

Guidelines for Raising Funds for Local 4-H Clubs

- Many clubs assess their own members for dues at each meeting. This is accepted practice in some communities, but has certain undesirable features.
- Encourage members to sell animals or products coming from their own project work.
- Discourage lotteries or games of chance. Rather, plan 4-H fundraising so the public or customer will receive full value. Remember, there are State and local laws and regulations prohibiting or regulating lotteries, raffles, and games of chance. Refer to Ohio Revised Code #2915.
- Where there is a proposal to conduct a game of chance (raffle) the 4-H Committee should review the proposal and determine the implications the proposal will have on the 4-H program in the county. In counties where such a proposal is acceptable as viewed by the committee, then the proposal may be pursued within the county.
- Try to avoid door-to-door canvass or "tag days" for donations. Give people something for their money or sell them on the merits of direct help with the education program.
- Consider carefully before accepting money from a United Way Fund; such membership is not generally approved. Rather, Extension should be held in the status as public schools and other education. The 4-H program may receive funding form United Way for programs that are conducted in collaboration with United Way affiliated agencies.
- Use accepted fundraising procedures for specific worthy projects, such as a 4-H camp program, and inform the general public how funds will be used and controlled.
- Insist that any fundraising project come about as a result of interest and appreciation for 4-H work, its precepts, ideals, and goals.
- Remember the basic purpose of 4-H is education. Do not let sideline "busy work" like door-to-door canvassing get in the way of more fundamental programs of learning and doing.
- Keep fundraising to a minimum. One or two special drives per year should be the maximum – and keep these campaigns short.
- Never let fundraising lower the status or prestige of 4-H. Wholesome educational purpose for funds and wise use of them are the most important guiding principles.

Source: 4-H Policy Handbook, appendix H