

# Ohio Fair Managers Association Junior Fair Conference – Live Discussion

## Participant Responses to Discussion Questions Saturday, January 9, 2021

**CLOVERBUDS:** They may be small, but they bring lots of excitement to the fair. Tell us how you include Cloverbud-aged youth in fair activities and fun. How do you keep them coming back until they are old enough to be an exhibitor?

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### What activities are offered for Cloverbuds at your fair?

- o Perry
  - Prince/princess activity
    - Different Cloverbuds selected each day (name drawn from a hat)
    - Get introduced at shows and hand out ribbons
- o Pickaway
  - One hour each day of fair
    - Examples: gardening, STEM, learning about animals
- o Gallia
  - Show and Tell (up on stage)
    - Bring in favorite toy or craft and talk about it
- o Portage
  - After each livestock show is done, Cloverbuds get to walk animals
- o Clinton
  - Scavenger Hunt
    - Different parts of the fairgrounds and animals
- o Ross
  - Five days of fair (Monday through Friday)
    - Each day a special guest comes to talk to the Cloverbuds
      - o Examples: local museum, Pet Land
      - o Do STEM activities and other hands on experiences
- o Perry
  - Scavenger Hunt (using riddles as clues; done in teams)
    - Find buildings around the fair until they know the final goal
    - End up at a certain barn
    - Everyone gets a prize, but the first place team gets something else

### Who is in charge of Cloverbud activities at your fair?

- o Perry
  - Every JFB member is on a committee of their choice (Cloverbuds is one of the choices)
- o Ross
  - JFB sub-committee
    - Superintendent of the committee gets people to help each day
- o Pickaway
  - There is a JFB committee for Cloverbuds
    - Adult volunteers outside of the JFB help out

- What kinds of interview or show and tell options do you offer for Cloverbuds?
  - Clinton
    - Use a runway up on a platform
    - JFB members announce each Cloverbud and tell information about them
    - Cloverbuds get crafts/projects/items and then get interviewed
  - Perry
    - Two days of Show & Tell (done in front of a crowd)
      - Cloverbuds introduce themselves and tell about their topic
      - Tell what project they want to take in 4-H when they are older
  - Pickaway
    - Before fair, her club has a mock judging experience
      - Cloverbuds learn what project judging will be like when older
  
- Do you offer a special recognition ceremony or “graduation” for last year Cloverbuds?
  - Perry
    - Prince/Princess program
      - Honorees hand out ribbons at shows
      - Announced to crows watching the show
      - Speak on what project they will show when older
  - Pickaway
    - Certificates given at the club level (her club)
    - Nothing done at the fair
  
- How are Cloverbuds involved in your club meetings or activities?
  - Go along to the nursing home once per year
  - Learn and say the pledges with older members
    - First meeting of the year, get a paper with the 4-H Pledge and asked to learn it
      - Sit through officer election and learn what officers do
    - Other meetings
      - Break off after pledges and work on crafts as a group
      - Come back at the end of the meeting for snacks
        - Introduce themselves and ask any questions of older members
        - Learn about information for the fair
  - Say names for attendance with older members; older members answer questions
    - Stay for the pledges
    - Break away for crafts and other projects
    - Come back at the end for snacks and tell about items they made
  - Meetings and community service
    - Meetings
      - Begin meeting with snacks all together
        - Advisors talk about objectives for this meeting
      - Cloverbuds split away to do crafts and coloring
      - Talk about community service
      - At the end of the meeting older members help with crafts and coloring
    - Community Service
      - Go to community garden to plant and weed
      - Cloverbuds really like this!
      - Learn to eat new things (raw and fresh vegetables)
  - Meetings just for Cloverbuds
    - Older members help them with posters
    - Older kids talk about their projects
      - Cloverbuds listen and ask questions

- Cloverbuds a part of the first half of the meeting and recreation (interactive activity)
  - Branch out to do crafts and learn about 4-H stuff
  - Join older members at the end of the meeting for snacks
- Beginning of the year – do pledge together with older members
  - Break out to do crafts and activities
  - Have Cloverbud officers so they can learn officer roles
  - Come back with older members to talk about their craft

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** Thinking about service activities that can be created during the week of fair, what are some creative community service activities that you performed, or that you think that Junior Fair Boards should consider offering?

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Favorite Service Projects from each county:

Franklin County

- Donate art supplies to local homeless shelters, toys for kids – gives them something to do, learn a new skill or hobby
- Started a competition to get people involved & prize to the most creative card
- In 2020, collected in baggies & held for multiple weeks to prevent spread before delivering
- Kids have interest in animals & pets so happily want to participate & give back

Ashtabula

- Flowerbeds throughout the Fairgrounds. This is a competition between clubs to decorate their flowerbed and maintain it through the fair. Some clubs incorporate the Junior Fair theme.
- Community service animals – clubs raise an animal which is sold at the fair, clubs decide where to donate the proceeds of the sale.

