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Important Dates
Tuesday, February 24
5:00 p.m., 4-H Hall
Volunteer Training

Saturday, February 28
10:00 a.m., 4-H Hall
Horse Safety & Ethics
Training

Monday, March 2
4:00 p.m., OSUE
DUE: 4-H Enrollment and
Club Forms

Friday, March 6
10:00 a.m., 4-H Hall
New Volunteer Orientation

Thursday, March 12
6:30 p.m., 4-H Hall
Horse Safety & Ethics
Training

Saturday, March 14
Columbus, Ohio
Ohio 4-H Conference

4-H’ers, Volunteers, Parents and Supporters,

I hope your 4-H clubs got off to a good start this year. While it might not feel like it, spring is right around the corner and so is the Clermont County 4-H enrollment deadline! Enrollment forms are due to the Extension Office by Monday, March 2.

Staff at the Extension Office is already busy entering enrollment data, ordering project books and conducting youth and volunteer trainings. Thank you to everyone who attended a volunteer training, camp counselor assessment or quality assurance training. I am excited for another great year!

We have developed a new format for the 4-H newsletter. Hopefully, the format is easier for everyone to access and read.

Below there is a title with a brief summary of the necessary information. For more details, simply click the title to view the information on our website.

Enjoy the snow while it’s here; go sledding, make snow cream or even build a snowman. It won’t be long before the sun is blazing and we are wishing for cooler weather. Be safe and stay warm!

Sincerely,
Kelly Royalty
4-H Youth Development Educator
OSU Extension, Clermont County
1. **4-H Member / Cloverbud Enrollment**
   Enrollment forms for all 4-H members and Cloverbuds are due to the Clermont County Extension Office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2015. Members and volunteers must complete the 4-H enrollment form as well as sign the Clermont County Jr. Fair Standards of Behavior.

2. **Clermont County Jr. Fair Standards of Behavior**
   All 4-H members and volunteers are required to sign the Clermont County Jr. Fair Standards of Behavior. Please sign and return forms to the Extension Office by Monday, March 2, 2015.

3. **Club Paperwork**
   The packet of required club forms is also due on Monday, March 2. The forms that are due are the Annual Club Summary, constitution and by-laws (if different from last year), 2014 Financial Summary, Ohio 4-H Charter Checklist, confirmation of club insurance and a club yearly calendar.

4. **Don’t Forget to File Your 990 e-Postcard**
   An e-Postcard must be filed by May 15th of each year in order for clubs to maintain their EIN. Please forward a copy of the confirmation to Krista Rose (rose.1281@osu.edu). If you receive an error message, please take a screenshot and forward the message to Kelly Royalty (royalty.9@osu.edu).

5. **Financial Summary**
   Ohio 4-H requires that all active 4-H Clubs/Affiliates complete the Ohio 4-H Financial Summary. If you have trouble accessing the link above, copy and paste the link (http://go.osu.edu/4hfinancialsummary) into the web address bar in Internet Explorer. The report is for the 2014 calendar year, January 2014-December 2014. Reports must be received by Monday, March 2.

6. **4-H Volunteer Training**
   There is only one volunteer training remaining! The last training will be held on Tuesday, February 24 at 5:00 p.m. in the 4-H Hall. All volunteers are required to attend a volunteer training in order to maintain their volunteer status. Please RSVP by Friday, February 20, 2015.

7. **New Volunteer Orientation**
   New Volunteer Orientation will be held on Friday, March 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the 4-H Hall. This training is for any new 4-H Volunteer. A New Volunteer Application and background check results need to be on file by March 2, 2015.

8. **Quality Assurance**
   Below are the dates for Quality Assurance Training. All Jr. Fair Exhibitors with a market or lactating animals must attend QA training.

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<td>Saturday, April 11</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Felicity Franklin High School</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 9</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>4-H Hall</td>
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9. **NEW! Horse Safety and Ethic Training**
   All members taking a horse project for the first time is required to attend a Horse Safety and Ethics Training. Members will view both mandatory horse safety videos, participate in activity stations and sign the mandatory permission to participate and safety and ethics forms.

