

# **Welcome to 4-H!**

## Family Resource Guide **Steuben County**



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Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in Steuben County 4-H! This booklet is designed with YOU in mind to help you learn more about 4-H, what we do and who we are. Regardless of whether you live on a farm or in town, have one hobby or many, like doing things by yourself or with others, 4-H has something to offer.

4-H is administered by Purdue Extension. Through Purdue Extension, we offer informal, educational opportunities in agriculture, community development, health and human sciences, and youth development. As Extension Educators, we work to provide you with the latest scientific information in production of animals, management of resources, helping families make life more livable, and developing individual talents through leadership training. Our office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday. We are closed on county holidays.

We welcome the opportunity to make your participation in our programs an enjoyable one!

Sincerely,

*Tami M. Mosier*

Tami Mosier, Extension Educator  
4-H Youth Development



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## **Purpose of this Guide**

This guide is intended to help families new to Steuben County 4-H become familiar with our program. It should serve as a valuable resource for members and parents to better understand the terms, structure, and operations of the 4-H program. While some families new to Steuben County 4-H may have transferred from another county, it is important to understand that each county in Indiana has its own way of doing things. Therefore, just because it happened one way in “xyz” county, doesn’t mean it will be the same in Steuben County. Please do not hesitate to contact the Extension Office at any time throughout the year. The Extension Office staff is here to serve your educational needs and wants your family to be successful in our local youth development program.

## **What is 4-H and the Cooperative Extension Service?**

4-H is a non-formal educational program provided by the United States Department of Agriculture and is delivered through its Cooperative Extension Service (CES). The Cooperative Extension Service is administered in Indiana through its land grant university, Purdue University. CES offers educational programs in the areas of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Health and Human Sciences, Community Development, and 4-H Youth Development. In Steuben County, Extension Staff receive program direction and support from the Extension Board that is comprised of a cross-section of people throughout the county.

4-H provides youth in grades 3-12 educational programs through their participation in project and club related activities. Steuben County 4-H offers programming through approximately 50 different topics areas, referred to as projects, and has multiple community 4-H clubs. 4-H project workshops provide members with technical training that each member needs to be successful not only in discipline, but also with life-long technical skills. The 4-H club model provides members with life-long leadership and social skills that will be of benefit to every member in career preparation.

## **Purdue Extension’s Mission**

We deliver practical, research-based information that transform lives and livelihoods.

## **Indiana 4-H Mission**

The Indiana 4-H Youth Development mission is to provide real-life educational opportunities that develop young people who will have a positive impact their communities and world.

## **Indiana 4-H Youth Development Program Philosophy**

The Indiana 4-H Youth Development program serves the youth of Indiana by providing a strong educational youth development program. This program delivers educational experiences in a variety of settings. Caring, capable and contributing adults assist in the 4-H program as role models for youth. The rich heritage of the 4-H Program is one to be valued and passed along to future generations.

The Indiana 4-H Youth Policies and Procedures includes certain standards and guidelines to assure that 4-H is a positive youth development program. County 4-H policy is guided by the county 4-H policy making or governing board (i.e., 4-H Council) as provided by the County Extension Board. Legal authority for the 4-H Program rests with the Director of the Cooperative Extension Service at Purdue University. No county 4-H policy may conflict with state 4-H policy or with federal guidelines and requirements.



Deadlines for county and state participation should be carefully constructed so as to encourage rather than to discourage participation. Such deadlines should be well published.

It is the policy of 4-H to be an inclusive organization. No county policy or practice should be used to arbitrarily exclude youth from either membership or participation. Youth should participate in 4-H Youth Development opportunities at levels and times that best suit the youth's development.

Per state and federal guidelines, volunteers and Extension Educators may not require youth to attend 4-H club meetings in order to complete 4-H or exhibit their work.

