Happy New Year! I hope each of you had time to rejuvenate and enjoy your time with family and friends during the holiday season!

2022 is here and that means another year of 4-H! Your club should be meeting sometime in January to reorganize and prepare for 2022. Currently 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.

There is a lot of information in this eClover, so please read it carefully. Contact me if you have questions.

News You Can Use:

1. **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)

2. **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)

   Sample scoresheets for the officer books are on the club resources page.

3. **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](http://go.osu.edu/22update)

4. **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.
5. **Market Beef Tagging and Weigh-in:** due to frigid temperatures, beef weigh-in has been rescheduled for Thursday, January 13, 6pm-8pm, Old Beef Barn, Fairgrounds. If you plan to exhibit market beef at the Ohio State Fair, DNA kits are due to the state fair office by January 15.

6. **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.

7. **Speak Up! Speak Out! Virtual SPIN Club:** Are you interested in learning tips and tools for being an effective public speaker? Join our virtual SPIN Club and improve your skills. For more information or to register: [go.osu.edu/22speakup](go.osu.edu/22speakup)

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](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)