

LICKING COUNTY 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

April 1st | LIVESTOCK UPDATE

Your 4-H Club Advisors are invaluable!
Be sure to reach out to them with specific questions!

BEEF PROJECTS.

Resource: Ian Van Kirk | 740.973.5629 | bucklebackian@aol.com

— What you need to be doing during April:

- Make sure your animals are up to date on vaccinations, dewormed, and keep an eye out for skin conditions (ring worm, warts, and lice) – and then treat them as needed.
- Things you should look for every day to make sure your animal is healthy include: dull eyes, droopy ears, swollen/puffy left abdomen, diarrhea, runny/dry nose, limping, coughing, and unusual skin conditions.
- If you think your animal is sick you should check some vital signs to make sure they are in the average of where they need to be: temperature average: 101° F-103° F, heart rate: 40-80 bpm, and respiratory rate: 20-40 bpm. You are also encouraged to consult with your veterinarian as issues arise.

— Keep In Mind:

- Market Steer / Heifer: Animals must be 950 lbs. to sell. All bred and owned had to be checked in at January weigh-in.
- Beef Feeder Calf: Must weigh between 300 lbs. to 700 lbs. to show for champion (steers and heifers only).
- Breeding Beef: All breeds, except crossbred, must be registered to show for special premiums, papers will be checked at the fair.
- Dairy Feeder: must be 100% Holstein or Brown Swiss and be castrated and dehorned prior to June 6th weigh-in. Must weigh between 400 lbs. to 650 lbs..
- All Cattle: No health papers required, however, must follow state guidelines. D.U.N.F. and U.P forms handed out at Vet Check (upon entering the grounds) and are due at the barn meeting.

DAIRY PROJECTS.

Resource: Leanne Rex | 740.504.9681 | rmoonmeadow@netscape.net

— What you need to be doing during April:

- You should either have your calves / heifer / cows in your possession or know where you will be purchasing them. Please note: all registered sales and local sale barn sales have been / or likely will be cancelled.
- Pay attention to your feeding program. Dairy animals should be healthy and growing, but not getting too heavy. Visit your local feed mill for help in determining the right feeding program.
- Now is a great time to get your calves dehorned. Older calves, heifers and cows must be dehorned in order to show at the fair.
- All your dairy animals must have access to clean water and some sort of roughage. Hay for calves and heifers, and silage for milking cows.
- Develop a relationship with your local veterinarian.
- Watch for ringworm and treat quickly. Animals with ringworm are not allowed on the fairgrounds.

— Other Tips and Suggestions:

- Use this time to work with your animals. Put a nylon halter on them so that they may get used to it. Maybe lead them around the pen. They will not stay little for long, so now is the best time to train them to lead.
- Work on your project books. Set up feed and medical records.

— What you need to be doing during April:

- Most of your calves should have been born (January – March) and likely are already in your possession, or will be soon.
- Calves should be on some sort of feed by now. Visit your local feed mill to find out what you need.
- Your calves should have clean, dry bedding, and water and feed in front of them at all times.
- Now would be a great time to contact your veterinarian. This time of the year is perfect for dehorning and castration. Remember, it must be done before tagging on June 6th.
- Watch for Ringworm and treat right away.
- Get to know your animal. Maybe put a nylon halter on him and get him used to it. Try leading him around in the pen.

— Important Dates:

- Tagging is scheduled for June 6th. This may change, but you should plan on June 6th. All dairy feeder calves must be castrated and dehorned in advance.

— Other Tips and Suggestions:

- Use this time to work with your animals.
- Work on your project books. Set up your feed and medical records.

— Feeding Your Goats:

- Hay... nice looking, green alfalfa, clover or mixed alfalfa/clover/grass. Should not be dusty or moldy.
- Water...fresh water twice a day.
- Grain...pre-bagged goat feed or prepare your own balanced ration.
- Free choice salt or mineral salt and baking soda... for rumen function.
- See Goat Resource Book for complete guidelines for feeding

— Goat Health:

