February has arrived! By now you should have planned or held your first club meeting and have elected your officers. Download your officer books from this website: https://ohio4h.org/officerresources Be sure that you are using current and up-to-date officer books for your club records.

Family Guides have begun arriving in your mailboxes. Our thanks to the Kroger Corporation for their generous donation to cover the cost of mailing a Family Guide to each 4-H family in the state of Ohio.

Continue to practice social distancing as needed and encourage those who are not feeling well to stay home. Masks are optional.

Remember, 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.

News You Can Use:

1. **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 Registration deadline to the Extension Office is February 11. The earlier you register, the better. Sessions fill up quickly.

2. **Spring Recognition and Kick Off** will be held Sunday, March 6, 2pm, Radiant Lighthouse. We will be recognizing outstanding officer books, leadership and achievement award winners, honor clubs, premier members, county medal winners, and more! Hands Across the Darke will be collecting items for Rustic Hope. If you would like to donate, they will be accepting diapers, wipes, and non-perishable food items. Also, each club is asked to donate one or two non-perishable items for door prizes. Door prizes can be brought to the Extension Office ahead of time or brought to Radiant the day of kick off (preferred).

3. **Darke County 4-H Skating Party** is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 6:00pm-8:30pm at Skate Zone 805, Greenville. Admission is free and skate rental will be paid by the Darke County 4-H Committee. Hands Across the Darke is a co-sponsor of the event. Encourage your club members to wear their club t-shirts as the three clubs with the highest percentage of club members in club t-shirts will receive a cash award for their club!

4. **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

5. 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/
6. Greater Grand Lake Beekeepers Association (GGLBA) will host its 8th annual Beginning Beekeeping Class on March 12, 2022 at Grace Missionary Church in Celina, Ohio. The class will begin at 8:00 AM and last until 5:00 PM. Participants will learn everything they need to know to begin keeping bees themselves. Topics will cover all aspects of beekeeping. Demonstrations will show attendees how to assemble hive bodies and frames and install foundation. Contact Cara Keller ckeller98@gmail.com for additional information.

7. 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/

8. 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

9. 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

10. 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

   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.

11. 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 March 1 and they will be baking cookies for the residents of Rest Haven. Join us!

12. Quality Assurance information is available online: 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.

13. 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 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!)
14. **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