



# NEWSLETTER

In partnership with the Wood County 4-H Committee and Wood County Clover Legacy Foundation

## 4-H Spirit Night - Special Edition

### 4-H TEENS PRESENT ANNUAL AWARDS

Taking center stage each October, the Wood County 4-H Spirit Night has been recognizing the achievements of 4-H members and celebrating volunteers since the 1950's. 4-H Teen members representing 4-H Honor Court, Junior Fair Board, 4-H Leadership Board, and 4-H Camp Counselors present throughout the night, as a way to represent the youth that we serve and providing the teens an opportunity to practice public speaking and presentation skills. Spirit Night is sponsored by the Wood County 4-H Committee and generous community donors. We also have continuous support from the Wood



2024 4-H Teen Award Presenters

*"Spirit Night recognizes the accomplishments of our 4-H members and, the volunteers and supporters who continue to make our 4-H program one of the best youth development programs in Ohio."*



County Commissioners and numerous county elected officials. This publication aims at highlighting some of the individuals and accomplishments from Spirit Night. If you would like a copy of the program, please contact the Extension Office. The 4-H staff couldn't be more proud of the hard work and dedication of our members and volunteers!



### 4-H VOLUNTEER SPIRIT AWARD

Starting out as a volunteer with 4-H is an undertaking, especially in those first few years. Understanding the program, supporting new members as you learn the process yourself, and getting everyone where they need to be through judgments, and fair can become complicated and rewarding all at the same time. The 4-H Volunteer Spirit Award recognizes 4-H volunteers who have given support to the program with less than five years of service. It is our honor to congratulate **Kimberly Barker of the Tontogany Four Leaf Clovers** with this year's 4-H Volunteer Spirit Award!



Kimberly Barker

Follow us on Facebook to look back at all of the winners!

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Honorary Wood County 4-H Member

*The highest recognition given to individuals is the Honorary Wood County 4-H Member award. This prestigious recognition is given to individuals who support our county program 110% without even realizing it.*

This recipient is a volunteer who is always there when requested, especially at 4-H Camp. It would be impossible to think of camp without her, yet most people have no idea the impact this individual has on that magical week in June. She supports the nurse when the line is backed up for meds, gaga ball injuries, and bug spray. This adult volunteer can be found entertaining campers while running the camp bank, advising counselors for a program, and providing 110% "behind the scenes" support to the 4-H staff when any situation arises at camp. Her volunteerism does not end there, she also loves to support the Bake-Off and Midnight Madness when her schedule allows.

Many congratulations to **Alumna Laura Short** of Perrysburg.



Laura Short

## 4-H CAREER NUTRITION AWARD

Cooking up excellent projects takes patience, time, dedication, and lots of experimentation. **Jacob Obringer of the Tontogany Hotwires 4-H Club** has taken a multitude of projects from Take a Break for Breakfast, Star Spangled Foods, and everything in between. He has won multiple county awards for his work and received an Outstanding of the Day at the Ohio State Fair for Canning and Freezing. All these accomplishments have earned him the 2024 Career Nutrition award.



Jacob Obringer  
Tontogany Hotwires 4-H Club

*Congrats!*



Jenica Rollheiser  
Portage Valley 4-H Club

## 4-H CAREER CLOTHING AWARD

For eight years, this 4-H'er has been stitching up winning projects and for the record, most years she took two sewing projects! She has experience constructing Sundresses and Jumpers, Loungewear, and Dress-Up Outfits, just to name a few. She has also become a quilter and has taken the Sewing Master project. Her projects have been selected to represent Wood County at the Ohio State Fair multiple times. Congratulations to **Jenica Rollheiser of the Portage Valley 4-H Club.**

## Career Clothing & Nutrition Awards

*The Career Clothing and Nutrition awards recognizes the exceptional project work and commitment from 4-H members in each project area and have been given since 1961. Longevity, achievement, and dedication are all attributes that are considered for these awards.*



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# 4-H CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



The 4-H Career Achievement Award is given to members who have achieved high standards in their 4-H career. Members may excel in a specific project area on a county, state, and national level or they may dive into 4-H and become involved in everything the program has to offer. These individuals tend to “bleed green” when it comes to their dedication and they see how their 4-H career has changed their life and will benefit them in the years to come.

The first recipient is a prime example of 4-H. Her career is filled with projects in the areas of Swine, Rabbits, Poultry, Sewing, Nutrition, and multiple Miscellaneous projects. Her consistency in every area is impressive as she has won multiple champion livestock project awards, a clock trophy at the Ohio State Fair for her nutrition project “Party Planner” and countless county placings in all project areas. But if you ask her, she will tell you her most meaningful experience in 4-H is being a Camp Counselor. She states that in this role she has learned time management, team work, and most importantly responsibility and accountability.

