Dear Parents:

We would like to welcome your family to the Mercer County 4-H program. 4-H can provide an exciting, fun, interesting and rewarding experience for your children. 4-H is a family project!

4-H parents play a major role in the growing experience their children can have in 4-H. Your interest of 4-H programming will help your child develop numerous skills.

The most successful 4-H members are those who have the support of their parent or parents. 4-H participation is no different than anything else children do; they need and want the encouragement of their parent or parents. Find out more about 4-H so you can help your family members "MAKE THE BEST BETTER".

Sincerely,

Barbara Parker-Phares
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development

What is 4-H?

4-H is...... a volunteer led, educational program that supplements the teaching of parents, church, and school.

4-H .......... is Cloverbud activities in a noncompetitive program for a child when they have reached age 5 and are enrolled in kindergarten, first or second grade as of January 1 of the current year.

4-H........... is an informal program for all youth who are at least age 8 and enrolled in 3rd grade as of January 1 of the current year.

4-H is...... adults providing an arena for youth to learn and have fun with their friends.
WHAT IS THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF 4-H?

The basic philosophy in 4-H is to strengthen the mental, physical, moral, and social development of youth therefore helping to create desirable citizens and leaders. The main objective is the development of boys and girls through participation in projects, events and various activities.

WHY DO YOUTH ENJOY 4-H?

While all youth are different, they are also alike in many ways. All people wish:

1. TO BELONG
2. TO ACHIEVE
3. TO BECOME INDEPENDENT
4. TO EXPERIENCE NEW THINGS
5. TO HAVE AFFECTION

The wide variety of "learn by doing" projects, activities and events that comprise the 4-H program contribute to meeting these needs. Decision-making, individual responsibility, achievement and recognition further help make 4-H a satisfying experience.

WHY AND WHEN DID 4-H ORIGINATE?

4-H work, as we know it, began around 1900 as a means of reaching parents with improved farm and home practices. It was based upon the assumption that if new ideas were instilled in the minds of the youngsters, they would in turn convince their parents to try these innovations.

The second reason 4-H was developed was because the schools were not meeting the needs and interest of rural youth.

The first organized 4-H clubs were small groups covering a single topic such as beef, corn, gardening, and food preservation. There were corn and pig clubs in Ohio as early as 1904.

HAVE 4-H OBJECTIVES CHANGED SINCE ITS EARLY DAYS?

Yes! Following the "teach improved practices to farmers and homemakers through their children", ideas came from World War I and the "food for victory" theme. Following World War I, the "keep them on the farm" objective was foremost in people’s minds. Food production was emphasized again during World War II.

Today, the objective is the positive development of boys and girls, providing a wide variety of learning opportunities in which all youth can participate. 4-H today is for all kids, whether they live in the city or in the country.
WHO OVERSEES THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE 4-H PROGRAM?

The Ohio State University Extension is a cooperative understanding by the United States Department of Agriculture, the land-grant colleges (in our case, The Ohio State University), and the Mercer County Commissioners.

OSU Extension is responsible for carrying up-to-date information from the classroom and laboratory to the people of the state, and to bring back to the university those problems that can be solved only by careful study and research.

The purpose of the county Extension program is to provide instruction and practical demonstrations in agriculture, marketing, home economics, 4-H and youth development work, and community development to ALL people in the county. Extension Educators work with local volunteers in conducting county programs and events.

A 4-H club is a group of boys and girls organized with officers appropriate to the group and with one or more adult leaders (advisors) under the sponsorship of the OSU Extension.

The club is organized within a neighborhood, a school, a church, a business or social unit. The size of the club should be suitable to the age of the members, meeting place and leadership available. This type of club is called a community 4-H club. Community clubs may have members interested in all types of project areas or may be a specialized club in which members take only one type of project. In Mercer County, there are specialized clubs in horses, beef and dogs. A member can take horses, beef and dogs in a multi-project club, but many members chose to join a specialized club that fits their interest.

Children in grades K-2 (as of January 1) are eligible for 4-H membership and participation. An activity rather than a project format is used with this program. This is called Cloverbud 4-H. All cloverbud activities are non-competitive as research indicates that children at this age win very well and lose horribly.

