Happy New Year!

Effective Wednesday, December 30 through January 15, all OSU Extension county offices will be closed to the public. Extension employees have been required to return to 100 percent telework during this time period.

Until we are given the okay to reopen, we will not be available to schedule in-person appointments or appointments for pick-up or distribution of materials.

Questions? Call my direct line: 937-569-5003 or email williams.418@osu.edu

Upcoming deadline: The following books and other paperwork are due to the Extension Office by January 15, 2021 Deadline extended to January 31, 2021: Secretary (required), Treasurer (required), Reporter (optional, but required for Honor Club), Historian, Premier Member, Honor Club, County Medal, and Sharon Fourman Memorial 4-H Volunteer of the Year.

Feel free to place items in the drop box, if they will fit. Otherwise, hold onto them until after January 15th.

Reminder: The following clubs still have end-of-the-year packets and/or awards to pick up from the Extension Office. Please call Sherry (937-548-5215) to arrange a pick-up time. Appointments for pick-up times are cancelled until after January 15:

- Ansonia 4-H
- Champion Drive
- DC Swine
- Jr. Nifty Neave
- Show Hoppers
- This & That
- Banner Bound
- DC Rabbit Raisers
- Fun Bunch
- Kountry Kids
- Stable Mates
- Barnyard Boosters
- DC Sheep & Lamb
- Genesis
- Rabbit Habbit
- Swine Koolers

News You Can Use:

1. **Online enrollment: the 4-H Online data base has been updated** and looks quite different from what you used last year. I will be posting information on how to enroll for 2021 on the website next week. I will also cover this during the upcoming volunteer/club update.
meetings. **Please note that we will not be using any paper enrollment forms this year. All members, including first-year, will be required to enroll themselves online. Please throw away any old enrollment forms that you have laying around and do not give them to potential first-year members for 2021.** Those forms will not work with the new database as the information required is not in the same order or format. Once I have the new enrollment information posted, I will send an email to organizational advisors to let them know. All advisors will need to re-enroll themselves as well. More on this topic to come soon.

2. **2021 Activity Fee:** the Darke County 4-H Committee has voted to waive the $5.00/member activity fee for 2021.

3. **Boredom Buster Snowman Contest:** the Darke County 4-H Committee is sponsoring a snowman building contest. Spark your creativity and build a snowman from items found around the house. Deadline to enter is January 22. Voting will take place on the Darke County 4-H Facebook page, January 25-27. For details, visit go.osu.edu/snowman21.

4. **2021 Calendar:** Due to the uncertainty related to COVID-19, a limited calendar for January-March as been posted to the website. The remainder of the calendar will be available soon. [https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/2021-darke-county-4-h-calendar-january-through-march](https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/2021-darke-county-4-h-calendar-january-through-march)

5. **Volunteer/Club Update meetings** will be held virtually and are scheduled to begin in mid-January. For complete information and to register for your session, visit [https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_096d0AaOniolpsF](https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_096d0AaOniolpsF)

6. **New 4-H Volunteer Application:** anyone who wishes to apply to become a 4-H volunteer for 2021 must complete and submit a New 4-H Volunteer Application by February 15, 2021. Details available on the web: [go.osu.edu/darke4hvolunteer21](http://go.osu.edu/darke4hvolunteer21)


8. **Mental Health Training Opportunity for volunteers:** January is Ohio 4-H Mental Health Awareness Month. All month we will have virtual opportunities for youth and volunteers to learn more about mental health on our website and Facebook pages, as well as virtual SPIN Clubs and volunteer trainings.

You are invited to attend the Ohio 4-H Volunteer Mental Health Training series each Wednesday in January. These trainings will be held virtually on ZOOM from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Each training is stand alone, so you can pick and choose which training(s) you’d like to attend.

- January 6 – Mental Health 101
- January 13 – Typical Adolescence vs. Emerging Mental Health Problems
- January 20 – Trauma Informed Approaches Training
January 27 – Recognizing the signs and symptoms of Suicide and Non-Suicidal Self-Injury

To register for any of the trainings, please go to http://go.osu.edu/4HMHtraining.