Ross County

- Adoption drive for animal shelter
- Art museum
- Earth day – helped kids make crafts related to earth day
- Roadside clean up with JFB members
- Sausage breakfast, all profits donate to a charity that chapter chooses (FFA Ross)

Wood

- Senior Citizen day: make meals, spend the day with them, etc.
- Mulch and prep barns before fair, clean up
- Baby land – baby animals
- Food stands
- Virtual: food drives, adopt roads, etc. – things that you can do individually

Licking County

- Lay flags on veterans' graves for Veterans Day
- Roadside clean ups
- Involve clubs with cleanup activities
- Take baby animals to nursing homes
- Running food stand at swappers day, donate funds to honor flight

Butler County

- Adopting family for Christmas

### Pickaway

- Clean the cemetery and do yard wood
- Cards for nursing homes
- Care packages for homeless shelter/womens shelter
- Recycling competition
- Jr. Fair Night options – collect money or items when you have a big group of people
- Footloose at the fairground – Pickaway sell food, cloverbud and adult areas, expanded from just square dancing to all forms of dancing, kiss the cow, 1-2 dollars to get in on a Friday

### Crawford County

- Blood Drive:
  - o Work with local red cross
  - o Started competition between Jr. Fair Board & Senior Fair Board to get most donors
- Recycling during fair (Crawford)
  - o Created special bins for recycling around grounds & collected them nightly
  - o Work with local recycling center to haul materials
  - o Promotes environmental awareness

### Warren County

- Decorated windows of nursing homes, warren

### Gallia

- Animal shelter
- Memorial day – flags on people’s graves
- Flower planting, painting, etc.
- Invite clubs to help on major projects

### Lawrence:

- Coin Drive

### Madison

- Penny wars

### Stark:

- Socks for nursing homes
- 10 gallon challenge for dairy awareness
- Bench/bottle cap drive

### Scioto

- Animal and Me day in the ring
  - o Special needs youth have the opportunity to work alongside Jr. Fair members & animals
  - o Promote 4-H. Not just animals but leadership, giving back, learning opportunity
  - o Sr. Fair provides prizes & incentives

### Knox:

- Road trash pick-up

### General tips:

- Making things a competition can help increase donations
- Marketing your project
  - o Social media
  - o Barn meetings – get SFB involved to help promote it
  - o Speaker announcements/intercoms during shows and intermissions

### Other General Community Service ideas:

- Clover bud booth to make cards for nursing homes
- Kiss the Cow project
- Breakfasts during fair week to raise money
- Community service animals: special sale that money goes to the group of choice for a 4-H club, club raises the animal together (Ashtabula)
- Fashion Board – make hygiene bags at the fair and have a donation area to fill bags plus jar of donations to donate money (Franklin)
- Before/After Fair – Clean Fair Grounds, painting, sweeping, planting flowers
- Donate trashcans and/or decorate trashcans to spruce up the fairgrounds
- Collections at the gates for admission to the fair – canned food, books, hygiene supplies
- Visit nursing homes

**COVID CHANGES:** How did you make social distance fun at your fair? Did you make some changes in 2020 by necessity, that you may keep moving forward? Share your ideas for what activities we can safely plan for 2021 or easy modifications you can make to keep everyone safe while still providing the fun that everyone expects at the county fair.

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During our discussion, we had the youth indicate what their fair looked like in 2020: full fair, junior fair only, haul-in/haul-out, no fair, etc. We had three main questions for the youth to answer. When discussion became challenging, different questions were posed to help start additional discussion. Youth were also encouraged to share ways they social distanced, even if it wasn't fun, as they felt social distancing is rarely considered fun.

### How did you make social distancing fun?

- Pickaway – social distancing announced but was not enforced, we were not a great example, was not fun or interesting.
- Franklin – very social distanced, not many people around so it took the fun out of the fair, friends were not around.
- Scavenger Hunt
- Barn Tours
- Outdoor Line Dancing
- Bale Stacking Contest/Bale Rolling Contest
- Apple Pie Baking Contest and Auction
- Rooster Card (unsure what the chat box comment was in reference to)
- Wood – Held annual Jr. Fair Dance and found a location (empty parking lot) that participants could spread out.
- Ottawa – Annual Square Dance could not happen as normal, so made it a line dance instead.
- Franklin – Could not have fair food during Jr. fair, so the week after fair, the fair had fair food days.
- Ross – Spilt the fair barn areas into animal group zones up and each family had different color wristbands. This created zones to keep people in their livestock zone. Middle area was the food area that could co-mingle.
- Gallia – The fair focused on animals. In show arena, they taped off areas so families could watch shows and created family spaces for them to be in and watch. It is an open barn, and they were able to get most families a space to they could see shows and be distanced.
- Adams – Had a webcam for shows so that not as many people had to come to fair to see the shows.
- Delaware – Rabbit & Poultry moved to a show tent so more people could watch since the barn was not big enough. Families were encouraged to bring pop up tents and the families loved the atmosphere.
- Franklin – Computer program to tell people when to come in for judging. Members were then greeted by Junior Fair Board members.

- Geauga - Limited fairgoers to participants, their families, and limited friends. Campers were also all facing the same direction.
- Ross – Split species into different days to show. Campers were for Junior Fair exhibitors only.

