



# 4-H Parent Survival Guide Fairfield County

What Can We Expect as a New 4-H Family?

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisors: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

We became a 4-H family on \_\_\_\_\_



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*4-H is a community of young people...across America...learning citizenship, leadership and life skills.*

## **Enrollment Information**

Enrollment for the 4-H program concludes on May 1 when all enrollments are due to the OSU Extension Office. Your child's club advisors will ask that you complete an enrollment form or review the re-enrollment form to verify that all information is current and up to date. The advisor will then compile all of those individual enrollment forms into one club enrollment record and submit that to the Extension Office. A *Member Handbook* is distributed annually to each 4-H family. This a book that will give all the information on projects judged during the summer, a calendar for the year, and any information to get you started with your livestock project. Keep this in a safe place!

Before completing the enrollment form, review the Ohio 4-H Family Guide (which you received when you enrolled in 4-H) carefully. Consult the *Project Selection Guide* near the back of the booklet. This guide is very helpful to new members when selecting their projects.

Along with the enrollment form you will be asked to sign a Minor Photo Release form for any photos taken of your child during the 4-H year. We like to take as many photos as possible of events throughout the year. The photos are submitted to the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette and/or used on our Fairfield County web site. First names only are used on the web site.

### **Age/grade guidelines**

Eligibility for 4-H membership begins when a child has reached age 5 and is enrolled in kindergarten as of January 1 of the current year (Cloverbuds); membership to the 4-H club program begins when a child is at age 8 and enrolled in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade as of January 1 of the current year. Ohio 4-H membership ends December 31 of the year in which an individual attains the age of 19. (These age guidelines were revised in 2004.) Membership begins when an eligible individual is enrolled in a club or group that is under the direction of a trained adult and within the scope of Ohio State University Extension.

Who are the club advisors?

The advisors for each club have been through a screening process conducted by OSU Extension. They have completed a fingerprint check by local law enforcement. Our advisors are volunteers dedicated to providing the best possible educational experience for our members, and we are very grateful for their hard work on behalf of our youth. Every year the advisors have several opportunities for training.

Any offer to assist your child's advisor - bringing refreshments, picking up supplies, etc. - will be most appreciated by our hard-working advisors.

Club meetings - what to expect

**Monetary commitment:** (1) Each child pays a \$7.00 activity fee annually to be a 4-H member. The fee is paid to the club, and each club submits the fees to the Fairfield County 4-H Advisory Committee. The 4-H Advisory Committee uses the fees to support the 4-H program with awards, trophies, camp counselor fees, etc.

(2) Each project that your child signs up for requires a project book (cost: \$5-\$10) every year. In addition, some livestock projects require a resource book (cost \$8 - \$12) but that book can be used throughout your child's 4-H career.

**What will my child do at meetings?** The members and advisors of each club may decide how their club is organized. But basically the members conduct a business meeting run by officers elected by the members. Advisors keep members informed about their projects and other Extension programs. The advisor also tries to help them with their project books. Most clubs have a snack and recreation time at the end of their meetings.

**Will I be expected to attend?** Each club sets expectations of parents. Some clubs like for parents to stay and some clubs don't mind if you drop off your child and come back to pick them up at end of meetings. Be sure to discuss this with the club advisor.

**Club fundraising:** Each club does different things in this category. Some clubs collect club dues at each meeting, or some clubs charge an annual enrollment fee. Other clubs choose to do a fundraiser. Some sell items, some have a walk-a-thon, bowl-a-thon, bike-a-thon, etc. Again, this is up to each club and advisor. Make sure when you are trying to decide which club you would like your family to join that you check the funding organization of the club.

After each meeting your child attends, be sure to review the agenda of the meeting with your child. Post any due dates and/or important dates on your family calendar.

### **Is there a 4-H Web site?**

We have a county website that contains a lot of helpful information. Check it out to keep updated on dates and deadlines, download forms, view the newsletter, etc. <http://fairfield.osu.edu>

### **Let's Go Camping!**

4-H members can attend camp, based upon their age and/or grade. The camp registration forms are included in the Member Handbook.

- Cloverbud members (ages 5-8 and in grades K-2) attend Cloverbud Camp, held at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds AAA Building. It is a one-day camp from 9 AM through 4 PM.
- Junior members (ages 8-12) attend Junior Camp held at Tar Hollow in Ross County. The duration of this camp is 4 days and 3 nights.
- Senior members (ages 13-16) attend Senior Camp held at Tar Hollow in Ross County in partnership with Hocking County teens. The duration of this camp is 4 days and 3 nights.

