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Firelands FFA Newsletter January/February 2024

Important note about this newsletter

-Newsletters will be electronically posted only. It will be delivered in the following formats:

-posted on Firelands FFA Google Classroom

-sent by AET text & email message.

-posted on public AET website <https://firelandsffa.theaet.com/>

Parent or student not getting messages? FFA member needs to log in to AET and update profile with student and parent contact info!

A note about fund-raising: Firelands FFA typically does not do so many fundraisers! We normally only do meat raffle, citrus sale, & strawberry sale!

*Due to rising cost of citrus & strawberries, profit margin has been steadily shrinking. We need to transition to new/different ways to make money. **The FFA Chapter typically has about \$40,000 in costs for Career Development Events, banquet, fair, trips, community services, classroom & other FFA costs!***

As we work & discover new, better, and overall fewer fund-raisers, please understand we don't want to focus so much on fundraising! But our ever-growing chapter needs to figure out how to fund our needs.

The big plan includes transitioning away from citrus & moving toward the tack swap or other short-term, high income activities.

Thank you for understanding and for helping as we get this figured out. We never want to charge an FFA member for Career Development Events, transportation, & most other involvement in FFA activities, so solving our fundraising problems is paramount.

Officer Elections- Emmarose Woods

Officer Elections will be held on February 20th at the February FFA Meeting. Students are encouraged to fill out the Officer Elections application in the FFA Google Classroom if they are interested in being an officer. The applications are due February 5th and Officer Interviews and slating are on February 12th. Find more information in the FFA Google Classroom. Elections & February meeting is February 20th at 7.

Monthly Clover Communicator

Click [here](#) to see the 4-H Clover Communicator. It has both 4-H & FFA information related to fair and projects. Review it at the beginning & middle of each month.

Public Speaking-Evan Gargas

On February 7 sub-district Public Speaking will be hosted at Fireland High School. To help out you can sign up in the FFA google classroom. The top 3 speakers at sub-district will move on to district on February 13th.

Strawberry Sale - Olivia Howells

Strawberry orders are due on February 6th. The payment is due with the order. The strawberries will be delivered the week of February 26th. The strawberries will need to be handed out to customers the same day or refrigerated upon pick up. Pick up will be in Mrs. Finnegan's shop (highschool shop). One flat will be \$25 and contains 8 - 1 pound clear Clam-Shell Containers. One half flat is \$13 and contains 4 - 1 pound clear Clam-Shell Containers. If paying with checks, they should be made to Firelands FFA.

Tack Swap - Aubrey West

The second annual tack swap will be held on February 25, 2024, from 11:00am-2:00pm. It will be held at Firelands High School. It would be \$25 to rent a table or 2 for \$45, there will be outdoor space available. To find more details go to



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<https://sites.google.com/firelandsschools.org/horselivestocktacksale/> Tables are about 50% sold as of the date of this newsletter, please send table reservations ASAP!

National Member Leadership Series - Jack Copley

The National Leadership Series is coming back to the Firelands campus! What you need to know:

This is an event that has been held since last year. These workshops boost leadership and promote involvement into the FFA. You need full official dress and need to be able to stay later than the school day in order to be eligible. The event officially starts at 9am on February 29th and will end at 5pm the same day. It is a \$30 entrance fee for Firelands attendees and will be split between Freshman/Sophomore and Junior/Senior between the two gyms here at the school. There will be approximately 15 schools joining us for the conference & spots are limited to 200 per session.

If you would like to attend, fill out the google classroom information and bring a check written to Firelands FFA (\$30) and you will have a reserved spot, payment is due on February 6th.

Quality Assurance (AQCA) - Kyleigh Klingshirn

Any youth exhibiting AND housing an animal at the Lorain County Jr. Fair is REQUIRED to complete a form of the Assuring Quality Care of Animals (AQCA) program. The deadline to meet this requirement is JUNE 1ST. The options to complete this include registering for and attending an in-person simulation on one of the following dates:

- Monday, February 19 10:00am.-12:00p.m. & 1:00-3:00p.m. at the Lorain County fairgrounds
- Wednesday, April 17 1:00-6:00 p.m. for youth on a Winning 4-H Plan
- Thursday, April 18 6:00-8:00 p.m. for 1st year animal project members ONLY
- Tuesday, March 19 6-8 at the Medina County fairgrounds
- Tuesday, May 7 6:00 – 8:00 at the Lorain County fairgrounds
- Tuesday, May 14 6-8 at the Medina County fairgrounds

Wellington Implement Baler Raffle - Ava Fontaine

Wellington Implement is holding their 95th anniversary open house. They will be holding a raffle for a new Case square baler or \$16,000 in store credit to the winner. Wellington Implement is allowing local FFA chapters to sell the tickets to receive all of the profits back. Tickets can be purchased from an FFA member at the following prices: 6 for \$100 or a single ticket for \$20. The drawing will be March 6th, at 5:30pm at the Ashland location. We will sell tickets until the end of February.

Animal Career Development Events - Ruth, Ava, Olivia

There are four different animal CDE's coming up soon. The mandatory online test for horse, poultry, general livestock, and dairy is on March 4th. Resources on these CDE's can be found in the FFA google classroom.

Other Career Development Events- Olivia Howells

Agronomy - State online test will be on March 4th. The district 1 invite will also be sometime after the online test on March 5th. District 2 will be on the 16th. The state contest will be on the 23rd.

Ag diagnostics (tractor troubleshooting) - state online test was on Jan 23rd. The district contest will take place on Feb 12th.

Outdoor power (small engines) - the state online test will be on Feb 13th. The contest will be in April and during spring break.

Ag mechanics - This contest will be on March 13th

Farm business management - Test will be on Feb 13th.



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Vet science - online test will be on March 18th and the state final will be on April 17th.

Greenhand test - Test will be on Feb 13th.

Wildlife management - District 1 will be on March 5th and district 2 will be on March 16th. Other invitationals will be during this month as well.

Resources including dates of contests, study materials, and links to google classrooms on these CDE's can be found in the Firelands FFA google classroom.

January 31st- Firelands Public Speaking (Creed, Beginner Prep, Extemp)- Amy Gerber

Students that are looking to participate in a public speaking area that has more than two people interested will compete on January 31st. Students will be graded based on fluentness, content of speech, and the time constraints. Two students in each area will move onto the Sub-District Contest on February 7th. Good luck to our speakers moving on to sub-district:

Creed: Mariah Woodrum & Maggie Tansey

Beginning Prepared: Allison Strickler & Jordyn Simpson

Advanced Prepared: Jocelyn Bednar

Extemporaneous: Kyleigh Klingshirn & Amy Gerber

February 13th-Farm Business Management - Ruth Howells

Students in Ag Business, and any other students interested will be tested during school on aspects of farm business management for the Ohio FFA CDE. See the FFA google classroom for more information, go to the CDE sign up to get the code for the Farm Business Management CDE code.

Banquet-Patrick Geist

Banquet is the way our FFA chapter shows recognition to our wonderful FFA members and passes the honor of becoming an officer onto the new officer team. With catering from city bbq, if your FFA member has met the requirements of participating in two to three FFA fundraisers they will receive their meal for free, however guests of the FFA member will still have to pay about eighteen dollars a meal. Banquet TENTATIVELY be held on April 24 2024 at 6pm due to the D.C. trip being a conflict for our original date.