CFAES COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

4-H Monthly Update

Coshocton County 4-H Youth Development

February 2026

Hot off the press! Project books have arrived to our office!

If you want to get ahead of the game, you are more than welcome to stop in and get yours picked up for the year. Again this year project books are sponsored by the Coshocton County Youth Financial Support Committee. Project books went up in price this year from $8 to $12 so as a club or individual if you have the ability to support the committee and their fundraiser on March 6th that gives back so much, please do so! Clubs are encouraged to provide a basket for the silent auctions that evening. Tickets if you want to attend are limited and selling quick, so reach out soon if you would like to attend! Looking forward to a great 2026!

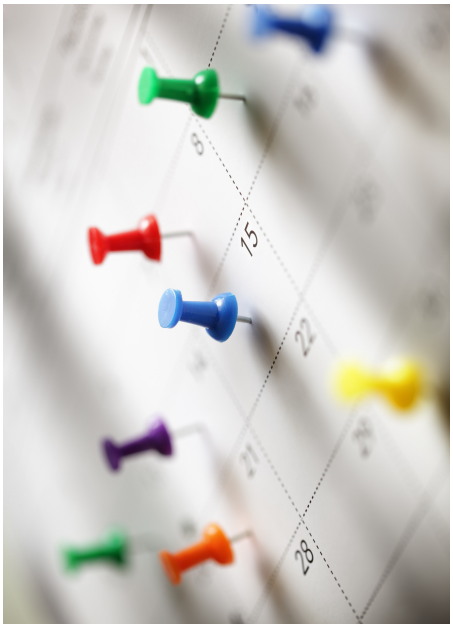
Jenny

Announcing the 2026 Coshocton County 4-H Theme!

We're excited to share our 2026 Coshocton County 4-H theme:

"Honoring Our Past, Inspiring Our Future."

As our nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of the United States and we commemorate the 175th Coshocton County Fair, this year's theme reflects the legacy, traditions, and generations of leaders who have shaped our communities—and the bright future our 4-H youth continue to build.
In 2026, we'll celebrate history, highlight the impact of 4-H, and inspire young people to carry forward the values of leadership, service, and innovation. Join us as we honor where we've been and dream big about where we're going!



February Calendar

7	Market Steer/Heifer Tag-In 8-9am, Fairgrounds
7	Last volunteer training, 10am-Noon, Room 145, CSB
9	4-H Horse committee meeting, 6pm, Extension Office
11	Auction Committee Meeting, 6:30pm, Room 145, CSB
13	4-H Club packets ready
15	Volunteer background checks are due/deadline
16	Senior fair board meeting, 7:30pm, Rotary EMS Bldg.
20	Registrations due for Ohio 4-H Conference
23	Junior fair board meeting, 7pm, Rotary EMS Bldg.
26	Fun Fest planning meeting, 6pm, Room 145, CSB
26	4-H Advisory Committee Meeting, 7pm, 145, CSB
28	4-H Horse committee tack swap, Grandstands

Ohio State Fair Livestock Changes

Ohio State Fair Livestock Update – Important Changes for 2026

The Ohio State Fair has announced changes to livestock ownership deadlines and show dates for several species.
Key updates include:

Adjusted (earlier) ownership and possession deadlines for many livestock projects

Revised livestock show schedules, with some species showing on different dates than in past years

Families planning to exhibit livestock at the Ohio State Fair are encouraged to review the updated rules and schedules carefully to ensure compliance.

Complete details and species-specific information can be found on the Ohio State Fair website

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Ohio 4-H Conference

This year, the 4-H Committee would love to see more volunteers and youth benefit from attending the Ohio 4-H Conference. The Ohio 4-H Conference is the largest gathering of 4-H volunteers in the United States! Nearly 1,100 teen and adult volunteers participate each year. The Ohio 4-H Conference is designed to equip participants with resources, information, and skills to meet the ever-changing needs of youth. Attendees have the opportunity to receive training in more than 125 different topics such as career exploration, risk management, camping, leadership, cake decorating, dancing, animal sciences, and much more.

In addition to the educational sessions, the day features the Ohio 4-H Volunteer Recognition Luncheon highlighting the extraordinary accomplishments of volunteers. The teens (age 13 and older) have a luncheon where they recognize their peers and often features a keynote speaker.

This year, registrations for any participants from Coshocton County will be covered, register early though to get your selected sessions. Complete the registration form and bring it to the OSU Extension office before February 20th to get registered!