#### Did you make changes in 2020 that you may keep moving forward?

- Pickaway – keep the hand sanitizing stations, improve social distancing, keep the seating situation (only sections of bleachers moved out).
- Fairfield – more seating so people can spread out.
- Franklin – miss the old fair so I am not sure I would keep anything we did, Franklin is shortening their fair (not sure why) by a couple of days, for the sale there was a pot of money that was split amongst the exhibitors instead of going through the sale (formula to figure out what species got what money).
- Clinton – Champions only through the sale ring, rest was just exhibitors.
- Geauga – keep the show time changes (less stress, run more smoothly).
- Ross – animals came in as shifts (some first half, the rest the second half).
- Ross – weigh-ins were a drive thru format.
- Clinton – tagged as they came to the fairgrounds instead of pre-fair.
- Franklin – online evaluations (more efficient).
- Drive-in Weigh-ins
- Online Auctions
- Silent Auctions
- Flipgrid Project Judging
- Zoom Project Judging
- Sign-up Project Judging
- Ottawa – Held weigh-ins the day of and showed a little later in the day as a one-day show. They are looking at keeping shows later in the day. It worked well because the end of the show was cooler instead of ending the show in the heat of the day.
- Wood – For the poultry show, they had to rope off barn so only exhibitors and their family were allowed through. It gave kids more space for getting animals to judging area. Turkeys and geese were moved outside. Other show times were changed and looking at schedule for 2021.
- Wood – Submitted entries online for the first time and will continue.
- Ross – Will continue to live stream shows.
- Franklin – Pre-sign up for judging times and option of Zoom judging for special interest projects
- Shelby – Computer program utilized for pre-fair registration and quicker fair check-in.
- Ross – Drive-thru rabbit weigh-in and tattooing procedure.
- Geauga – Online auction was successful – potentially keeping with a new program to handle the auction.
- Franklin – Ribbon ceremony online was well done and well received.
- Ross – Utilized iPads to assist in completing DUNFs at fair check-in.
- Ross – Live streamed shows and plans to continue.

#### What ideas can you share that others may be able to utilize or modify to utilize at fair in 2021?

- Pickaway – bring back the fun events.....social distancing line dancing the only thing they kept in 2020 but it was fun.
- Geauga – fun events every night for exhibitors (movie nights, fireworks show, live band), chance to unwind.
- Fairfield – want the fair atmosphere back, miss the normal fair (rides, visitors, etc.).
- Gallia – Keep food trucks spread out and further from show areas so that everyone can get their fair food and it is safer as it spreads everyone out away from the barns.
- Ottawa – Want to do a drive-in movie night at the fair in one of the parking lots.
- Wood - One of the most popular was a hay bale stacking contest. Could not do catch a pig. Looking at doing their scavenger hunt around fairgrounds. Instead of taking something from the barn could have them take a picture of an item in that barn.

- Ross - working on some ideas for 2021: Lip Sync. Out house race (they are trying to figure out how to do it with social distance), Apple Pie baking contest, Round bale roll and pie eating are normally done. Trying to think of others they can do that are safe for social distance.
- Franklin – veggie car derby. Build a car out of veggies and race. Team building with goofy games, but they are not yet sure how to do those with social distance.
- Delaware – egg toss, bubble gum blowing contest might be able to be done with social distance.
- Geauga – Movie night in open field on the fairgrounds with everyone socially distanced. Fireworks were also held another night.
- Franklin – Royalty had more applicants for princess – social media presence by the royalty the prior year are thought to be part of the reason. The queen and princess arranged for pictures to be taken of all applicants this year, making the experience a little more enjoyable.

#### Live streaming

- All counties did live stream this year.
- None felt that it was utilized as much as they hoped.
- Pickaway – most people they would have watching was 30.
- Ross – Internet issues kept from using it to its fullest potential.

#### Successful way to make your fair safer?

- Fairfield – x's on the ground to indicate how to remain socially distanced.
- Franklin – Want to reach a middle ground, did not have a lot of people on grounds that we had to worry about social distancing.

#### Masks

- Pickaway – Exhibitors were encouraged but not enforced, SFB did not wear.
- Franklin – not in the ring but enforced outside ring.
- Fairfield – not in the ring but enforced outside of the ring.

#### Auctions

- Geauga – Auction did not include animals this year, rather exhibitors held pictures of their animals. Some people liked, others did not.
- Morrow – Money was donated into a pool and then divided among those who participated in the sale. Many chose not to participate in the sale as the cost received was so little.
- Ross – Sale was done by donations and add-ons.

