

WOOD COUNTY 4-H RULES AND GUIDELINES

(These are County requirements. Each club may have additional requirements.)

1. 4-H membership is based on a child's age AND grade as of January 1 of the current calendar year. Eligibility for Cloverbud participation begins when a child is age 5 and enrolled in kindergarten. Eligibility for participation in 4-H projects and competitive events begins when a child is age 8 and in the third grade. Any youth age 9 or above is eligible for project membership, regardless of grade level. Membership requires enrollment in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or approved adult leader. A youth's 4-H eligibility ends December 31 the year he/she turns 19. Joining Ohio 4-H is a privilege and responsibility and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University.
2. "Cloverbuds" (youth age 5 and enrolled in kindergarten as of January 1 of the current year) are not eligible to enter competitions. 4-H volunteers lead activities that explore topics such as health, earth and the environment, citizenship, plants and animals. Cloverbuds may exhibit what they make in the Junior Fair Building. Make sure you circle "CLOVERBUD" on the enrollment form and enter project #710.
3. Enrollment: **March 15 is the deadline for 4-H enrollment in Wood Co.** To be eligible for 4-H membership in competitive classes both at the fair and at judging, members must be registered each year through 4HOnline.
 - a. How to register for 4-H: Visit the Wood County 4-H website <https://wood.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development> and click on the 4-H enrollment page for detailed instructions. You will be directed to 4-H Online, the web-based system used by all Ohio counties. <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>. Please, be sure all areas are completely filled out. (ie. member profile information, 4-H club or clubs, and 4-H projects) and click submit when completely finished. Be sure to use an email that you check regularly. This is the email we use to send you newsletters, and the most up-to-date information!
 - b. Cloverbud youth should not enroll in a project. Mark your project as #710.
 - c. Changes to your enrollment information in the 4-HOnline system, including project changes, must be made by April 15 . Contact the 4-H Office to make your changes after this date. Any project change after this date will not be considered for competition.
 - d. Youth may join 4-H after March 15, but they will be considered non-competitive due to late enrollment and will not be eligible for awards, trophies, rosettes, or certificates at 4-H judging or at the Wood County Fair. These members may be judged for an evaluation grade, exhibit projects at the fair, and receive a premium, but are ineligible for any competition.



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4. Youth do not have to be residents of Wood County to participate in the Wood County Junior Fair; however, boys and girls must be a member of a Wood County 4-H Club or FFA Chapter in order to show in the Junior Fair Shows at the Wood County Fair. **An “Across County Lines” form must be filled out for new 4-H members living outside Wood County.** This form only needs to be filled out once. This is a State 4-H Policy. Ohio 4-H Across County Lines Policy
5. **No individual may be a 4-H member in 2 or more counties simultaneously.** Youth are expected to affiliate with the 4-H program in the county of residence. However, in instances where youth live out of the county, membership considerations will be given by the 4-H Educators in the county of residence and county of participation when a positive educational experience will result. An Across County Line Form must be on file for 4-H members residing outside of Wood County.
 - a. A member can be enrolled in 2 or more 4-H Clubs in the same County. Mark both clubs on your 4-HOnline enrollment.
6. Eligible youth may be members of both 4-H (clubs) and FFA Chapters, or of either group. **In all cases, separate and different projects (also different animals and/or products) must be carried in 4-H and in FFA by a member belonging to both organizations.** The following examples will be considered different and separate projects - dairy herd management (cows in production) and dairy heifers not freshened; sheep breeding, commercial and market lambs; beef breeding and market beef; swine breeding and market hogs; horse production and horse riding; laying flock and broilers; corn and soybeans; electricity and woodworking; etc. When showing at fairs or other exhibitions, the same or similar animals and/or products cannot be shown in both organizations even though they may be carried under different projects or programs. (Example: farm management type programs where several individual projects may be included.)
7. Any project made for competition or for a grade in any other activity, such as FFA, FHA, school, or similar organizations, cannot be taken as 4-H projects.
8. Each 4-H member must carry at least one approved project. Members may exhibit any number of projects at the fair. All projects taken must be completed through a county or advisor interview. Only projects that are judged and exhibited at the fair are eligible for fair premiums. Project guidelines, judging, and some Jr. Fair exhibit requirements for all 4-H projects are listed in this Handbook. **In addition, the Wood County Fair Book must be referred to for additional fair rules.**
9. Although it is expected that most 4-H members will take their 4-H projects to judging and the fair, 4-H projects can still be considered "complete" even if the project is not taken to judging and the fair. Only if an advisor designates the project "incomplete" will a project be considered incomplete. Exhibition at the fair does not determine whether a project is complete or incomplete. Advisors must notify the Extension Office of member's grades prior to fair.

