

Agricultural Education (FFA) – 4-H Youth Development Memorandum of Understanding

OVERVIEW

It is important for young people to engage in positive activities that help them develop life skills and best practices. FFA and 4-H youth programs use many successful learning laboratories to enhance youth development. These two youth organizations are strongly committed to continued member participation in such learning laboratories. The following memorandum of understanding is designed to facilitate the working relationships between FFA and 4-H, as well as other collaborators in joint learning activities.

A. AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION (FFA) – 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT RELATIONSHIP

The persons supervising 4-H and Agricultural Education (FFA) youth work are expected to plan projects and programs which will supplement each other and will provide for the broad development of the individual. Acknowledgements of individual development in both organizations shall be considered in the appraisal of youth accomplishments.

Eligible youth may be members of either 4-H or FFA, or members of both youth organizations. When a youth belongs to both organizations, projects carried, in all cases, must be separate and different in an effort to broaden the youth's experience and learning. Examples of allowable projects taken by youth who belong to both organizations include:

4-H	FFA
Breeding Gilt	Market Hog
Market Broilers	Exhibition Poultry
Dairy Cow	Dairy Heifer
Welding (Door Stop)	Welding (Boot Scraper)
Vegetable Gardening	Agronomic Crops

When a member encounters a problem in selecting a project, a conference should be held with the member and his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s), the member's FFA and/or 4-H advisor, and the county OSU Extension 4-H Educator to discuss the situation and resolve the problem.

B. THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDINGS WILL GUIDE STATE AND LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS WHENEVER 4-H AND FFA PARTICIPATE IN JOINT PROGRAMMING.

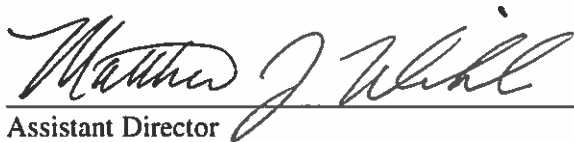
1. The names and emblems of 4-H and FFA will only be used in association with educational experiences that (see footnote*):
 - a. Meet the educational philosophies of youth development advocated by 4-H and FFA.
 - b. Have written rules that are followed, including a conflict resolution process.

- c. Meet the laws of the State of Ohio and the United States, including but not limited to, Civil Rights, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and IRS requirements, when applicable.
 - d. Are conducted in an ethical manner.
 2. Competitive programs with joint participation will be limited to 4-H and FFA members who are age-eligible: eight and in the third grade as of January 1, through December 31 the year of the youth's 19th birthday. Cloverbud 4-H members will only participate in non-competitive programs and activities.
 3. Understandings related to 4-H and FFA participation in junior fairs:
 - a. Junior fairs are important educational laboratories that provide:
 - i. Vehicles for education:
 1. Teaching that enhances the learning and skills-development experiences of the youth, advisors, and families involved.
 2. Evaluation, both non-competitive and competitive.
 3. Experiential learning, applied demonstrations, exhibits, and other *in situ*-educational activities.
 - ii. Recognition of youth involved in learning experiences:
 1. Showcase for youth exhibits, displays, demonstrations on display and viewed by the general public.
 2. Presentation and public display of awards for youth participation and excellence.
 - iii. Visibility of youth programs:
 1. Opportunity to demonstrate to the general public the value of Agriculture and Leadership Programming through 4-H and FFA.
 2. Several youth organizations may be involved in these activities.
 - b. The Junior Fair is one of the major components of most county and independent fairs.
 - c. Local Agricultural Society Senior Fair Boards are legally responsible for all activities conducted by their Junior Fair. This includes the singular responsibility for all financial management aspects, including livestock and any other youth project sales, which are part of the Junior Fair.
 - d. 4-H and FFA personnel from both organizations serve as a resource for 4-H and FFA involvement in Junior Fairs, but are not the final enforcers of Junior Fair rules and policies.
 - e. The Agricultural Societies and their Senior Fair Boards do not manage or conduct FFA or 4-H programs. They are valued educational programming partners, however they do not make 4-H or FFA rules and policies.
 - f. The Ohio State University Extension and the Ohio Department of Education do

not manage the Agricultural Society or its Junior Fair program.

- g. The Ohio Livestock Exhibition Laws and Rules (Ohio Revised Code §901.72 Administrative rules for livestock exhibitions; Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 901:1-18 Exhibition of Animals) provide three major resources for dealing with problems related to the Junior Fairs:
- i. RULES, promulgated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture address many aspects of livestock exhibits. These are uniform in all Ohio shows and carry the weight of law. They are enforced by the State and can be found in the Ohio Administrative Code and Ohio Revised Code.
 - ii. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY-JUNIOR FAIR RULES are adopted and enforced by the individual county and independent fair boards.
 - iii. THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between FFA and 4-H outlines criteria necessary for both organizations to participate in a joint activity. The criteria addressed in this memorandum include educational philosophy, ethics, and community involvement in addition to the leadership our professional personnel will provide for professional development, research, educational design, and idea sharing.

This agreement approved:



Assistant Director
Office of Career-Technical Education
Ohio Department of Education,
Agricultural Education Service

12-20-16

Date



Assistant Director
4-H Youth Development
Ohio State University Extension
The Ohio State University

12-20-16

Date

* All use of the FFA and 4-H names and emblems must adhere to the official policies established by those organizations.

Final Draft
December 20, 2016