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10. First Aid / CPR / AED Training
Through an Ohio 4-H Foundation Grant, online Adult/Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED training is being offered for $20.00. The training is open to the public. Only 100 spots are available. Don’t delay to register for this great training opportunity!

11. Release Dates for New Project Books
- 150 Poultry Project and Record Book, March 2
- 461 Let’s Bake Quick Breads, February 23
- 498 Quilting the Best Better, February 23
- 500 Science Fun with Physics, February 16
- 507 Robotics with EV3, March 2

12. Project Book Orders
Due to the large number of book orders being processed, it is taking a little longer for orders to be shipped. Most orders are taking between 10-15 business days. Please be patient and place your book orders early.

Clermont County 4-H’er selected as Ohio 4-H Ambassador

Melissa Campbell, member of ALIVE 4-H club, was selected as an Ohio 4-H Ambassador. Ohio 4-H Ambassadors are the youth spokespersons for Ohio 4-H. Each year outstanding 4-H teens who demonstrate excellence in 4-H achievement, citizenship, and leadership are invited to become Ohio 4-H Ambassadors.

When asked why she wanted to be an Ohio 4-H Ambassador, Melissa answered by stating, “4-H has meant a lot to me. Not only have I had fun, but it has helped me step out of my comfort zone. It has made me more aware of how I can help my community. Being an Ambassador is a way for me to give back to my community; to learn more and develop my personal skills. The knowledge, tools, and skills that I will gain from being an Ambassador, I can share with other 4-Her’s, so they can grow and develop new skills. This is all one big cycle: learn, develop and share with others, so they can learn new skills and start the cycle again.”

Melissa hopes to develop her personal leadership, communication and public relation skills through her experience as an Ohio 4-H Ambassador. She also wants this experience to teach her to become a better member of society as well as allow her to advance and promote the 4-H program. Melissa stated, “I have experienced a lot of growth through participating in 4-H and as an officer in my club. Being an Ambassador, I will be able to share my knowledge, experience and personal growth to promote 4-H not only to other 4-Her’s but also in my local community.”
As for advice to fellow 4-H members, Melissa encourages members to, “Participate in new things that will challenge you and help you step out of your comfort zone. Do not listen to the people telling you "you can't". Because you certainly CAN do anything you set your mind to.”

Being a 4-H Ambassador is both an honor and a responsibility. Ambassadors serve as speakers, emcees, program facilitators, hosts or hostesses, committee members, and in many other youth leadership roles for 4-H and Extension programs and events throughout the state. We are proud to have Melissa represent Clermont County at the state level and look forward to seeing what she accomplishes over the next year.

For more information about the Ohio 4-H Ambassador program or other teen opportunities please visit http://www.ohio4h.org/4-h-youth/teens.

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**Students Learn Finance Skills in LOOK to Clermont Program**

*By: Krista Rose*

OWENSVILLE, Ohio (Jan. 20, 2015) — LOOK to Clermont participants learned about finances Jan. 20 at the Clermont County Fairgrounds’ 4-H Hall.

LOOK to Clermont is a youth development course, operated by Ohio State University Extension Clermont County and UC Clermont College, for high school juniors and seniors. Participants develop leadership skills, while earning post-secondary enrollment option (PSEO) credit, by meeting each month for a theme day and completing a group project.

At January’s finance-themed class, students participated in Real Money, Real World (RMRW), a research-based finance education program offered through Extension and customized to the Ohio economy. RMRW offers a hands-on simulation to teach youth about lifestyle and budget choices similar to those they will make as adults.

RMRW teaches the relation between higher education and earning power, a lesson valuable to juniors and seniors making post-high school decisions.