Youth also are 4-H members by taking part in special interest groups and school enrichment programs. School enrichment simply means that an Extension Educator will present a special educational program to children in the formal school setting. Many of you reading this booklet certainly have children that have been involved in 4-H in this way. Many classrooms are visited each school year by the Extension staff and volunteers.

Most clubs hold monthly meetings. In Mercer County, there are community clubs, specialty clubs, and Cloverbud clubs, in addition to a strong 4-H school enrichment program.
PURPOSE OF 4-H CLUB MEETINGS

The purposes of 4-H meetings are to help boys and girls:

1. Acquire new information
2. Learn creative use of leisure time
3. Develop social skills
4. Acquire desirable leadership and citizenship traits.
5. Strengthen self esteem

4-H members are given the opportunity to learn and practice group decision-making situations by using the knowledge and skills acquired at these meetings. 4-H members are expected to attend the monthly meetings. PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND MEETINGS WITH THEIR 4-H’ERS. 4-H is a family affair.

4-H YEAR

Some 4-H clubs begin their year in January or February. About half of the county’s community clubs meet all year long, generally having their first meeting of the new 4-H year in October or November. Members are to be registered as club members by the March 1st enrollment deadline.

AGE FOR MEMBERSHIP

Eligibility for 4-H membership begins when a child has reached age 5 and is enrolled in kindergarten as of January 1 of the current year (Cloverbuds). Membership to the 4-H club program begins when a child is at least age 8 and enrolled in 3rd grade as of January 1 of the current year. Ohio 4-H membership ends December 31 of the year in which an individual attains the age of 19.

LEADERSHIP

Adults serve as volunteer leaders. Adult leaders are called advisors. Adult advisors work with club officers in directing their club. There are three types of leaders:

1. Organizational - This leader organizes meeting location, enrollment, club program and serves as the club’s contact with the OSU County Extension Office.
2. Project - This leader provides direction and support for member’s project work.
3. Activity - This leader coordinates club wide activities outside of the project area.
HOW OFTEN DO CLUBS MEET?
Most clubs meet 8 to 10 times between enrollment time and the county fair. In order to be eligible to show as a 4-H member in Jr. Fair, a member must attend 6 4-H activities a year or have valid excused absences with the local 4-H club advisor. Most clubs meet monthly. Clubs are free to establish their own schedule based on what works best for the membership.

WHAT IS A CLUB MEETING LIKE?
The 4-H meeting is balanced between business, educational program and recreation. 4-H meetings normally don’t last over 1-2 hours, with the time divided about equally between the three parts.

BUSINESS SESSION
The business portion of the meeting should be short and snappy. It should be a small democracy in action. Club officers, who are elected by the members, work with the advisors in developing their business agenda and conducting the meeting. Another skill that members learn is how to lead and conduct a business meeting.

WHAT IS THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM?
This part of the program is designed to help members learn more about the subjects of general interest. 4-H teaching is unique - it is "learning by doing". Good 4-H teaching employs seeing, hearing, and doing. Generally the educational program will include talks and demonstrations by the 4-H'ers. Outside speakers may also present programs for 4-H meetings.

DEMONSTRATIONS BY THE 4-H MEMBERS
Demonstrations are "show and tell" type presentations where the 4-H'ers share some of the fun things they’ve learned in their 4-H projects. Actual articles are used to show the steps necessary for a finished product. Most demonstrations consist of three parts: 1) introduction explains the purpose of the demonstration; 2) body outlines subject step-by-step; and 3) summary reviews important points.

ILLUSTRATED TALKS
Illustrated talks differ from demonstrations in that they tell how rather than show how. Charts, models and other visuals are important for illustrated talks. Most members will give some type of talk at a club meeting. This may be a project report, a health report or a safety report. Public speaking is one of the skills that 4-H members develop.
RECREATION SESSION

The recreation portion of the meeting is a "fun" time involving all members. Recreation will vary from challenges, group singing, dodge ball, relay races, quiet games to sports. A club officer or officers give leadership to planning and conducting the club's group recreation.

REFRESHMENTS

Several clubs in the county serve refreshments at meetings, although they are not essential. Most often a different member or a group of members will provide treats for each meeting. The learning experience for the members who select, prepare, and serve the refreshments is the prime concern. Club members should learn how to select simple, nutritious, and inexpensive refreshments. Parents can and should help by giving suggestions and guidance. A club officer is usually charged with providing leadership for the refreshment part of the meeting.

