

The Leader



TRUMBULL COUNTY 4-H NEWS

DEC 2025- JAN 2026

December

- 1 4-H Advisory Christmas Dinner; 6:00 PM
- 7 **Beef Tagging & Forms Due**; Fairgrounds, 8-10:00 AM
- 9 Rabbit Committee Meeting; OSUE, 6:00 PM
- 16 **Annual Advisor Update- Session 1, OSUE 6-8:00 PM**
- 24-26 OSUE Closed- Christmas Holiday
- 29-31 OSUE Closed-Winter Recess

January

- 1 OSUE Closed- New Year's Day
- 5 4-H Advisory Comm. Mtg., OSUE Office, 7:00 PM
- 7 Jr. Fair Board Mtg., Fairgrounds, 6:30 PM
- 7 **Annual Advisor Update-Session 2, OSUE, 6:00-8:00 PM**
- 11 **4-H Rabbit Clinic, OSUE Office, 1:30-2:30 PM**
- 14 Livestock Sale Comm. Mtg., Fairgrounds, 7:00 PM
- 14 **Annual Advisor Update-Session 3, OSUE, 9-11:00 AM**
- 13 Rabbit Committee Meeting; OSUE, 6:00 PM
- 17 **Annual Advisor Update- Session 4, OSUE, 9-11:00 AM**
- 19 **Martin Luther King Day, Office Closed**
- 26 CARTEENS Program, OSUE, 6:00-9:00 PM
- 26 Geauga-Trumbull Camp Counselor Interviews, Geauga OSUE 6:30 PM
- 27 Equine Comm. Mtg., Fairgrounds, 6:00 PM
- 27 Dairy Comm. Mtg., TBD, 6:30 PM
- 28 **New Volunteer Orientation, OSUE 6:00-8:00 PM**

February

- 2 4-H Advisory Comm. Mtg., OSUE, 7:00 PM
- 4 Jr. Fair Board Mtg., Fairgrounds, 6:30 PM
- 7 **4-H Club Officer Training, OSUE, 9:00 AM- 12:30 PM**
- 8 **4-H Rabbit Clinic, OSUE Office, 1:30-2:30 PM**
- 10 Poultry Committee Mtg., TBD
- 10 Small Animal Comm. Mtg., TBD
- 10 Rabbit Comm. Mtg., OSUE, 6:00 pm
- 11 Livestock Sale Comm. Mtg., Fairgrounds, 7:00 PM
- 11 **New Family Orientation, OSUE, 6:00-7:30 PM**
- 23 CARTEENS Program, OSUE, 6:00-9:00 PM
- 24 Equine Comm. Mtg., Fairgrounds, 6:00 PM



REMINDER:

All advisors must attend a 2025-2026 Annual Advisor Update.

Register at
<https://go.osu.edu/annualadvisorupdate>

IN THIS ISSUE:

4-H Youth Dev.....	Page 2-4
Livestock News.....	Page 4
Officer Resources.....	Page 5
4-H Camp News.....	Page 6
4-H Highlights.....	Page 7

A Word From Ashlee



Dear 4-H Families,

We hope that everyone has a happy & healthy holiday season with family and friends. Please take a moment to review the contents of this newsletter for important updates and reminders for both 4-H families and advisors.

4-H members may now re-enroll for 2026 using the 4-H Online website at <https://4honline.com>. More information is listed on page 4. If you have questions about re-enrolling, please email me and I will assist you.

From all of us at Trumbull County OSU Extension, we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Ashlee Meardith, 4-H Extension Educator



4-H Youth Development

CLUB OFFICER TRAINING



Club officer training will be held **Saturday, February 7th** from 9:00 AM-12:30 PM at the OSUE Office- Large Conference Room.

Ages 8-13: 9:00-10:30 AM
Ages 14-18: 11:00 AM- 12:30 PM

This training will be **mandatory** for each club to send at least one youth representative. The representative could be a current officer (strongly encouraged) or someone who would like to learn more about the officer roles.

