

## 2024 Fayette County 4-H Club Policies

### MEMBERSHIP

- A. 4-H membership is open to all boys and girls regardless of race, color, national origin, age, handicap, sex, or religion. 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. Participation must be in a group with a planned series of education experiences (project), with an advisor (volunteer), and under the direction and within the scope of Ohio State University Extension.
- B. \* All 4-H members must be enrolled with a project(s) in a Fayette County 4-H Club by **March 1<sup>st</sup>**. **Late entries will be accepted until March 8<sup>th</sup> with a \$25-dollar late fee, in addition to traditional membership fees**, to participate at the Fayette County Jr. Fair or the Ohio State Jr. Fair. No late enrollment will be accepted after March 8<sup>th</sup> that wish to exhibit at the county and state fair. Youth may join 4-H after the deadline but are not eligible to exhibit at the county or state fair.
- C. A member of the Fayette County 4-H Program must be a full-time resident of Fayette County. Cross county line rules for Ohio 4-H states that "any change motivated by perceived competitive or sale advantage, any change due to controversial issues, or other similar motivations will be automatically rejected". Persons from across the county lines: must submit an application requesting a change in county membership to the 4-H Educator in the county in which they are requesting. A joint decision from the 4-H Educator in the "county of residence" and the "county of request" must approve the request for membership "across the county lines."
- Fayette County does not accept "Cross-County Line Members" unless the youth:
    1. Began their 4-H membership in Fayette County and was in good standing (i.e. completed projects and met all county requirements the year before applying for cross county membership. (i.e.: applying in 2022 and was a member in 2021.)) The member may not have a gap in-between county membership and applying for cross county lines.
    2. Attends one of the three Fayette County School districts (Miami Trace, Washington C.H., or Fayette Christian)
    3. Has a court ordered custody and/or difficult situation, that will be discussed privately with the Extension Educators of both counties, before a decision will be determined.
  - **All "Across County Line Forms" must be received in the Fayette County Extension Office by February 15<sup>th</sup>.**



- Any **misrepresentation** of why a youth joined 4-H in Fayette County will be re-evaluated and may have to join 4-H in their home county.
- 4-H membership that has been transferred to another county or Fayette County is permanent and cannot be transferred back to county of residence.

D. \* 4-H members will pay an **activity fee of \$10.00** for each Fayette County 4-H year. If a member belongs to two 4-H clubs, then each club will collect \$5.00 (4-H members will pay no more than a total of \$10.00 per year.) Organizational advisors must turn in their members' activity fees when the enrollment forms are due. Checks should be made out to the **Fayette County 4-H**. Cloverbuds have a \$5.00 Flat Fee, no multiple family member discounts.

Activity Fee's for Multi Children Families	Activity Fees in multiple Clubs (per child)	
1 = \$10.00	Club 1 = \$5.00	Club 2 = \$5.00
2 = \$20.00		
3 = \$30.00		
4 = \$35.00		
5 = \$40.00		

E. The **Fayette County 4-H Calendar** year begins on **November 1, 2023**, and ends **October 31, 2024** for club records.

## PROJECTS

- A. Project Completion: Does not require exhibiting at the fair. 4-H members must have completed the minimum meeting requirements (6 meetings), any additional club requirements, and present their projects to an advisor or the club if not attending project judging. For livestock exhibitors the following plus completion of Quality Assurance (For market/lactating animal projects), EquiSTEP for Horse projects, Skillathon and a Book Check are required to complete the project. If exhibiting at the fair or project judging is not available, presenting to an advisor or the club is optional.
- Horse, Dog, Tractor, and Shooting Sports projects must participate in project specific clubs.
- B. It is recommended that first year traditional 4-H Club members (not including Cloverbud membership years) unless they are 10 or older in 4-H years (by January 1<sup>st</sup>) enroll in a total of two 4-H projects (excluding projects taken as a group or project taken in the 4-H Tractor Club).
- C. **Market Livestock (swine, sheep, meat goats, with the exception of steers, feeders, market rabbits and broilers)** must be in possession and care of the 4-H member by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- D. **Market Steer and Market Heifers** must be in the possession and care of the 4-H member by **December 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- E. All other projects (**i.e., breeding heifers, breeding gilts, show rabbits, breeding goats, breeding sheep, dogs, and horses**) must be in the possession and daily care of the 4-H member by **May 15<sup>th</sup>**.

