

I PLEDGE
MY HEAD
 to clearer *thinking*
 MY HEART to greater
 loyalty
 MY TO
 HANDS LARGER SERVICE
 MY HEALTH
 to better living
 FOR MY CLUB & MY
 MY COMMUNITY WORLD.
 MY COUNTRY



A New Parent's 4-H Guide...

Making the Best Better For Your Child

Licking County 4-H - 2026

www.licking.osu.edu

740.670.5315 voice / 740.670.5317 fax

Making the Best Better in Licking County!

A Parents Guide... Making the Best Better for Your Child, originally written and developed by
 Patty House, OSU Extension, Clark County, 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator, 4400 Gateway
 Blvd., Suite 104, Springfield, OH 45502. 937-328-4607 house.18@osu.edu

Licking County Revision 01/2026

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clients on a
 nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity.

 **THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**
 COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
 AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



What Does My Child Need to Do in 4-H?

☛ For Club Meetings



- Attend six or more 4-H club meetings/activities.
- Participate in community service, fundraising, leadership and recreational activities.
- Come with a positive attitude, eager to “Learn by Doing” the 4-H Way through project work, demonstrations, & hands-on activities.
- Serve as a club officer, on a committee, or as a Teen Leader.
- Strive to excel in the four H’s...Head, Heart, Hands and Health by supporting club goals and activities.

☛ For Projects

- Select one or more 4-H projects to complete from the 4-H Family Guide (www.ohio4h.org) and / or 4-H Project Requirements booklet.
- Meet all project requirements and guidelines. Refer to the Licking County 4-H Project Requirements booklet at www.licking.osu.edu.
- Attend required programs for project participation... Tag-Ins, Weigh-Ins, Livestock Quality Assurance, Horse Safety & Ethics Programs, Skillathons, Project Judging, etc.
- All project animal possession dates can be found in the Hartford Fair Livestock Project Requirements Summary posted on the 4-H website (www.licking.osu.edu). This document also contains information such as how many animals can be exhibited, if there are any clinics being offered during the current year, and any health requirements that are in place in order to exhibit during the Hartford Fair.

☛ Project Judging

Clothing, Foods and Special Interest Projects:

- Attend Achievement Day / Project Book Judging to complete project.
- Bring up-to-date and/or complete project/record book.
- Be prepared for a one-on-one interview with an adult to answer questions about your 4-H project experience.
- Be patient while waiting for your turn to be judged or to go through the judging process. Review your project book or plan to be there with a parent or friend to spend some time talking about your 4-H experiences while waiting your turn.

PAS. Horse project members may choose to participate in Performance Against Standards (PAS) classes to qualify to participate in the Ohio State Fair Junior Horse Show. A member may show in a maximum of four classes and must qualify in two classes to show at the Ohio State Fair.

Premiums – Hartford Fair. Issued by Hartford Fair officials for completed projects based on participation and exhibition. Premiums are awarded at the end of each junior fair event, with the member being able to claim those premiums at the Intel Premium Bak the following day. Must be claimed during posted bank hours prior to the conclusion of the fair.

Project. The members use a project to explore a topic or interest area through hands-on activities, sequential learning experiences, goal setting and evaluation. 4-H’ers keep records and documentation of project experiences in a Project Book.

Project Judging. Evaluation of a project member’s knowledge through interview with an adult judge, review of project book records and exhibit of project item and/or educational display. Takes place on county Achievement Days.

Project Requirements. Outlines deadlines, project judging guidelines, resources, judging dates, county and beyond county opportunities and much more.

Skillathon. Evaluation of livestock member’s project knowledge through participating in hands-on skill stations that allow the member to apply knowledge / skill to real word situations.

State Fair Selection & Alternates. Member(s) selected to represent the county at the Ohio State Fair for a given project or project area. Counties may select one or more members per designated project or State Fair class to participate.

Tag-In, Weigh-In, Check-In. Date required to tag-in, weigh-in and / or identify your project animal for Junior Fair participation. Varies by species.