Members can sign up at:

<https://go.osu.edu/tcofficertraining>



NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION

Two New Family Orientations will be held on **February 11th or March 16th** at the OSUE Office from 6:00-7:30 pm to help ease the transition of joining a club and understanding the 4-H expectations, requirements and opportunities offered throughout the year. Save the date! More news to be shared via email and at the Annual Advisor Update. Interested families can sign up using the link or QR code:

<https://go.osu.edu/newfamilyorientation>



2026 OHIO 4-H TEEN & VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE

The 2026 Ohio 4-H Teen & Volunteer Conference will be in-person this year on **Saturday, March 21** at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. All teens and advisors are encouraged to join in on the workshops and opportunities offered! More information will be shared as it becomes available from the state 4-H office. The registration fee is \$40.00 and is due by Friday, February 20th. Registration materials can be downloaded from <http://www.ohio4h.org/events/ohio-4-h-conference>.

PAUL AARON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



With the support of the Community Foundation, there will be another scholarship available to graduating seniors this year who have exhibited a market project in 2025 or year previous. Eligible members are encouraged to apply using the online application found at: [SCHOLARSHIPS | CF Website \(comm-foundation.org\)](https://www.comm-foundation.org). Applicants will need to create a profile, fill out a general application and select the Paul Aaron Memorial Scholarship from the list of Community Foundation supported scholarships. Applications will be taken starting on January 1st and are due on March 1, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. Contact Linda Welch at the Community Foundation with questions at (724) 981-5882 or linda@comm-foundation.org

4-H KICKOFF RECAP

On Monday, November 10th, the Annual 4-H Kickoff was held from 6:00-7:30 pm at TCTC! Thank you to all of our clubs- advisors, members & families- who participated and gave youth of our county an opportunity to join 4-H in 2026! Without all of you, this event would not have been a success.



STUDENTS MAKING A SAFER HIGHWAY (SMASH): Trumbull 4-H's Special Interest Group

SMASH is a special interest group comprised of 88 junior and seniors from 22 school districts in Trumbull County. SMASH meets monthly at the TCESC to learn about traffic safety and prepare two annual programs within their district to driving-age students.



4-H RABBIT CLINICS

Mark your calendars for the 2026 4-H Rabbit Clinics, hosted by the Trumbull County 4-H Rabbit Committee. Clinics will occur on the 2nd Sunday of the month during the months of January, February, March & April at 1:30 pm in the meeting room at the OSUE Office.

Topics for the Jan 11th Clinic include:

- Grooming
- General Health
- Biosecurity/Diseases



4-H News for Advisors and Members

MANDATORY ADVISOR UPDATE

Attention all head organizational leaders, project leaders and resource leaders: There will be four advisor updates available for the 2025-2026 4-H year. It is mandatory to attend one of the options. Areas of discussion include yearly updates, rule changes, OSU Youth Activities & Program Child Abuse & Neglect training, fundraising guidelines, county & state opportunities/events and goals for the new year. You will also receive a folder with important club forms such as club charter, financial summary, constitution/bylaws, and club info sheet.

Please RSVP using the link below to one of the following dates. All dates will be held in-person at the OSUE Office:

- ✿ **Monday, December 16, 2025 6:00-8:00 PM**
- ✿ **Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 6:00-8:00 PM**
- ✿ **Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 6:00-8:00 PM**
- ✿ **Saturday, January 17, 2026, 9:00-11:00 AM**

<https://go.osu.edu/annualadvisorupdate>

Club forms will be due Saturday, January 31, 2026. *Please plan to drop off paperwork during normal business hours or utilize the drop box for after hours and weekend drop off.

ADDING NEW ADVISORS? ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN ADVISOR IN A CLUB?

