

Week of August 20, 2017

Ohio 4-H Age & Grade Policy Change

Please note that for the Calendar Year 2018 the Ohio 4-H Age & Grade Membership Policy has been slightly changed.

THE CURRENT 4-H AGE-GRADE POLICY IS:

Ohio 4-H membership is based on a child's age AND grade. Cloverbud eligibility begins when a child is enrolled in kindergarten and is five years old as of January 1 of the current year. Cloverbud participation ends when a child is eligible for competitive events, 4-H projects, and other older youth activities, which is age eight and in the third grade as of January 1 of the current year. Membership requires enrollment in an authorized Ohio 4-H club or group under the direction of an OSU Extension professional or an approved adult volunteer. A youth's 4-H eligibility ends December 31 the year they turn 19. Joining Ohio 4-H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University.

THE NEW 4-H AGE-GRADE POLICY IS:

Ohio 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 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 an approved adult volunteer. A youth's 4-H eligibility ends December 31 the year he or she turns 19. Joining Ohio 4 H is a privilege and responsibility for individuals and is subject to the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct and applicable policies of The Ohio State University.

The "tweak" to this policy is that nine year olds, regardless of grade level, can join 4-H clubs. This change was overwhelmingly supported by a vote earlier this year of Ohio 4-H Professionals (110 YES; 17 NO) and approved by Extension Administrative Cabinet on July 13, 2017.

Farm to Cafeteria Conference

Save the date for the [9th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference](#), coming to Cincinnati, Ohio, April 26-27, 2018! Hosted by the National Farm to School Network, this biennial event will convene more than 1,200 movement leaders working to source local food for institutional cafeterias and foster a culture of healthy food and agricultural literacy across America.

Cafeterias in schools, early care and education settings, universities, prisons and hospitals serve more than 40 million Americans every day, placing the farm to cafeteria movement at the forefront of the fight to end obesity and strengthen local food systems and economies. The National Farm to Cafeteria Conference is the *only* national gathering of stakeholders from across this movement, making it the premiere opportunity to learn, network and collaborate with

likeminded leaders from across the country. Registration will open in January 2018 – mark your calendar now!

Do you have expertise to share? We'll be seeking proposals for conference content (workshops, posters, etc.) from stakeholders interested in sharing their models and strategies for making farm to cafeteria initiatives a reality in their communities. The Request for Proposals will open in September. Keep an eye on your inbox, [our website](#) and social media ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)) for additional information, coming soon.

CR-SARE Announces 2018 Youth Educator Sustainable Agriculture Grants Call for Proposals

The 2018 NCR-SARE [Youth Educator Grant Call for Proposals](#) is now available.

Youth Educator Grant projects provide opportunities for youth in the North Central Region to learn more about sustainable agriculture (farming and ranching that is ecologically sound, profitable, and socially responsible). Educators use the grants to encourage young people and their parents to try sustainable practices and see sustainable agriculture as a viable career option. Projects should help youth discover that sustainable farming and ranching is profitable; good for families, communities, and their quality of life; and good for the environment long term. The maximum amount for grants is \$2,000, and a total of approximately \$20,000 is available for this program. You can find more information about sustainability online at <http://www.sare.org/> and in the [Youth Education Topic Room](#).

Proposals are due by November 2, 2017 at 4pm CST.

Potential applicants with questions can contact Joan Benjamin, Associate Regional Coordinator and Youth Educator Grant Program Coordinator, at benjaminj@lincolnu.edu or 573-681-5545 or 800-529-1342. Applicants should also contact Joan Benjamin if they need a hard copy or an email version of the call for proposals. We make revisions to our calls for proposals each year, which means it is crucial to use the most recent call for proposals.

Each state in SARE's North Central region has one or more State Sustainable Agriculture Coordinators who can provide information and assistance to potential grant applicants. Interested applicants can find their State Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator [online](#).

The Role of Diversity and Inclusion in Positive Youth Development

Join the 4-H system for the 2017 Professional Development E-Academy, The Role of Diversity and Inclusion in Positive Youth Development. The focus will be on engaging diverse youth and understanding the social issues they face. There will be ten one hour online sessions spread out from October 2 to October 23. You can get more information and register for the free sessions at 2017 E-academy [Registration](#). This e-academy is free and requires pre-registration.

The target audience is 4-H field faculty but all positive youth development professionals are welcome to participate. The 2017 E-Academy is brought to you by 4-H National Headquarters in partnership with National 4-H Council and the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents.