

eClover: Darke County 4-H News**August 5, 2022**

August is here and that means the Great Darke County Fair is just around the corner! Entries have been made, projects are being finished, and the anticipation of seeing friends, competing in various departments, and enjoying fair food has begun.

Fair is a time to celebrate your successes and demonstrate what you have learned through hard work during this year. Not everyone can win a blue ribbon or a trophy, but everyone can improve their skills and work hard to achieve goals. Fair participation gives us an idea of how we have improved and what we need to work on in 2023.

Fair is not a time to exhibit poor sportsmanship or being a 'sore loser'. When we don't do as well as we wish, it's easy to blame the judge, fellow competitors, or our animal. Be accountable for your actions. Things don't always go as planned and that's part of life. How you handle disappointment says a lot about you as a person. Congratulate the winners and be a gracious loser. Likewise, be a gracious winner. Congratulate others and thank the judge for their time.

Animals do not always cooperate. Even the best trained animal may have an off day at the fair. Do not take your frustrations out on your project animal. Remember that as an exhibitor, you are 'on stage' 24/7. Fair goers and younger members in your barn are watching. Your behavior affects public perception of the fair, our 4-H program, and the agricultural industry, too. Be a good role model and portray yourself and our program in a positive manner.

Most importantly, have fun! Enjoy your favorite fair food and celebrate the end of summer! A new school year will be here before you know it.

News You Can Use:

1. **Towne Squares Quilt Club** will present its 39th annual quilt show on Sept. 23 and 24th in the youth building at the Darke Co. Fairgrounds. The Youth category was added to their last show and was a huge success. They will have an opportunity for youth up to age 18 to participate in this category. The item entered can be any size or color but must be quilted or tied to be eligible for ribbon consideration. Examples would include but not be limited to a quilt, quilted table runner, quilted placemat or quilted play mat. They are excited to see what this group can imagine and interpret into a fabric project! Entries accepted at the Youth building, Sept 21st 4-7pm and Thursday Sept 22nd, 9-11am. Call or text Pam Mahorney at 937-529-6915 or email petuniaflowers@rocketmail.com with any questions.
2. **Hands Across the Darke** will not be meeting in August. The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 6, 7:00pm, Extension Office.
3. Looking for **Junior Fair** information? Skillathon information, royalty applications, link to make online entries and more can be found on the Jr. Fair website:
<http://darkecountyjrfair.com/index.html>
4. **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!

Reminder: The best way to reach me is by using the phone number or email below. Do not utilize Facebook Messenger as I have removed the App from my phone due to spam/scam messages. I do not spend a lot of time on Facebook so I often miss messages until days after they have been sent.

My personal cell phone number should only be utilized in the event of an emergency.

Questions? Contact Rhonda at 937-569-5003 or williams.418@osu.edu