### **DONOR RECOGNITION: Donors, sponsors and buyers play a very important role in the fair. How do you ensure that they know they are appreciated? What creative ways have you found to express appreciation?**

- Facilitators: Fowler, Aubry L. <fowler.443@osu.edu>; Hoyt, Jenna C. <hoyt.88@osu.edu>

#### Chat Box Explosion: Why is donor/sponsor recognition important?

- It funds the fair, potential to bring new people to fair, allows opportunity to offer new events - Evangeline Sanford, Franklin County
- So, they will continue to donate to us, it's like a thank you letter to buyers, you want them to keep coming back :) - Faith Blankenship - Ashtabula County Fair
- So that way they come back next year and support us again in the following years - Adam Warren – Hancock
- Donors make everything possible. Without them there wouldn't be a fair. - Hannah Bias, Gallia County Fair
- Donors help sponsor and make the Fair possible, so it is important that we give them recognition. - Audrey Keplar-Pickaway County Fair

- Donors help to create funds for the fair, so we are able to have our fairs. It is only fair that these people can support, so they can create business for them - Haley Butcher - Adams
- It is very important because the donors are what help keep our fairs running and continuing and we need to let them know how much we appreciate everything that they do for us. - Layna Gordon- Hartford Fair
- Recognition is important so our sponsors come back from year to year which is great because we need the sponsors - Luke Lockwood Ross County Fair
- Its shows we care - Calista Baird Perry County
- It is important because some of them pay lots of money and they do that so they can get there name out there. They also want people to know they support the youth. - Taylor Poff – Geauga
- Donors need to be recognized for improving our experiences in 4H - Felicia Kidder
- Donor's and Sponsors help make the fair what it is through the help of money and goods. - Evan Ater - Ross County Fair

#### How do you ensure that donors know they are appreciated?

##### Thank You Letters (Ross, Geauga, Franklin, Hartford, Adams)

- Use post-it notes to talk about why they are important (Ross)
- Jr. Fair Board writes them, youth also write them independently
- Have to submit a Thank You Letter before awards/checks can be picked up (Hartford/Ashtabula)
- Thank you cards, written right after the shows in order to get awards (Hartford/Hancock)
  - o Cards are given with the ribbon to write and immediately return to receive the award
    - Have a thank you card table with the cards and labels or list of sponsors
      - For full sponsors/donors of shows and programs not just specific awards
    - Leave the cards there or take and mail
      - Endowment committee paid for mailing (Fairfield)
      - Collect cards in a big box at the same table
    - Have a member there to help younger kids write their cards
  - o Cards available in the Jr. Fair Office to take and write

##### Advertisement

- Signs/banners hung along walls in the Grandstands/Barns/Show Arena to recognize local sponsors (Adams/Geauga/Ashtabula/Hancock)
- Yard Signs posted outside the barns recognizing those who donated flowers/mulch (Gauga)
- Thank You Posters hung above pens (Pickaway/Ashtabula/Hartford)
- Building with all sponsors represented with free giveaways/promotional items (Ross/Pickaway)
- Sponsor names on plaques/stickers on fences with their contact info (Gauga/Adams/Hartford), engraved on benches (Hartford)
- Sponsor shirts worn on specific days at the Fair and announcements made
- Sponsors of special projects recognized where that project is – hung on the gate, stamped in the concrete, hung in the barn year round

##### Others:

- Printed in Awards Books and Publications
- Sponsors and donors read at the shows in between classes
- Papers/labels attached to each award/medallion/ribbon with award sponsor and mailing address (Fairfield/Ashtabula)
- Take pictures with the donors/buyers/signs and post to social media and then signs are given to buyers (Gallia)
  - o Includes outline of animal, club name, youth name
  - o Paper and includes photo to give buyer right at the Sale
    - sent after the Fair via mail or handed out through the Sale Office in 2020 due to COVID to reduce contact
  - o Contest of buyer's posters judged by the JFB. (Ross)
    - Award is a ribbon and displayed in the Jr. Fair Building for most creative/best looking



- Buyers gifts
  - o Ashtabula – everyone gets the same TSC Card
  - o Geauga - Clubs organize gifts to give
- Club booth displays with youth faces/names for recognition by families in the community (Adams)
  - o Pictures of youth doing their projects and doing community service (Geauga)
  - o Competition for booths (Geauga)
  - o

#### Throughout the year

- Banners go to the buyers after the fair to hang in their businesses (Adams)
- Buyer's Plaques with pictures to be hung in the business (Ashtabula/Hancock/Hartford/)
  - o Grand Champion
- Support local businesses/vendors/feed companies (Hartford)
- Send letters/cards or take gifts to buyers (Geauga/Ashtabula)
- Send save the date cards to buyers before the sale by the Sale Committee
  - o Send to a variety of supporters (10-15 businesses)
    - Club meeting to work on letters
    - Hand delivering letters is important
    - Buyers do track who has bought from them and how much they have spent
  - o Some have the same buyer throughout their entire 4-H career
    - Smaller group of core buyers where everyone knows everyone else
- Recognition throughout the year with postcards/Christmas cards to build relationships

### **EXHIBITOR FUN: What activities or event do you offer during fair week just for exhibitors? How do you introduce some fun amongst the many competitions offered at the fair? Tell us how to focus on fun during the fair!**

