



OSU Extension  
Mercer County Office  
220 W. Livingston St.  
Room B252  
Celina, OH 45822

PHONE: 419-586-2179  
FAX: 419-586-3367  
mercercounty4h.edu



<https://www.facebook.com/mcoho4h/>



<https://www.instagram.com/mercercounty4h/>



Livestock Members:

2020 Jr. Fair Auction information is attached – be sure to check it out!



# FYF: For Your Fridge

July 2020 - Mercer County 4-H Newsletter

Dear Members and Advisors:

We made it to the fair newsletter! The last few months have been full of ups/downs and plan a/b/c. Although this newsletter shares some changes that have been made along the way, let's be happy we are heading to fair! Please remember that planning the fair takes lots of volunteers and everyone is trying their best to provide the best experience while keeping everyone safe.

One thing I would like to take moment to clarify is the difference between 4-H and Junior Fair. 4-H falls under the umbrella of OSU (my employer). Junior fair falls under the umbrella of Senior Fair. An example to see the difference would be livestock. 4-H is the "learning part" of record books and QA. Once members complete the "learning part" then they become a Junior Fair participant. When 4-H members and volunteers participate in Junior Fair animal activities, they follow guidance from these local partners, as Ag Societies have the responsibility for the Junior Fair. 4-H non-livestock project judging that takes place before the fair is conducted by OSU Extension. I bring this up because over the last few months, you may have seen rules differ between 4-H and Junior Fair.

Thanks to all our advisors and volunteers who continues to support our youth over the last few months. Enjoy the fair and the success of our youth.

Beth



## Livestock Set Up

All families of the following species are strongly encouraged to help set up and/or tear down pens. Last year we were done less than 90 minutes for set up with record number of parents and exhibitors there to help. Exhibitors are helpful, but we definitely need older teens and parents there for manpower.

### Swine, Sheep, and Goat:

Set Up: Wednesday, August 5 @ 7pm.

Tear Down: Friday August 21 @ 9am

### Beef and Dairy:

**NEW THIS YEAR - Set Up:** Wednesday, August 5 @ 7pm

Tear Down: Friday August 21 @ 9am

### Horse:

Set Up: Sunday August 9 @ 7pm

Tear Down: Will be announced

### Thank You Contest

**Did you know?** The Junior Fair Board collects around \$15,000 in sponsorships for Ribbons, Trophies, and Banners? Collectively, buyers spend \$240,000 at the livestock auction. That is a lot of support and money spent on the Mercer County 4-H Program. We need to be sure to show our appreciation. **How?** Send a thank you card!

Taking a little bit of time to write a card and put a stamp on an envelope makes a huge impression on our sponsors and will encourage them to come back to the fair for future exhibitors. Be sure to include what award you won or animal they purchased in the show ring and how much you appreciate their sponsorship. It's also nice to share what you learned with the project or your favorite memory from your 4-H experience. Lastly, don't forget to thank them for their support of the Mercer County 4-H Program.

### Thank You Contest

1. Send your Thank You Cards. Remember that includes: trophy, banner, plaque, and buyers in the auction.
2. Email Erica Bowers ([bowers.360@osu.edu](mailto:bowers.360@osu.edu)) and report that you completed step 1 by September 30, 2020.
3. Your name will be included in a drawing for some awesome door prizes.

Stay up to date on the latest information regarding the 2020 Mercer County Fair:

<https://mercercountyohiofair.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/mercercountyfairgroundsohio/>



### Extensions Office Update

The Extension Office is in the process of reopening the office. While we continue to do some teleworking, per direction of Ohio State, we will be on a small rotating schedule until further notice. We will be open to the public by appointment only. Currently, face coverings are mandatory, at all times, for everyone, including staff members. To make an appointment call our office at 419-586-2179 or email who you wish to meet with.

### Jr. Fair Booth and Premium Update

Due to safety precautions before and during the fair in the Junior Fair Building – the 2020 Jr. Fair Booth displays have been canceled. We will create displays to help promote 4-H and our local 4-H clubs that will be displayed in the building.

Since we are not displaying our projects in the Junior Fair building during the fair, there will be no premiums this year. The Senior Fair Board will be showing their appreciation towards the member's hard work by waiving the fee for fair passes for members and advisors this year. Your advisors will share more information regarding your fair pass in the coming weeks.



Face masks are strongly encouraged for 4-H events. Keep your space or cover your face!



### To replace the State Fair... Ohio 4-H Project Showcase

This summer we invite 4-H members in good standing to submit a photo of themselves with their 4-H project for display in an online project showcase. You'll be asked to share what you liked about the project and one new thing you learned. Parents will also need to sign their approval for youth to participate.