The next recipient has a passion for horses and 4-H Camp. Each year she put her primary focus on her Horse projects along with a few Sewing and Nutrition along the way. Her 4-H career was also filled with county involvement, and one of her favorite opportunities was also becoming a 4-H Camp Counselor. She not only played this role at 4-H Camp, but she would also volunteer at Midnight Madness and Clover Bud Day Camp. It was in her nature to provide support to youth when showing horses, camping, or even interview judging. Her career was filled with simple, meaningful opportunities that made a difference in her life and provided experiences she will utilize for a lifetime.

The next individual found her 4-H career impacted her so much that she applied and was selected for a 4-H Student Summer Assistance’s job at the OSU Extension Office in Sandusky County this past summer. Her active career in Wood County included a multitude of experiences including Camp Counseling, Junior Fair Board, Leadership Board, and any other activity we had to offer. Early in her career she worked with Beef and Goats, and she also discovered Scrapbooking, Leadership, and Agricultural Careers. This recipient has stated what has truly made her 4-H experience meaningful is the unwavering support she has received from her peers and mentors.

Our final recipient is everything 4-H! Diving into every opportunity 4-H has to offer on county, state, and national levels has taken him places he never imagined when his career began. He has traveled to the National 4-H Conference as the Ohio 4-H Leadership Winner for his Achievement Record, participated as a member of the Ohio State Fair Junior Fair Board, continues to represent Wood County on the Ohio 4-H Teen Council and has quite a list of honors in his project work. Being a responsible leader and earning the trust of others is one of the top lessons 4-H taught him. When you think of 4-H, you think of this dedicated individual and we are proud of his innumerable accomplishments.

**Madison Wiechman**  
Beaver Creek Boosters



**Grace Kingery**  
All Tacked Up



**Mallory Kramer**  
Blue Ribbon Rangers



**Drew Thomas**  
Livestock Unlimited



## 4-H VOLUNTEER "5th H" AWARD

The Volunteer "5th H" Award is given annually to an individual who has given impeccable service to 4-H, showcasing how we strive to "Make the Best Better" in every program that is offered to our youth.

For countless years, this individual has been giving of his time and expertise when working with 4-H donors, fundraising, investments, photography, and even rabbits. He guided our finances when the Milkshake Barn started with hand-dipped shakes in 2002, presented his knowledge and experience with the Bowling Green Community Foundation to Clover Legacy, and has judged multiple programs including the Honor Court and Citizenship Washington Focus. Wood County is blessed to have some of the county's top leading professionals volunteer their time for our youth, and this year we wish to recognize an individual who continues to provide expertise when a situation arises.

### Congratulations Ken Frisch 4-H Supporter



Ken Frisch



## 4-H TEEN SPIRIT OF LEADERSHIP AWARD

The 4-H Teen Spirit of Leadership Award is presented to members who have demonstrated excellent leadership skills in areas such as camp counseling, mentorship in a club and/or fair activities, participating in leadership board or CarTeens, or show their dedication by working tirelessly behind the scenes making programs successful with the goal in mind to help others. These teens see tasks that need attention and recognize the importance of teamwork and have discovered 4-H has an infinite amount of leadership opportunities to explore beyond project work. The following 15 teens were honored for their unparalleled leadership skills:

**Carter Lampe, Brooke Simon, Riley Burtchin, Keira Buchman, Cayla Frank, Tivan Bennett, Henry Strow, Madi Lee, Amelia Ward, Olivia Ziemann, Audrey Nester, Avalynn Stearns, Sam Head, Jimmy Russell, and Wesley Kellermeier.**



## Honorary Wood County 4-H Member

The highest recognition given to individuals is the Honorary Wood County 4-H Member award. This prestigious recognition is given to individuals who support our county program 110% without even realizing it.

When you think of the inspiring programs Wood County 4-H has to offer, it takes a team to make it all happen. The definition of Teamwork is "the combined action of a group of people, especially when effective and efficient" and these two individuals illustrate this concept perfectly. They have raised a family to believe in the 4-H Spirit, became Advisors, and shared the same passion with their club members. They recognize the needs of others and place emphasis on how they can make a difference, show others to be strong, and teach these invaluable qualities to our youth. They lead by example and have impacted a countless number of youth and adults in both 4-H, their careers, and multiple community organizations. The Wood County 4-H Program is delighted to award **Bill and Mary Gase of the Prime Cut Kids 4-H Club.**



Bill and Mary Gase  
Prime Cut Kids 4-H Club



# 4-H MEMBER OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARDS



*The 4-H Outstanding Leadership Award is one of the most honorable Wood County 4-H awards a member can earn. This distinction of outstanding leadership exemplifies the mastery of leadership each one of these recipients have illustrated in their work with youth and adults.*

*Wood County 4-H is blessed to have such praise-worthy teen leaders!*

Leadership, it seems like a simple word and yet it is considered a skill that is common to many individuals. In all reality, there are a small number of elite people who have the influence to guide members of an organization for the betterment of all. Our first recipient fits this definition precisely. She is dedicated to making a difference, sees tasks that need done before others recognize them, and is constantly thinking of the needs of others. Recognition is not something this individual seeks; she wants to make things better for everyone no matter what extra work she may need to dive into. A shining moment of leadership that comes to mind is her quality or patience when working one on one with campers who need extra attention. Her kindness and attention to detail can calm anxiety, and make others feel comforted, while experiencing all 4-H has to offer. The skills she illustrates encompasses a passion for others that is invaluable.