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#### Breakout Room 1

- Jackson County –
  - o Greased pig contest.
  - o Ice cream eating contest with Whits.
  - o Cloverbud ceremony.
- Perry County –
  - o Calf scramble including kiddie calf scramble, Sr. calf scramble for 14 and up. Have to halter the calf, bring to a circle. Winner keeps the calf to show at the fair next year.
  - o Adult showmanship.
  - o Cloverbud Prince and Princess of the day, spend the day with fair royalty, pass out ribbons, etc.
- Hartford –
  - o Ice cream eating contest Velvet Ice cream. Divided by age. Really competitive.
  - o Farm chore Olympics. Ages can add up to so much, i.e. 50 yrs total. Moving straw bales, gloves to milk a cow, moving buckets. Prizes for how fast you can do it.
  - o Horse complex – fun night, stick races, who can find the boots fastest. Muddy fun.
- Medina –
  - o Decorating round bales.
  - o Calico cutters – dress up.
  - o Cloverbud Camp before the fair weeklong day camp, where Cloverbuds do a large project that is displayed at the fair.

- Judging for Cloverbud – do a project within their group. Get a goodie bag.
- Pepsi building – rabbits, donkeys, other animals to pet for younger kids. Can adopt the rabbits.
- Delaware –
  - All horse parade.
  - Dog – dog show order pizza and fun show.
  - Poultry- bring food in for potluck with rabbit exhibitors.
  - Hot dog eating contest.
  - Demo derby/Collision derby.
  - Costume contest for specific projects, i.e. poultry, dog, etc. Happens during the show.
  - Little Brown Jug
- Ottawa –
  - Pig scramble, for older kids 15-up calf scramble, Cloverbuds chicken scramble.
  - Square dance.
  -
- Pickaway –
  - Cloverbud fun events, bob for apples, stick horses, crafts.
  - Dog parade for dog projects.
- Gallia – Here to get ideas.
- Ross –
  - Jr Fair night, apple pie contest, outhouse race – best decorated chosen by queen, lip sync, round bale roll – not safe, Calf scramble.
  - Jr Fair buddies – talk to Cloverbuds, activities.
  - Buyer poster contest.
  - Booths
- Perry –
  - Cloverbud activities. Pedal pull.
- Adams Co –
  - Amazing Race
  - Cloverbud interviews with activity stations after including crafts, games, and a snack.
  - Shade Tree Park – invite Farm Bureau, SWCD, Recycling, other groups to have activities and assisted by JFB.
- Would like to do
  - Petting Zoo
  - Rodeo
  - Boot scramble – have to find your other boot.
  - Stick horse races.
  - Demo derby, dirt bikes, rodeo.
  - Concert

## Breakout Room 2

- Ross County
  - Have preliminary contests before fair and finalist get to compete at the final competition at fair: hay bale roll, outhouse race, lip sync contest, apply pie baking contest, etc. Teams are by club, teams of 4-5 for some contest and no limit for others.

- Adams County
  - Horse arena: outhouse race (team), barrel race with tractors (individual), RC car race (individual)
- Guernsey County
  - Junior Fair: Farm Olympics - Wed evening, egg toss, tug of war, advisor stick horse races (team). Cloverbud mini contests – pick a rubber duck from a pool to get a prize, candy in the haystack, etc.
  - Senior Fair: Barnyard bonanza (team of 4), takes place on track. Made up of an obstacle course they must run while completing farm chores - Bale stacking, etc., Pedal tractor pull (individual). Talent show (team or individual).
  - All awards donated by fair vendors.
- Gallia County
  - Monday before queen pageant: kiddy tractor pulls.
  - Friday: mud volleyball contest in horse arena, Adult showmanship contest (can show all species or show just one species).
- Delaware County
  - Livestock Species costume contest (almost all species)
  - Rabbit committee – You Be the Judge Contest (judging contest for both market and breeding rabbits)
  - General livestock judging (team or individual)
  - Goat obstacle course
  - Dog obstacle course
  - JFB announcing show tell animal species jokes during downtime at shows.
  - Special Needs show for adults with disabilities.
- Geauga County
  - Professional events (tractor pulls and other evening entertainment)
  - Demo Derby open to anyone exhibiting at the fair broken out by age groups: young kids compete using electronic toy cars
  - Recipe contests
- Muskingum County
  - Farm Chore Olympics – watermelon splitting, hay bale toss, milking glove into cup on someone’s head, etc. Open to anyone.
  - Little Tykes Tractor Pull with Pedal Tractors
- Pickaway County
  - Demo Derby (not Jr Fair but it brings in a lot of people who then visit the barns and see the junior part of fair)
  - Rocket Launch event for youth
  - Picture backdrops
- Franklin County
  - Veggie car derby: 5 or more veggies or fruits, 2 skewers, 5-8 toothpicks to build car. Endurance Contest - Raise ramp after every round. Whoever survives the longest wins. Speed Contest – Fastest car wins
  - Flower arrangement challenge
  - Lego building challenge
  - Bouncy Horse Race using yoga balls with handles. Teams choose a theme that they all dress up as. Open to all.
  - Ribbon/banner prizes.