### **Enrollment Eligibility/Membership/Residence**

Enrollment in Indiana 4-H is open to any youth enrolled in grades K-12. An individual's 4-H grade is determined by the school grade in which he or she is classified at the time of year he or she enrolls in 4-H. A member does not advance in 4-H grade until he or she enrolls in 4-H for the subsequent year. Each member should enroll in the division of a project/subject that would best suit his/her interest and potential for personal growth and would enhance their family involvement.

Indiana youth typically enroll in 4-H Youth Development programs in the county or state in which they reside. However, individuals living in one county may join 4-H in another county. There must be educational or social reasons for an individual joining 4-H in a different county than that of their primary residence. During a single program year, a 4-H member enrolled in a given project may enroll and exhibit that project only in one county of enrollment.

In the event that a project is not offered in the county of primary 4-H enrollment, a 4-H member may enroll in that specific project in a different county. Approval of this special exception rests with the 4-H Extension Educator in consultation with the State 4-H Office. Participation in 4-H related activities and events (i.e., judging, performing arts, auction) must be in the county of primary 4-H enrollment.

The above policy is not intended to provide an escape mechanism for 4-H members and families who are unwilling to follow the terms and/or conditions in their current county of 4-H membership. Decisions regarding 4-H membership in a non-resident county (a county you do not live in), rest with the 4-H Extension Educator in the receiving county in consultation with the State 4-H Office.

### **Annual 4-H Enrollment/Re-Enrollment**

Enrollment is an annual process attained by completing the appropriate county 4-H enrollment process. 4-H enrollment takes place online at [v2.4honline.com](http://v2.4honline.com), October 1 through January 15. After January 15, families are encouraged to contact the Extension Office. 4-H enrollment is open to youth in grades 3-12 for a maximum of 10 consecutive years. 4-H members may drop or add projects by calling the Extension Office, through June 4. There is a \$15 state 4-H program fee and a \$5 county 4-H program fee, payable at the time of enrollment.

### **4-H Traditions**

**4-H Pledge:** 4-H Members are encouraged to learn the 4-H pledge that is recited at the beginning of each 4-H meeting.

I pledge-            My Head to clearer thinking,  
                           My Heart to greater loyalty,  
                           My Hands to larger service, and  
                           My Health to better living, for  
                           My Club, my Community, my County, and my World.



## 4-H Emblem

The national 4-H emblem is a four-leaf clover with the letter *H* on each leaf.

Guidelines for the use of the 4-H Name & Emblem are available at the County Extension Office or by visiting the National 4-H Headquarters Web site: <http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/index.htm>

## 4-H Slogan

“Learn by Doing”

## 4-H Motto

The national 4-H motto, “To Make the Best Better,” is the objective of every member and volunteer.

## 4-H Colors

Green and white are the 4-H colors. The white background of the flag symbolizes purity; the green 4-H emblem is nature’s most common color in the great outdoors and is the color of springtime, life, and youth.

## What is 4-H?

4-H is a youth organization that belongs to the members, their families and other interested adults who serve as volunteers. Professional leadership is given by Cooperative Extension Service faculty and staff of Purdue University. Support for 4-H programs is a joint effort of the local county government, Purdue University, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

4-H is young people sharing, doing, and learning together in all kinds of projects, events and activities in nonformal situations with guidance from their families and other adult volunteers. Members choose a project or projects that meet their needs and the places where they live. Group activities and events such as demonstrations, trips, camps, fairs, shows, and conferences provide additional opportunities and learning experiences.

4-H is open to all youth and adults regardless of their ethnic background, race or personal creed. Most 4-H clubs have meetings for the entire membership once a month. During these business meetings, decisions are made relative to group-sponsored activities, community service efforts, project opportunities, fund-raising efforts, etc.

## Purpose of 4-H

The purpose of 4-H is two-fold:

- To provide opportunity for parents and other interested adults to work with youth in their development.
- To provide real life experience for youth through a fun, action-oriented, and practical program.