In the simulation, students assume the role of an adult who is the sole income provider for a family. They receive an occupation, monthly salary and the number of children they are raising. First, students learn to subtract savings, taxes and health costs from their income. The amount of money left is what they can spend on common household
The simulation involved staff and volunteers representing businesses found in a monthly budget: communications including phone, internet and cable staffed by Marti Kleinfelter of the Clermont League of Women Voters; clothing staffed by Amy Elberfield of Jockey Person to Person; student loans and credit staffed by volunteer Rita Ferguson; entertainment and charity staffed by volunteer Maureen Mullarkey; food staffed by Extension educator Gigi Neal; transportation and insurance staffed by Extension staff Krista Rose; and childcare staffed by Barbara Brunner of Batavia Heights Christian Childcare. LOOK advisors Glenda Neff of UC and Kelly Royalty of Extension staffed the housing and utilities activities.

Youth Awarded 4-H Committee State Camp/Trip Scholarships

This year, the Clermont County 4-H Committee awarded 16 youth with scholarships to participate in state organized camps or trips this summer. Congratulations to all of the scholarship recipients!

Ben Cowdrey – Carving New Ideas
Caleb Cowdrey – Buckeye Leadership Workshop
Nora Cowdrey – Jr. Shooting Sports Camp
Mikaya Esz – Ohio Forestry Camp
Lauriann Esz – Sr. Shooting Sports Camp
Abigail Guenther – Buckeye Leadership Workshop
Ethan Kinner – Water Adventure Weekend
Grace Kinner – Citizenship Washington Focus
Claire Kinner – Ohio 4-H Sea Camp
Alexis Parks – Carving New Ideas
Zach Prescott – Space Adventure Camp
Aaron Prescott – Leadership Washington Focus
Lauren Pride – Ohio Forestry Camp
David Pride – Sr. Shooting Sports Camp
Jordan Schmidt – Ohio 4-H Sea Camp
Kyle Schmidt – Sr. Shooting Sports Camp

Clermont County 4-H Shooting Sports
Submitted by Shooting Sports Club & Clover Cats member Kiara Parks

Did you know the 4-H shooting sports program is available in two locations in Clermont County? The club that meets in the northern part of the county, Shooting Sports 4-H Club, meets the second Thursday of the month at Eastern Hills Rod and Gun Club in Batavia. Shooting Sports 4-H Club would like to invite anyone who is interested to join the club.
We have a variety of activities and trained 4-H instructors in every discipline: shotgun, rifle, pistol, archery, muzzloader, hunting and wildlife, and living history. We spend time on the range at almost every meeting.

As a club, we have been working to expand the opportunities that are available to members:

- Expanding the rifle program to include air rifle competition shooting
- Focusing shotgun projects on shooting trap or skeet
- Offering advanced shotgun participants the chance to use their skills while hunting during our annual fall pheasant hunt
- Working toward shooting scholastic steel pistol as another way to compete in the shooting sports arena
- Offering great community service opportunities with the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and the Friends of National Rifle Association (NRA)

Shooting Sports and competition shooting are great experiences to have. There are so many opportunities available to shooting sports club members. There are national 4-H shooting competitions and a 4-H shooting sports summer camp in Jackson, Ohio. There are also many scholarships available for shooting sports participants; colleges that have shooting teams provide scholarship dollars like they would for any other sports team.

I would like to share a personal story about how my participation in Shooting Sports 4-H Club led to a great opportunity…

The Friends of NRA provides 45 annual scholarships for high school sophomores and juniors to attend a week-long trip in Washington D.C. I was fortunate enough to be selected as a 2014 scholarship participant and attended the program in June 2014. I flew to Washington D.C. not knowing what to expect. I quickly learned that it was to be one of the best weeks of my life. I participated in many learning activities including debates, seminars, and presentations.

Although the days were busy learning, we also managed to go on tours and see many sights in the Washington D.C. area. We toured the NRA headquarters and were permitted to shoot on the NRA range. I even got my picture taken with the president of the NRA. We got to go on a guided tour of the National Firearms Museum. One of the days we toured the Quantico Marine Base, where we ate MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) for dinner, and watched the parade from front row seats with the President of the United States in attendance.

