

2026 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 1st (Sunday).** **Late entries will be accepted until March 9th 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 9th 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.
- Office will make corrections March 2 through March 15th on enrollment errors for members who enrolled by March 1st (with no late fee).
- C. A member of the Fayette County 4-H Program must be a full-time resident of Fayette County. 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." If the request does not meet circumstances of consideration for the county, shared below, the request is transitioned to the state level.
- **All "Across County Line Forms" must be received in the Fayette County Extension Office by February 15th or the Monday after if the 15th should fall on a weekend.**
 - 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.



Circumstances and Considerations County Level Review - Common circumstances and considerations generally considered acceptable for cross county/state lines membership include:

- The school district, including homeschool co-op meeting location, in which the child attends is located across multiple counties. The child's school friends may therefore be members in a county other than where the child resides.
- The county of residence does not offer the specific 4-H program being sought, such as shooting sports. In such cases, a youth can request membership across the county lines to participate in a program not available in the county of residence.
- The parents of a child are separated or live in two different counties. A request for membership in the county in which the 4-H project work will be completed is reasonable. Parents may be asked to provide court documentation which verifies custody agreements.

State Level Review - county of residence and county of request forward the membership application when any of the following circumstances or conditions include:

- The parents/guardians of the 4-H members were members of the club in the other county so it is hoped the youth can have membership offering the same family legacy.
- The camp or county fair schedule in the other county better fits the family's vacation plans.
- The county fair schedule in the other county better fits the youth's school schedule.
- If animal projects are involved, the animal is housed in the other county. If this is the case, the 4-H member is encouraged to select an entirely different project. 4-H membership is based on the residence of the child, not the residence of the animal.
- County of residence and county of request forward the membership application when any other situation or condition not described in this guidance is included.

If the circumstances are not considered one or more the 'acceptable' reasons listed under the County Level Review, the county of request will forward it to the state level (emailed to 4hinformation@osu.edu). A subcommittee of county 4-H professionals may be convened to review requests that are forwarded to the state to make a recommendation to the Assistant Director/Associate State 4-H Leader.

The state 4-H office will then notify the county professionals of the final determination. The county office of request will send the final determination letter to the family.

Reasons that are not acceptable for granting a transfer of membership and will be denied if submitted include, but are not limited to:

- The Junior Fair Livestock auction prices are typically higher in the other county.
- The 4-H member is banned or suspended in the county of residence. Suspended membership is suspension of Ohio 4H membership, and thus the suspended member is not eligible to transfer membership to another county.

If the request is considered to be 'not acceptable,' the county of request will forward it to the state level (emailed to 4hinformation@osu.edu). The Assistant Director/Associate State 4-H Leader will review the request and make the determination the request will be denied. The state office will then notify the county professionals of the decision, who will then send the final determination letter to the family.

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, 2025**, and ends **October 31, 2026** 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.

- a. Horse, Dog, Tractor, and Shooting Sports projects must participate in project specific clubs.
- b. * Members must be 10 years old at minimum to join Tractor Club.

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 1st) 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 (with the exception of market turkey's and broilers, they have hatch dates)** must be in possession and care of the 4-H member by **the animal tag-in.**

- Market Steer and Market Heifers: December 6th
- Market Turkey's Hatch Date March 4th
- Market Lambs/Goats: May 2nd
- Beef/Dairy Feeders: May 2nd
- Market Hogs: May 15th (Ear Notch Cards Due)
- Market Chicken's Hatch Date: June 3rd
- Rabbit Tattooing: June 12th (Breed date March 15)

- D. 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 15th**.
- 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 15th falls on the weekend, paperwork will be accepted the following Tuesday (Ag Society is closed on Mondays).
- E. A 4-H member who is taking a **horse project** (excluding the Horseless Horse Project) **must turn in a Horse ID sheet by 4:00 pm on May 15th to the Fayette County Agricultural Society (Senior Fair Board) and complete EquiSTEP by June 3rd**. Horse lease papers are also due on May 15. If the 15th falls on the weekend, paperwork will be accepted the following Tuesday (Ag Society is closed on Mondays).
- F. 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 can be found on page 5 of the 4-H Project Guide.