MOTTO

"To Make the Best Better"

EMBLEM

The 4-H emblem is the four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf which represents head, heart, hands, and health.

COLORS

The 4-H colors are green and white. Green symbolizes nature's most common color and represents life, springtime and youth. White symbolizes purity.

PLEDGE

I Pledge: My head to clearer thinking.
My heart to greater loyalty.
My hands to larger service, and
My health to better living,
For my club, my community,
my country, and my world.
Other than age, the only requirement for 4-H membership is that 4-H’ers enroll in at least one project. There are nearly 160 projects from which to choose. Members are expected to complete the projects in which they enroll. To enroll in a project, the member and parent complete a project sign up form. This form is available from the club advisor and must be given back to them so that the completed paperwork is in the Extension Office by March 1st.

The 4-H project has been described as the member’s "gateway" to the rest of the 4-H programs. From our standpoint, it might be better to turn the description around to say that the project is the "gateway" to the boy or girl.

Projects provide the basis of the 4-H program by offering various educational experiences. Carrying out a project to completion will help the member "LEARN BY DOING" as well as learn why things happen the way they do.

**WHY PROJECTS?**

The project is a teaching tool that can be used to develop many desirable traits in addition to the more evident project skills.

Project work is important in developing boys and girls to their maximum potential so long as we view project work as a "means to an end" and not the "end in itself". This means that the basic objective of 4-H - the development of the boy and girl - is the most important consideration, not the garment the member makes or the calf they raise. In Mercer County, the goal of our 4-H program is to develop blue ribbon children while they strive to do their best in their project work.

**WHAT ARE PROJECTS?**

Projects are real-life experiences that help 4-H’ers learn to make sound decisions. Projects put the hands and minds to work. 4-H projects take on a wide variety of interests and activities that are designed to attract boys and girls regardless of their place of residence, economic status, race, etc.

**WHAT SHOULD PROJECTS DO FOR THE 4-H’ERS?**

Projects are important. Working with projects can produce satisfaction such as:

- A feeling of accomplishment
- Prestige
- Attention
- Working together as a family
- Challenging of abilities
- Practice decision making
- Excelling
- Price of ownership
Therefore, the objectives of 4-H projects are to:

1. Create a sense of ownership.
2. Give satisfaction of achievement.
3. Strengthen family and community ties.
4. Provide opportunities for club members to:
   a) learn skills connected with the project
   b) develop and understand knowledge related to the project
   c) develop desirable attitudes for a satisfying life
   d) assume responsibilities
   e) provide healthful competition
   f) make meaningful decisions
5. Provide a leisure time activity.
6. Explore career opportunities and thus the need for continued education. All the projects are in a sense career explorative, giving each member a taste of the work and responsibilities that are involved in careers related to the selected project area.

WHAT ARE SOME GUIDES TO SELECTING PROJECTS?

Parents and the member should know and fully understand what is expected of the 4-H’er before he or she enrolls in a project.

Projects are selected in the winter to early spring before the enrollment deadline of March 1st. Usually, younger members should limit their projects to one or two choices. Older, experienced members may be able to do several different ones, including those that are more difficult.

Factors that parents and leaders should consider in making project selections are:

1. Does the project meet the needs and interest of the member? The fallacy here, however, is that in many cases the youngster doesn’t really know if he would like a particular project without first giving it a try.
2. Is the project in keeping with age and ability (physical and mental) of the youth? Will it challenge him educationally?
3. How much time does the member have and how much time does the project require? What season of the year is most of the activity of the project?
4. Is the project acceptable to you as parents and does it fit into the family needs and situations?
5. How much will the project cost?
6. Is there adequate space and equipment available?
7. Is there an opportunity for ownership and management responsibilities?
8. Are there other adults or teen members to help with the project in the club or are the parents willing to help the member with the projects?

HOW ARE PROJECTS CONDUCTED?

Project work is conducted through various activities and events such as:

1. Project meetings (in the local club)
2. Regular club meetings (demonstrations, project talks, etc.)
3. Tours - to visit projects of members.
4. Family activity at home.
5. Exhibiting project at show, fairs, etc.
6. Record keeping.
7. County workshops in same project areas.

WHERE IS PROJECT INFORMATION FOUND?