Here's more:

- Select your favorite project – one per person
- Send a great photo – at least 2 MB
- Photos will be display after September 8 at ohio4h.org

Submit your photos by August 15 at [go.osu.edu/4H2020Showcase](https://go.osu.edu/4H2020Showcase). Questions? Contact Sarah Longo at [longo.79@osu.edu](mailto:longo.79@osu.edu).



### Livestock Release

Due to the additional disinfecting and cleaning protocols for 2020, all non-auction animals can be removed Thursday from 8am-12pm. Swine exhibitors must clean and remove tack from Thursday from 8am -12pm. All trailers and vehicles should be moved by noon so auction can be set up.

All other tack and pens for auction animals should be cleaned after the auction and completed by 8pm. Shavings should remain in pens until animals have been released with packer.

### Model Revue - Sunday, August 16 @ 6:30 PM

#### NEW and FOR ONLY 2020:

We will not break the modeling into Special Interest, Clothing, and Foods categories this year. The classes will be broken into age divisions only - First year, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior. Members will model based on their 4-H Age. All members, regardless of project category, will be competing against each other.

Cloverbud members will be modeling as in previous years for a participation ribbon.

#### Age Bracket:

Cloverbud

First Year: never competed in any category of modeling

Junior: 8 -11 years old

Intermediate: 12 -14 years old

Senior: 15 - 18 years old

Prior age bracket winners do not apply for 2020. You will model based on your age regardless of prior year's winning. NO professional division or jumping an age bracket. This year's winner will not apply to future years. **Deadline to apply is August 3, 2020.**

**To register and complete narrative – click this link to complete survey:**

[https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cB9KkEYsOBikjo9](https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cB9KkEYsOBikjo9)

**Great job to all our members who completed virtual livestock skillathong, modified in-person judging and virtual project judging! We appreciate all of your hard work!**



There will not be a Dress Your Animal Contest at the 2020 Fair. Look for it to return in 2021!

# Activities in the Junior Fair Tent

Hosted by Mercer County 4-H

## Jr. Fair King & Queen Contest Wednesday: 6:30PM

Stop by and watch 4-H Members compete for Jr. Fair King & Queen!

## Modeling Revue Sunday: 6:30PM

Stop by and watch 4-H Members model their projects! Practice is 5:30-6:00 PM with the Modeling Revue starting at 6:30PM.

## Recycling Program Saturday-Sunday: 12:00-1:00PM

Join Erica Stammen as she will be explaining the importance of recycling with an activity. All supplies provided.

## Pet Rocks Sunday-Monday: 3:00-4:00PM

Join Erica Stammen in Rock Painting on Sunday and Monday with judging Monday at 4:00PM. Winner will be announced at 4:30PM

## Story Time Monday-Thursday: 11:00AM

Join the Fair Royalty as they read a story!

## Plant Your Feet & Grow in 4-H Monday-Thursday: 1:30-2:00PM

Join Erica Stammen in hands-on agriculture experiences! We will be learning about both food production & animal production.

## STEM Activities Thursday: 4:00PM

Join Erica Stammen with hands-on STEM Activities.

### Royalty Applications Available!

Royalty Applications for the following areas are now available on our website - <https://go.osu.edu/mcfair>

- Jr. Fair King & Queen Scholarship Contest
- Special Interest Princess
- Livestock Royalty
- Dog Royalty

**New in 2020** –The Jr. Fair King & Queen Scholarship Contest will be held on Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM at the Mercer County Fairgrounds. All are still welcome to join us for this event! **Deadline to apply is August 3, 2020.**



### King and Queen Scholarship Contest – Parking Information

Planning on watching the King and Queen Contest on Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>? Families are welcome to drop off family members at the Jr. Fair Tent but should park by the swimming pool area or the field to the north and west of the camping areas. **Please do not park in camping spots or vendors since they could be arriving that evening.**

**All Jr. Fair Shows and Auction will be live on Facebook this year! There will be camera's set up in each arena. Stay tuned for more details and what Facebook pages to follow!**



### Showman of Showmen Contest Wednesday, August 19 @ 10:00 AM

Any Junior Fair exhibitor age 13-19 (as of Jan. 1 of current year) having completed a project in dairy, beef, sheep, swine or goats may participate. Market goats, will not be shown in the contest, however.

First Year- Age 13  
Junior- Age 14

Intermediate- Age 15-16  
Senior- Age 17-18

Contest form available on our website - <https://go.osu.edu/mcfair>