Try It. Explore It. Imagine What's Next at the Ohio 4-H Spark EXPO

Ohio 4-H Spark EXPO is a hands-on career exploration experience connected to Ohio State's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, helping youth explore interests and imagine what's next.

Participants also spend time at Ohio State ATI, experiencing college life and career-focused programs.

WHEN: June 10–13, 2026

sparkEXPO
exploring pathway opportunities

WHERE: Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Youth who:

- Will complete 8th or 9th grade by the end of the 2025–2026 school year
- Are willing to engage in in-depth, hands-on learning in specific interest areas
- Want to explore possibilities and feel more prepared for future choices

No pressure. No decisions required. Just exploration, confidence, and possibility.

Learn more: http://go.osu.edu/4hsparkexpo. Registration due April 11.

Be a Global Problem-Solver at the 2026 Ohio Youth Institute!

Want to make a real impact? The Ohio Youth Institute (OYI) is your chance to take on a global challenge, share your ideas at The Ohio State University, and earn the title of Borlaug Scholar.

Join us April 13, 2026, in Columbus for a powerful day of learning, leadership, and connecting with experts who care about the same issues you do.

Paper + registration deadline: April 1, 2026

Learn more: http://worldfoodprize.org/ohio

If you love STEM, agriculture, global issues, or stepping outside your comfort zone, this is your moment. Talk with your 4-H professional, advisor, or teacher to get started—they'll help you find a mentor and guide you through the process.

Your voice matters. Your ideas matter.

Step up, speak out, and see how YOU can shape the future.

Ohio 4-H Scholarships Now Open!

Ohio 4-H is proud to support excellence in leadership, citizenship, service, and project work through scholarships that help youth pursue higher education. The application window is open now, with a priority deadline of February 15, 2026. Current college students and high school seniors can apply through two pathways: those attending The Ohio State University should use Scholarship Universe at osu.scholarshipuniverse.com, while students attending other institutions can apply via this link. Details can be found on the Ohio 4-H Youth Development webpage.

Apply for the Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Board—Applications due March 1

Are you ready to build leadership skills, make statewide connections, and serve as the face of youth at the Ohio State Fair? The Junior Fair Board (JFB) is your chance to shine!

NEW for 2026:
Due to changing schedules and challenges in filling specific roles, JFB members will now serve as overall board members rather than representing individual organizations. Applicants can list all youth organizations they're involved in and must provide a reference for each.

Who's Eligible?
Ages 16–20
Active in youth organizations (like 4 H!)
Demonstrated leadership

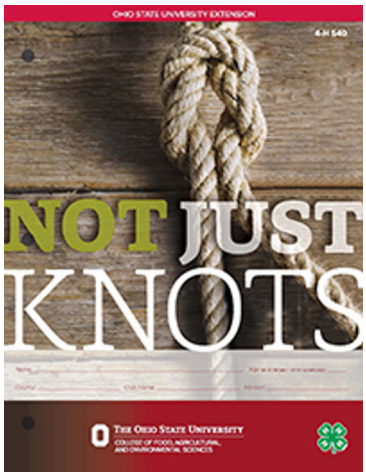
Applications open January 1 and close March 1
Apply here: https://www.ohiostatefair.com/p/get-involved/jfb

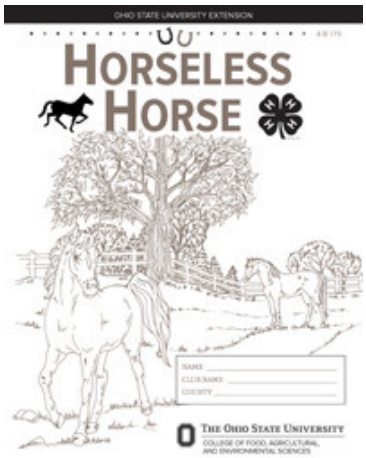
It's Cool—and These Projects Are Too!

No horse? No problem. **Horseless Horse** invites all youth to explore the world of horses—with no hooves necessary. Youth explore over 20 different horse-related subjects with easy-to-use worksheets. Horseless Horse also may be used during the educational portion of club meetings.

Not Just Knots turns simple rope into serious know how. Youth learn 14 knots that matter, master skills that stick, and impress everyone with what they can do with a single piece of string. After that, they show off their skills with a capstone project. From camping to crafting to everyday problem solving, 4-H members will use these skills for a lifetime.

Horseless Horse (173) and Not Just Knots (540) are available through the county extension office.