The major focus of 4-H should be on the activities of the local 4-H club. Volunteers and youth plan and carry out organized learning experiences for the 4-H club. The many county and state activities are secondary. Their purposes should be one of supplementing and supporting local club programs.

## Why and when did 4-H originate?

4-H work, as we know it, began around 1900 as a means of reaching parents with improved farm and home practices. American farms had experienced poor economic times for 30 years. It was risky business for them to try a new recommended farm practice. In 1902, a few Midwestern school teachers developed some crop demonstrations with their students who in turn shared the techniques with their parents.



These school projects developed small groups covering a single topic such as beef, corn, gardening, and canning. By 1909 some were called 3-H clubs and in 1911 the name 4-H was finally adopted.

### How do children and youth benefit from 4-H membership?

Through the eyes of a young person, a 4-H member will:

- Learn, make, or do things that appeal to them and are meaningful to them.
- Make friends, belong to a group, and give and receive acceptance.
- Have a good time, which makes learning appealing and enjoyable.

Through the eyes of an adult, each 4-H member will one day become a contributing and caring adult in their community because of the knowledge and life skills they learned in 4-H. These members will learn how to:

- Develop an inquiring mind and a desire to learn.
- Make decisions and solve problems.
- Relate to and work with other people.
- Develop a concern for their community and the people in it.
- Build their self-confidence.

### 4-H Terms

**Project:** The topic of interest or field of study that typically results in an exhibition at the County 4-H Fair.

**Completion:** The completion of a 4-H experience may include a variety of options and must not be misinterpreted solely as exhibition of a project at a local, county, or state fair. There are a number of ways that a young person may participate in the 4-H Youth Development Program in addition to the club-based option. Participating in these 4-H opportunities enable the youth to build skills that will serve them well throughout their adult lives.

**Project Record Sheets:** Every single project has a corresponding record sheet, or worksheet, with a set of questions for the member to record their experiences in the project.

**Exhibition:** Exhibition in 4-H is the culmination of 4-H project work, often held in conjunction with the County 4-H Fair. The exhibition of 4-H projects/subjects provides 4-H members an opportunity to display their 4-H projects/subjects, enter into competition, and participate in an educational/social environment with peers. Each project submitted for exhibition is evaluated on the degree to which it meets project requirements.

**Newsletters:** The county 4-H newsletter is mailed/emailed to every 4-H family. This gives information about county-level 4-H meetings and activities offered to 4-H members, volunteers, and parents. For most events, this will be your only source of information.

**Constitution & By-laws:** 4-H clubs may have a set of written rules for the operation of the club called the constitution and by-laws.

**4-H Fair Books:** The booklet which lists the Steuben County Fair classes and rules for entry. A new book is published annually. It is very important that all 4-H families read and are familiar with this book.



**“My Record of Achievement”:** This is a form on which the member records their projects and describes the member’s experiences and knowledge gained. Members also record the activities, meetings, and committees they have participated in during the year. It is recommended that youth complete their record of achievement annually as they are necessary for several 4-H scholarship applications in high school.

**QLC/YQCA:** Although this only pertains to livestock exhibitors, QLC stands for Quality Livestock Care and YQCA stands for Youth for the Quality Care of Animals. Youth livestock exhibitions will need to complete either the in-person QLC course or the online YQCA course as an annual certification regarding animal welfare.

## Who’s Who in Steuben County

**Regular 4-H Member:** Anyone in grades 3-12 who participates in a local 4-H group or activity.

**Mini 4-H Member:** Anyone in grades K-2 who participates in a local 4-H group or activity.

**Club/Organizational Leader:** A volunteer who is responsible for the organizational part of the club.

**Project Leader/Superintendent:** A volunteer who helps 4-H members as they learn, make, or do something. This person can be a 4-H parent who agrees to help with a project. It may also be a Jr. Leader or a person from the community who has knowledge in a particular subject matter area.