	4-H	FFA
Allowable	Breeding Gilt	Market Hog
Allowable	Market Steer	Market Hog
Allowable	Welding (doorstop)	Welding (boot scraper, made for Ag Class)
Not Allowable	Market Lamb	Market Lamb
Not Allowable	Welding (boot scraper, made for Ag Class)	Welding (boot scraper, made for Ag Class)

- G. * All livestock exhibitors must comply with the Ohio Department of Agriculture Rules, Ohio Youth Livestock Exhibition Rules, current livestock rules in the Current Junior Fair section of the Fayette County Agricultural Society Fair Book, and Fayette County 4-H Policy. A copy of the fair rules is available at the Senior Fair Board office at the county fairgrounds.
- H. All Hog Notch Identification cards are due to the **Fayette County Agricultural Society (Senior Fair Board.)** by **May 15th**. If the 15th falls on the weekend, paperwork will be accepted the following Tuesday.
- I. Weigh-in dates will be shared by **Fayette County Agricultural Society (Senior Fair Board.)**
- J. 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 15th.
 - a. Project book order dates are as follows (due to us paying for shipping):
 - i. March 16
 - ii. March 23
 - iii. March 30
 - b. We will not take single book orders.
- 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 and be completed by the final skillathon. 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. 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. * **Members must attend 6 club meetings by June 17th with 2 excused makeup meetings.** Each 4-H club member must have credit for six meetings of each club he/she is a member, two of which can be an excused absence, with make-up from the approved list. Make-up meetings should not be a primary option for 4-H members, nor should they be preplanned to compensate for missed meetings. Regular meeting attendance is essential for member engagement, learning, and overall experience in the program. Members may count attending 4-H Camp as one meeting or participate in a Quality Assurance program as another. A third alternative is attending an educational program related to their project, approved by the club, and then providing a demonstration of what they learned. Attending an additional show does not qualify as a make-up meeting. Approved examples: attending a conference or seminar with a speaker on a topic – Junior Swine Day, Ohio 4-H Conference, Young Shepherds Expo, Dairy Palooza, Youth Poultry Clinic, Buckeye Shepherds Symposium, Beef Youth Council, Ohio Beef Youth Day.
 - 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. Zoom is acceptable if approved by the club advisors and filed with Extension office.

- 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 from three families 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 13th**. Club members must vote on Club Constitution and each member must be given a copy. **Club Constitutions and club by-laws must adhere to Fayette County 4-H policies.**
- E. All 4-H clubs must have a **completed 4-H Meeting Form submitted by March 13**. 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. Larger clubs may be asked to cover a second shift.
- 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 completed and approved.
 - Cannot have a felony

***Represents a change**

- 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. If concerns are shared by the club and co-advisors. Probation/dismissal of advisor status could occur.
- 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 13.
 - 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 18 (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.** (Examples, a market project to exhibit a market project, a breeding project to exhibit a breeding project). All

Fayette County requirements – tagins, 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 17th with 2 excused makeup meetings.** Each 4-H club member must have credit for six meetings of each club he/she is a member, two of which can be an excused absence with a make-up from the approved list.
- All advisors and the secretary must sign the attendance sheet to be turned into the Sr. Fair Board Office **by June 18, 2026**, 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, 2026**, and participate in a scheduled Fayette County Skillathon to exhibit at the County and/or State Jr. Fair.
- Project Judging 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). Those who attend make-up judging are not eligible for State Fair Participation.
- All Horse projects (excluding Horseless Horse) must participate and complete EquiSTEP training by June 3, 2026. A certificate must be submitted to the Extension office.
- All 4-H Club meetings for attendance for Fair participation must be completed by June 17, 2025.
- 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 1st 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 1st 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.

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

*** Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use**

- A. Ohio 4-H stance on artificial intelligence (AI) use:

“Artificial intelligence (AI) may be used to extend learning and assist in creation for Ohio 4-H projects. AI is meant to support a 4-H member’s work, much like asking other 4-H members or adults for help and is not intended as a replacement for the member’s original thoughts and efforts. If AI is used, it should be acknowledged as a tool when showcasing their project such as during demonstrations and judging, etc. For more information, please visit go.osu.edu/4HAI.”