through 4HOnline to all 4-H families. Please read over that information carefully. As we receive updates from the state, we will update you as well.

Sincerely,

Kiersten Heckel
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development
[heckel.13@osu.edu](mailto:heckel.13@osu.edu)

KH/ama
• **What’s Due and When?**—Our annual April 15 enrollment deadline remains the same as most of our enrollments are done by families through 4HOnline. Only new members need to complete a new member form. Please remember to adhere to the April 15 enrollment deadline. In addition to enrollments, the rest of your club’s forms are also due at this time. Enter into 4-H Online by April 15 (returning families must enter their own):
  ❖ All Members (first year members will need completed and signed enrollment forms)
  ❖ All Advisors (returning only; we enter new advisor information)
  ❖ All Cloverbuds (first year members will need completed and signed enrollment forms)

We would also very much like these documents by April 15, if possible*:
  ❖ Signed copy of your club constitution and by-laws
  ❖ Completed Club Charter form
  ❖ Club calendar of events/club program

*We understand with these unique and challenging times that you may not have these documents ready by April 15, so please turn them in as soon as you can.

• **4-H Project Book Distribution**—The main question we’ve been getting lately is “how do we order 4-H books?” A handful of clubs managed to get their orders in prior to all of these changes but most had not. After much discussion, the State 4-H Office announced their plan on April 1. In order to continue to support the current “Stay at Home Order” those in Columbus are going to offer a few options for low-contact or, even better, no contact distribution. We are still not permitted to be distributing books from the county Extension offices and it’s still important for club leaders to refrain from distributing as much as possible themselves. Our state leaders are confident that you’ll find a good option from those listed below.

  1. Ohio 4-H members and their families can order directly from extensionpubs.osu.edu and select one of two coupons, one for free shipping OR one for 20% off the entire order. For small orders of one or two project books, the free shipping coupon works best because shipping is often close to the cost of a typically priced project book. For larger or more expensive orders, the 20% off coupon works better. Ohio State is offering both so each person placing an order can decide. Orders can be shipped directly to the member’s home, as long as it is an Ohio address. The coupon codes do not work for any zip codes outside of Ohio. Another important point to keep in mind—the warehouse is not able to accept returns for any reason. Details and the actual coupon codes will be shared on ohio4h.org homepage and also via Facebook in the coming days. (They are not yet available as of the distribution of this newsletter.)

  2. The State 4-H Office is making a select group of project books available as freely available PDFs. Although OSU is unable to provide every book in this manner, we want to support families and members with learning resources that may be particularly relevant during this time. Members can choose one or more of these project book PDFs listed below. The “Perfect Stay-at-Home Projects” page on ohio4h.org is still under construction and we are waiting for a final approval, but hope to have these titles available for viewing and printing very soon.

  **About 4-H**
  - Discovering 4-H (91)

  **Clothing and Textile Science**
  - Sew Fun (409)

  **Creative and Leisure Arts**
  - My Favorite Things (496)
  - The Writer in You (588)
  - Get Started in Art (592)
  - Family History Treasure Hunt (442)

  **Food and Nutrition**
  - Let's Start Cooking (459)
  - Yeast Breads on the Rise (462)
  - Racing the Clock to Awesome Meals (485)

  **Healthy Living**
  - Your Thoughts Matter (359)

  **Home Living**
  - The Laundry Project (405)
  - It's My Home (491)

  **Leadership and Citizenship**
  - Leadership Road Trip (375)
  - Pantry Panic (376)

  **Natural Resources**
  - Explore the Outdoors (611)
  - Ohio Birds (621)

  **STEM**
  - Science Fun with Kitchen Chemistry (493)
  - Not Just Knots (540)

  3. Self-determined projects are an excellent choice for self-motivated members eager to get started and create their own project. Although self-determined projects may be better suited for older 4-H'ers, these projects are available for any member and are often driven by idea starters already available online. (For project judging, self-determined projects are judged in self-determined categories.) Visit the Self-Determined Projects and Idea Starters page for more information on these projects.
Additional considerations for project book distribution:

- It's possible some members have already paid for books by paying their club leaders. If a member chooses to order online at this time, or use one of the Perfect Stay-at-Home Projects, we ask that clubs cooperate in providing a refund or credit. If members have already enrolled in a project and want to switch, we are granting an automatic extension so members may add/change/drop projects through June 1 but members must still be enrolled by April 15. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding in our need to provide maximum flexibility to our members and families this year.
- Livestock record books, resource handbooks, and other projects not listed above are in stock and available for purchase on the e-store.

4. We will be contacting the clubs who submitted book orders with specific instructions.

5. Guidelines for all projects are on our website. Visit our Project Guidelines page at go.osu.edu/tusc4-hguidelines. Some advisors who submitted early book orders received a printed version with their order. The remaining clubs will be mailed a copy.