### **Project Reviews**

Members can attend an interview to have their non-livestock project book reviewed and graded. In an interview members are one on one with an adult. Members are asked to share what they have learned and their experiences with their project. Most projects have a set of requirements as to what the member needs to bring to judging (see Member Handbook for details). The interviewer may ask a set of questions and then will grade the member. Members receiving honors will be invited to enjoy an awards program in August called Summerfest. The project review is typically held in July. The exact dates are listed in the Member Handbook and on the 4-H calendar.

### **Required County-Wide Quality Assurance Training**

Beginning in 2007, the Ohio Department of Agriculture requires for Quality Assurance (QA) training to be a minimum of 60 minutes in length, taught by certified instructors. Therefore, the training for Quality Assurance will no longer be done within each club and will be conducted at the county level.

### **When & Where It's Held**

There are two dates for livestock exhibitors to choose from in order to meet their QA requirements.

- May 18, 2008 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds
- June 14, 2008 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds

### **Who It Affects**

All exhibitors who take the following projects must attend the required Quality Assurance Training during the current year in order to exhibit at the Fairfield County Fair:

- Beef (Breeding & Market)
- Dairy Breeding & Dairy Feeders
- Goats (Angora, Dairy, Meat, Market, Pygmy)
- Poultry (Breeding & Market)
- Rabbits (Breeding & Market—this does not include Pet Rabbits)
- Sheep (Breeding & Market)
- Swine

### **How the Quality Assurance Clinic Will Run**

The QA Clinic will be set up to have a general session in the beginning and will then break out into sessions specific to species. Exhibitors may choose which specie-specific session they wish to attend.

### **How to Meet the Quality Assurance Requirement**

When an exhibitor attends one county-wide Quality Assurance Clinic, s/he is certified to exhibit at the fair in all species. (So if Chris Clover is taking Beef, Dairy, and Poultry, he only needs to attend one Quality Assurance training.) HOWEVER, exhibitors who exhibit a swine project MUST attend the Pork (Swine) Quality Assurance session at least once every three years. Exhibitors will be asked to mark all species planned to exhibit at the County Fair when signing in at the clinic. If exhibitors do not attend a county-wide Quality Assurance Clinic, they will be ineligible to show at the Fairfield County Fair.

### **Premier Exhibitor**

If an exhibitor is interested in competing for Premier Exhibitor, s/he must take a "Premier Exhibitor Test". The test will be no more than 50 questions and will be objective--multiple choice, true/false—NO short answer.

Date options to complete the Premier Exhibitor Test are (all locations at the fairgrounds):

- Sunday, May 18, 2008 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. (Following QA Clinic, if desired)
- Saturday, June 14, 2008 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. (Following QA Clinic, if desired)
- Sunday, August 24, 2008 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. (Please note, there is NOT a QA clinic offered this day)

An exhibitor must take a test in ALL species s/he wishes to compete for Premier Exhibitor. If the exhibitor does not take the specie-related test, s/he will be ineligible for Premier Exhibitor in that specie. An exhibitor can take the test only once (either the May, June, or August date). S/He may come to only the testing portion of the QA Clinic or August session, provided the QA requirement is met.

### **Quality Assurance Test-Out Option**

There is a test-out option for youth who are 12-14 years old, and again for youth 15-18 years old. All youth must complete at least one Quality Assurance Training prior to taking the test. A youth may test out when reaching the age of 12-14, but must again complete a clinic when reaching the age of 15. Once 15 years old, youth may again test out of Quality Assurance until s/he completes the 4-H career. Test out dates are June 16-20, 2008 by appointment only. Contact the office to set up an appointment.

### **Additional Quality Assurance Training Options**

There are opportunities at different clinics, meetings, & livestock shows around the state offering QA sessions. Examples of these types of sessions that would fulfill an exhibitor's Quality Assurance requirements are: the Ohio Beef Expo, designated Ohio Cattlemen's Association BEST shows, & other counties county-wide Quality Assurance Clinics. If a club member chooses to attend one of these types of sessions, they need to provide the Extension Office with proof of attendance with documentation of certification so accurate records will be available for verification if necessary. If you would like more information about alternative sessions, please call the Extension Office. (The majority of these opportunities are February-April, so they are BEFORE our dates!)

### **Skill-a-Thon/Check-In-August 24, 2008, noon-3:00 p.m.**

The Skill-a-Thon is only required for Horse exhibitors. Exhibitors with dogs have a mandatory check-in day.