If your club is taking on new advisors for 2026, don't forget that they must complete the application and approval process! Applications can be found at <http://trumbull.osu.edu> → 4-H Youth Development Tab → 4-H Volunteers. Applications are also available at the OSUE Office located in Cortland.

New Volunteer Checklist

- ✓ Ohio 4-H Volunteer Application
- ✓ Signed Volunteer Standards of Behavior Form
- ✓ Three Non-Family References (1 must be professional source)
- ✓ Interview with 4-H Educator
- ✓ New Volunteer Orientation (3 offered per year)
- ✓ Approved BCI Check (if Ohio is state of residence)

2026 New Volunteer Orientation Dates Held @ OSUE Office

- ✿ **Wednesday, January 28, 2026 6:00-8:00 PM**
- ✿ **Tuesday, March 10, 2026 6:00-8:00 PM**

All materials must be turned in and checklist completed by March 31, 2026 to be an advisor for the 2026 4-H year

NEW: 4-H HONOR CORDS APPLICATION FOR GRADUATING SENIORS



Trumbull County 4-H is excited to continue celebrating our graduating seniors! In addition to our Senior Spotlight posts on social media, we are pleased to offer 4-H Honor Cords as a special keepsake and a symbol of your achievement during graduation ceremonies.

Applications are due to the OSU Extension Office by **February 15th**. Honor cords will be distributed at the **Donut Social on March 2nd**.

YEAR-END PIN & CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION

Club pins and certificates will be given to advisors during the Annual Advisor Updates. Packets will only be distributed to an advisor within the club. Thank you!

PROJECT GUIDELINES

Returning in 2026, project guidelines will be available for families to serve as a resource and tool for the specific project species or area. Once complete, the project guidelines will be posted on our website and shared with advisors and families.

CARTEENS



Trumbull County 4-H partners with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and Trumbull County Courts to help young people understand the importance of safe driving. As teen leaders, you will help assist with hands-on activities with our program participants. For more information, please contact Noelle at Barnes.1127@osu.edu.

Upcoming Dates:

January 26, February 23, & March 30 6-9:00 PM at OSUE

4-H Livestock News

WEIGH IN & TAGGING

All weigh in/tagging will be at TC Fairgrounds

Beef Steers: December 7 from 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Dairy Feeders: March 28 from 8:00 am – 9:00 am

Swine: April 25 from 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Beef Feeders: April 25 from 10:00 – Noon

Sheep/Goats: April 25 from 10:00 – Noon

SAVE THE DATES

- ❁ **Quality Assurance:**
Saturday, April 11, 9:00-11:00 am at TCF
- ❁ **Animal Project Judging,**
Tuesday, June 2, 6:00-8:00 pm, TCF
- ❁ **General Project Judging,**
Tentatively Tuesday, June 23, 6:00-8:00 pm,
Champion Christian Church
- ❁ **Clothing Project Judging:**
Friday, June 26, 1:00-3:00 pm, OSUE

2026 TRUMBULL CO. JR. FAIR THEME ANNOUNCED:



"Hometown USA"

2026 FAIR DATES
July 14-19

2026 4-H ENROLLMENT NEWS

Enrollment Requirements for 2026- 4-H Online

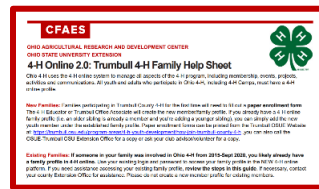
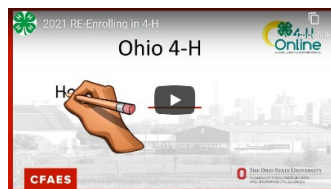
Continuing in 2026, families will be responsible for making changes and/or corrections to personal information, clubs and projects in which they are enrolling on the 4-H Online database (<https://4honline.com>).

An online tutorial and video instructions are provided on www.trumbull.osu.edu >> 4-H Youth Development >>4-H Club Essentials or <https://trumbull.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/4-h-forms-and-applications> .