- Signs of Illness:
 - Any change in normal behavior, especially inactivity.
 - Poor appetite or not eating at all.
 - Change in color or consistency of manure.
 - Urinates more than usual.
 - Grinds teeth.
 - Coat becomes rough or dull.
 - Color of gums and lining membranes around eyes becomes pale or blue.
 - Changes in milk for breeding does.
 - Goats normal temperature is 103 +/- 2 degrees.
- Vaccinations: CDT to prevent enterotoxemia, associated with high grain intake, and tetanus, at least at 8 and 12 weeks of age and yearly thereafter. Give booster to does 30-60 days before kidding to cover newborn kids.
- Parasites: Goats are highly susceptible to worms. If there is weight loss, or gums/eye membranes become pale, goat need wormed. Take feces (manure) specimen to lab for ID of worm type and use appropriate worm medication. Most wormer dosages need to be doubled label directions to be effective on goats. Check with your veterinarian. If you have access to rotation in five separate grazing areas, moving goats to a new location each week in rotating order is an effective method of

preventing worm problems. The complete life cycle of most “goat worms” is four weeks. Worm medications also have withdrawal dates that need to be watched at slaughter/sale time.

- Coccidiosis: This is an illness caused by a protozoan parasite that becomes a problem due to manure contamination of feed and water. A common sign of this illness is dark diarrhea, and general weight loss. If untreated, goat will die. If not treated as soon as the diarrhea is noticed, the gastrointestinal tract absorption of the goat can be damaged for life. Call a veterinarian for the proper meds. To decrease this problem make sure feeders are high enough that they can't be jumped into, and change water frequently.
- Signs of Illness: any change in normal behavior
 - Inactive
 - Eats less or not at all
 - Urinates more than usual
 - Change in color or consistency of manure
 - Grinds teeth
 - Changes in milk with lactating does
 - Temperature above or below normal (normal is 103 +/- 2 Degrees)
 - Coat becomes rough or dull or hair falls out
 - Color of gums, lining around eyes becomes pale or bluish

— Housing of Goats:

- Protect from wind, precipitation, sun, predators, dampness, and injury. Provide shelter / barn; keeping in mind 10-12 square feet needed per animal.

— Goat Foot Care:

- Prevent foot rot with clean, dry housing and proper foot trimming. Keep hooves trimmed with sharp hoof knife or hoof trimmers about every six weeks.

— Market Goat Tattooing:

- All market goats must be tagged and registered to participate in the Hartford Fair. Tagging will be done the third ~~Saturday in May~~ FIRST SATURDAY IN JUNE (2020 only!). This year that will be June 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.. Cost is \$2.00 per animal. This will take place at the Hartford Goat barn. Goats being tagged must be designated to an individual exhibitor at the time of tagging. There will also be a weighing of those animals that wish to participate in the rate of gain contest. If you cannot bring your animal on this date you must have your 4-H advisor call Jared McLaughlin (Senior Fair Board member).
 - Keep in mind that possession date for goats has been changed to June 1st (2020 only!).

HORSE PROJECTS.

Resource: Laura Tyler | 614.619.2900 | cmteamlt@gmail.com

— What you might be doing during April:

- Take horse photograph for Horse ID Papers
- Get signatures on horse lease forms (if applicable)
- Read Royalty rules and fill out application, if you're interested
- Print out PAS Patterns for the Ohio State Fair, if you plan to attempt qualification for OSF
- Complete 4-H Demonstration Project
- Check fire extinguishers in barn
- Schedule vet appointment for spring vaccines
- Schedule dental appointment for teeth float
- Schedule vet appointment for Coggins test for Ohio State Fair, copy of negative Coggins test should be submitted with PAS form (intent to qualify for OSF)
- Work in your 4-H project book daily or weekly
- Write an outline for 1 page written report due at Hartford Fair
- Review Licking County 4-H Supplement

— Odds and Ends for Boredom

- Clean out tack box
 - Clean show tack
 - Groom your horse daily
 - Clean your stall daily, and help others clean their stalls
 - Print show patterns off websites and put in a 3 ring binder for practice
 - Practice showmanship patterns
 - Practice horsemanship and equitation patterns
 - Research what a virus looks like in your horse, if we do not vaccinate our horse
 - Research what worms horses may carry if we do not worm our horses
 - Make flash cards on tack (print photos off line or use old horse magazines)
 - Make flash cards on dangerous weeds (print photo off line)
- Buying show clothes, show items, products and tools: (knowing that many sales have been cancelled)
- Equus Now - English Gear (resale shop in back room)
 - Rods – Western and English Gear
 - Online - Big Dees, Stateline Tack, Chick Saddlery
 - Odds and ends - TSC, Granville Mill, Rural King

POULTRY PROJECTS.