6. Livestock project registration forms can be found on our Animal Sciences page: go.osu.edu/livestock-registrations.

7. For this year only, members who will be needing a poultry resource folder (the red folder) can receive the information as a PDF through email. Contact Astra (armstrong.133@osu.edu) to request the information. Please be specific as to which project resources will be needed (e.g., 150CM Chicken Market, 150TM Turkey Market, 150DM Duck Market, etc.).

We will return to ordering books by club through the Extension office next year, but the State Office is working with us as much as possible to provide alternative ways to get books to use during this unique time. This approach to low/no-contact project book distribution will be revisited and revised as the pandemic situation continues to evolve. For now, this is the approach we are taking.

Thank you for your continued understanding, support, and patience!

- Decisions Regarding 4-H Market Animal Purchases—4-H members and their families should consider a number of factors as they make their decisions to purchase 4-H market livestock projects. As with any agricultural enterprise, possible risks and rewards must be taken into account. For example, we encourage families to consider their overall available budget, space to care for livestock, availability of alternative markets, availability of local processing, and family freezer space.

- Assistance with Virtual Meetings—Tip sheets for club leaders with options and ideas for holding virtual club meetings at go.osu.edu/4hadvisorinfo; we will continue adding information to this site. Several people have expressed interest in holding their club meetings virtually through Zoom. The free accounts have limitations (we’ve heard 40 minutes), but OSU has an account with Zoom so if you are interested in setting up a Zoom meeting for your club and you need some direction, you may contact Kiersten (heckel.13@osu.edu), Chris Kendle (kendle.4@osu.edu), or Michelle Moon (moon.317@osu.edu) and we’ll help you get one set up!

- Quality Assurance (QA) Training—All youth who are planning to exhibit a livestock project at the county fair MUST attend a QA program to be eligible to bring the animal(s) to fair to exhibit, show, or sell. There are no exceptions. A QA program must be completed after October 1, 2019. The requirement to complete the program 45 days before the start of exhibition has been waived FOR 2020 ONLY! For this fair season, a QA program must be completed prior to the start of the fair. You may complete your QA training through one of the two methods below.

1. In-Person Quality Assurance Training—Due to the current regulations we are under in light of COVID-19, we are currently unable to offer QA training until after May 15. Instead of continuing to reschedule dates, we will share county-wide QA training dates at a later time. Stay tuned for dates.

2. Online Option – Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)—We have received information about the YQCA online training for members who want to complete their annual 4-H QA requirement online. The Tuscawaras County Senior Fair Board has approved this method as well. Please note, this course has a fee. This is not OSU’s program; therefore, this fee cannot be waived. It is, however, the only online QA that is approved through the Ohio Department of Agriculture. All other online courses do not meet the Ohio Youth Food Animal QA certification requirements (i.e., BQA, PQA, BEST, etc.). County fairs are not guaranteed, though we hope they will continue as planned so it is you and your family’s decision to complete this course understanding the circumstances. Use your 4HOnline profile to log in to YQCA. Visit our QA page at go.osu.edu/tusc4-hqa and follow the instructions. For the month of April only, YQCA is offering a flash sale-offering the training for $9! See the information on our QA page for instructions and the coupon order form and invoice.
• **2020 Online Enrollment**—Each member’s enrollment must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15. After that, you will be unable to self-enroll. Returning members should NOT create a new profile but instead, select “I have a profile” and login using the family email address used last year. If you were new last year, use the email address you listed on your form in 2019 and select “I forgot my password.” This will send you a temporary password to your email that will allow you to log-in and create your own before enrolling. NEW members should fill out the new member enrollment form and we will enter your enrollments for you. For more instructions go to: [https://tuscarawas.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/4-h-parents-and-volunteers](https://tuscarawas.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/4-h-parents-and-volunteers) and scroll down to the 4HOnline section.

• **4-H Project Central**—Interested in getting a close look at a project book? Want to rate your experience with last year’s project? Members and project helpers can preview project books AND share feedback about their project experiences on a website called Ohio 4-H Project Central. Check out the website at: [www.ohio4h.org/projectcentral](http://www.ohio4h.org/projectcentral).

• **990N Filing**—**DO NOT FILE** as Kiersten continues to handle this until further notice.

• **Fun Opportunities**—Look for the **4-H daily challenges** that are being posted on the county Facebook page! (Search for and “Friend” Ohio State University Extension Tuscarawas County.) Kiersten has teamed up with Jamie McConnell, 4-H Educator from Muskingum County, to put these challenges into place. We’ve also launched a **virtual demonstration contest** on the OlderYouth Facebook page for people to vote on. (Search for and “Friend” OlderYouth Tuscarawas.) The winner will get a pizza party (eventually!) for their 4-H club. Voting will end on April 6.

• **Horse Information**—The **2020 Horse Packet** will be available to members and advisors on our website by April 15. The packet will only be available online this year. The **horse registration deadline** remains 4 p.m. on May 27. Horse **Safety and Ethics** has been rescheduled to June 2 at 7 p.m. A makeup Safety and Ethics date will be available on June 17. Preregistration is required for the June 17 date. More details will be announced. **New this year for State Fair:** all horses will require a negative Coggins test for State Fair participation.