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.

Last call for new 4-H volunteer applications! They must be submitted to our office by 4:30pm on Tuesday, February 1! [https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/2022-4-h-volunteer-application]

**News You Can Use:**

1. Great news: The Ohio State Fair is planning to operate as normal in 2022! Exhibitions for horses, dogs, dairy goats, and llama/alpacas will take place prior to the fair’s opening on July 27. See the website for details: [https://ohiostatefair.com/](https://ohiostatefair.com/)

2. **Cloverbud Resources: Cloverbud Volunteers** – check out the Cloverbud Connections Blog. Lots of great articles as well as resources you can use. Be sure to review the new Cloverbud Reading Adventures! Subscribe to the blog by entering your email in the subscription box on the left-hand side of the page. [https://u.osu.edu/cloverbudconnections/](https://u.osu.edu/cloverbudconnections/)

3. **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.

4. **2022 Darke County 4-H Calendar** is 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)

5. **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)

6. **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)

7. **Virtual OSU Animal Science Judging Contest** underway for Swine: it’s free and a great way to practice. To register: [https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2rz8XkFyPUa2DOe](https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2rz8XkFyPUa2DOe)
8. **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.

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