- a. **Horses/ponies** must be stalled or pastured in **Fayette County by May 15 and cannot be boarded at a trainer without permission and proper paperwork.** Horses boarded must complete the boarding papers and return to the **Fayette County Agricultural Society (Senior Fair Board)** by May 15. If the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on the weekend, paperwork will be accepted the following Tuesday (Ag Society is closed on Mondays).
- F. A 4-H member who is taking a **horse project** (excluding the Horseless Horse Project) **must turn in a Horse ID sheet by 5:00 pm on May 15<sup>th</sup> to the Fayette County Agricultural Society (Senior Fair Board) and complete EquiSTEP by June 3**  
Horse lease papers are also due on May 15. If the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on the weekend, paperwork will be accepted the following Tuesday (Ag Society is closed on Mondays).
- G. Eligible youth may be members of 4-H and Vocational Agriculture and/or Vocational Home Economics organizations but need to take **separate and different** projects. Examples of separate and different projects: Market lambs and sheep breeding. Further examples can be found on page 5 of the 4-H Family Guide.
- H. All livestock exhibitors must comply with the current livestock rules in the Current Junior Fair section of the Fayette County Agricultural Society Fair Book and the Ohio Department of Agriculture. A copy of the rules is available at the Senior Fair Board office at the county fairgrounds.
- I. All Hog Notch Identification cards are due to the **Fayette County Agricultural Society (Senior Fair Board.)** by **May 15<sup>th</sup>**. If the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on the weekend, paperwork will be accepted the following Tuesday.
- J. Weigh-in dates will be shared by **Fayette County Agricultural Society (Senior Fair Board.)**
- K. 4-H Club officer books are available at <http://www.ohio4h.org/families/members/officer-resources/>. These books may be printed off. If you don't have internet access, the Fayette County Extension Office can print the officer book at a cost of \$5.00.

## PROJECT BOOKS

- A. Project Books must be ordered by each club using a book order form. Please give the office at least three weeks for your order. Individual ordering will be restricted.
- B. Books must be paid for using a lump sum for the club (club check or cash). No project changes can be made (except drops) after March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- C. New books for livestock/animal projects must be purchased every year, except resource books for reference.
- D. Books **must be checked at the Extension Office prior to or at the skillathon to complete the 4-H project.** All members must complete all required pages to show at the county fair and/or state fair. **Members must be present** to have the project book checked and answer project questions. Book checks begin June 1 of each year for members who have tested out of skillathons. For youth still taking a skillathon, the book check is part of the skillathon.