Resource: Tim Beltz | 740.405.3753 | beltz94@yahoo.com

- What you need to be doing during April:
- Even though banding is put off until July for all species, remember you should have your new egg-layer and fancy chicks at this time.
 - Market Duck and Chickens orders are due to Extension Office by 4pm on May 1st. Get them mailed early to the Extension Office, if there is an issue with dropping them off.
- Important dates:
- July 11th Banding all poultry projects
- Other Tips and Suggestions:
- Market turkeys are going to be of decent size at the July banding, please insure you have adequate assistance for holding them to apply the band.
 - Project record book pages are all online. <https://licking.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/livestock-information-resources#Rabbit%20&%20Poultry> This gives you opportunity to keep your project documentation on schedule.
 - Bring all birds that you may use for your fair entry to the banding and registration. For poultry we charge \$1 per fair entry at the bandings.

RABBIT PROJECTS.

Resource: Alisha Tilley | 740.745.3380 | equine.education@hotmail.com

- Rabbit Project Book Materials:
- Pick one section a week to read and learn from your rabbit resource book. Be creative and make an activity to review each section later. Below are some suggestions of fun ideas to help test your knowledge.
 - Disease or Breed ID Flashcards.
 - Supplies: printed pictures, index cards, glue, pen/pencil.
 - Write the name of the disease or breed on one side of the index card. Glue the corresponding picture to the other side of the index card.
 - For advanced learners add information such as breed traits or disease cause and treatment to be read off with the name.
 - Parts of a Rabbit ID
 - Supplies: Printed parts of a rabbit, pen/pencil and white out.
 - Make a master copy showing the parts of a rabbit to check your answers. White out the parts and make additional copies.

- Without looking in fill out the parts of a rabbit. Start timing yourself as you get better at identifying the parts making it a race.
- This idea would be great to learn what part of the rabbit certain meat cuts come from too.
- Rabbit Equipment Scavenger Hunt.
 - Supplies: paper, pen/pencil, the internet and rabbit resource book.
 - Using your resource book, asking others and researching on the internet identify rabbit supplies you will need to care for your rabbit.
 - Answer these Questions for each item:
 - What is the Item?
 - How and why do you use the item?
 - When do you use the item?
- Start filling out your record book and take inventory of your rabbits and rabbitry.
 - Learn what is on your feed tag. Using the internet and rabbit resource book learn why the ingredients in your feed is important to help your rabbit stay happy and healthy.
 - Take inventory of what equipment you currently have. During your inventory take time to thoroughly clean all your equipment as well.
 - Practice showmanship handling with your rabbit to prepare for your next exhibition event.
- What are other reliable resources?
 - American Rabbit Breeders Association: www.arba.net
 - Ohio 4-H Website:
 - <https://ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/rabbit/rabbit-resources>

— Fair Preparation:

- Are you exhibiting market rabbits at The Hartford Independent Fair, Yes?
 - Contact an area commercial rabbit breeder and get on the list ASAP to reserve your project for pick up in July.
 - www.arba.net has a listing of Ohio based Californian and New Zealand Breeders.
- How many market rabbit projects should I reserve?
 - Always reserve / purchase at least 1 extra rabbit for each market project.
- I am new to exhibiting market rabbits what classes are available to show in at The Hartford Fair?
 - Pen of 3 is 3 rabbits of identical size, confirmation, color and weight. Typically litter mates are the best option when selecting your project.
 - Single fryer is one rabbit that is judged on its confirmation, weight and depth of meat product carried on the structure.
 - Bred and Raised Pen of 3 and Single Fryer are specific to those exhibitors who choose to breed and raise their own market project with the same guidelines as above.
- What breeds are considered Market?
 - The most common breeds used for market rabbits are New Zealand, Californian, and Florida White. These breeds are able to grow and produce the meat quality desired by consumers in a timely manner. Ideally market rabbits are white to ease the butchering and packing process and confirming no hair is on the meat product during packaging.
- When do I breed market rabbits for The Harford Fair?
 - The fair requires that market rabbits are 72 days old on the day of show. Count back from Monday of the fair to determine an optimal breeding window. Estimated windows are typically to breed the end of April and Kits born end of May. **estimates provided are NOT a suggested time by The Hartford Fair or Licking County 4-H as fair week fluctuates year to year. Exhibitors need to do calculations for breeding accordingly. **
 - If you are buying your market rabbit you will pick up your market rabbit the first week of July.
- How do I locate a rabbit breeder for a fancy or breeding rabbit?
 - www.arba.net has a data base of breeders available.
- Practice safe showmanship and handling.
 - Using your Rabbit Resource Book as a guide, learn how to properly flip over and carry your rabbit for judging.