- Clinton County
  - Cornhole tournament (big turnout every year). Get sponsored prizes from vendors around fair. Takes place in hog barn after hog shows are done.
  - Cloverbud “Minute to Win It” games. Either club or individually.
  - 4-H/FFA Olympics.
- Hartford Independent Fair
  - Farm Chore Olympics (teams of 5 by club)
  - Goat costume and obstacle contests
  - Horse Arena – Kickball and other fun activities
  - Recipe Contests
  - Ice Cream Eating Contest
  - Buzz in the Barn – Hands on activities for young kids

### Breakout Room 3

#### What Activities for you Hold / Offer?

- Cloverbud Veggie/Fruit Race (wooden pieces only as additional)
- Mini Tractor pulls
- Games throughout the Days- Pie Eating, Pizza Eating, Egg & Spoon Races; Animals
  - Made from bottles by Cloverbud and then they show them in the arena
- Ice Cream, Hot Dogs at fair weigh-ins
- Dress-up contest by theme OR costume contest for animals by species
- After Show Party
- Barn decorating contest (themed)
- Clean pens/ Herdsman Award
- Cookie Bake Off (Junior Fair and non-Junior Fair youth activity); auction the cookies off
  - Prior to 4-H recognition night at the fair.
- Farm Olympics
- Straw loading Contest
- Youth Activities= consists of activities provided at stations for all youth to participate in; it’s a good way to get other youth organizations to help out as Scouts do not show animals.

#### How do you Introduce Fun Amongst the Competitive Activities?

- Barn meetings include talking about the activities of the week that are not “SHOW” related
- Spread the word and sign-ups as early as possible; sign-ups are used to go find the kids that forget about the event

#### Additional Notes:

- Combination fun and fundraising events
  - \*Kiss the Critter= mason jar with JFB reps pictures on the front; people drop coins in the jars with the winner being the one with the most \$ the second runner up gets to decide on the “critter” the winner must kiss. Money goes to a noted cause
  - \*Peoples’ Choice Awards= coins in canisters for the best Barn; 4-H booths etc. Winners give money to Junior Fair or another cause
  - \*Corn Hole Tournament

### Breakout Room 4

- Pie Eating Contest
- Round Bale Roll
- Hay Bale Decorating Contest; left on display for duration of Fair
- Goat Dress Up Contest
- Rooster Crowing Contest

- Contests for Non-Livestock; Example; Cake Decorating Contest
- Fund Raisers; Kiss the Kritter
- Geritol Showmanship
- Corn Hole Tournament
- Decorating Grand Champion Pens (colored shavings, etc)
- Cleanest Aisle of the Barn Contest
- Mud Volleyball
- Calf Scramble, Dairy Calf Scramble (by pulling stickers for younger kids)
- Corny Jokes during Shows
- Scavenger Hunts
- Water Balloon Toss, Egg and Spoon
- Outhouse Races
- Exhibitor Feeds, example; Ice cream during weigh in
- Pee Wee Showmanship Classes
- Barnyard Olympics, various events, Jr and Sr Teams
- Bouncing Ball (ride on) Horses to race

**FAIR AWARDS: What does your county do for awards, beyond rosettes and trophies? What have your exhibitors enjoyed most, and what new items have you introduced? Share ideas for creative award items that will get your junior fair exhibitors excited!**

- Facilitators: Cooksey, Leslie S. <cooksey.25@osu.edu>; Wingerter, Elizabeth <wingerter.1@osu.edu>; Holmes, Angela <holmes.468@osu.edu>; Hill, Janessa <hill.1357@osu.edu>; Clary, Christy <clary.42@osu.edu>

What does your county do for awards, beyond rosettes and trophies?

- Banners for Grand & Reserve Champions
- Gift Cards
- Coupons to Fair vendors
- Plaques – some in shape of county
- Metal Signs
- Crocks (Belmont)
- Tiles (Belmont)
- Metal Cut outs (Clinton)
- Vinyl Banners
- Felt Banners
- Banners with photos
- Feed pans and similar useable items
- Silver Bowls/Platters
- Belt Buckle
- Row of Champions (Ross)
- Shirts – must complete activities to earn
- Pull-overs
- State Fair Delegate Shirts
- Cash
- Embroidered Bag Chairs
- Tumblers
- Blankets
- Lanyards and pins – idea was they could go into scrapbooks or in a drawer, picture frame (20,000 for everyone that registered) – good idea but expensive (did not do) – similar to Disney. (Franklin)
- talked about FFA awards (degrees) – maybe something similar.

What have exhibitors enjoyed most, new items you introduced?

- Belt Buckle
- Tumblers
- Chairs
- Glass Lamp with oats for horses (New) (Belmont)
- Blankets
- Garment Bags for state fair (New)
- Usable Items (feed pan, scoop, halter, etc.)
- Small signs to put above the pens then exhibitors take them home (Ross)
- Engraved Water bottles
- Notebook/ calendars (nice leather ones)
- Clock tower

What do you do / would you like to see with special awards (Skillathon, Premier Exhibitor, etc.)

- Showman of Showman – Bigger award, it's a big deal
- Chairs - embroidered
- Jackets – embroidered
- Belt buckles
- Coops/cages
- Halters
- Medals
- Banners
- Large trophies
- Traveling trophies
- Plaques
- Cash
- Large tri-color rosettes
- Fleece blankets – embroidered
- Clocks – engraved
- Special awards for county raised animals

With no limits, what would you like to see done?

