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## Kendall Wild writes book about her alpaca

Jeff Barron

Lancaster Eagle-Gazette

USA TODAY NETWORK

CANAL WINCHESTER — Kendall Wild has a special friend in an alpaca named Lacey. So much so that she's authored and published a children's book about their relationship.

Titled "Lacee Finds a Friend," the 16-year-old Bloom-Carroll High School sophomore finished the book in November. Her grandfather, David Ray, drew the illustrations. In addition to large print, the book features Braille printing so the visually impaired can also enjoy it. The illustrations are also in Braille.

Kendall said Lacey has albinism, which is a skin pigment condition, and also cannot hear and has vision problems. Lacey is 10-years-old, and Kendall said alpacas live to about 20. Kendall is the 2025 Fairfield County Fair Alpaca Ambassador and has shown Lacey at the Fairfield County Fair and the Ohio State Fair.

The Clovernook Center is the book's publisher.

"Clovernook is the largest producer of Braille in the country," Kendall said. "They got a grant from Scripps Howard to write books. And they only wanted to do books from people who had disabilities. It's all about how me and Lacey have worked together and how Lacey was kind of lonely and wanted a 4-Her to show her."

Kendall said she wants others with disabilities to not let those disabilities stop them from reaching their goals. Kendall has autism, low-muscle tone, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and anxiety.

"So it was kind of easy to work with Lacey because she has disabilities and I have disabilities," Kendall said. "And I know what's it like to have disabilities. So I thought, why not have a friend that also has disabilities? And be able to connect with her and work with her."

She said Lacey has helped her overcome some of her own disabilities.

"I used to not really like to talk to anybody at the farm," Kendall said. "But through working with Lacey, I've had to talk to people, and it helps me to open up and talk to others at the farm."

Kendall said her book is selling well.

"We've already sold quite a few of the books," she said. "I've done several book signings around Canal Winchester to



Bloom-Carroll High School sophomore Kendall Wild wrote a children's book about the alpaca she shows at the Fairfield County Fair and Ohio State Fair. She's pictured here on Dec. 30, 2025, with the book and a 3-D model of an alpaca. JEFF BARRON/EAGLE-GAZETTE

promote my book and I had a lot of people buy them there as well."

Kendall said it took her a couple of months to write the book, but that putting the Braille in the book was the longest part of the process.

After writing her first book, does Kendall see a second book in her future?

"I don't know," she said. "Not right now, I'm not thinking about anything. But maybe in the future I would write something. I just don't know right now."

Kendall's mother, Tiffany Wild, helped with the book's production.

"I'm just so proud of her and the impact she's had on kids who have disabilities that can relate to her," she said. "I'm also very proud that she's not afraid to talk about her disabilities and be a role model for those with disabilities in the community. With all she's accomplished in such a short time, we're all very, very proud of her."

"Lacee Finds a Friend" is available at <https://www.clovernookprints.org/product/book1-Lacee-Finds-A-Friend>.

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## Ohio's gun laws: What to know

Carrying is prohibited in certain locations

Laura A. Bischoff

State Bureau

USA TODAY NETWORK

Over the past 30 years, Ohio legislators have gradually expanded gun rights, including where adults are allowed to legally carry firearms.

Ohio has long been an open-carry state, allowing people to carry their weapons in plain view, and in 2022, Gov. Mike DeWine signed a law that wiped out required training and background checks for carrying concealed weapons.

That doesn't mean that people can legally carry guns everywhere, all the time.

### Who can buy guns in Ohio?

The general requirements for gun buyers are:

- must be 21 or older,
- can't have a felony conviction or have been adjudicated as mentally incompetent,
- can't be a fugitive under indictment,
- can't have a domestic violence conviction and can't be dependent on illegal drugs or alcohol.

You can buy a long gun starting at age 18. Under federal law, you must be 21 to buy a handgun from a licensed dealer, though some state legislators want to change that.

### Where are you allowed to carry a firearm in Ohio?

You can carry a gun in lots of places in Ohio: rest areas along highways, public sidewalks, restaurants that serve alcohol as long as you're not drinking, state parks except for most buildings and RV parks.

Unless a prohibition is posted, you can carry in airports before security lines, private businesses, workplaces, arenas and hotels.

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## Ohio county fair dates announced for 2026

Zanesville Times Recorder

USA TODAY NETWORK

The Ohio Department of Agriculture has released the state's 2026 fair schedule.

The Paulding County Fair will kick off the fair season on June 6, and the season will wrap up on Oct. 17 with the close of the Fairfield County Fair.

The fairs include Ohio's 88 counties, as well as independent fairs and the Ohio State Fair.

### 2026 county fair schedule

- Paulding County Fair (Paulding):

June 6-June 13  
• Pickaway County Fair (Circleville):  
June 20-27  
• Harrison County Fair (Cadiz): June 22-27  
• Putnam County Fair (Ottawa): June 22-27  
• Hamilton County Fair (Carthage): June 25-28  
• Marion County Fair (Marion): June 28-July 4  
• Clinton County Fair (Wilmington): July 11-18  
• Madison County Fair (London): July 11-18  
• Adams County Fair (West Union): July 12-18  
• Logan County Fair (Bellefontaine): July 12-18  
• Lawrence County Fair (Proctorville): July 13-18  
• Lucas County Fair (Maumee): July 13-19  
• Montgomery County Fair (Dayton): July 14-19  
• Trumbull County Fair (Cortland): July 14-19  
• Jackson County Fair (Wellston): July 17-25  
• Ottawa County Fair (Oak Harbor): July 19-26  
• Crawford County Fair (Bucyrus): July 20-25  
• Fayette County Fair (Washington):

Court House): July 20-25  
• Perry County Fair (New Lexington): July 20-25  
• Warren County Fair (Lebanon): July 20-25  
• Franklin County Fair (Hilliard): July 20-26  
• Carroll County Fair (Carrollton): July 21-26  
• Clark County Fair (Springfield): July 24-31  
• Pike County Fair (Piketon): July 24-Aug. 1  
• Knox County Fair (Mount Vernon): July 25-Aug. 1

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