All existing (2+ year) families will need to use their primary family email to access their family profile. Not sure which email you used? Please contact us to assist you at 330-638-6783. Please **DO NOT** create a new family profile, as this will restart the member(s)' 4-H year count.

Families who are new to 4-H in 2026 must still fill out the paper enrollment forms (first year only).

This is a reminder that the deadline for 2023 4-H enrollment is **Wednesday, April 1st by 4:00 pm**. After this deadline, no clubs or projects may be added.



Tips for Re-Enrolling in 2026:

- ❁ Each family has a personal profile.
You must use one "family" email to access the family's account and individual members. If you have not listed a family email, you will need to do so before attempting to sign in. **When in doubt, call or email Ashlee!**
- ❁ Please make sure all information (address, telephone, health considerations club, projects, etc.) is **CURRENT**. We use the information provided for contact purposes and to make sure your child/children are enrolled in the correct projects for the given year.
- ❁ **Please double check project list to make sure all projects are listed that your child/children plan to participate in.**
- ❁ Keep in mind that one project book may support multiple projects. (Ex. #150 Poultry Book). When enrolling in a project, make sure you select one/all projects in that book at you may be interested in exhibiting/completing.

ANIMAL REGISTRATIONS DUE APRIL 1ST



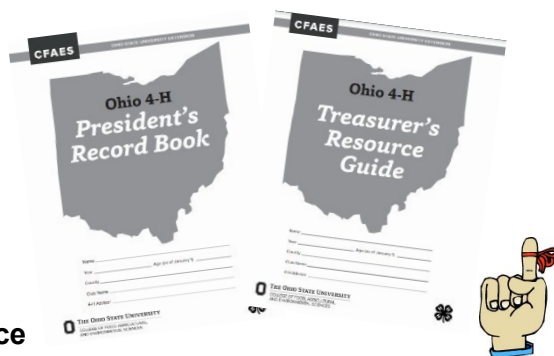
In 2026, the 4-H enrollment and animal registrations will BOTH be due on Wednesday, April 1, 2025 by 4:00 p.m. I invite families to make sure that their 4-H projects and registrations are mirror images of one another.

***Registrations are turned into the OSUE Office by April 1. Registrations will then be turned over to advisors for tag in on Saturday, April 25th for sheep, goats and swine (Unless stated otherwise).**

Officer Resources

Go to the link below to access the following officer **record books** & **resource guides**:

- ✿ President
- ✿ Vice President
- ✿ Secretary
- ✿ Treasurer
- ✿ Health/Safety
- ✿ News Reporter
- ✿ Historian
- ✿ Recreation
- ✿ Community Service



<https://ohio4h.org/families/members/officer-resources>

How Can Club Advisors Support Youth Officers?

1. Purchase a 1-1.5-inch binder (\$1-\$3)
2. Print resources for your family/club for respective officer position(s). **This includes the record book and resource guide.**
3. Organize in binder and create a cover sheet to make it unique!
4. Secretary & Treasurer Roles: Keep a copy of scoresheet/guidelines. This will help you prepare your binder/folder for a successful review. Make sure you have the most recent copy of the scoresheet, as this often changes from year to year as updates occur.
5. Encourage youth officer to attend Officer Training (February 7th, 2026).
6. Meet with officer team prior to meetings to discuss agenda and after meeting to address questions.
7. Have previous officers serve as a mentor to new officers.

If you have questions about accessing these resources, please let our office know

Trumbull 4-H Camp News

SAVE THE DATE!

**Geauga-Trumbull 4-H Camp 2026:
June 14-19 @ Camp Whitewood in Windsor, OH**



2026 Counselor Search

Teens between the age of 15-18 (as of June 14, 2026) are eligible to be camp counselors! Applications are now available online. They are due January 15, 2026 to the Geauga Extension Office. Interviews will be held on January 26, 2026 at 6:30 pm (tentatively) at the Geauga Extension Office. Trainings will begin in March from 6:30-8:30 pm on Monday evenings.



