

**4-H**

***FAMILY GUIDE***



**A Guide To  
4-H In  
Dearborn County**

Dear 4-H Families,

Thank you for your interest in Dearborn County 4-H! This booklet was created 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 a town, have one hobby or many, like doing things by yourself or with others, 4-H has something to offer.

The Dearborn County Extension Office is located at 229 Main Street, Aurora, IN in the Aurora City building. 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 agriculture, management of resources, helping families learn about healthy living, and developing individual talents through leadership training. Our office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday. The office closes on County holidays.

Should you need additional information, please feel free to contact us at our office. Our telephone number is 812-926-1189. We welcome the opportunity to make your participation in our programs an enjoyable one.

Sincerely,

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4-H Youth Development Educator  
Dearborn County

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## Welcome to Dearborn County 4-H

We want to extend a warm welcome to you and congratulate your family for choosing to make 4-H a part of your life. 4-H is a youth development program affiliated with the United States Department of Agriculture and administered in Indiana by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. Locally, the Dearborn County office of the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service administers the Dearborn County 4-H program, and the Dearborn County 4-H Board of Directors is responsible for policy and governance.

Included in this family guide is information we hope will be helpful and will provide the tools necessary for your family to have a positive start with your 4-H career. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding this information after you have read it.

### Office Hours and Location

The local 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator manages the county 4-H program on a daily basis. Feel free to use any of the means listed below to contact the office with any questions that may arise throughout the year.

The Purdue Extension - 229 Main Street, Aurora, IN 47001. Located in the Aurora City Building.

Office Hours are:

Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Closed County Government Holidays

Phone- 812-926-1189

Voice mail is available during non-business hours

Visit the Extension Office web site at [www.extension.purdue.edu/county/dearborn](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/county/dearborn), under 4-H information, for information about Dearborn County 4-H, or <https://www.dearborncounty4h.com/>. Visit our Facebook page for current information and programming opportunities. <https://www.facebook.com/DearbornCounty4H/>

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## Purpose of this Guide

This guide is intended to help families new to Dearborn County 4-H become familiar with our program. It should serve as a valuable resource for members and parents to improve understanding of the terms, structure and operations of the 4-H program. While some families new to Dearborn County 4-H may have transferred from another county, it is important to understand each county in Indiana has its own way of doing things. Therefore, just because it happened one way in "xyz" county, does not mean it will be the same in Dearborn County. Please do not hesitate to contact the Extension Office at any time throughout the year. The Extension Office staff is here to serve 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 positive youth development program provided by the United States Department of Agriculture and delivered through its Cooperative Extension Service. 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 Dearborn 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 and positive youth development through participation in project and club related activities. Dearborn County 4-H offers 100 different projects (topic areas of study) and has 16 community 4-H clubs. 4-H project workshops may be offered, and provide members with technical training each member needs to be successful not only in discipline, but also with life-long technical skills. 4-H club activities provide members with life-long leadership and social skills benefitting every member.

"Spark" Clubs are short-term, topic specific programming offered to a variety of age groups. Topics vary annually according to youth interest and volunteer availability. This event, may be all your child chooses to do, and it fulfills the annual 4-H experience. Typically, events are a minimum of 6 hours, although some may be 10-14 hours total.

4-H camp provides youth with educational programming while having fun and meeting friends from eight counties in our Area, usually held at the beginning of June. Camp is open to all youth grades 3-12. Youth participate as Jr Camp Staff beginning in grade 8, as Jr. Director, Counselors or Counselors in Training. Jr Camp Staff are expected to participate in trainings in order to prepare them for camp responsibilities.

**Youth in grades K-2 can benefit from 4-H programming by joining Mini 4-H (Clover Buds).** Clover buds will receive an invitation to attend a discovery event each spring and are welcome at all 4-H clubs. There is no fee to join Mini 4-H and Clover Buds may select up to two projects each year. Clover's have

19 project areas to choose from, and exhibit one project at the county fair. Clover-Buds is a home-based non-competitive program that introduces youth to the 4-H program.

Additional 4-H activities are verbal communications contest, fashion review, bicycle rodeo (state), and bowling. See the handbook for more details.

### **Purdue Extension's Mission**

Purdue Extension delivers practical, research-based information that transforms lives and livelihoods.

### **4-H Mission and Vision**

**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.

**4-H Vision:** Indiana 4-H Youth Development strives to be the premier, community-based program empowering young people to reach their full potential.

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

The rich heritage of the 4-H Program is one to be valued and provided for in future generations. The Indiana 4-H program serves youth by providing a strong and educational positive youth development program. Programming is delivered in a variety of settings, including clubs, topic specific clubs, after-school programming, workshops and activities. Caring, capable, and screened adults assist in the 4-H program as leaders, volunteers and role models for youth.

The Indiana 4-H Youth Policies and Procedures Handbook provides standards, rules and guidelines assuring 4-H is a positive youth development experience across the state. County 4-H policy is guided by the county 4-H policy making or governing board (4-H Board of Directors) 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.