Volunteer Club Advisor. Dedicated, enthusiastic, caring adults that have completed a selection, screening and orientation process by OSU Extension. The current Ohio 4-H Volunteer Selection process includes a written application, reference checks, BCI background check, interview with Extension Educator, volunteer orientation, and annual training update.

Youth Food Animal Quality Assurance. Annual program (QA) required for members exhibiting market and lactating project animals by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Members can meet this requirement by attending a quality assurance program focusing on the 10 Good Production Practices. Extension Educators in cooperation with local Agriculture Societies determine county QA delivery and completion requirements within the State’s minimum standards.



What Is The 4-H Lingo?

Achievement Awards. 4-H members, age 14-18 as of January 1st, may apply for one of the more than twenty State Achievement Project Awards as well as the opportunity to attend a variety of State and National Conferences.

BSE (United Producers) Form. This form certifies that you have not fed any ruminant derived animal feeds to your project animal. Hartford Fair requires exhibitors of Market Steers, Dairy Feeders, Market Goats, and Market Lambs to complete and submit.

Camp. Members enjoy outdoor fun and adventure while learning and making new friends at 4-H Camp. Camping opportunities are available for Cloverbuds, members and teens with some focused in a particular project area.

Cloverbuds. 4-H members age 5 and in Kindergarten through 2nd grade or until they reach the age and grade requirements for 4-H project membership. Cloverbuds may not enroll in competitive 4-H Projects.

DUNF – Drug Use Notification Form. This form indicates your project animal has met all drug withdrawal periods at time of exhibition. ODA requires this form for exhibition of market steers, dairy feeders, market hogs, market lambs, market goats, meat turkeys, meat chickens, meat rabbits, lactating dairy goats or dairy cows. One per animal / pen.

Family Guide. Resource that lists all the 4-H projects including a brief project description, age guidelines, skill level and State Fair eligibility.

Fashion Revue / Style Show. Clothing project members model outfit sewn and/or purchased through their Clothing project experience. Outfit must include garment(s) sewn and/or purchased and selected accessories for a Total Look Outfit.

EquiSTEP Online Training Program. All 4-H horse project members must complete the EquiSTEP Online Training program annually by June 1st in order to be eligible to show / exhibit in the Licking County / Ohio 4-H Horse Program.

Junior Leaders. Teens may serve as junior leaders within a club as officers and peer mentors and at the county level as members of Junior Fair Board, Food & Fashion Board, Advisory Committees, CARTEENS facilitators, Camp Counselors and other opportunities.

Project Judging

Livestock Projects:

- Be prepared to participate in Skillathon consisting of four to five hands-on skill stations during the Hartford Fair. Use your project book, Resource Handbooks, Skillathon Kits, and attend Project Clinics and Workshops to prepare.
- Enter your livestock in appropriate species / breed / weight classes during Hartford Fair.

Horse Projects:

- Be prepared to participate in a one-on-one interview with an adult to answer questions about your 4-H project experience.
- Bring up-to-date and/or complete project/record book.

Dog Projects:

- Enter your dog(s) in appropriate classes during the Hartford Fair.
- Bring up-to-date and/or complete project/record book.

For Fair

- Make entry for the Hartford Fair on the required forms, by the deadline and don't forget to pay entry fees.
- The deadline to enter the Hartford Fair is Friday, June 26th. Late entry deadline (with late fees) is July 17th.
- Junior Fair exhibitors must pay \$3.00 per club for fair entries. This entry fee will cover the cost of their entries and provide them with an exhibitor wristband that provides entrance for each day of the fair.
- Hartford Fair information can be found online at www.hartfordfair.com
- Additional fair admission passes can be purchased in the Hartford Fair office for \$8.00 per day or \$45.00 for the entire week.
- Help with other members of your club, and other Junior Fair exhibitors as often as you can. The fair is even more fun when everyone has a positive welcoming experience.
- Bring 4-H projects by required exhibition times to the Fair.
- Care for animal projects throughout fair week. Keep stalls and animals clean, fed, watered and presentable to the public at all times.
- Show good sportsmanship before, during and after the Fair.

What Dates Do I Put On My Family's Calendar?