4-H Week Window Displays

Coshocton County 4-H Week is March 22-28, 2026

- Window displays must be in place by 3/22 and stay through March 28. If businesses allow - displays are encouraged to stay until Fun Fest on April 12th.
- Things to include: Club Name, How to Join 4-H, 4-H Theme "Honoring Our Past, Inspiring Our Future", Pledge, Motto, Fun Fact about 4-H, Pillars of Character, Invitation to attend Fun Fest
- Must be visible when the business is closed.
- Register Here!

Camp Counselors Needed!

Coshocton County 4-H Camp, July 5–9, 2026

Thinking About Being a Camp Counselor?
You don't have to be a "camp expert" or a longtime 4-H member to be a great camp counselor. If you're interested in leadership, helping others, and trying something new, this opportunity may be a perfect fit for you.

New this year:
- You do NOT have to be a current 4-H member to apply, any teen age 15 or in high school by 1/1/2026 is eligible.

What Is a Camp Counselor?
Camp counselors are teen leaders who help make camp a fun, safe, and welcoming experience for younger campers. Counselors:
- Lead games, songs, and activities
- Help campers feel included and supported
- Work as part of a team with other teen counselors and adult staff
- Serve as positive role models throughout the week

You will receive guidance, training, and support—you are never expected to do this alone.

"I've Never Been to Camp... Can I Still Apply?"
Absolutely! Many successful counselors apply without ever attending camp themselves. We are looking for teens who are:
- Willing to learn
- Responsible and dependable
- Positive and encouraging
- Interested in working with kids
- Ready to step into a leadership role

Camp is a place to grow, and counselors grow right alongside campers.

Why Be a Camp Counselor?
Being a camp counselor is more than just a fun week—it's an experience that can make a real difference in your future.

As a counselor, you will:
- Build leadership and communication skills
- Gain experience that looks great on job, college, and scholarship applications
- Make new friends and lasting memories
- Give back to your community in a meaningful way
- Have fun while making a positive impact on others

Ready to Take the Next Step?
If you're looking for a summer experience that helps you grow, challenges you in a good way, and lets you make a difference, we encourage you to apply by filling out the application online here.

Ohio 4-H and FFA Hockey

OHIO 4-H AND FFA MEN'S ICE HOCKEY GAME
Ohio State Buckeyes vs Notre Dame

March 5, 2026
Puck drop: 6:30 p.m.
Doors open: 5:30 p.m.

Show your Buckeye spirit as the Ohio State Buckeyes Men's Ice Hockey team takes on Notre Dame at the annual 4-H and FFA Game.

Teachers, enjoy a pregame session at the Ohio 4-H Center to learn more about the opportunities available in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

Purchase Discounted Tickets

WHERE:
Schottenstein Center
555 Borror Drive
Columbus, OH 43210

PARKING:
Parking is free. Buses should drop off at the door to the Schottenstein located at 555 Borror Drive and will be directed where to park by the parking attendants. If you are attending a pregame session, buses should drop off at the 4-H Center and move the buses to Buckeye Lot 1.

View the parking map.

CFAES PREGAME SESSIONS
Hear from student panelists as they share what life as an Ohio State CFAES Buckeye is like and how the college is helping them thrive academically and socially. Sessions will be offered before puck drop at:
• 3:15 to 4 p.m.
• 4:15 to 5 p.m.
Space is limited. To secure your seat for the pregame sessions, please email the Prospective Student Services Office and indicate what time works best for you and the number of students you plan to bring.

TICKET PURCHASES
Purchase your tickets at the discounted group rate here. Have questions, or would you like to purchase tickets directly through Athletics? Contact:
- Danny Shirilla by email or phone at (614)-292-6815
- Emily Ward by email or phone at (614)-292-7660

Ohio 4-H State Leadership Camp

June 1-5, 2026; 4-H Camp Ohio

What is it? The Ohio 4-H State Leadership Camp is a premiere leadership development opportunity that offers participants engaging sessions in topics such as motivation, communication, teamwork, and more! While at camp, participants are actively learning AND teaching their peers!

Who can attend? Ohio 4-H members ages 14-18 who have significant leadership potential or experience in their home county's 4-H program.

What do they do? Participants will develop concrete peer leadership skills that will enable them to have an immediate impact in their home 4-H club, county, community, or school.

Contact your county 4-H professional for more information on cost, scholarships, and registration or visit go.osu.edu/leadershipcamp for additional information! County commitment forms are due March 15 and must be submitted by county 4-H staff.

FREE for Coshocton 4-H members thanks to the Coshocton County Youth Financial Support Committee

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a non-discriminatory basis.
For more information, visit cfaes.osu.edu/nondiscrimination.

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences