

Weekly 4-H Word

September 10, 2020

4-H BANQUET

Our annual 4-H Banquet is a time to recognize 4-H members for their outstanding efforts and advisors for their contributions to the 4-H Program. Unfortunately, because of the current situation with COVID-19, we have made the decision to postpone our annual awards banquet until after the first of the year. The 4-H committee values the aspect of the banquet that brings our 4-H community together. With this in mind, we are planning a face to face event to kick off the new 4-H year while we wrap up the old.

It has taken a little while this fall to make this decision. It was made using the current guidance we must follow from both the Ohio State University and Ohio 4-H. At this time, face to face events, such as the awards banquet, are discouraged. Closer to the end of the year, we will re-evaluate the event using the most current guidelines we have.

While we know this is different than what we are used to – it has been that kind of year. Look for additional information towards the end of the year.

All those who submitted awards forms received an email at the address provided in 4-H online.

EXTENSION OFFICE

As we move in to the fall and winter months, OSU is still asking employees to telework as much as possible. We are rotating our days in the office. Nancy will be in the office Mondays and Wednesdays and Christy will be there Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The office is still open primarily by appointment only. However, we will have walk in hours from 10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m. on Monday—Wednesday. Appointments can be made by calling or emailing Nancy or Christy.

There are still many things that we can accomplish via email and phone, so please continue to communicate with up that way as well. Please call ahead for an appointment since our doors will be locked. Face coverings are required for OSU staff and clientele. We will provide disposable masks for those who do not have one.

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FARM SCIENCE REVIEW

From the FSR website...

Farm Science Review will come to you on your laptop or smartphone this year, and for free, you can watch livestreamed talks and recorded videos featuring the latest farm equipment and research to pique your curiosity.

From Sept. 22–24, people from across the Midwest and the world can learn tips for increasing farm profits and growing crops from soybeans to hemp. Beginning in September, virtual visitors can find out about the show's offerings by going to fsr.osu.edu and clicking on an image of the show's site. Within that image, people can click on the various icons to find the schedules for talks and demos they're most interested in, such as field demonstrations or "Ask the Expert" talks.

Among the livestreamed talks will be Ask the Expert presentations that feature the advice of staff from The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) on various topics in agriculture. Viewers will enter the talks through a Zoom meeting link and be able to post their questions in chat boxes. If you miss any, you can check back after the talks to watch the recordings.

"It will be even easier this year to benefit from the show's valuable advice that can help farmers improve their businesses," said Nick Zachrich, manager of Farm Science Review, which is hosted by CFAES.

"Whether farm operators have questions on finances, insurance protection, or which new tool fits their needs, resources will be available through Farm Science Review online."

The virtual format is a first for Farm Science Review, held annually for nearly 60 years.

Topics for talks at FSR this year include the risks of transmitting COVID-19 to your animals, the prospects of U.S. agricultural exports abroad, increasing profits from small grains by planting double crops, climate trends, managing cash flow on the farm, farm stress, and rental rates on agricultural land.

Looking for a job in agriculture? For the second time this year, FSR will include a career fair. Before the Sept. 22 event, which will be from 10 a.m. to noon, anyone can view videos and other content from prospective employers to know what those employers are seeking and schedule live chats with company representatives.

Presentations on raising backyard chickens, starting a flock of sheep, and growing blackberries and other specialty crops could spark some inspiration. Other major attractions at this year's show will include online field demonstrations that will show how various types of farm equipment boost the efficiency of fertilizing, harvesting a field, or performing other tasks. Viewers can catch a close-up view of the machinery, which, on site, they'd normally have to see from several yards away.

"With many events canceled and disruptions across the industry because of the pandemic, Farm Science Review aims to provide as many solutions as possible," Zachrich said. "A showcase of equipment, other products, services, and education will help address limitations that have surfaced in recent months."

The annual talk given by agricultural economists in CFAES will focus on supply chains in food and agriculture. Many of those supply chains were tested earlier this year when the nation's major meat processors closed down temporarily because so many of their employees had COVID-19. Ty Higgins, director of media relations for the Ohio Farm Bureau, will moderate the talk, which will include Ben Brown, Ian Sheldon, and Zoë Plakias, all agricultural economists with CFAES.

If you require an accommodation, such as live captioning or interpretation, to participate in this event, please email fsrinfo@osu.edu.

Requests made 10 business days prior to the event will typically allow the university enough time to provide seamless access. But after that, the university will make every effort to meet requests.

For more information about the format or offerings in this year's show, visit fsr.osu.edu. For more information contact: Alayna DeMartini demartini.3@osu.edu