- Rabbit Projects Eligible to show at Fair:
 - Breeding Rabbit
 - Market Rabbit

- Bred & Raised ID Forms:
 - Due first Saturday in May:
 - Applications are due to the fair office by May 2nd.

- 2020 Rabbit Registration: No Makeup!!!!
 - July 11, 2020 8:00am to 3:00pm
 - ALL rabbit projects to be eligible for exhibition at the fair must attend registration.
 - The Harford Fairgrounds location to be announced.
 - All rabbits must be tattooed and registered (if already tattooed) to be eligible to show at The Hartford Independent Fair. The Licking County Rabbit and Poultry Committee does provide tattooing service on registration day as a fundraiser, \$1.00 per rabbit. *Your rabbit having a legible tattoo is the responsibility of the exhibitor, not the Hartford independent Fair or Licking County Rabbit and Poultry Committee.*
 - Exhibitors can register as many rabbit projects as they wish to be eligible to show. If the Exhibitor is NOT able to bring the project to tattooing/registration day; a representative can bring the rabbits on their behalf to registration.

- Important Rule Reminders: (Always review your fair book for current rules for your department.)
 - Rabbit project stalling is OPTIONAL, you may haul-in and out for your shows.
 - Rabbit cages are available on a first come, first serve basis. Rabbits must be present at time of stalling. There is no cage holding via locks or fellow exhibitors. If you want to stall together, arrive together.
 - Locks and water bottles are required for ALL stalled rabbit projects.
 - Do NOT enter mixed breed rabbits in the All Other Breeds Lot. All Other Breeds are for pure bred breeds that do not have a specific lot to show under.
 - You can only enter 6 lots in the rabbit division. Plan ahead when selecting your breeding and market project. Pen of 3 is considered one lot, not 3 lots.
 - **ALL EXHIBITORS MUST CARE FOR AND CLEAN UP AFTER THEIR RABBITS DURING AND AFTER THE FAIR!!**
 - Please use wheel barrows and tools to scoop under your cages during and after fair.

SHEEP PROJECTS.

Resource: Colleen McDougal | 740.366.6537 | cmcdougal207@hotmail.com

- What you need to be doing during April:
 - Make contact with your breeder and either pick out your animal or at the very least know where you will be getting it
 - Get your pen(s) ready and make sure all equipment is clean and ready to use
 - Know what feed you will be using and have it ordered
 - Make contact with your veterinarian - you should have a veterinarian / client / patient relationship
 - If you have your market lamb, check the weight and look ahead to what weight the lamb needs to be a fair time

- Important dates:
 - Lamb pool application due - May 9th
 - Lamb pool selection - May 24th
 - Possession date: Market lambs - June 1st | Breeding sheep – June 1st
 - Market Lamb Tagging: June 6th
 - Licking County Open Market Lamb & Breeding Sheep Show: June 6th
 - Quality Assurance Training deadline - July 1st
 - Lamb Banquet - cancelled / Lamb Royalty applicants will be contacted with details
 - Lamb Sale - postponed – TBA

— Other Tips and Suggestions:

- If you show at the Ohio State Fair - none of those deadline dates have changed, so far. Always check websites & email
- Ohio Club Lamb Association (OCLA) Shows or any other open shows have not changed, so far. Always check websites & email
- Keep in contact with your 4-H advisor

SWINE PROJECTS.

Resource: Bethany Simon | 740.258.0260 | bsimon_99@hotmail.com

— What you need to be doing during April:

- Prepare your barn / pen as usual! Get cleaning while you have the time. Everything used last year should be bleached again, even if it was cleaned after the fair, due to the new rules in place with Ractopamine!
- Start your search for your swine project! Many breeders are hosting online sales, if you buy from a specific breeder touch base with them and come up with a plan. If they are not within our county they might not realize that our possession dates have changed. If you plan on waiting closer to the new possession deadline (6/1) and have had no communication with your breeder I fear that what you are looking for might not be there! Communication is key, everyone is in a unique situation!

— Important dates:

- Swine project possession- June 1st
- Hartford Fair Hog ID forms due June 15th

— Other Tips and Suggestions:

- In this trying & different time that none of us have faced, you have to do what's best for your family & farm! Spend time in the barn and with your projects! Keep life simple.
- If you are interested in leasing a particular pen for your exhibitor in the Hog Barn at the fairgrounds, please reach out to Bethany Simon, her contact information is listed above.
 - PLEASE NOTE: Pen leasing will not begin until mid-May. Please do not make requests prior to that.