Please join us in welcoming Teresa Rusler-Heiss as our new Office Associate! We are excited to have her join our team. The next time you stop by the office, introduce yourself and give her a warm welcome!

THANK YOU to our wonderful volunteers who attended an update meeting! We are happy to have you back for another exciting year of 4-H! (Reminders were emailed to those who still need to complete the Policy 1.50 training.)

THANK YOU to everyone who picked up turkeys today! Special thanks for Heidy May and Susan Peele for handling the pick-up process. As you begin to care for your birds, be sure to follow biosecurity recommendations to keep your poultry safe. Do not co-mingle turkeys and other chickens and limit the access that wild birds have to your flock. Check out this youtube presentation for helpful information: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnseqPmzJO4

News You Can Use:

1. **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza** has been found in a backyard flock in Franklin County. 4-H members with backyard flocks should increase their biosecurity practices to protect their flocks. Biosecurity information is available online: https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/animal-health/resources/02.25.2022HPAIUpdate and https://ohio4h.org/news/avian-influenza-biosecurity-practices

2. **Darke County 4-H Communications Contest**: guidelines and entry information are now available. The contest will be held Monday, June 6, 7pm, Extension Office. NEW this year: Cloverbuds may participate by coming and saying the 4-H Pledge. Cloverbuds will receive a 4-H prize for participating. All other contest divisions have cash awards. For details, visit website: https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/2022-darke-county-4-h-communications-contest
   To register, go to: go.osu.edu/22communicationscontest

3. **Cloverbud Volunteer Training** will be held Monday, April 25, 7pm, Extension Office. This is for new Cloverbud volunteers, as well as any current Cloverbud volunteer who would like a refresher course.

4. **4-H Master Clothing Educators** will host several textile and clothing project clinics via Zoom. Beginner Level – April 13; Intermediate Level: April 25; and Advanced Level – May 2. Contact our office for the registration links.

5. **Ohio 4-H Night at the Dayton Dragons**: Join us for a fun evening of baseball on Saturday, May 7 with a 7:05pm start time. The pre-game parade of counties is back prior to the game. Tickets are $10.00 each and can be purchased online: www.go.osu.edu/ohio4hdaytondragons

6. You can help 4-H celebrate Earth Day with the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources! 4-H’ers and clubs are invited to present a program or demonstration during the weekend of April 22-24 at selected Ohio State Parks. It’s a great way to complete leadership activities in natural resources projects or share your earth-friendly activity! Selected programs will be recognized this summer at the Ohio State Fair at the ODNR Park. Find all the details here and apply by March 14.
7. **Quality Assurance Test-Out** will be offered Friday, April 15 and Monday, April 18. Visit [go.osu.edu/22qatest](go.osu.edu/22qatest) for details or to register.

8. **Ohio 4-H SPARK EXPO** pre-registration is now available! Ohio 4-H will host this event June 16-18 on the Columbus campus for youth who will complete 8th grade at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year. [https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5neGGLYZlKvYq54](https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5neGGLYZlKvYq54)

9. Download your **officer books** from this website: [https://ohio4h.org/officerresources](https://ohio4h.org/officerresources) Be sure that you are using current and up-to-date officer books for your club records.

10. **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 May 3. Join us!

11. **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.

12. **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!)

13. **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