**Activity Leader:** A volunteer who is responsible for organizing and conducting special club or countywide activities.

**Junior Leader:** A 4-H member who is in 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade and is willing to assume additional leadership roles within the local and/or county 4-H program. Teen Leaders take an active role in helping the younger members in the club. By doing this, they grow, mature, and learn leadership skills.

**Parents:** Parents are very important to the success their children will have in the 4-H Program. Parents are encouraged to attend monthly meetings and project workshops with their children. All countywide events are open and parents are encouraged to attend.

**4-H Fair Board/4-H Council:** This is the 4-H policy-making group, as well as the private funding source for a number of county-level and state-level 4-H programs and trips.

**Extension Educators:** They are the professionals who guide, teach, and administer the 4-H Program. They are staff members of Purdue University.

**Purdue University:** Purdue is a land-grant university that has the responsibility for taking education to the people of the state.

**Program Leader:** The State 4-H Youth Development Program Leader has the responsibility for 4-H programming at the state level.

**State Specialists:** State Specialists have the responsibility for the 4-H Youth Development Program on a statewide basis. Each specialist is responsible for a specific part of the total 4-H Program. They are based at Purdue University and are under the direction of the State 4-H Youth Development Program Leader.



**Indiana 4-H Foundation:** This nonprofit organization works to provide additional resources for the 4-H Program. They sponsor scholarships, fund county and state programs, finance the State 4-H Volunteer recognition program, and support educational awards trips for outstanding youth on the state level. They also sponsor the 4-H license plate program.

### **4-H Clubs in Steuben County – 2023-2024**

Every 4-H Club is different, and we want you to find one that fits your interests and needs. Below is a list of our organized 4-H Clubs.

#### **4-H Bit and Bridle (Horse & Pony)**

Meets in Angola—Steuben Community Center, 317 S. Wayne St., Angola, IN 46703

January-June; September-November, 1st Monday, 7 pm; 1/8, 2/5, 3/4, 4/8, 11/4

[May, June, September & October will be at the fairgrounds]

Sara Smith 316-6393

#### **4-H Explorers**

Meets in Angola—Steuben County Community Center, 317 S. Wayne St., Angola, IN 46703

January-June, 2nd Tuesday, 1:30-3 pm; 1/9, 2/13, 3/19 (moved due to Drama Camp), 4/9, 5/14, 6/11

Janna Duke 316-6572; Bethany Wright 815-592-7106

#### **Flint Arrows**

Meets north of Hudson—Salem Center Volunteer Fire Station, 8404 W. 500 S., Hudson, IN 46747

January-June, Sunday, 1 pm; 1/7, 2/4, 3/3, 4/14, 5/5, 6/9

Amelia Swander 260-316-7999

#### **Fremont Ready, Willing and Able**

Meets in Fremont—Perry's Home, 315 E Feather Valley Rd, Fremont, IN 46737

January-June, Sunday, 4 PM; 1/21, 2/25, no March mtg, 4/14, 5/19, 6/2

Alicia Perry 260-515-2595, Anna Creager 495-3525

#### **Hamilton Fighting 4-Hers**

Historically met in Hamilton—Hamilton Town Hall, 900 S. Wayne St., Hamilton, IN 46742

No current club leaders... Call Tami to volunteer!

#### **Lucky Ducks**

Meets in Angola—Steuben County Community Center, 317 S. Wayne St., Angola, IN 46703

November-June, 1st Tuesday, 6:30 pm; 11/7, 12/5, 1/2, 2/6, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7, 6/4

Amber Farnham 667-3586, Kayla Weible 667-8708

#### **Orland Creative Kids**

Meets in Orland—Orland Community Center, 9535 W St Rd 120, Orland, IN 46776

January-June, January 14, then 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, 4-5 PM; 1/14, 2/4, 3/3, 4/7, 5/5, 6/2