- Belt Buckles
- More scholarships
- Chairs
- Metal Cut Outs
- Crocks
- Wooden Boxes
- Stickers...say award, you can put where you want (best of breed, champion, etc)
- Cutting Board
- Money
- Show Box
- Show Supplies
- FFA awards (degrees) – maybe something similar
- Coats embroidered for Grand/Reserve where they can wear
- Wall hanging items

Are you involved in determining the awards process? If no – who makes these decisions?

- Mostly No
- JFB Get to choose trophy color for the year (Warren)
- Extension does it

- Pick a fair color for the year that awards follow
- As Jr Fair Board, we have input only
- Barn Superintendents, Sr. Fair Board determine what to give
- Usually Extension Office orders, some fairs it is the Superintendents that order
- No input at all

How would you go about finding out what exhibitors like?

- Ask youth in our departments
- Send out a Survey
- Ask them at fair for next year
- JFB Members could attend club meeting (virtual or in-person) and ask

Unique Events with Awards:

- Outhouse Races
- Livestock Scramble - by age and animal relates to age. Youngest kids scramble for chicken; 9-13 pick sheep or pig, 14 & up scramble for calves, adults play poker with a bull in the ring. (Miami)
- Round Bale Rolling by a team of 3 (Ross)
- Calf Scramble for cattle participants to win the calf. (Ross)
- Fair Olympics in teams of 4 (sunflower seed spitting, Wheel barrel run, hay bale carrying, and more. (Franklin)
- Kids fun day by barn. Each barn hosts and has different activities. Some are for just that species, some are open to everyone. (Miami)

**WHAT YOU WISH YOU HAD KNOWN: Now that you have experience as a Junior Fair Board member, what do you wish you had known sooner? What would you share with other members to make their experience better or more impactful?**

- Facilitators: Moore, Bridget W. <moore.3317@osu.edu>; Williams, Jo <williams.2213@osu.edu>

For those who are not first-year members, what do you wish you had known when you started as a JFB member?

- I wish I would have talked more to older members my first year – Erie,
- I wish I would have gotten more involved with committees - Erie
- I wish I would have taken advantage of all the opportunities that were offered – Most indicated this in some form
- Have older members help – Adams,
- Be prepared for any and everything! I never realized how much went into getting everything ready for fair - Adams
- Immerse myself in everything and all opportunities – Ross, Montgomery
- Don't be afraid to ask for help! Ross, Hartford
- I wish I had known more about our departments and how they worked. What was involved and what the expectations were for each department before I signed up for them. - Perry
- I wish I knew more about how our scheduling worked, and how it was related to the department assignments.
- I wish had known more about how departments work.
- I wish I had more ideas for fundraising. - Erie
  - Car wash
  - Bake Sales
  - Local Restaurant Table bussing, percentage of sales from one day
  - Selling RADA cutlery
  - Entry fees for fair fun activities – scrambles, old-timer shows, etc.

What are your favorite fun activities your JFB does during the fair?

- Old Timer's Shows
- Celebrity Shows – Sheriff, Mayor, Coaches, teachers, etc.

- Animal Dress-Up Contests – Rabbits, Chickens, etc. – Athens, State Fair
- Outhouse Races – Ross, Athens
- Junior Fair Night – Lip Sync, Out House Races, Apple Pie Contest - Ross
- Calf Scramble
- Special Needs Shows – Erie, Scioto, Adams

#### What do you hope to see in 2021?

- Hoping for a Full Fair – All!
- Modified fairs made for a different JFB experience. Hoping to get back to more responsibility and schedule -
- Hope for more in-person prep, meetings and programs
- Hope for full activities, booths, judgings, etc. That were limited or virtual in 2020. – All discussed and agreed
  - Booths, themes, etc. - Montgomery

#### What are some fun things your JFB does to keep you excited?

- Overnighter – usually in November to get to know one another, receive info and expectations, elect officers, set up sub-committees, etc. - Ross
- Visit other fairs – county and state fair – Hartford, Ross, Scioto

#### What things were different in 2020 as far as your JFB experience went?

- Because of 2020, there sometimes wasn't as much to do for prep – many fair activities were cancelled in the modified schedules.
- Things changing constantly
- Members got a chance to tackle some major improvements to the JFB office in 2020.
- JFB did lots of cleaning and organizing. The JFB office looks better than it ever has!
- Most who were starting their second year on JFB indicated they still feel like they have much to learn, since their first year was not “normal.”

\*\*All were hopeful for a positive 2021 fair season, and agreed that they have learned resiliency over the course of the last fair season. All also agreed that they think we learned a lot in 2020 and will be better equipped to handle COVID challenges in 2021.