### **Congratulations Elle Ruffner, Blue Ribbon Rangers**



**Elle Ruffner**

Our next leader has the determination to succeed, not give up, not quit. Determination is a common trait among successful people and this leader utilizes that gift often. She seeks to understand all viewpoints in any situation and works with a compassion that tends to focus on the greater good rather than the wellbeing of one group or one individual. She feels one of her most rewarding aspects in 4-H is being a part of the Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council. This opportunity has a direct impact on Ohio 4-H Programming. Members of this Council are not just participants, they are active stakeholders. Through this opportunity she has brainstormed new ideas and offered feedback to 4-H Professionals throughout Ohio. She has also stated she could spend hours sharing her favorite experiences from 4-H, and how grateful she is for each one of them. Leading for the betterment of others is an admirable skill to be proud of.

### **Congratulations Rylie Kregel, Simply Stock 4-H Club**



**Rylie Kregel**

“Participative” is the most effective style of leadership. Leaders who lead in this fashion offer guidance to group members, but also participate and allow input from everyone. They encourage everyone to be a part, and this makes members feel engaged, motivated, and creative. Our next recipient puts this example into action in multiple situations including being a dynamic 4-H Camp Counselor and Junior Fair Board member. 4-H members constantly receive positive encouragement in the showing, in their groups and cabins, in the milkshake barn, anywhere you happen to see him lead in his own captivating style. Community Service has become a permanent part of his life because of his 4-H experiences. He recognizes the importance of assisting others and emphasizes how fulfilling it is to put the needs of others first, as it grows strong communities. Simply put, this award winner’s leadership style is contagious.

### **Congratulations Drew Gase, Prime Cut Kids 4-H Club**



**Drew Gase**

**4-H MEMBER OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARDS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

## 4-H MEMBER OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARDS CONTINUED

“Coaching Style” - A leader who coaches, views people as a reservoir of talent to be developed. A coach approach seeks to unlock people's potential. Leaders who use a coaching style open their hearts and doors for others. They believe that everyone has power within themselves, and our next recipient illustrates this style nicely as a Camp Counselor, Leadership Board Member, and Junior Fairboard Member. A coaching leader gives people a little direction to help them tap into their ability to achieve all that they're capable of and 4-H has allowed her to do this just. Putting others in the spotlight and giving them the encouragement to “Make the Best Better” is her motto. Whether she is assisting her peers with planning for camp, or helping a nervous member show their rabbit, her leadership style gently gives them the support and courage they need to shine. This type of leadership style is one to be admired.

**Congratulations Emma Ruffner, Blue Ribbon Rangers**



**Emma Ruffner**

Our last recipient can be described as a “Visionary – Follow Me” style Leader. The Visionary Leadership Style is the mark of confident leaders who map the way and set expectations, while engaging and energizing followers along the way. Spreading positive energy and captivating others describes this 4-H'er's style nicely. She leads by example, as a Camp Counselor, Junior Fair Board Member, and Wood County Junior Fair Queen 2023. Spreading positive vibes wherever she goes and making everyone in her presence feel appreciated and a part of a team has been a gift to any organization she has participated in. Her optimistic outlook and determination to transform the future for the betterment of all is commendable.

**Congratulations Katie Oestreich, Blue Ribbon Rangers**



**Katie Oestreich**

The Outstanding Service to 4-H Award recognizes volunteers and supporters for their exceptional contributions to the betterment of our program. These award recipients have pledged to “Make The Best Better” by illustrating their constant commitment to our 4-H youth.



## OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO 4-H RECIPIENTS

- \***Jeff Schulte** - 4-H Milkshake Barn Machine Mechanic & Maintenance Team Member
- \***Bill Goodson** - 4-H Camp Palmer Director, Retired
- \***Laura Westgate** - Wood County Senior Fair Board Liaison
- \***Lucy Trout** - 4-H Horse Department Shining Star
- \***Kathy Wilhelm** - Wood County Clover Legacy Volunteer & Teen Motivator
- \***Jesse Buxton** - OSU Extension County Fiscal Officer
- \***First United Methodist Church, BG** - Home to 4-H Midnight Madness & Adult Volunteer Trainings
- \***Julie Carle** - BG Independent News Reporter Extraordinaire & Wood County Clover Legacy Volunteer



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EXTENSION



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