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10. All 4-H projects must be the work of the individual 4-H member. Help from parents, advisors, and other interested adults are encouraged as long as it is of educational nature. The final exhibit must be the work of the member.
11. **4-H members are required to attend a minimum of five meetings to be a Wood County 4-H member in good standing. A member must be in good standing in order to show or exhibit at the fair.** It is understood that youth and families are busy and that excused absences are necessary on occasion. Each 4-H Club may determine what constitutes excused absences. 4-H advisors must notify youth and Extension Office of failure on the member's part to complete. Members will then be notified of Jr. Fair ineligibility.
12. **4-H clubs are required to hold at least seven educational meetings between November 1st and Fair of the current year** to be considered a bona fide 4-H club. A party does not constitute an educational meeting.
13. **NUMBER OF PROJECTS PER MEMBER:** - It is strongly recommended that a first year 4-H member (8 and in the 3rd grade) take only one project. Cloverbud members do not take projects.
 - **A project must be complete and exhibited to receive fair premiums.**
 - **4-H projects may be dropped/or added on or before April 15. Please notify your Advisor first.**
14. 4-H Clubs are encouraged to purchase all their member's project books in bulk through their local club checking account through the Extension Office. Families may also purchase their books online from Extension publishing.
15. In case of a dispute over a 4-H member's project grade, the County 4-H Committee will have the authority to make the final determination of the grade.
16. The penalties for breaking any of the 4-H or Junior Fair rules listed in this document, the Wood County Fair book, State Fair book, or any other Extension approved document may consist of disqualification of the member from competition. Member in question will also forfeit any 4-H or Junior Fair awards or honors won the current year, and their rating will be incomplete.
17. The Wood County 4-H Committee in consultation with the County and State 4-H Staff members (and Junior and Senior Fair Boards when appropriate) shall be the final authority in any controversies arising in any project area of the Wood County 4-H program.
18. All participants must limit comments to judges. ONLY questions that seek constructive critique and are approved by the 4-H Staff will be allowed. Any individual whose comments to a judge (before, during, or after project judging and/or fair) that disputes the judge's decision or seeks to discredit the judge in any way is subject to forfeiture of all awards and possible dismissal from the 4-H program.

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20. All Non-Livestock 4-H projects **must be exhibited** (photos of projects are not acceptable) in the Jr. Fair building during the fair to be eligible for premium. Non-Livestock 4-H project exhibits are ineligible for open fair class entry.
21. Judges will select State Fair Participants according to State Fair Participation guidelines.
22. The Wood County 4-H Staff reserves the right to break project judging into Junior and Senior categories depending on the number of members enrolled in a specific project area.
23. All 4-H members will abide by the approved Dress Code for 4-H and Junior Fair events.

Dress Code Rule for 4-H Judgings

Miscellaneous Judging: 4-H'er must wear interview appropriate attire. This would include: dress shorts or pants/capris/skirt or dress and collared shirt or polo. No tank-tops, sleeveless shirts, t-shirts, short shorts or short skirts will be allowed.

Clothing/Nutrition Judging: 4-H'er must wear their constructed or purchased garment or garments that are interview professional. No tank-tops, sleeveless shirts, t-shirts, short shorts, or short skirts will be allowed.

Livestock Interview Judging: 4-H'er must wear a collared polo or buttoned shirt with some sleeve and nice blue jeans. No rips, cut-offs jeans. No tank-tops, sleeveless shirts, t-shirts, short shorts, or short skirts will be allowed.

****Consequences for not following this rule may include class disqualification or no interview until wardrobe is changed.**

This rule was adopted by the 4-H Committee.

24. 4-H participation in the Wood County Fair is a reward for hard work in your 4-H Club throughout the year. Members must be a member in good standing (rule #11) to participate in Junior Fair events and activities.
25. Horse Helmet Rule:
 - a.) All youth age 19 and under, participating in any 4-H equestrian activity, are required to wear properly fitted protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) / SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards with the chin harness securely fastened at all times while riding or driving an equine. It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent or guardian of the youth

participant, to make sure that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use and is properly fitted and in good condition. The Ohio 4-H Horse Program, Show Committees, Officials, Extension Personnel and Volunteer Leaders are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance. The Ohio 4-H Horse Program, Show Committees, Officials, Extension Personnel and Volunteer Leaders make no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, about any protective headgear, and cautions riders that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear, as no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries in equestrian activities. The Ohio 4-H Horse Program, Show Committees, Officials, Extension Personnel and Volunteer Leaders may, at his/her discretion, check a participant's protective headgear for proper standards. If the youth is found to be wearing unapproved, defective, or improperly fitted headgear, he/she will not be permitted to participate in riding or driving activities until proper headgear is acquired.

- b.) Parents are responsible for the purchase, fit and the certification of the helmet. Bike helmets are not permitted. Helmets must be worn during work sessions.

Pre-Fair 4-H Judging

All judgments will be in-person.

1. **In-person judging:** 4-H members should attend at their club's assigned time. Please try to abide by your club assignments to avoid long wait times. This option would allow for state fair selection. Check the 4-H Calendar page for judging dates and times.
2. **Make-up judging:**
 - a. Make-up judging will be conducted by your 4-H Advisor only!
 - b. Projects judged through your advisor are not eligible for county awards or State Fair Competition but is a way to complete your project
 - c. Advisors must turn in grades to the Extension Office **prior** to the Fair.

Members cannot participate in any Fair events (livestock shows, horse shows etc) until a project grade is received.

The Skillathon Contest will be in-person. Details will be announced in early June. No make up judging is available.

STATE FAIR ELIGIBILITY AND INFORMATION

1. A 4-H member is eligible to participate in as many State Fair classes as they qualify for in preliminary judging. All State Fair participants will be selected by judges in the various project areas. If a member has been disqualified or ineligible at the Ohio State Fair due to rule violation, the member is then also ineligible at the County Fair level.
2. **Ohio State Fair Livestock Entry information**
 - a. Members will need to go on the Ohio State Fair website for more information.
3. Most livestock 4-H projects can be entered directly in Ohio State Junior Fair classes; however, members **must** be enrolled in the same 4-H project on the county level as their state fair entry. In other project areas, 4-H project class winners are selected competitively at the pre-fair judging to represent Wood County at the Ohio State Fair. All 4-H Miscellaneous, Clothing, Nutrition, and Horse PAS Judging fall into this category.
4. The Wood County Extension office does not receive all State Fair Jr. Livestock Judging results. If you are a first through fifth place species winner and would like to be recognized, it is your responsibility to notify our office in writing: your name, club name, award and species. This information must be received at the Extension Office by August 20th.

Note: See Ohio State Fair schedule for dates for the specific projects.