All of the Licking County 4-H Program dates can be found on the 4-H Calendar posted on online at www.licking.osu.edu > 4-H Youth Development > 4-H Calendar

4-H Enrollment Deadline – April 1, 2026

Last Day to Make Changes to Enrollment – April 30, 2026

Livestock Quality Assurance Trainings:

March 19 – Watkins H.S. (6:30 p.m.)

April 15 – Utica H.S. (6:30 p.m.)

April 23 – Licking Valley H.S. (6:30 p.m.)

May 7 – Northridge H.S. (6:30 p.m.)

May 20 – Johnstown H.S. (6:30 p.m.)

Licking County 4-H Summer Camp – June 17-21, 2026

Licking County 4-H Cloverbud Day Camp – May 30, 2026

Licking County 4-H Horse Shows:

June 19th Contesting / June 20th Western / June 21st English

June 27th Ohio State Fair (PAS) Horse Show Qualifier

July 17th Contesting / July 18th Western / July 19th English

Project Judging:

Early Project Judging – Friday, June 26, 2026 (by appt.) OSUE Office

Clothing Project Judging, Foods Project Judging and Special Interests

Project Interview Judging – Tuesday, July 7, 2026 / C-TEC, Newark

Style Revue - Thursday, July 16, 2026 – OSU Newark, Reese Center

Ohio State Fair - July 29 – August 9, 2026

Hartford Fair - August 9-15, 2026



What Does My Child's 4-H Club Expect From Me?

1. Help your child attend club meetings, activities and events. Notify the club advisor if your child can't attend a meeting / activity.
2. Help with the club and / or county fundraising events and pay your child's county participation fee and / or club dues.
3. Transport your child to all club meetings and activities.
4. Attend special events planned by the 4-H club.
5. Encourage and guide your child's project work. Don't do their work.
6. Read the 4-H mailings, Project Requirements Guide, Fair Book and other information with your child. Use the county 4-H website to print off 4-H newsletter, materials and forms, find project and fair requirements and find answers to questions.
7. Encourage your child to participate in club / county skillathons / project judging, clinics/workshops, 4-H camp(s), public speaking opportunities, Junior Fair events, and much more.
8. Encourage your child to keep up-to-date records and complete their projects to the best of their ability.
9. Model a positive attitude, good sportsmanship, respect and cooperation.
10. Assist with 4-H club activities in your areas of interest and expertise... teach a project skill, help with a community service project, plan a field trip, assist with fundraising, etc.
11. Help out the club... host a meeting, provide refreshments, sponsor an award.
12. Support the club by cooperating with club advisors and exhibiting a positive attitude towards your child's personal and club 4-H goals.

What Should I Expect From My 4-H Club and Advisors?

1. Notice of 4-H club meetings and/or a printed schedule of club meetings for the year.
2. Information provided at one of the first meetings:
 - 4-H Family Guide
 - 4-H Club Program, Calendar of Activities
 - Project Requirement Guide Resources
3. Information provided at all meetings:
 - Review of the 4-H Calendar, 4-H Email Updates from the Licking County Extension Office
 - Reminders of Upcoming Deadlines, Requirements, etc.
 - What's Coming Up in the Club and How My Child and I Can Get Involved?
4. Help in selecting, ordering and receiving Project Books for my child.
5. Hands-on and mind-on learning experiences for my child... project work, demonstrations, practice skillathons and/or project judging, field trips/tours, etc.
6. Opportunity for my child to give back to the community through service projects... flower gardens at the fairgrounds, adopt a family, picking up trash, etc.
7. Opportunity for my child to build leadership skills through serving as a club officer, on a committee, leading the American or 4-H pledges, participating in a business meeting, etc.
8. Opportunity for my child to have FUN with friends (new and old) through recreational, social, educational and/or competitive activities.
9. A welcoming place for my child and I to learn and grow through the 4-H Program and work together to "Make the Best Better".



