

Dear Friend in 4-H,

We're back! After a two-week break for everyone to enjoy the Great Darke County Fair, eClover is back. I hope you had a chance to enjoy the fair and relax with your families. Now is the time for 4-H members to begin thinking about next year and setting goals. What did they learn this year? What do they need to improve in order to be where they would like to be next year? *"You never know what you are capable of, until you try."*

During the fair I had the opportunity to host a delegation from Ghana. They are hoping to start a similar event in their home city. What an honor it was to show them around the fair! Oftentimes we take what we have for granted and do not always realize and appreciate our opportunities. It was nice to view the fair through their eyes.

There is a lot of new information in this edition of the eClover, so please read it carefully!

Here's what's happening:

1. **End of the Year Packets:** Packets will be available for pick-up after Thursday, September 7. Packets include membership certificates, pins, volunteer reenrollment forms, 2018 enrollment surveys, leadership and achievement award forms, and more. Please pick these up at your earliest convenience.

2. **New in 2018: The 4-H age-grade policy will change in Calendar Year 2018.**

THE CURRENT 4-H AGE-GRADE POLICY IS: Ohio 4-H membership is based on a child's age AND grade. Cloverbud eligibility begins when a child is enrolled in kindergarten and is five years old as of January 1 of the current year. Cloverbud participation ends when a child is eligible for competitive events, 4-H projects, and other older youth activities, which is age eight and in the third grade as of January 1 of the current year. Membership requires enrollment in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or an approved adult volunteer. A youth's 4-H eligibility ends December 31 the year they turn 19. Joining Ohio 4-H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University.

THE NEW 4-H AGE-GRADE POLICY IS: Ohio 4-H membership is based on a child's age AND grade as of January 1 of the current calendar year. Eligibility for Cloverbud participation begins when a child is age 5 and enrolled in kindergarten. Eligibility for participation in 4-H projects and competitive events begins when a child is age 8 and in third grade. Any youth age 9 or above is eligible for project membership, regardless of grade level. Membership requires enrollment in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or an approved adult volunteer. A youth's 4-H eligibility ends December 31 the year he or she turns 19. Joining Ohio 4 H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University.

Basically the change is that 9 year olds are eligible for project membership. Questions? Don't be afraid to ask.



3. **Texas Strong:** If you have been watching the news, you know that the destruction caused by Hurricane Harvey in Texas is devastating. Our 4-H friends in Texas tell us that the best way to help is to donate. If your club would like to assist Texas 4-H, visit <https://texas4hfoundation.org/give/>
4. The Erie County 4-H Committee will be sponsoring a **4-H Day during HalloWeekends at Cedar Point** in Sandusky, Ohio on Saturday, September 23, 2017. Any 'friend of 4-H' (so basically anyone) can take advantage of this deal simply by buying tickets at the 4-H groups sales booth the day of the event. Cost is \$42 person, including admission to Dinosaurs Alive! You will save \$27 off of the gate price. Contact our office for a copy of the informational flyer.
5. **Ohio 4-H Health Hero Applications** are due October 1, 2017. Any teen in grades 9-12 interested in becoming a state-level 4-H Health Hero is invited to apply. The 4-H Health Heroes program provides youth with the opportunity to represent 4-H and promote healthy living in their communities. Teens who serve as Health Heroes will gain valuable leadership experience, be able to teach a variety of health-related topics to people of all ages, and have a chance to travel to Washington D.C. for the National Youth Summit on Healthy Living (if selected). Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by October 6th. A required training will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017. Additional information, requirements to serve, and the application can be found on this website: <https://ohio4h.org/healthheroes> Darke County's Molly Hunt serves on this statewide team.
6. **National 4-H Service Project - WW1 Memorial:** The National Junior Master Gardener 4-H program has partnered with the WW1 Memorial Commission on a national service project for 4-H youth to be involved with building the WW1 Memorial. The Junior Master Gardener program is proud to promote because it ties to gardening! Groups can make a donation of \$64.99 and receive 60 poppy seed packets from the WW1 Memorial Commission. They can then sell the seeds to support their program. The recommended selling price is \$2 per seed packet which would generate \$120. Basically the first dollar goes to fund the National WW1 memorial and the second dollar stays local for the 4-H club, school group, etc. to support their activities/programs. We are promoting through all of our JMG groups and state partners, but this is open for any and all 4-H groups. It is a great opportunity for youth to learn more about WW1, while also being a part of a national service project. Groups can start now, but the big push is between Sept. 5 and October 20th. Representatives from 4 winning groups will be invited to experience an expense paid trip to the groundbreaking of the National WW1 Memorial in Washington DC in November. Many resources, learning experiences and details on how to participate in the poppy project can be found at the website: <http://jmgkids.us/poppy/>
7. **Premier Member Award:** Remind your 4-H club members to complete the application to be a Premier 4-H Member. Applications are due January 19, 2018. Recipients will be recognized during our spring kick-off in March. <https://darke.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/premier-4-h-member-award>
8. **Ohio 4-H Night at the Cincinnati Reds:** The game will be on Saturday, Sept. 16th vs. the Pittsburgh Pirates. This year tickets can be purchased online at reds.com/4h.

9. **4-H Forestry and Wildlife Camp** – September 15-17: Are you interested in natural resources and want a camping experience totally dedicated to exploring the outdoors through forestry and wildlife education? Then 4-H Forestry and Wildlife Camp at Canters Cave in Jackson from September 15-17 is just for you. Campers will explore tree identification, wildlife habitat study, animal identification, orienteering, map reading, outdoor cooking and shooting sports disciplines during camp.
<https://vinton.osu.edu/sites/vinton/files/imce/Forestry%20and%20Wildlife%20Camp%202017.pdf>
10. **Ohio Cheviot Breeders Association Starter Flock Award:** seeking applicants for the Jim Cluff Memorial Starter Flock Award. The contest winner will receive the following: a one-year membership in the OCBA, one bred ewe the first year, one ram the second year and in the third year the youth will donate a lamb to continue the award. The application deadline is September 30th. For an application and contest rules please contact Bob Hunter at (614)483-3202 or at rpkjhunter@msn.com
11. **Darke County 4-H Cloverbud Rocks!** is gaining momentum! On Tuesday during the fair, Hands Across the Darke made rocks and paint available to fair goers. We now have several painted rocks ready to distribute across the county. If your club would like to get involved and needs rocks, contact our office. I have three boxes of rocks that I will share.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/278793642533944/>
12. **Early Bird Reporter News:** Please remind your reporters to send your club's reports to the Early Bird by the last business day of each month. Reports should be 150 words or less and emailed to Ryan Berry: editor@earlybirdpaper.com Our 4-H news page will be published the second Sunday of the month.
13. For those of you who shop on Amazon, the Darke County 4-H Committee is now part of the AmazonSmile charitable donation list. Here is our unique identifier:
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1056844> Even though it comes up as The Ohio State University, you will be supporting the Darke County 4-H Committee. Feel free to share this with family and friends who shop on Amazon.

Enjoy your Labor Day Weekend!

Best Wishes,

Rhonda Williams

Rhonda Williams
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4-H Youth Development
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Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, September 5: Hands Across the Darke, 7:00pm, Extension Office.