January 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to 4-H in 2020! Whether you are new to the program or your family has been involved off and on for years, the opportunities in 4-H continue to expand. We hope that you will enjoy this year’s experience along with your children. I would like to share a few things with you about 4-H. Your child’s club advisors are volunteers. They have graciously donated their time to see that there is a club in your area. They would appreciate your help. Also, if you have a special talent or hobby, you might want to share this with the club, too.

Please take the time to know your club advisors. They have certain expectations for members, just as I am sure you have certain ideas on what you would like to gain by having your child in 4-H. Meeting attendance is important. Not only does the attendance mean that your child can show at the fair, it is also important that the child learn what is necessary to complete their project, important dates and deadlines. Attending meetings is a commitment for both the child and the parent.

The Highland County 4-H enrollment deadline for 2020 is Monday, April 1. This means your child must contact a 4-H advisor BEFORE this date and have enrolled via 4honline.com. Enrollment forms are only accepted from advisors at the Extension office and this should only be from first year members only. Projects may not be added or changed after 4:00 p.m. May 1, 2020; this must be completed in writing as your access to 4honline will close to you on April 1.

Make sure you listen to announcements from your Club Advisor for important meeting dates and special activities they have scheduled. The Member, Officer and Advisor (MOA) Training will be held Monday, April 20 at Hillsboro High School at 5:30 p.m. This training is open to all youth, parents and volunteers.

Advisors expect that members behave in meetings, so we would encourage you to remind your child that proper behavior is in “style” at club meetings. Members and parents not abiding by the standards of behavior list on the 4-H enrollment sheet will be asked to leave. The club meetings will run better if all in attendance are attentive.

Due dates and tagging dates are held firm. All animals must be in possession by June 1, 2020. All animal paperwork (except feeder calf preconditioning forms) needs to be turned in to the Extension Office postmarked by June 1. Feeder calves, market barrows, market goats and market lambs are tagged one day only, Saturday, June 6. Please make arrangements now for this date. Check with your advisor for times. Horses will still have equine day on June 6 for measurements and photos. Animals will need to be entered to show at the county fair, entry day is July 17 more details are forth coming.

Make sure to check with your club advisor or our website (highland.osu.edu) for judging dates and times. Summer judging will be held on July 7, state fair qualifying judging/swine breeding judging for those who will attend state fair judging will be August 8 and Pre-Fair Judging will be on August 22. Judging guidelines will soon be available. Please make sure to check to see if your project is judged during summer judging or during pre-fair judging. Pre-fair judging will still be held in the Jr. Fair building.

We would also hope you will support our main fund raising project, our 4-H food booth at the fair. This endeavor helps with program planning materials, award trips, other special recognition, training of 4-H members and volunteer leaders, scholarships, etc.
You might also want to consider sending your child to one of our great camps at the Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center, Canter’s Cave 4-H Camp. Camp dates for 2020 include:

- State Special Needs Camp May 29-31
- STEM Camp (5th, 6th, and 7th graders) June 4-6
- Cloverbud Overnighter June 6-7
- Beginner Camp (3rd, 4th, and 5th graders) June 8-11
- Junior High Camp (6th, 7th, and 8th graders) June 15-18
- Teen Camp (9th – 12th graders) June 22-25
- Junior Shooting Sports Camp June 26-28
- Cloverbud Day Camp (Highland Co. Fairgrounds) June 30
- Senior Shooting Sports Camp July 19-24

These dates are also posted on highland.osu.edu, click 4-H Youth Development and then 4-H Calendar of Events.

All 4-H members in good standing will receive $20.00 off their camp fee. Scholarships are available and due by May 7, 2020. Contact the OSU Extension office at 937-393-1918 for more details.

I hope that you and your child will enjoy the 4-H experience. 4-H has so much to offer. The opportunity to learn communication, goal-setting and decision-making skills is there for the offering. Children also have the opportunity to develop leadership skills through committee work, being a club officer, working on community service projects and taking part in county activities. Award trips, scholarships and other leadership experiences are available as the child matures. Consider letting your child be a career 4-H member. Many state opportunities are also available for your child through 4-H. Check out the teen and other youth opportunities available on the website highland.osu.edu. Also you will find out monthly through Highland Happenings a 4-H newsletter. Each month the newsletter will have valuable information regarding 4-H programming; this is a great way to keep informed.

We email Highland Happenings (4-H newsletter) to all 4-H families each month along with other important information that is emailed periodically. Please make sure we have a current email for you. You may want to set up a separate email specifically for 4-H so that you will not miss any important emails with deadlines and other important information.

Jana Holbrook (Jr. Fair Coordinator) will be at Member, Officer and Advisor Training on April 20 to discuss fair changes and updates.

If you have questions about the program, please feel free to contact us at the OSU Extension Office, Highland County by calling 937-393-1918 or emailing bruynis.5@osu.edu or combs.311@osu.edu. Please visit our website: highland.osu.edu and check the Highland County 4-H (Ohio) Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/pages/Highland-County-4-H-Ohio/158507614183904) page for notices and updates.

Sincerely,

Kathy Bruynis  Danielle Combs
Area Leader/Extension Educator  Extension Educator, 4-H
OSU Extension Highland County  OSU Extension Highland County

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