Please note: our office will be closed Monday, January 17 in recognition of Martin Luther King Day. We will reopen Tuesday morning at 8:00am.

As you begin meeting in 2022, be aware that the guidelines related to meeting in-person have not changed. Be proactive at meetings. Continue to practice social distancing as needed and encourage those who are not feeling well to stay home.

Just a reminder: The 4-H Committee voted to waive the county activity fee for 2022. Your club may still charge club fees, but don’t collect the county activity fee.

**News You Can Use:**

1. **Ohio 4-H Conference:** all adult 4-H volunteers and youth volunteers (age 14 and over) are invited and encouraged to attend the Ohio 4-H Volunteer Conference on March 14 at the Columbus Convention Center. Over 15 sessions and workshops will be offered on a variety of topics. The 4-H Committee will pay your registration fee to attend. Registration materials are available online: [https://ohio4h.org/events/ohio-4-h-conference](https://ohio4h.org/events/ohio-4-h-conference). Registration deadline to the Extension Office is February 11. The earlier you register, the better. Sessions fill up quickly.

2. **2022 Darke County 4-H Calendar** is now available! [https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/2022-darke-county-4-h-youth-development-calendar](https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/2022-darke-county-4-h-youth-development-calendar)

3. **Deadline quickly approaching:** January 21, 4:30pm, is the deadline for submitting Officer books (secretary and treasurer, mandatory). Also due are Premier Member forms, County Medal Applications, Ohio Achievement Records, 4-H for Health Tracker, Darke County 4-H Alumni Award, Volunteer of the Year Award, and Community Service Award. [https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/award-applications](https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/award-applications) [https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/club-resources](https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/club-resources) [https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/member-resources](https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/member-resources)

4. **Volunteer Update Meetings:** a total of 23 sessions will be offered in January through March. All Darke County 4-H volunteers are required to attend one of these meetings. To register: [go.osu.edu/22update](go.osu.edu/22update)

5. **2022 Turkeys from Cooper Farms:** Cooper Farms is offering five (5) free turkey poults to 4-H and FFA members interested in taking a turkey project. Deadline to order is 4:30pm, Thursday, March 3. Pick up will be Friday, April 8, location to be announced. For more information or to place an order, [go.osu.edu/22darketurkeyorder](go.osu.edu/22darketurkeyorder)
6. **4-H Enrollment**: April 1 is the enrollment deadline for 4-H in 2022. Members may join or add projects after April, but those additions will not be eligible for fair participation. Complete enrollment information is on the web: [https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/4-h-online](https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/4-h-online)

Important things to remember:
- Returning families should not create a new profile. They will use their family email and password from last year to login. If they don’t remember the email they used, please have them contact me. I can retrieve that information for them.
- Do not use Internet Explorer as your browser. Instead use Google Chrome, Safari, or Firefox.
- Current 4-H volunteers should reenroll themselves as soon as possible, especially if this is your year to be fingerprinted.
- Members can begin to enroll now. Encourage them to not wait until March 31 or April 1 to enroll.

7. **Netherland Dwarf Rabbits Available**: Darke County 4-H member, Madison Werner, has junior and senior Netherland Dwarf rabbits that she is offering to 4-H members (she will make you a good deal) wanting to take rabbit projects. They are pedigreed and able to be shown. For pictures and more information contact Madison at 937.564.7250. She also has a few Jersey Woolies.

8. **New 4-H Volunteer Applications**: Those wishing to apply to become a 4-H volunteer in 2022 need to submit their application by February 1, 2022. Complete information is available online: [https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/2022-4-h-volunteer-application](https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/2022-4-h-volunteer-application)

9. **Hands Across the Darke** is a community service club open to youth in grades 5-8. They meet the first Tuesday of each month at the Extension Office at 7:00pm. Their next meeting is February 1 and they will be baking cookies for the residents of Rest Haven. Join us!

10. **Quality Assurance information** is available online: [https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/quality-assurance-0](https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/quality-assurance-0) New this year: a parent or guardian must accompany first and second year exhibitors, regardless of the exhibitor’s age.

11. **Amazon Smile**: As you complete your online shopping, don’t forget to designate the 4-H program to receive a donation through Amazon Smile. Shop at [smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1056844](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1056844) and Amazon donates to the Darke County 4-H Committee. (It comes up as The Ohio State University, but donations go to our 4-H program)

12. **Darke County United Way**: Did you know that you can designate your United Way pledge to be given to the Darke County 4-H program? Simply write “Darke County 4-H” on the designation line. Thank you to everyone who designates their pledges to us. It means a lot to our program!

Questions? Contact Rhonda at 937-569-5003 or [williams.418@osu.edu](mailto:williams.418@osu.edu)