#### 4-H ELIGIBILITY AND CLUB REQUIREMENTS

- A. Each 4-H club member must have six (6) regular club business meetings of each club he/she is a member of, and 1 must be an approved 4-H activity other than a report or demonstration. For each club, the 4-H activity must have the approval of the advisor. Members who switch to a new club before the county enrollment deadline may not use the former club meetings attended by the member as part of the required six club meetings of the new club's attendance. Members who join two 4-H clubs are **required to attend six (6) club meetings in each club**, i.e. the 4-H member belongs to the Tractor Club and the Future Stars 4-H Club has to attend a total of twelve meetings (six meetings for Tractor Club and six meetings for Future Stars 4-H Club).
- a. **All clubs need to provide a minimum of 6 meetings post March 1.**
  - b. One regular meeting must be made up by attending a club, county, or state 4-H activity. It must be an educational experience, preferably a 4-H member attending a make-up activity related to their 4-H project. (Not Teen Leadership Meetings). Any member attending a make-up activity is required to bring an item from the make-up activity to the next 4-H club meeting to share with the members and/or advisor.
  - c. A member who joins after his/her club has had several meetings or is a college student, must still attend the six mandatory meetings along with any other requirements, i.e., quality assurance or skillathon, to be eligible to exhibit at the Fayette County and/or Ohio State Jr. Fair.
- B. 4-H Club members are required to meet their clubs' requirements to be eligible for participation at the county and/or state fair, i.e., the Horse Wrangler Club's constitution states "a member must attend four indoor business meetings and eight outdoor riding meetings with their horse at the fairgrounds to show at the county fair." This is an example of a club having more requirements than the county rules. The club must have their requirements in their constitution and every member must receive a copy to uphold the club rules.
- C. To be an official 4-H club and to participate at the Jr. Fair, a club must have a minimum of five members and one advisor.
- D. All 4-H Clubs are required to write a **Club Constitution (using the State template as a guide)** and submit it to the Extension Office by **March 1st**. Club members must vote on Club Constitution and each member must be given a copy. **Club Constitutions must adhere to Fayette County 4-H policies.**
- E. All 4-H clubs must have a **completed 4-H Meeting Form submitted by March 1**. A list of meeting dates including location needs to be provided.
- F. All 4-H clubs are strongly encouraged to support county 4-H fundraisers.
- G. All 4-H Clubs are required to work a shift at the 4-H Chuckwagon with enough members, parents, and advisors present.

- H. All 4-H clubs are strongly encouraged to display members' projects or books in a designated booth with their club. Items are displayed at your own risk.
- I. All 4-H Clubs must have a club checking account.
- J. All 4-H Clubs need to be a chartered 4-H club through the county Extension Office. All clubs will need a tax-exempt number (EIN) for the federal government.
- K. Members may not switch 4-H clubs after the county enrollment deadline unless officially approved by the county 4-H Extension Educator.

#### **4-H ADVISORS (Volunteers)**

- A. To be a 4-H Advisor in Fayette County the following must be completed and approved:
  - 1. Complete an Ohio 4-H Volunteer/Advisor Application
    - Must have three references listed with all the contact information (address, phone and email)
  - 2. Have a BCI Background Check done.
    - Cannot have a felony
    - Some misdemeanors will need to be reviewed
  - 3. Schedule an interview with the 4-H Professional.
  - 4. Attend new advisor orientation and training.
  - 5. All requirements must be completed before the new advisor training date.
  - 6. Sign an Ohio State Standards of Behavior and uphold the Ohio and Fayette County 4-H policies.
- B. All 4-H Advisors must attend 4-H Club meetings on a regular basis. Advisors may only miss a total of two meetings per year.
- C. Advisors are required to give advice and assistance to any and all 4-H members, **FREE OF CHARGE**, along with providing county 4-H information.
- D. Advisors need to encourage youth to help set the club agendas, conduct the meetings, hold offices along with giving officer reports, give a demonstration or illustrated talk, participate in club and county activities/events/programs and support the 4-H program.

#### **CLUB MEETINGS**

- A. Local 4-H Clubs must have a business meeting consisting of:
  - One advisor present and at least half of the members present
  - Follow Robert's Rules and an Agenda: Pledges, roll call, secretary report, treasurer report, officers reports, old business, new business, (optional – demonstrations & guest speakers)
  - The location and length of club meetings should be stated in each club's constitution and are at the discretion of the organizational advisor. Two or more club meetings may not be conducted on the same day, and count as two or more meetings. It will count as one meeting.

- Project work meetings must be scheduled. One advisor and two member must be present. Attendance must be taken by the advisor.
  - Constitution and 4-H Meeting Date Forms with times and location must be turned into the Extension office by March 1.
  - Meetings must be over a half hour in length with an agenda.
  - Demonstrations and reports are not to be counted as an additional meeting.
- B. 4-H Club attendance records of meetings will be kept by the club secretary and the organizational advisor. The Fayette County 4-H Attendance Record will be signed by all club advisors and the club secretary to be turned into the Fayette County Ag. Society by June 21 (may change due to fair date) to receive their wristbands.

