

Weekly 4-H Word

April 8, 2020

4-H is NOT cancelled!



Many of you have now seen the letter that came from Ohio 4-H State Leader, Dr. Kirk Bloir. This latest change comes after OSU president, Dr. Michael Drake, announced late on Friday night that the University has “extended the date for cancellations of all university events to Monday, July 6.” Because 4-H is part of the University the decision was made in our Department “to cancel all in-person programming thru July 6. This includes all 4-H programs, activities, and events, including project judging that normally would have taken place at the county fair. Additionally, we’ve made the very difficult decision to cancel all in-person 4-H camps thru August 31.”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

It means that we have to think differently for 2020. We are not done with 4-H. We are just learning different ways to do 4-H. For someone my age, this means thinking in ways I have never considered. I grew up in 4-H, interned with 4-H for 3 summers, served as a camp counselor, county junior fair board member and Ohio State Fair junior fair board member. My grandma was a 4-Her. My mom was a 4-Her. I was a 4-Her. My children are 4-Hers. 4-H is ingrained in me like it is in many of you. However, never in all the years I have been involved in 4-H, have things been the way they are today. Is it hard? Of course, it is! I spent a good portion yesterday working to get my emotions under control so that I could write a letter to my camp counselors telling them the camp will not be what we expected this summer.

WHAT IS STILL AS WE EXPECTED?

We may all have our own feelings about what 4-H is but the Ohio 4-H mission is what guides our 4-H program. The mission is to “create positive environments for culturally diverse youth and adults to reach their fullest potential as capable, competent, caring, and contributing citizens.” Can we do that in these unusual times—for sure we can. We are creative, resilient individuals who will still make 4-H happen!

HOW IS THAT GOING TO HAPPEN?

1. **4-H Clubs can STILL meet just not face to face.** We have had 2 successful camp counselor meetings on ZOOM. We did an educational lesson and small group planning. Our counselors have done a great job! 4-H Clubs can do that, too.
2. **Learning and Project Work can STILL happen!** 4-H projects have always been designed to be self-directed and the learning happens as members complete the activities related to their projects. Nothing has changed with this.
3. **Unique Learning Experiences can STILL be planned!** Remember when our 4-Hers could not show poultry a few years ago? There were some unique solutions across the state. Not what we expected but we still held shows and learning still happened. 4-H Educators across the state are working hard to find creative new ways to “do 4-H”. Who knows what we will come up with! I am going to pose this question to our camp counselors on Thursday—“Is there a way we can do camp differently this year?” I don’t know the answer to that question but maybe we can find one.

SPEAKING OF QUESTIONS...

There are a lot of questions right now that are still being answered. This is all happening very fast. So, please be patient. We will be sharing information as we have it.

4-H ENROLLMENT

Thank you to everyone for enrolling by our April 1 deadline. Many of you will see your profile still saying pending. This is a good thing. It will remain pending until both your advisor and our office have reviewed your profile and confirmed you as a member.

Advisors: Please keep confirming your members. Nancy will be watching and confirming members as well.

HOW TO REACH US—New information added March 30

With the transition to teleworking, how we communicate will change only slightly. At this time, e-mail is truly the easiest method of communication. **We tried to forward our office number to Nancy but even with help we could not get that to work. Please use the numbers below to contact us. No one will be answering our office number. Please do not call the fairgrounds to answer 4-H questions particularly about 4-H enrollment. The Fair office handles Fair related questions.**

Nancy Tilton, Office Associate: 937-583-1131 tilton.47@osu.edu
Christy Millhouse, 4-H Educator: 937-419-4242 millhouse.10@osu.edu

We will be communicating via e-mail and Facebook. If you have not liked our Facebook page, now might be a good time to do that. We will also continue updating our website.

4-H BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS—new on April 8



Stay-at-Home Projects—PDF

Want to dig in to a 4-H project that's a good match for staying at home? See our collection of Perfect Stay-at-Home Projects. The Perfect Stay at Projects are available online at <https://ohio4h.org/stayathomeprojects>. When a copy opens on your screen, you can save or print it from there. Stay at home and stay healthy, 4-H'ers! (For accessible formats of these publications, visit cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility.)

Ordering from Extension Publications

You will soon be able to order your project books online. You can choose either 20% off your order or reduced shipping. They are working to get the coupons to work. As soon as this is available, we will let you know.

STATE HORSE EVENTS—new as of April 8

State Junior Horse Show

With the cancellation of 4-H horse shows and PAS qualifying shows, the PAS and Dressage qualifying requirements for this year's Junior Horse Show are waived.