9. **4-H Poetry Writing SPIN Club**: this is a virtual opportunity for any aspiring writers in grades 7-12. Meetings will be held on Wednesdays during February and March. For more information or to register, visit go.osu.edu/spinpoet

10. **New Year, New You SPIN Club** - it’s a great resolution for 2021! Youth in grades 5-8 are invited to this cool new 4-H SPIN Club all about making YOUR best better. Zoom sessions every Sunday from Feb. 7-Mar. 14. Sign up at go.osu.edu/spinnyn (P.S. There’s a cool swag bag for the first 40 registrations!)

11. **Club Meeting Toolkit**: Attention club advisors! Visit go.osu.edu/clubmeetingtoolkit for resources to assist you with making your club meetings more efficient.

12. **2020 Honor Club Scoresheet**: Due to opportunities created by the pandemic, the Honor Club Scoresheet for 2020 has been updated and additional point opportunities added. Please submit your completed form to our office by January 15 (Deadline extended to January 31). You can scan and email it to williams.418@osu.edu, send it via snail mail, or put in our drop box by the front doors. The link to the revised scoresheet can be found online: https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/club-resources

13. **Premier Member Form**: Due to circumstances created as a result of COVID-19, the Premier Member Form has been revised for 2020. Please use the updated form for submitting this year’s points. You can find the form here: https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/member-resources Please note that there is a normal PDF and also a fillable PDF. Choose whichever one works best for you. Forms are due to the office by January 15, 2021. January 31, 2021.

14. **County Medal Form**: The County Medal Application is now available. You will find a PDF and a fillable PDF on the website. Both forms are the same. Choose the one that works best for you. https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/member-resources Deadline extended to January 31.

15. **Sharon Fourman Memorial Darke County 4-H Volunteer of the Year Award**: Do you know a 4-H volunteer who goes above and beyond when it comes to helping their 4-H club members. The application and complete information is available on our website: https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/sharon-fourman-memorial-darke-county-4-h-volunteer-year-award Deadline extended to January 31.
16. **Amazon Smile**: Shop at [smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1056844](http://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!)

17. **Club Officer Resources**: Several resources are available online for your club officers – from training videos to the actual officer books. Please share these resources with your club officers. [https://ohio4h.org/officerresources](https://ohio4h.org/officerresources)

18. **2021 Darke County 4-H T-Shirt Design Contest**: Put on your thinking cap and create your design! The Darke County 4-H Committee is sponsoring a t-shirt design contest for our 2021 Darke County 4-H t-shirt. Designs must be submitted by January 15, 2021 (Deadline extended to January 31) and voting will take place via social media. The contest is open to Darke County 4-H members currently in grades 5-12. First place will receive $100 and a free t-shirt with their winning design; second place receives $50.00 and third receives $25.00.

   Guidelines are available on the website: [https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/2021-darke-county-4-h-t-shirt-design-contest](https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/2021-darke-county-4-h-t-shirt-design-contest)

19. Check out the [2021 Family Guide](https://ohio4h.org/familyguide) and begin planning your 4-H projects for the coming year. In the near future, each 4-H family will have one copy of the 2021 Family Guide mailed to your household.

20. **4-H EZ: Recipe for 4-H Community Club Success**: Hey, 4-H Volunteers! Want to make your 4-H club work “EZ”? Check out the “4-H EZ for Community Clubs” Online Volunteer Training. This training includes videos, handouts, and resources designed just for you! [http://bit.ly/4-HEZ](http://bit.ly/4-HEZ)

21. **The 2021 Ohio 4-H Conference will be held virtually**: Saturday, February 20 (9am-11:35am and 1:00pm-3:35), Tuesday, February 20 (7pm-9pm), and Thursday, February 25 (7pm-9:00pm). The session schedule will be available soon. This is a wonderful opportunity to refresh your 4-H volunteer skills from the comfort of your own home!

22. **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.

Please reach out if you have questions or concerns. For now, the best way to reach me is via email: williams.418@osu.edu. You may also call 937-548-5215 or my direct line 937-569-5003.