Jennifer Holden 260-312-5662 Kim Gardner 260-316-1035

#### **Otsego Go-Getters**

Meets north of Ashley—Stoy Farms, 6517 S. 400 W., Ashley, IN 46705

January-June, 3rd Sunday, 4 pm; 1/21, 2/11, 3/17, 4/21, 5/19, 6/16, Potluck during fair

Amanda Cline 316-5113, Melissa Budak 667-8050





### **The Conquerors**

Meets in Angola—Heifner's Home, 507 Fox Lake Rd., Angola, IN 46703

January-June, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, 3:30 pm; 1/14, 2/11, 3/10, 4/14, 5/19 (moved due to Mother's Day), 6/9

Mark & Rhonda Heifner 665-3348

### **Tiny Clovers, Mini 4-H (Grades K-2 only)**

Meets in Angola—Steuben County Community Center, 317 S. Wayne St., Angola, IN 46703

January-May, 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 5:30-7 pm; 1/23, 2/27, 3/19 (moved due to Spring Break), 4/23, 5/28

## **Ways Parents Can Help**

- Help your child select one or more suitable 4-H projects to complete. Support your child's 4-H project work.
- Make sure your child attends the 4-H Club meetings. Post and help your child use the club calendar published in our newsletter. Provide or arrange for transportation. Attend at least three Club meetings (the first and two others) with your child.
- Help your child to complete any 4-H responsibilities they may have volunteered for, been elected to, or selected for.
- Help with at least one 4-H club activity during the 4-H year. Volunteer, don't wait to be asked.
- Read the newsletter, especially the calendar to be aware of dates important to your 4-Her.
- Help your child gather any materials needed for their project.
- Help your child complete one or more articles for exhibit and make sure he/she can exhibit them at the County 4-H Fair. Provide transportation and encouragement.
- Help your child complete, and turn in on time, 4-H project records.
- Help your child learn and grow, share experiences with your child, improve relationships with your child, make a contribution to youth in your community, and develop a sense of accomplishment.
- Be an example! Help your 4-Her to be a good sport, and appreciate the successes of others.
- Be a 4-H booster in the community. Support 4-H by sponsoring awards and the 4-H Fair Board.
- Help your 4-Her find a way to participate in special events that interest him/her such as county contests, camps, fairs, service events, or shows.
- Support your local 4-H leaders. Get acquainted with them. Let them know you appreciate their efforts.
- Offer your services to assist the local program by talking with the Extension Educator. You have knowledge and skills that are needed in 4-H.
- Remember that the real object of 4-H is to develop young people into capable, contributing citizens. The way they work on projects, participate in meetings, and conduct themselves at competitive events, etc., will help set work and character standards for the rest of their lives.



## **4-H Fair Judging**

In Steuben County, we practice open judging which basically means you, as a 4-H member, have the opportunity to have an open conversation with the judge of your project. It is a great learning experience in which you can ask questions and obtain constructive criticism and genuine praise regarding your project and your efforts. Parents are not permitted to speak with the judges during open judging as it is a prime time for youth to shine on their very own, explaining what they learned and how they accomplished their goals. Youth may be asked questions such as:

- What new things did you learn?
- Have you taken this project before?
- How much time did you spend on this project?
- What were your goals for this project?
- What would you like to change about your exhibit?
- Tell me something about this exhibit that you want me to know.
- What did you like best (or least) about this project?
- Did you do this exhibit at school or was it in a workshop setting?
- Did you have any difficulty with this exhibit, or do you have any questions that I may be able to answer?

## **4-H Ribbons**

Ribbon placings are defined as follows:

Grand Champion/Reserve Grand Champion: Exceptional work  
Champion/Reserve Champion: Outstanding work, well above the average of the group  
Honor Group: Very good work, above the average of the group  
Blue: A complete exhibit, meets exhibit requirements, well-constructed  
Red: adequately constructed or does not fully meet the exhibit requirements  
White: poorly constructed or barely meets the exhibit requirements