All 4-H projects are listed in the Family Guide to 4-H. Each family should receive one copy of this 4-H resource at the beginning of the 4-H year. The Family Guide to 4-H includes a brief description of each project as well as a guide that indicates the difficulty level of each project.

Each club advisor will also have a copy of the Mercer County Project Summary which contains specific project requirement information regarding what needs to be brought to project judging and what items should be displayed at the fair.

On the front inside cover of each 4-H project booklet will be stapled the project display requirements and other important project information that the member needs to know about their selected project.

DROPPING AND ADDING PROJECTS

A member may drop or delete a project from their record by completing a project sign up form and marking "drop" by April 1st. This form must be given to the Extension Office by that date. Any project that the member is registered for after April 1st will be the projects that we will expect the member to bring to judging. A person may add another 4-H project by completing this same form and returning it to the Extension office by April 1st.
4-H PROJECT EVALUATION

The member's completed work is “graded” at an activity called Interview Judging. At this time, the member brings their completed project materials to the judging location and shares with a “judge” what they made and learned in the project. This event is generally held during the third week of July at the fairgrounds. A time is scheduled for each member to have their project work evaluated. This judging schedule may be secured from your club advisor usually at the club’s June meeting.

If a member cannot attend the judging event, they may “make up” the event by phoning the Extension Office at 586-2179 and making an appointment for make up or early judging. Early judging is held 2-3 weeks prior to planned judging. There is only one day of early judging.

The Extension Office usually has all 4-H project books available for review at any time during the year.

If a member misses their planned judging day, the member may complete their project by attending late judging. The number will not qualify for any special awards, but will complete their project.

At the end of each 4-H year members are evaluated on the quality of their participation. To be considered complete each member must meet a set of minimum standards. Advisors evaluate member participation based on the following criteria:

Did the member:
- complete at least one project and have it judged?
- attend at least 6 meetings that year?
- provide help to the club when asked?
- carry out duties assigned?
- complete work proportionate with member’s skill level?

Those who are deemed complete then receive a certificate of achievement and credit for one year in 4-H.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF 4-H MEMBER

4-H parents need to know what is expected of the 4-H member in order to effectively assist their child. The goal of 4-H is to meet the basic needs of youth and help them acquire essential
life skills through planned "learn by doing" experiences. The 4-H program provides its members with many opportunities. It helps develop skills and interests. It offers trips and scholarships for those that put forth that extra effort. It is the responsibility of the 4-H member to get involved and to take advantage of the opportunities provided in 4-H.

Some of the major responsibilities of the 4-H member are listed below:

1. Select a 4-H project with the help of your parents.
2. Read the 4-H project book you receive and do the activities in the book.
3. Attend and participate in 4-H club meetings and activities.
4. Attend and participate in county, district, and state activities, workshops, and programs when possible.
5. Help plan and support 4-H club activities - community service, fund raising, etc.
6. Read the 4-H mail that comes to your home. Share this information with your parents.
7. Keep a current and up-to-date 4-H calendar of meetings and activities.
8. Ask parents to remind you of upcoming events and due dates.
9. Ask your parent, relative, or other adult to serve as a 4-H project home helper to assist you with your 4-H project.
10. Serve as an officer of the club or on a committee when asked.
11. Since most groups or clubs are judged by the behavior of individual members, it is the responsibility of the 4-H member to conduct him/herself at all times during 4-H meetings and activities in a manner that would be a credit to the individual, the family, the 4-H club, the county and the state.
12. Keep your parents informed of your 4-H activities.

Responsibilities of Parents

Make 4-H club work FAMILY work - but let the boys and girls do their own work and carry their own jobs to completion. You be their guide only.

Remember that the real objective of 4-H is to develop your sons and daughters into better citizens. The way they do their work -- projects, meetings, their conduct at competitive events, and so on -- will help to set work and character standards for the remainder of their lives.

Parental interest and encouragement are major influences on young 4-H'ers. If parents are involved right from the beginning, chances are increased for a successful 4-H experience.

Some of the major responsibilities of 4-H parents are listed below:

1. Assist child in selecting a 4-H project he or she can do and will enjoy. Consider if this project fits your family's finances, in terms of time and money!
2. Read the project book your child receives. Find ways you can help your child with the project. This means you don't do the work for the child, but you guide and assist.
3. Attend 4-H club meetings and activities with your child as often as possible. This will
help you understand what is happening with club activities.