- The show will be limited to 850 entries on a first-come, first-serve basis with priority given to senior 4-H/FFA members in their last year of eligibility. The entry window opens June 1st.
- Exhibitors are still required to enter and pay the \$50 stall fee online at ohiostatefair.com.
- Exhibitors are required to email a copy of their equine's current negative Coggins test (dated after January 1, 2020 to Christy at millhouse.10@osu.edu. by Friday, July 3, 2020 at 4:30 pm.
- A list of the classes in which the exhibitor will or have entered must also be emailed to Christy by Friday, July 3, 2020 at 4:30 pm.

Additional State Horse Events

- Virtual Horse Bowl will be held April 25. The entry deadline date is this coming Monday, April 13.
- The Virtual Communications contest will be May 16. The entry deadline is May 4.
- Horse Judging will be a virtual contest held June 15.
- Hippology will be a virtual contest held June 15.

Refer to the document posted on our website about the Junior Horse Show. It should be posted by tomorrow.

PROGRAMMING UPDATES— please be sure to check out this information

- *These are the most current updates about Preble County 4-H Programming. We will continue to provide updates as they are available.*

4-H Clubs:

Many 4-H Clubs are beginning to meet virtually. This is the only option for club meetings from now until July 6.

County Programming:

Rescheduled or Newly Scheduled Virtual meetings

- New Advisor Training Thursday, April 9 from 7-8ish p.m. (an invitation to the meeting will be sent to all advisors — this is the LAST chance for advisor training. Any advisor who has not attended training this year, must attend this meeting.
- Horse Advisor Meeting Wednesday, April 15 at 7 p.m. (this is a change from the originally published April meeting date) An email invitation to the meeting will be sent to this group
- Junior Fair Board Monday, April 27 at 7 p.m. (a meeting invitation will be sent to this group)

Postponed

- Horse Safety originally scheduled for April 6
- 4-H night with the Dayton Dragons originally scheduled for April 25
- Quality Assurance Face to Face meetings originally scheduled for May 2,4,5,7 and 12.

Cancelled

- 4-H Advisory Committee scheduled for April 13

MAY TAGGING DAY—LAMBS, GOATS AND HOGS

The Senior Fair Board made the decision to cancel the May 3 weigh in/ tag in for lambs and goats. This applies to the collection of hog DNA and paperwork as well. Therefore, all sheep/goats/hog tags can be purchased at the Sr Fair Board office starting March 23rd. Use the walk up window to pick up tags. Tags need to be returned to Sr Fair Board office by close of business on May 4th. If you need help with tagging, please contact the office at 937-456-3748.

Please tag your animals as soon as possible and return paperwork and DNA to office to avoid large crowds of people doing that at the same time.

NEW ADVISORS

We are continuing to process new advisor applications. Reference are being sent and as those and background checks are completed, interviews will be scheduled. We will be doing interviews virtually as well as the new advisor training scheduled for April.

If you have submitted an application, please remind your references to return the form they receive in the mail. This is the hold up right now for processing quite a few applications.

Also, we know that at this time, you cannot complete your background check. The Sheriff's office is not doing background checks right now. You can get these done once things return to normal.

RESOURCES

Since project books are not available right now, we have been getting questions about resources that can be used to keep learning going (or start the learning process). We will share these resources as we find them hoping they might be helpful to others. If you are looking for something specific, please ask and we will see if we can help!

BEEKEEPING

1. View the first few pages of our Ohio 4-H project book at <https://projectcentral.ohio4h.org/publications/beekeeping-project-and-record-book/>. You can see the requirements.
2. Explore the beekeeping resources at this site: <https://ohio4h.org/beekeeping>
3. The resources from Purdue that are linked from the page above are very good. Many of the things in this book are similar to what is in the Ohio 4-H Project book so you could use it for the recordkeeping etc. to get started and then transfer the information once you get your project book.

RABBIT

1. The Ohio 4-H website has some great rabbit resources. You can find those here: <https://ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/rabbit/rabbit-resources>
2. This website from Purdue has some worksheets that you could have your members complete. Scroll down to the bottom of the page. You could have the members complete them and then use a virtual method to talk about the answers. <https://extension.purdue.edu/article/1898>
3. Here is a pdf that has a lot of great information. http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/4h_rabbit_RG.pdf
4. Here is an activity sheet: <https://4h.tennessee.edu/Projects/activities/Rabbitbw-W061.pdf>
5. Here is a you tube video about caring for rabbits. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0y9owNC2wi8&feature=youtu.be>

SHEEP

1. There are great sheep videos posted at: <https://ohio4h.org/sheepcare>