

# Weekly 4-H Word

February 10, 2020

## INFORMATION ABOUT RACTOPAMINE

At the January 16 meeting, the Senior Fair Board voted that all hogs shall be ractopamine free. The Board also voted that the Preble County Fair shall be a terminal show for all hogs—open and junior fair. Specific information about this rule and the consequences of not following the rule will be available soon.

Now posted on our website are 2 very informative documents that provide additional information for swine exhibitors about ractopamine. ALL swine exhibitors should take the time to read these documents. We have printed copies at the Extension office as well.

Steven J. Moeller, Professor/Swine Extension Specialist provides this information that exhibitors should consider:

- Pig purchasers are encouraged to ask pig suppliers about ractopamine use in purchased stock. The exhibitor's integrity is tied to supplier integrity and assurances may be an important consideration in purchase decisions.
- Be sure to purchase ractopamine free feed from a reputable supplier.
- Cleaning previous year's pens, feeders, housing and feed storage areas/ bins to avoid potential unintentional cross-contamination if ractopamine was fed to any species in the past is also important



**4-H ENROLLMENT**—The 4-H enrollment system is available for you to enroll in 4-H. If you need help logging into your profile, please contact our office.

**OHIO 4-H CONFERENCE—MARCH 14, 2020**—The Ohio 4-H Conference takes place at the Greater Columbus Convention Center on the second Saturday in March. The Ohio 4-H Conference is the largest gathering of 4-H volunteers in the United States! Nearly 1,500 teen and adult volunteers participate each year. The Ohio 4-H Conference is designed to equip participants with resources, information, and skills to meet the ever-changing needs of youth. Attendees have the opportunity to receive training in more than 125 different topics such as career exploration, risk management, camping, leadership, cake decorating, dancing, animal sciences, and much more.



The Preble County 4-H Committee generously helps to pay the registration fees for Preble County adults or teens to attend the conference. Information about the sessions being offered and registration materials can be found at: <https://ohio4h.org/about/ohio-4-h-conference>. **Registrations forms are due to the Extension Office by February 14.** The earlier you register the more likely you will be able to attend the sessions that you want.



**4-H SCIENCE DAY/ RECRUITMENT EVENT—March 8 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.** – Toney Building—We are excited to continue a new community event that is open to all Preble County Youth—not just 4-H members. The afternoon will be full of hands-on science activities that will be fun and highlight some of what 4-H can offer. This event is replacing the Family Fun Day that has been held in the past. We hope it will be a great way for families to come out and enjoy the afternoon together. 4-H Clubs are welcome to set up a table promoting your club at this event.

Do you love science?—we are looking for volunteers to help with the activities. Would also like ALL 4-H Clubs to help with science stations. We will provide the materials and instructions—you just need to help participants have fun! If you would like to help—call our office or email Christy at mill-house.10@osu.edu.



PS. Thanks to everyone who helped last year to make this event a success!

**PREBLE COUNTY TRASH BASH**—Residents of Preble County will have a unique opportunity to make a real impact on the problem that is littering by participating in the 2020 Trash Bash. This new effort is a great community service opportunity for 4-H Clubs! **The Preble County Community Roadside Clean-Up Days will be held April 4-5, 2020.** It is a 2-day event hosted by the Preble County Solid Waste District. Volunteers will be assigned a 2 mile stretch of roadway and provided with the supplies needed to pick up trash. The Preble County Engineer's Office will collect the trash left at pre-determined collection points.

A news release with more information is posted on our website. You can also contact the Solid Waste District at 937-456-6880 for more information.

**4-H FAMILY GUIDE**—We have print copies of the 2020 Family Guide in our office. You can also find it at <https://ohio4h.org/familyguide>. This is your place to connect to our entire collection of Ohio 4-H project books for the year.

**PROJECT CENTRAL**— Project Central is an easy way for 4-H members to preview Ohio 4-H project books and resources. Take a closer look at a book, find out what others have to say, and share your experience! Find it at <https://projectcentral.ohio4h.org/>

**SEND A CAMPER TO CAMP**—We are again making available gift certificates that can be purchased for 4-H Camp. Consider purchasing one as a gift for your favorite potential camper. You can purchase one for any amount just contact our office.

**JUNIOR FAIR AWARD SPONSORS**—We are continuing an effort to find continuing sponsors for all junior fair awards, to recognize those sponsors and to encourage our exhibitors to thank sponsors. If you know of someone—a business or individual—who would be willing to sponsor an award, please let us or a JFB member know so that we can send them a sponsorship form. The cost of one award can range from \$12 to \$35 depending on the award.

#### **2020 NATIONAL 4-H BEEKEEPING ESSAY COMPETITION**

2020 Essay Topic: Overwintering: Bee Survival through the Cold Season

Submission Deadline: April 1, 2020

Please visit <http://preservationofhoneybees.org/essays/2020-essays> for the full details.



Honey bees have developed special skills to overwinter in the United States. Please discuss one of these skills and then include a discussion about what you do to prepare your hives for winter. Include a photo of one of your hives, either using infrared technology or showing winter wrap, hay bales, special feeders, etc. to demonstrate how you prepare your hives for winter.



**MANDATORY RABBIT AND POULTRY CHECK IN**—While the details are still being finalized, we wanted to be sure that everyone is aware that the mandatory check-in for rabbits will continue and this year poultry will also be required to attend a pre-fair check in. Dates will be share soon.

**PREBLE COUNTY FAIR CHANGES**—Be sure to look at the document posted that lists changes for the Junior Fair.

For swine exhibitors, a reminder that hogs may not be fed ractopamine from any source (Paylean® or Optaflexx® are currently the only legal products sold containing ractopamine). Also, swine shows (open and junior) in 2020 will be terminal meaning that any hog that comes to the fair must go to market.

Poultry exhibitors an additional change will be the elimination of the crossbred class.

**ADVISOR TRAINING NOTES**—

Training will be offered to horse advisors attending the February 18 Horse Advisors' committee meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**CLUB YEARLY FINANCIAL REPORT**— Advisors—if you have not turned in your yearly financial report, please do so ASAP.

**OFFICE HOURS**—Our regular office hours are M–F 8:30 AM—4:30 PM. As always, it is not a bad idea to call ahead. With only 2 of us, there are times where we are both out of the office.