**FAIR PARTICIPATION (Fair dates have not been officially set, so dates are tentative.)**

- A. Fair participation is **OPTIONAL**. We will continue to encourage 4-H members to exhibit at the Fayette County Jr. Fair and the Ohio State Jr. Fair as an **educational** experience.
- B. To be eligible to participate in the County and/or Ohio State Jr. Fair:
- Members must be enrolled in a 4-H project (**see section 1A**)
  - **To participate at the State Junior Fair, the exhibitor must be enrolled in the project.** (For examples, a market project to exhibit a market project, a breeding project to exhibit a breeding project). All Fayette County requirements – skillathons, quality assurance, book completion, and meeting requirements must be fulfilled by exhibitor. Exhibitor must be in good standing.
  - **Members must attend 6 club meetings by June 18<sup>th</sup> with 1 excused makeup meetings.** Each 4-H club member must have credit for six meetings of each club he/she is a member, one of which can be an excused absence. For each club, excused absences must be made up with the approval of the advisor.
  - All advisors and the secretary must sign the attendance sheet to be turned into the Sr. Fair Board Office **by June 18, 2024**, to receive a Jr. Fair exhibitor pass. Only youth exhibiting projects at the fair will be able to receive a pass.
  - All livestock members (except those that received a grade of 95% before 2014 on their skillathon for that specie(s)) **MUST PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERVIEW/SKILLATHON JUDGING BEFORE THE FAIR TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE AND RECEIVE A FAIR PASS.**
  - Market livestock participants (dairy, goats, sheep, swine, rabbits, poultry, cattle) must attend a mandatory Quality Assurance Program before **June 3, 2024 and** participate in a scheduled Fayette County Skillathon to exhibit at the County and/or State Jr. Fair. Make-up interviews must be scheduled ahead of time with 4-H Educator, Family Consumer Sciences Educator, or the Ag. Extension Educator before the regular scheduled interviews. The only exceptions made are for illness or a family emergency. (See Annual Calendar for dates)
  - All Horse projects (excluding Horseless Horse) must participate and complete EquiSTEP training by June 3, 2024. If completed online a certificate must be submitted to the Extension office.
  - All 4-H Club meetings for attendance for Fair participation must be completed by June 18, 2024.
  - Project or record (feed) books must be completed for all projects exhibited at the Fayette County Junior Fair and the Ohio State Jr. Fair. **Members must bring completed project and record books to skillathon to be able to show and sell.** A member receiving a 95% and above, before 2014, on their species skillathon, must still have a completed project book checked by the skillathon date.

- i. Members can bring their book into the Extension Office beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> through the final Skillathon date. **The 4-H member must bring their book to be checked, not a parent, sibling, friend or advisor. Members will be asked questions pertaining to their book.**
  - **NO BOOK – NO SHOW – NO SALE**

**CLOVERBUDS**

- A. Cloverbud membership is open to a youth when a child has reached the **age 5 and enrolled in kindergarten** as of January 1 of the current year.
- B. The Cloverbud program is activity based. Cloverbud members are not eligible for any activities or projects designed for 9 – 19-year-old 4-H members. Cloverbuds are **not eligible** for any competitive events OR to hold a club officer position.
- C. Cloverbud members are eligible to participate at the County Jr. Fair but only for exhibits.
- D. All 4-H Cloverbuds must be enrolled in a Cloverbud club by March 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year to receive a fair pass.
- E. All 4-H Cloverbud members must have credit for 4 meetings of the club which he/she is a member.
- F. \* Cloverbud Fayette County Activity fee is \$5.00 per child. Please make checks out to Fayette Co 4-H. Cloverbuds are not part of the multiple family member discounts. \$5.00 flat fee.

<b>Cloverbud Fee Chart</b>	
1	= \$5.00
2	= \$10.00
3	= \$15.00
4	= \$20.00
5	= \$25.00