

Dear Friend in 4-H,

If your club has a meeting/event scheduled for this weekend, keep an eye on the weather. Sounds like the next 48 hours may present some challenges weather-wise. It's better to be safe than sorry!

There is lots of information included in this email. Please read it carefully. Here's what's happening:

- 1. e990 postcards:** as of last year, 4-H clubs no longer need to file their own e990 postcards. I will do that for you. This helps me to know immediately which clubs have not been accepted and I can work to get the situation resolved. What I need from you in order to file is your Annual Financial Summary. This document is due to me by January 31. I use the information on that document to file your postcard with the IRS. Your effort to submit your financial statement in a timely manner is greatly appreciated!
- 2. 2017 National 4-H Beekeeping Contest:** Please see the attached document for rules regarding this beekeeping contest. Essay submissions to the Ohio State 4-H Office are due by midnight, February 16. Essays should be sent to jinks.2@osu.edu. See the document for the essay topic and rules for the contest.
- 3. Project #507 Robotics:** If you have a 4-H member interested in this project, but they do not have the funds to purchase the robot, remember that we have two kits available for loan from our office. See the attached rental use application for details. Completed applications must be submitted to our office by March 15.
- 4. The Young Leaders Conference** will be held Friday, February 24 at the Ohio 4-H Center in Columbus. This event is open to youth interested in learning more about leadership and professionalism within the agricultural industry. A flyer with complete information is attached.
- 5. Trash Bash** is scheduled for April 22-23, 2017. Forms are now available and are due to Darke County Solid Waste Office by March 10. <http://co.darke.oh.us/solidwaste/Website%20-%20Solid%20Waste/2017TRASH%20BASH%20PACKET.pdf>
- 6. Trash Bash T-Shirt Contest** is open to all youth in grades 7-12. Channel your creativity and submit your design. Chamber gift certificates will be given to the top three designs and the winner has their design imprinted on the Trash Bash t-shirts. See the attached flyer for details.
- 7. Hands Across the Darke** is the name of our newly formed community service club for teens. They are planning many projects in the coming months and have scheduled two fund raisers to help support their cause. The first fund raiser is a "Clover and Canvas" painting class scheduled for February. The second is a LuLaRoe clothing fund raiser scheduled for March. See the attached two fund raiser flyers for details. Feel free to share with those who might be interested in either event.
- 8. Hands Across the Darke** is collecting plastic caps in order to have benches made for public use. See the attached flyer for the type of caps that we are collecting. Your donations may be

dropped off at the Extension Office during normal business hours, or other times by special request.

9. **Hands Across the Darke** is open to any youth, 14 and over, who is interested in making a difference in Darke County. Their next meeting is Tuesday, February 7, 7pm, Extension Office.
10. **Annual Volunteer Training:** all Darke County 4-H volunteers are required to attend one of the scheduled update meetings in order to maintain their volunteer status for 2017. Refer to the annual calendar for these days/times. You must pre-register to attend so that in the event of inclement weather, I know who to contact. Also, if no one signs up for a particular session, then I'm not there. Please do not assume that you can just "show-up".
11. **Darke County 4-H Open House** will be held Monday, February 13, 6:30pm-8:00pm at All Seasons Place, Greenville. The following clubs have indicated that they will participate: Pets 'N' Partners, Fun bunch, DC Rabbit Raisers, Canine Capers, Genesis, Shooting Sports, DC Beef, DC Holstein, Greenville Rangers, Blue Angels and Versailles Busy Beavers. If your club is not on this list but would like to participate, please let me know as soon as possible. Publicity for this event will begin next week.
12. **Ohio 4-H Conference:** Registration is now available for the Ohio 4-H Conference to be held Saturday, March 11, at the Columbus Convention Center. This conference offers many amazing educational sessions, as well as the opportunity to network with 4-H volunteers and members from across the state. The Darke County 4-H Committee will pay your registration fee. They ask for a \$35.00 deposit which will be returned to you once you attend the conference. If you register and do not attend, you forfeit your \$35.00. Hard copies of the registration are available from our office or you may visit the web site: <http://www.ohio4h.org/events/ohio-4-h-conference>
13. The **USDA AgDiscovery Program** is a great summer program for high school students that are interested in agricultural careers. It is a 2-week residential program at 22 different universities and all expenses are covered except transportation to and from the sponsoring university. Please pass on this information to youth or their leaders which might be interested. For more information, please see the AgDiscovery website: www.aphis.usda.gov/agdiscovery for a current brochure and application.
14. **Science Saturday at the Ohio 4-H Center:** **CSI: 4-H** kicks off the 2017 edition of 4-H Science Saturdays on January 14 at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center in Columbus. OSU's Department of Anthropology will help us discover what we can learn from fingerprints and bones. We'll even do some detective work using prints from a mock crime scene. <http://www.ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/4-h-science/4-h-center-camps/science-saturdays>
15. **Officer Books** (Mandatory: Secretary, Treasurer; Optional: Reporter, Historian) are **due** to the Extension Office by Friday, January 20, 2017. Failure to submit your secretary and treasurer books will result in having your club's charter revoked for 2017.
16. **Honor Club forms** are due to the Extension Office on January 20, 2017. Clubs will be recognized during the Spring Kick Off and Recognition Program on March 5, 2pm, All Seasons Place.