5. Read the 4-H mail that comes to your home. This will help you stay up-to-date on what is going on. You will be able to remind your child of upcoming events and due dates.

6. Encourage your child to attend 4-H meetings and activities. You should make sure your child has a way to get to and from the events.

7. Provide light refreshments for your child’s 4-H club meeting when requested.

8. Lend your kitchen, backyard, living room, garage, or basement for an occasional 4-H club meeting when requested.

9. Share a hobby or interest of yours with 4-H club members during a meeting or workshop.

10. Assist your child in keeping records on his or her 4-H work. A 4-H member is to keep a written record of what they do in 4-H. This includes 4-H project work, demonstrations given, awards received, leadership positions held, and community service involvement.

11. Keep a current 4-H calendar listing meetings, deadlines, upcoming special 4-H activities and other important 4-H happenings.

12. Ask questions. If you cannot attend a club meeting, ask your child what happened. Almost every club sends home written information with their members.

13. Help your child find a way to participate in special events that interest him such as county contests, camps, junior fair, displays or shows.

14. Get to know your child’s advisor or advisors and offer assistance to them. Remember, everyone involved is a volunteer! Offer to assist the 4-H club advisors with specific tasks.

15. Plan ahead. Project work takes time and effort. Waiting until the last minute is never a good idea.

16. Encourage your child when he succeeds and even more when he fails. Help your child discover progress, not just the end result.

17. Avoid scheduling family vacations which conflict with your child’s 4-H schedule.

18. Don’t relive your childhood experiences through your child.

19. Don’t view your child as an extension of yourself or view his/her success or failure as a reflection of your ability or worth.

20. Ask yourself why you wanted your child to join 4-H. If it is for recognition, you will be disappointed. If it is so they can learn and become involved in a worthwhile activity, you will be satisfied.

*Upcoming activities and deadlines will be posted on our web site at mercer.osu.edu

**STATE AND NATIONAL:** Most activities conducted beyond county are explained in the
Family Guide to 4-H.

COUNTY: Be certain to read any and all 4-H mail you receive to stay up-to-date on 4-H happenings. If you have provided an email address, you may receive information on your email. ALWAYS READ THE INFORMATION THAT IS SENT HOME WITH YOUR CHILD FROM A CLUB MEETING. THIS IS PROBABLY WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE NEXT 2-4 WEEKS. PAPERWORK MAY NEED TO BE COMPLETED, SIGNED AND RETURNED BY THE NEXT 4-H CLUB MEETING.

4-H CAMP: Held at Harbor Point 4-H Camp located on Grand Lake, our two week camping program features lots of fun and learning activities for children ages 9-12. Participants select which week to attend camp. Cost has been $100 per child for the four day, three-night camp. All children should receive additional information from their 4-H club advisor at their March meeting. 4-H Camp tends to be a big highlight for many 4-H members. Nearly 300 4-H’ers annually attend camp. Adult helpers are also welcome and needed at camp. Last year many parents joined us at 4-H camp and had nearly as much fun as the kids. Adults may volunteer a few hours to a few days at camp.

4-H INTERSTATE EXCHANGE TRIP generally held in June or early July. This has been a successful program for 25 years in Mercer County for our 13-19 year old members. Some places visited by Mercer County are: Rosebud, Treasure Counties, Montana; LaCrosse Co, Wisconsin; Stratford, Ontario, Canada; Adams Co, Pennsylvania; New York state; Linn Co, Kansas; Matagorda Co, Texas; Minneapolis St. Paul, MN; Rapid City, South Dakota; Harrisonburg, Virginia, Grant County, Wisconsin and Eagle County, CO. During the stays, the entire delegation travels on many group tours, picnics and parties. We are hosted by 4-H families and live in their homes. When we host, 4-H families provide room, board and transportation to and from the bus meeting location plus all expenses for group tours that are planned for their guest. Many good friends have been made as a result of the exchange program.

HEALTH AND SAFETY SPEAKING CONTEST: This activity offers a chance to develop public speaking skills. Members are to prepare a 3-5 minute speech or a group skit on a health or safety topic. For more information contact your 4-H club advisor or the Extension office.