4-H Awards – Application Deadlines

- County Achievement Awards, County Scholarships, and County Sponsored Trips – October 9, 2026
- State Awards and Scholarships - February 15, 2026
- Project / Animal Royalty Positions – Varies
(www.licking.osu.edu > 4-H Youth Development)
- Fair Queen & King Application Deadline – June 26, 2026



What Will 4-H Cost?

- County 4-H Participation Fee** – The cost is currently \$5.00 per 4-H club member to join Licking County 4-H, to enjoy full 4-H opportunities and awards. This fee is used to support costs associated with 4-H such as delivery of programs, awards and opportunities including camp, skillathon / project judging, clinics, workshops, trips & much more. Your child may earn their activity fee by participating in a club fundraising activity or you may choose just to pay the fee.
- Club Fees** – Some clubs may charge a per member or family fee based on their clubs activities. The amount is based on what the club covers with the fee. Club fees may be used towards refreshments, project book cost, fair entries, club t-shirt, supplemental insurance, etc. Please ask your club advisor about their club fee structure.
- Project Books** – Most project books cost \$12.00. Some projects require an additional Resource Handbook (\$12 to \$28) that is purchased once by the family and used for all the projects within an area by all members in the family. Check with your 4-H advisor for Project Book costs. Project books can be purchased at the Licking County Extension Office, and are also available online through ohio4h.org



- ☑ **Project Items** – Every project has some cost beyond the 4-H book. For some projects, this may be supplies and materials that you already have at home. For other projects, your child will be required to invest in an animal & supplies for its care, specialized equipment and/or other items. Please keep this in mind when selecting projects with your child.



- ☑ **Fair** – If members, plan to participate in fair, they will have some additional costs associated with their 4-H experience.

- Project Tag-Ins, Weigh-In's Fees
Varies: \$1 - \$10 per animal
- Fair Passes - Check Fair web site for current prices. www.hartford.fair.com
- Fair Entries - \$3.00 / exhibitor / club to cover all project entries through that club.



Who Can Answer Questions?

- ☎ **Club Advisors:** Start with your local club advisor(s) first. Make sure you have a phone number and/or e-mail address to communicate with them.

- ☎ **OSU Extension Staff:** Call or e-mail at any time. 740.670.5315

4-H Youth Development Program Staff

Lisa D. McCutcheon - mccutcheon.46@osu.edu
Educator, 4-H Youth Development

Adrienne Anderson – anderson.1410@osu.edu
Program Assistant, 4-H Youth Development

- ☎ **Committee Members:** Call, e-mail or ask any 4-H and project committee members questions at clinics, workshops, weigh-ins / tag-ins, committee meetings, etc.



Where Do I Go For Information?

☎ **OSU Extension Office, Licking County**

771 E. Main Street, Suite 103, Newark, OH 43055

740.670.5315 voice / 740.670.5317 fax

Office Hours – 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. / Monday – Friday

www.licking.osu.edu

- Purchase and/or Pick Up 4-H Projects
- Drop Off 4-H Event Entries and Registrations & Make Payments unless mailing
- Register For 4-H Camps and Events
- Reserve and Pick Up 4-H Resources – Skillathon Kits, Cloverbud Curricula and Kits, etc.
- Access all forms, requirements, information on the web.

☎ **Fair Office, Hartford Independent Fair**

14028 Fairgrounds Road, Croton, OH 43013

740.893.4881 voice / 740.893.4810 fax

Office Hours vary throughout the year / Monday – Friday

www.hartfordfair.com

- Make Junior Fair and Open Class Fair Entries
- Purchase and Pick Up Fair Passes / Camping Permits
- Pick Up Fair Books & Information
- Access Fair Events and Activities scheduled on the fairgrounds from the web.

☎ **Ohio 4-H Web, www.ohio4-h.org**

- Visit for the latest information about Ohio 4-H programs, events, activities, policies, etc.

☎ **Ohio State Fair, www.ohiostatefair.com** Visit the web for:

- Fair Book & Entry Forms to make entry for Livestock, Poultry, Rabbit, Small Animal, Horticulture, etc. by June 20
- Fair Schedule for All Ohio State Fair Events
- Fair Results from 4-H and Open Class Shows