2025-2026 Club Officer Book Requirement

As clubs are electing officers for the new year, keep in mind that Secretary and Treasurer records/binders will be due the **1st Monday in October in 2026** to the OSUE Office and every year after. **Accurate officer records are a very important piece of club record management.** Please alert your new officers of the collection and their responsibility as an officer.

CONFERENCE ROOM RESERVATIONS FOR CLUB MEETINGS

Reminder: clubs will only be able to book the room for **three** months in advance on a continuing basis. Amy Reeher, from the SWCD will still handle the scheduling at this time. She can be contacted at 330-637-2056 ext. 8624 or amy@trumbullohswcd.org

If you're reading this, we thank you for reading the fine print! The first five volunteers and/or youth to email me at Meardith.1@osu.edu with "Run Run Rudolph" as the secret code will receive 4-H swag! Offer expires December 31st.

New Volunteer Welcome

The following volunteers have completed the volunteer application process by 12/1:

Mike Bonning, Shooting Sports Pioneers



New & Revised 4-H Projects for 2026

Ohio 4-H releases new projects each year. They also revise current project books and discontinue unpopular projects. **Effective 11/3, there was also a statewide increase in base price from \$8 to \$12 for the 2026 year.**



New

- **365** Aquaculture: Raising Seafood and Restoring Fisheries; Backyard Fireflies; Bending the Future: Construction Careers; Needle Felting; No-Sew Fun (X)
- **101** How the Herd Multiplies! (I,A)
- **594** Knitting It Together (B)
- **495** Living on Your Own (A)
- **446** Empowering Personal Finance (I)
- **668** Field Crops and Forages (B)
- **616** Water Matters (X)
- **532** Paper Circuits (B)
- **544** Smart Circuits (I)

Revised or Replaced

- **448** Teens on the Road to Financial Success (replaced with 446 Empowering Personal Finance).

Discontinued

- **351** Staying Healthy
- **365** Crop Production, Field to Faucet: What Determines Water Quality
- **372** Diversity: The Source of Our Strength
- **518** Wheels in Motion
- **527** Electricity 1
- **528** Electricity 2



Please use a 2026 form when ordering.

X= all skill and age levels

B= beginning-level project for members with no experience in a project area or 8-10 years old

I=An intermediate-level project for members with some experience in a project area, or 11 to 13 years old

A= An advanced-level project for members experiences in a project area, or 14+.

Getting the Most Out of Your 4-H Career

4-H Members

The number of 4-H opportunities out there can be both hard to find and overwhelming. Here are a few examples of local, state and national ways you can be involved and make the most out of your 4-H career! The first step is knowing who and what can help. The county and state website is a great place for information: www.trumbull.osu.edu>> 4-H Youth Development and www.ohio4h.org.

Local

- Participate as an **officer** in your club. This builds public speaking skills, leadership skills and organizational skills that will help you for many years to come. Don't forget to utilize officer training offered each year!
- Apply for **4-H Royal Court**: There are two divisions, junior (ages 8-13) and senior (ages 14-18). Applications are due April 1 of each year.
- Serve as **Geauga-Trumbull Camp Counselor** (ages 15-18). Camp is held from June 14-19, 2026.
- Volunteer as a helper for our Annual STEM Days for Grades K-5
- Try new projects each year! Ohio 4-H offers over 200 projects in various areas. Reach out of your comfort zone!
- Utilize the 4-H Career Book: https://trumbull.osu.edu/sites/trumbull/files/imce/Program_Pages/4H/4H%20career%20record%20book_0.pdf This book allows you to keep track of accomplishments from year to year as you continue on your 4-H journey
- Participate on the 4-H Advisory Committee. Each October, advisors can nominate other advisors and also teens to serve on this committee that oversees the county program.
- Serve as a **Junior Fair Board Member** (contact Zane Lehmann @ z.lehmann77@gmail.com for more details)
- Serve as a **CARTEENS** Program volunteer (16-18 yrs old)