### **County Fair**

The Fairfield County Fair is always held during the second full week of October. Junior Fair exhibitors receive a pass for the fair, but the pass does not include rides. If your child has a livestock project, he/she has the option of showing that animal in the livestock show during the fair. Most specie of market livestock sell through the livestock sale. See the Jr. Fairbook for details.

Your child must write a Thank You note and get it to their advisor prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in November in order to get their livestock check. Advisors will pick up the check at the OSU Extension Office and will be responsible for getting the checks to their members. Members should also be encouraged to write Thank You notes to the trophy/award sponsors as well as to those individuals who have helped them succeed with their project.

Also, during the Fairfield County Fair members may pick up their premium money that they receive for the graded and on display project. Details are found in the Junior Fair Book that each family receives yearly.

#### Awards/Committees/County and State Opportunities

What are some 4-H opportunities for my child?

Be sure to review the 4-H Ohio Family Guide that you receive each year. There is a multiple-page section near the back of the booklet that lists awards and opportunities awaiting your child. Also, your teen member will receive a packet of information each year in November.

Members may apply to be a Junior Fair Board member. To apply they are required to complete the Ohio Achievement Form sent to all teen members who have requested this form on the Older Youth Opportunity Reply form. The member must be at least 13 years of age and will serve a two-year term.

Members may apply to be a camp counselor by completing the Camp Counselor Application Form sent to all teen members who have requested this application on the Older Youth Opportunity Reply form. Camp is FUN and our teen members are critical to the success of our camps because they serve as camp counselors. The following trips are awarded to our teen members via an Ohio Achievement Form that has been turned in to the OSU Extension by the deadline indicated on the form.

- Ohio 4-H Teen Conference is a trip that requires a member to be at least age 13. It is held in Columbus February.
- State 4-H Leadership Camp is a camp that requires a member to be at least age 14. It is held at Camp Ohio in Utica at the end of June and/or the beginning of July.
- Washington Focus is a trip that prefers a member to be at least a senior in High School and it is a bus trip with different stops on the way to Washington D.C. It is held during June or July.
- Sea Camp is a camp that requires a member to be at least age 14 and it is held at Kelly's Island, Lake Erie either in June or July.
- Carving New Ideas Workshop is held at Camp Ohio in Utica in December for members ages 13-19.

Members may also join the Fairfield County Jr. Leadership Club. This group meets about once a month and focuses on learning how to become effective leaders within their own clubs. Members must be at least 13 years of age (4-H age). Members of this club also have the opportunity to serve on other important committees, such as the 4-H Advisory Committee, as junior members.

#### Extension Staff

The 4-H program is administered by staff members of The Ohio State University listed in the front of this booklet.

#### Volunteers Always Welcome

If you would like to become involved with the 4-H program, please call the OSU Extension Office. There are many ways in which you can help the program.

#### 4-H Advisory Committee

We have a very active 4-H Advisory Committee and are very grateful for their continued support. The committee is comprised of advisors who work with the Extension staff to promote 4-H and provide the best possible 4-H program. The committee typically meets on the third Thursday of each month. Please feel free

to give input, comments, suggestions to any member of the 4-H Committee. The list of these members can be obtained from child's current advisor.

#### Typical Calendar of Events

January - Ohio 4-H Achievement Forms and Scholarship applications are due to the OSU Extension Office. Camp Counselors and Junior Fair Board Members are selected for the new calendar year.

February - Clubs are forming and having meetings. Teen Conference is held.

March - Volunteer Conference held in Columbus, Camp Counselor Overnight, New Volunteer Orientation and Training, mandatory steer weigh-in

April -County-wide Fundraiser, County Achievement Award Banquet

May - Deadline for enrollment on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Camp Round-up, County Officer Training, Camp Counselor Trainings, Quality Assurance Mandatory Workshop.

June - Trainings, Quality Assurance Mandatory Workshop. Health and Safety Speaking contest, Counselor Camp, Senior Camp at Tar Hollow, deadlines for state fair livestock entries.

July - Junior Camp at Tar Hollow, Cloverbud Camp at the fairgrounds, Demonstration Contest, Summer judging, Livestock possession deadline (excluding steers, horses, beef feeders and heifers, market rabbits and market chickens), Tag/Weigh-in for market lambs, market goats, and dairy feeders, market hogs must be tagged.

August - The Ohio State Fair, late judging, 4-H Summerfest, fair entries due

September - Deadline for possession of market rabbits and chickens, market rabbit tattooing, Queen interviews

October - The Fairfield County Fair!

November - 4-H Advisor Recognition Banquet, Clubs may have an end-of-year meeting/party

December - Ohio 4-H Achievement Form workshop. Happy Holidays!