### **WHY DO YOU DO IT: Why do you love your role on the Junior Fair Board, and why do you love the work that comes along with being on the board? What makes the Junior Fair Board special?**

- Facilitators: West, Travis <west.222@osu.edu>; Barker, Rebecca <barker.157@osu.edu>; Johnson, Teresa <johnson.1389@osu.edu>; Rockey, Jessica <rockey.16@osu.edu>

#### Why do you love your role on the Junior Fair Board, and why do you love the work that comes along with being on the board?

- Being able to see the inner workings of the fair/Junior Fair Board, see how kids can impact the fair, get to be hands-on (not just adults)
- Love work: see the effects/impact of helping people, see the joy of those winning awards at shows & having fun
- Looking forward to seeing the inner workings
- Year-round activities
- All the skills we learn
- Able to help build our community
- Helps build you as a person
- Helps grow our members
- Give back
- Fair buddies- activities for younger members



- Jackson- Being able to connect with senior fair board and build an adaptable fair that creates success for all
- Franklin- Being able to see behind the scenes and being able to connect with all animal groups, being able to fix problems
- Gallia- Help with skillathon and master exhibitor, being able to help and see what everyone needs help with
- Jackson- Being able to help people with whatever they need to that we can make a not so good year a great.
- Lawrence- Hands on activities with 4-H and FFA and help things run smoother
- Washington- Behind the scenes work, its rewarding to see the exhibitors happy with how things have been run even when you think things were stressful, getting positive feedback makes it all worth it.
- Pickaway- Being able to help is the main goal and being able to be more involved in the fair

#### What makes the Junior Fair Board special?

- Rewarding to put events on and get to work together
- Coming together to build new fairgrounds (Gallia)
- Being a leader in some areas, being looked up to/role model, community members see this in action, see teens helping community
- Franklin- Senior and Junior Fair Board help connect but the age similarities with junior fair members allows a gap to be bridged
- Lawrence- Having youth on the Junior Fair Board brings new ideas and allows for them to be involved so adults don't plan everything
- Jackson- Unique point of view, satisfaction of participating
- Washington- Help with younger generation and help make it special for the youth and help them have fun
- Pickaway- Group of teenagers who share the same passion, making the fair a success, hearing how new events can be incorporated and how old events can be improved
- Jackson- Know how hard the youth participants work and make them more comfortable than an older senior fair board member may
- Gallia- Teenagers and adults connecting and allowing for youth to connect with participants

#### What skills have you gained?

- Hope to gain responsible & help others out
- Responsibility (helps you become better for the future)
- Being able to see how fair affects people, work put into action/how it pays off
- See what can be changed, how to make it more enjoyable
- Time management, 'people' skills – talking to others, etc.
- Improve leadership, problem-solving
- Hope to improve teamwork, learn you can't do it all yourself
- Public speaking
- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Confidence
- Time management
- Respect
- Community service
- Work ethic
- Responsibility
- Franklin- Being able to connect with everyone and expanding your social skills, learned other species
- Gallia- Public speaking skills, leaving the comfort of your bubble
- Ashtabula- Time management, get rushed if you don't set up early enough or being too early and just sitting and waiting around
- Jackson- Adaptation, being able to pick up things on the spot and change if necessary (COVID especially)
- Pickaway- Gained social skills and getting to know people,
- Lawrence- Gained confidence and communication skills

- Jackson- Learned when to speak up and when to not say anything at all, learned how to word things in a different fashion and when to speak your mind
- Washington- Listening skills, listen before jumping to conclusions, learned when to get Senior Fair Board involved

What kind of recognition do you get for being on the Jr. Fair Board?

- Scioto- t-shirts, group picture posted on social media/public recognition, Farm Bureau sponsors a shirt too, passes for rides
- Ross- 2 shirts, alternate days so always identified, people know who we are
- Gallia- 6-7 shirts, different colors, JFB finds sponsors – contact & list on back of shirt, teen leaders recognized for hours served at end of year (not just Junior Fair Board)
- Richland- shirts & introduction of barn superintendents at shows/events
- Perry- shirts, post-pizza party, public recognition
- Key chains for first year members
- Drawstring bags
- Polos, t-shirts, hoodies
- Seniors get a parting gift
- Certificates
- Jackson- Junior Fair Board member of the day based on points, how many shows you have run and helping for the day, if you rack up enough points you get to skip the interview process and help interview new members
- Washington- Picture posted in the barns you are working in as well as committee list
- Gallia- Matching shirts, (same shirt every day different colors and sponsors on back) (34 members)
- Jackson- Polo for sale night, Junior Fair Board member designs shirt advisor picks color
- Lawrence- name tags
- Pickaway- Name tags, departments on shirts, lanyard with schedule for the week and what you are working

Extra Q/A

1. What would you say to someone you know to encourage them to try Junior Fair Board?
  - You can help with things BEF ORE fair if you're too busy fair week
  - Make new friends, learn to work with different people
2. Why do you want to be on Junior Fair board?
  - Lawrence- Want to be more hands on and see all the fun people are having knowing all your hard work has paid off.
  - Pickaway- Lots of fun interactions with others and seeing a desire to help and make a difference at the fair
3. What is something new you want to try this year?
  - Franklin- Try hosting shows or be the chair of events
  - Announce at events rather than just sit and watch other people do it