State

- Fill out a Ohio 4-H State Achievement Record
- Attend the 2026 **Ohio 4-H Conference!**
- Serve on the **Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council** (ages 14+). Help out with the Ohio State Fair and meet with other 4-H members to oversee Ohio 4-H as a whole!
- Ohio State Junior Fair Board
- Attend the Buckeye Leadership Workshop
- State 4-H Leadership Camp
- Ohio Military Kids Camp Counselor

National

- International Programs & Exchanges
- Participate in Citizenship Washington Focus
- Participate in Leadership Washington Focus

4-H Fall Highlights

Fall Recap Spooktacular Whitewood

The 8th Annual Spooktacular Whitewood occurred on Friday, October 24th at Camp Whitewood in Windsor. County camps decorated a cabin to pass treats and county camp information. In addition, attendees could go on a lantern hike, take a hayride circling camp, paint a pumpkin, enter the costume contest, sip hot chocolate, make smores and more! We estimated that there was over 250+ youth and adults in attendance. We look forward to 2026 and hope all attendees had a great evening!



2025 4-H Liberty Challenge

Congratulations to Emma Bianco, a member of the Hearts N Hooves 4-H Club for placing 1st in the Virtual 4-H Liberty Challenge! Youth demonstrate their horsemanship skills by performing a pattern via video, highlighting the partnership between horse and the handler. More information about the contest can be found here: <https://ohio4h.org/events/virtual-4-h-liberty-horse-challenge>. Way to go Emma!



2025 Fall Chick Quest Program

During the months of September and October, Trumbull 4-H partnered with Bristol's 3rd Grade, Hubbard's 3rd Grade and Joseph Badger's 4th Grade classrooms to provide Chick Quest, a school enrichment program. Students had the opportunity to learn about the chicken's lifecycle, pre and post hatch care and about the egg industry! If you are interested in learning more about Chick Quest, please contact our office!





Ohio State University Extension – Trumbull County
520 West Main Street, Suite 1
Cortland, OH 44410

Phone: 330-638-6783
Fax: 330-637-2172
Email: meardith.1@osu.edu
URL: trumbull.osu.edu 4-H Youth Development

OSUE Trumbull Office Hours

Until further notice:
Open to public: Monday through Thursday from
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Closed for Lunch 11:30 -12:30 pm.

Thank you!

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu. For an accessible format of this publication, visit cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility.

Find us on:

Facebook – Trumbull 4-H Program

Instagram- trumbull4h



More information on the 4-H Honor Cord Application can be found on page 3!

CAMP COUNSELEORS WANTED

Geauga-Trumbull 4-H Camp
June 14-19, 2026

Open to all youth, age 15 by the start of camp. 4-H membership not required.

Applications due: January 15
<https://go.osu.edu/gtcounselors2026>

Trumbull County 4-H Honor Cord Application

New in 2026, 4-H honor cords will be available to graduating seniors who have completed four or more years in the Trumbull 4-H Program. Honor Cord Applications will be due by February 15th annually to the OSUE-Trumbull Office. If approved, members will be recognized during the 4-H Advisory Committee Donut Social on March 2, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of 4-H club work all four years of high school
- Must be active 4-H member during the program year of graduation (i.e. 2025).
- Member must obtain permission from school administration to wear during graduation ceremony.

Member Information

Name _____ Age _____
Parents Names _____
Address _____
4-H Club _____
Primary Family Email _____

Project Participation:

4-H Leadership, Citizenship, Accomplishments & Awards

Please list your most significant leadership roles and outstanding activities within your club, county or state. Please also list the accomplishments and awards you are most proud of during your 4-H career.

Application Approved By: _____ Date _____
4-H Educator _____