Another memorable event was that our group participated in the wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. I was surprised to see the selfies we took in front of the White House make it on the front page of the NRA Traditions magazine.

One of the things that I will remember most about the trip is how every award recipient
came to Washington D.C. from all over the country not knowing anyone else. Every member of our group got along and worked hard to make others feel included. By the end of the week we were all close and it was hard to say goodbye. With the help of Facebook, we have all managed to stay in touch and look forward to meeting in the future.

To learn more about Shooting Sports 4-H Club, please visit https://clermont4hshootingsportsclub.shutterfly.com or contact advisor Barry Parks at bdparks@fuse.net or 513-753-8292.

If you live in the southern part of the county and are interested in joining a shooting sports club, please contact advisor Becky May at rmay4719@yahoo.com or 513-824-9122.

Clermont’s Sydney Snider, President of Ohio FFA, is Ag’s Ambassador

By: Kathleen Burke Williams, Public Information Coordinator

MOSCOW, Ohio -- Sydney Snider’s life took a detour in 2014.

She left Ohio State University after her first year but not to drop out. She took the year off to travel the state as president of the Ohio FFA Association, meeting with chapters across Ohio and spreading the word about careers in agriculture, which go far beyond traditional farming.

On Feb. 18, Snider will be recognized by the Clermont County Board of Commissioners. Snider, 19, began raising animals for show shortly after her parents, Jamie and Ken Snider, moved to their farm in Moscow when she was 4 years old.

“It’s a hobby farm,” she said. Her parents keep about 20 head of beef cattle on the 45-acre spread. She and her twin sister, Carley, joined 4-H when they were 8, and each year they raised goats and pigs to show at the Clermont County Fair. They showed the cattle as well.

“In March or April my sister and I would buy the goats and pigs,” Sydney said. “Sometimes we would have one goat each, sometimes two pigs each. The pigs would weigh 60-100 pounds once they were weaned and by the time we showed them, they would weigh 250-280 pounds.

“We learned about nutrition – what was good to feed them, what would help them gain weight," Snider said. “And what they would need to keep them looking good.”

At Felicity-Franklin High School, both girls joined FFA, and delved more into animal science, food science agricultural business and leadership. At the County Fair, Snider became part of the Royalty Court as the caprine representative and pork industry
queen. In 2013, she set her sights on the state chapter of FFA, when she ran for secretary of FFA and won, positioning herself for the presidency in 2014.

Elected in May 2014 as president, Snider kicked off her term with FFA camp sessions in June and July. “My role was helping new officers learn their roles,” she noted. Since the school year started, she has traveled to FFA chapters throughout Ohio. “I conduct leadership functions with each class. Sometimes we hold combined school district night sessions that can attract from 70 to 400 students.”

So what has this year of getting up at 5 a.m. to drive to a new school meant to her? “Now I’m a big music buff,” she said with a laugh; music has made her long drives easier. “And I’ve learned how different Ohio is – there is so much diversity. I really like that!”

Part of her responsibility is ensuring that more students understand how careers in ag go beyond production. “The greatest thing about FFA now is that we have pulled in more students who don’t have an ag background. They don’t have to go into production. There is more of an emphasis on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). For example, veterinary science might be a career.

“One in 7 Americans have a job that’s somehow connected to ag,” she said.

Snider is majoring in agriculture communications at Ohio State, and hopes to go into broadcast journalism or public relations. She’ll go back to Ohio State as a sophomore next summer. “It’s been weird for me not to be in school,” she admitted. “I have to wrap my head around the fact that I am a year behind my sister. But over the past few months, I have a better understanding of myself and what I want to do in ag.”

What is Extension?

Ohio State University Extension brings the knowledge of the university directly to you. We fulfill the land-grant mission of The Ohio State University by interpreting knowledge and research developed by Extension and other faculty and staff at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Ohio State main campus, and other land-grant universities – so Ohioans can use the scientifically based information to better their lives, businesses and communities.