http://darke.osu.edu/sites/darke/files/imce/Program_Pages/4H/2016%20honor%20club%20score%20sheet.pdf

17. National 4-H mandates that **all 4-H clubs be composed of at least five members from three different families** in order to achieve charter status to maintain operation in 2017. If your club is not going to meet this enrollment requirement, call me to discuss your options.
18. **4-H Club Re-enrollment Forms** are available now. Please pick these up at your convenience. Our enrollment deadline for 2017 will remain as April 1.
19. **Yearly Financial Summary:** All clubs are required to complete the yearly financial summary and return to our office by January 31. Please **DO NOT** return this form to me electronically. My email is not secure and this document contains information that could be obtained by hackers. Either return the form via US mail or drop it off at our office.
20. **Club Inventory:** Please complete this form and return to our office by April 1. Any items which belong to the club should be included on this inventory.
21. **Meat Judges Clinic:** The 2nd Annual Meat Judging Coaches Clinic will be held January 28, 2017. The event will be held in Columbus at the Department of Animal Sciences Building and hosted by the Department of Animal Sciences. Ohio 4-H is working to restart a 4-H Meat Judging Program in the state of Ohio and this professional development is an excellent opportunity for potential coaches and educators to gain valuable knowledge. The professional development is designed for both FFA and 4H Meat Judging Team coaches who are training teams to compete in local, state and national Meat Evaluation events in both the FFA and 4H arenas. Participants will learn how to evaluate and coach all components in this competitive event as well as experience the judging component first hand as carcasses, retail and wholesale classes will be available for coaches to evaluate, in addition to learning how to identify the retail cuts in this competition. Presenters will also provide insight on how to coach your teams in all areas of the event. Please see the event flyer at this link <https://www.dropbox.com/s/1zgjia2wu7c3s1x/2nd%20Annual%20Meats%20Flyer.pptx?dl=0> and register using the Google Form link <https://goo.gl/forms/MhldxnU9JRG8BS42>.
22. **Veterinary Feed Directive:** ATTENTION 4-H MEMBERS TAKING FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMAL PROJECTS, even if they are not intended for food production! On JANUARY 1, 2017, the VETERINARY FEED DIRECTIVE (VFD) must be implemented, as a result of regulations set forth by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) addressing on-farm antibiotic use in food-animal production. This affects everyone (including 4-H members as youth producers) keeping, owning, and/or raising food-producing animals, even if they are not intended for food production (i.e. exhibition poultry). It is very important that 4-H members and their families establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) prior to January 1, 2017. <http://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/veterinary-feed-directive>
23. Ohio 4-H and the **Columbus Blue Jackets** are teaming up for an Ohio 4-H Night at the Blue Jackets on Saturday, February 25. <http://www.ohio4h.org/sites/ohio4h/files/imce/Families/16-17%20Ohio%204H%20Flyer.pdf>

24. **County Medal Forms** are now available. Special recognition is available for 4-H members who excel in their project area. See the application for details. Completed applications are due to the Extension Office by Friday, January 20, 2017. <http://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/county-medal-application>
25. **Ohio Achievement Records** are available for completion. All 4-H teens, age 14 and over as of 1/1/17, are invited to apply for an Ohio Achievement Award. Project area winners selected at the state level are awarded with a trip to National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia. Other award opportunities are available. See the form for details. Need help completing the form? Just ask! Completed Ohio Achievement Records are due to the Extension Office by 4:30pm on Friday, January 20, 2017. <http://www.ohio4h.org/awardsandscholarships>
26. **Ohio 4-H Scholarships** are available to 4-H members graduating high school with the Class of '17. See the web site for details. <http://www.ohio4h.org/families/just-teens/awards-scholarships/ohio-4-h-scholarships>
27. **Volunteer Fingerprinting** – round three: Notification letters and instructions for reimbursement were sent to all volunteers who are required to complete a fingerprint background check prior to 2017. The deadline to have completed this task was December 31, 2016. Once you have completed your background check and have a receipt, bring your paperwork to the office so that we can submit for your reimbursement. If you received a letter, please read it for complete instructions. Your help in completing this in a timely manner is greatly appreciated!
28. **4-H Volunteer Applications** are now available. Anyone interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer in 2017 must complete the volunteer application process. See the web site for details. <http://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/2017-4-h-volunteer-application-information> Completed applications must be submitted to our office by February 17 in order to allow enough time to complete the application process by April 1, 2017.