

Dear Friend in 4-H,

The new year brings many new opportunities for our 4-H members. Join me in making 2017 the best 4-H year in Darke County yet!

1. Our new **community service club** for teens met last night and have made many exciting plans for the coming months. They have decided to call themselves "**Hands Across the Darke**". Like their facebook page to follow their adventures: <https://www.facebook.com/Hands-Across-the-Darke-365270543849898/?fref=ts> Their first project is collecting hats and gloves for the needy. Feel free to drop these off at the Extension Office. They are also collecting bottle caps for a bench that will be placed in the foyer of our building. A list of acceptable plastic caps is attached. Please bring these to the Extension Office as well. Their next meeting is Tuesday, February 7, 7pm, Extension Office. This group is open to any teen, age 14-18, who wants to make a difference in our community. Youth do not have to be 4-H members in order to become involved. Please share this with those who might be interested.
2. **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>
3. 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.
4. **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>
5. **2017 Darke County 4-H Youth Development Calendar** of events is attached to this email for your convenience. It will be posted to the web site soon.
6. **Market Beef Exhibitors: tagging and weigh-in**, Thursday, January 5, 6pm-8pm, Beef and Dairy Pavilion, Fairgrounds.

7. **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.
8. **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
9. 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.
10. **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.
11. **Yearly Financial Summary:** All clubs are required to complete the yearly financial summary and return to our office by January 31. This form is attached for your convenience. 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.
12. **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.
13. **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/1zgija2wu7c3s1x/2nd%20Annual%20Meats%20Flyer.pptx?dl=0>
and register using the Google Form link <https://goo.gl/forms/MhldsxnU9JRG8BS42>.
14. **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>

15. 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>
16. **Volunteer Re-Enrollment Forms** were due November 18. If you have not already done so, please return your signed forms (both sides signed) as soon as possible.
17. **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>
18. **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>
19. **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>
20. **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!
21. **Tax Exempt Status and Auto-Revocation letter from the IRS:** Over the past few weeks, many counties are receiving information from volunteers that have received “Auto-Revocation” letter from the IRS. If your club receives such a notice, please let me know immediately and hold on to the original auto-revocation letters received from IRS for future reference. The State 4-H Office is working with the IRS to resolve these issues and we need to know who has been notified.
22. **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>