COUNTY DEMONSTRATION CONTEST. All members are eligible to give demonstrations at the county fair and compete for state fair selection. This is a great learning experience for members!

JUNIOR FAIR ACTIVITIES: There are several additional activities held at the annual county fair that 4-H members may wish to participate. These are also outlined in The Mercer County Junior Fairbook. Your club advisors will also be updating members about the many fun activities
held during the fair that they may wish to do. Many of these activities require registration prior to the event, so ask your child’s advisors about these events. Clubs usually have all the necessary fair paperwork by their June club meeting. Families will receive a copy of the Fairbook from their 4-H club advisor. (Remember to check our website at mercer.osu.edu).

OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JUNIOR FAIR

**Displaying projects**
4-H members are encouraged to display their project work at the junior fair. Clubs will either have a club booth in which the project work will be placed or an area in the junior fair building at the fair will be designated for project display. Your club advisor will inform you of the details about project display.

**Purchasing a fair pass**
Admission to the annual Mercer County Banner Fair requires a ticket. 4-H members are eligible to receive a junior fair participant ticket. This junior fair participant ticket allows THE MEMBER to enter the fairgrounds but does not include rides. If the member wishes to enjoy the rides at the fair, he/she will need to purchase an arm band either prior to or during the fair. The club advisor will secure your junior fair ticket for you in advance of the fair. Parents and other family members will need to purchase tickets for admission to the fair. Weekly passes, which are the best buy if you will be coming to the fair more than once, must be purchased prior to opening day. IF YOU TAKE AN ANIMAL PROJECT, YOUR PARENT WILL NEED A TICKET AS YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO COME EVERY DAY AND FEED AND WATER THE ANIMAL.

Weekly passes and all other fair tickets may be purchased at the Ag Society office that is located on the fairgrounds near the grandstand. The Extension Office does not sell any of these tickets.

**Taking a 4-H Livestock Project**
If you decide to take a livestock project as a 4-H member, there are some extra meetings and requirements that must be met. These are:

1. Attend a meeting called Quality Assurance in the spring. Attendance is a requirement of the Ohio Department of Agriculture and is a MUST! Usually, there are 4 of these meetings held and you must attend one. Your club advisor will let you know when these meetings will be held. Members ages 12 (as of Jan. 1 of the current year) and older may take a test and “test out” of this requirement. Livestock exhibitors will receive detailed information about this training.

2. Participate in project knowledge judging. This is called the skillathon. It is held the same week as other projects are judged (similar to non-animal project judging).
3. Complete and turn in your livestock record book by the date of the skillathon. You must receive a 70% complete score on your book in order to be eligible to show.

4. Complete and turn in a fair entry for your animal or animals prior to or at the skillathon judging. Your 4-H club advisor will have livestock entry papers.

5. You need to have your animal in your possession by a certain deadline. This date varies from specie to specie. Steer project animals is late November-early December. Dairy projects are @ March 1\textsuperscript{st}. Swine, sheep, horse and goats projects are @ May 1\textsuperscript{st}. Poultry and rabbit projects are @ June 1\textsuperscript{st}. These dates will vary a few days yearly based upon the calendar. THE IMPORTANT THING TO NOTE IS THAT YOU CANNOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO GET AN ANIMAL.

6. Livestock project animals must be identified. The identification process involves ear tagging, nose printing and/or tattooing. Tags are provided. Information about identifying animals will be mailed to members enrolled in the project and also shared with club advisors. The ID dates correlate with the possession deadlines.

**AWARDS**

**HONOR CLUB MEMBER:** This is a special award for first, second and third year members who are 9 to 12 years of age. Members are to complete a set of criteria, which is documented by their club advisor, to qualify for honor club member. Members are to participate in club activities, give health and safety reports and demonstrations and complete their project(s) as an honor club member. Awards are: first year, patch; second year, writing pen; third year, mechanical pencil.

**JUNIOR FAIR RIBBONS AND OTHER AWARDS:** As a 4-H participant in the junior fair, a member may win a special ribbon, trophy or other award. Some members may sell an animal in the junior fair livestock auction. Other members, based upon the quality of their project work, may be selected to represent our county at the state fair competition in that project area. While awards are great and fun to earn, the really important lesson that everyone needs to keep in mind is that children learn, have fun, develop new skills and make friends. If they win a special award; that’s just an extra bonus!