It is the policy of 4-H to be an inclusive organization. No county policy or practice is used to arbitrarily exclude youth from either membership or participation. Deadlines for county and state participation are carefully constructed to encourage rather than to discourage participation. Such deadlines are well published in the Master 4-H Activity Schedule, through newsletters, mailings, email and social media. Members not complying with established and published dates and deadlines for exhibition may be denied the opportunity to exhibit. Youth should participate in 4-H Youth Development opportunities at levels and times that best suit the youth's development and support family involvement.

### **Equal Opportunity/Equal Access**

It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue University is an Affirmative Action institution.

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

Enrollment in Indiana 4-H is open to any youth enrolled in grades 3-12. Grade is defined as the school grade the child is enrolled on January 1 of the 4-H year. A child may enroll in only one 4-H program in Indiana, Youth are required to participate in their own county's program. The only exception is if their primary county 4-H program does not offer a project or statewide activity they want to participate in, their friends participate in a different county, ect. There are acceptable reasons youth want to participate in a 4-H program different than their county program. If a family decides they want their child to participate in a 4-H program in another county, then the family must submit a form to the Indiana State 4-H office for approval to join. Youth may not enroll in the same project in two counties at the same time. Youth may enroll in another counties Spark programming. Enrollment registers a child in the 4-H program.

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

Enrollment is an annual event completed through the appropriate county 4-H enrollment process. Youth enroll in 4-H Online October 1 through May 15 at <https://v2.4honline.com>. 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 through 4-H Online, through May 15. There is a \$15 4-H program fee, payable at the time of enrollment.

Mini 4-H enrollment is open to youth grades K-2. Enrollment is completed on 4-H online; and there is no enrollment fee.

### **Cancellation Reminder**

Check with your club leader for cancelation information. Check Eagle Radio 99.3 for county 4-H event cancelations. Look for cancelation notice from 4-H online emails or texts, or social media.

### **Transportation of 4-H Youth**

When a 4-H member requires transportation to a 4-H event or activity and the parent is unable to provide that transportation, the following guidelines should be followed:

\*Parents are encouraged to arrange transportation for their children.

\*Anyone under the age of 21 must not be asked to serve as a driver and transport other youth to or from events and activities.

\*Under no circumstances should personal vehicles carry more persons than the vehicle is designed for (a seat belt for each occupant).

\* Parents must give written permission for a child to ride with another driver.

## What is 4-H?

4-H is a positive youth development program that develops life skills through project completion, activities and events.

4-H is an extracurricular, volunteer led, family-oriented program.

4-H offers activities for boys and girls in grades K through 12.

4-H is for urban as well as rural youth.

4-H helps young people develop life skills. A life skill is an ability that one can use in everyday life. Examples of basic life skills are:

1. Building self-confidence.
2. Developing curiosity and decision-making.
3. Setting and meeting goals.
4. Relating to other people.
5. Developing a concern for the community.
6. Developing leadership skills.

## EMBLEM

The 4-H emblem is the four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf.  
The Hs stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.



## MOTTO







## 4-H PARENT (HOME HELPER)

**Purpose:** Provide support to your child in 4-H.

**Responsibilities:**

1. Help your child enroll in the 4-H Club and meet the 4-H requirements
2. Help your child select one or more suitable 4-H Projects to complete.
3. Make sure your child attends 4-H Club meetings. Provide or arrange for transportation.
4. The newsletter, **4-H Connection**, shares important information and updates, important dates, programming etc.,
5. Help your child complete any 4-H responsibilities he or she volunteered for, been elected to, or selected for.
6. Attend as many Club meetings as possible and let your club leader know if you cannot attend.
7. Consider offering to help with club activities.
8. Consider becoming an approved volunteer.
9. Support your child's 4-H project work.
  - A. Read the **Dearborn County 4-H Connection**, to be aware of dates important to your 4-Her.
  - B. 4-H Project manuals and record sheets are available to pick-up from the Extension Office throughout the year.
  - C. Help your child attend project workshops as appropriate. Provide or arrange for transportation.
  - D. Help your child gather materials needed for their project(s).
  - E. 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.
  - F. Help your child complete, and turn in on time, 4-H project records along with "My Record of Achievement", all kept in the *Green Record Book*.

**Assistance Available:**

1. 4-H Club Organizational Leader
2. 4-H Project Leader (, Shooting sports, livestock & animal specie chairs and assistants)
3. Experienced 4-H Parents and 4-H members
4. 4-H Project Manuals available at the Extension Office
5. State 4-H web page <https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/>
  - a. This page offers comprehensive information about each state project and activity
6. Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service Office - Dearborn County 812-926-1189
7. Dearborn County 4-H Information- <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/dearborn/> all record sheets, forms, applications, etc. and the 4-H handbook can be found and printed from this location.+
8. Dearborn County 4-H Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DearbornCounty4H/>
9. Dearborn County 4-H webpage- <https://www.dearborncounty4h.com/>

**Time Commitment:**

**Participation involves about 1 hour per month for club meetings and time for 4-H project work.**  
Actual time depends on individual youth. A minimum of 6-10 hours per year should be expected; depending on the number of projects enrolled in or if livestock projects are involved.

**Benefits:**

Helps your child learn, grow and develop life skills needed for future success, encourages shared experiences with your child, helps your child develop a sense of belonging, generosity, mastery, and independence, Encourages a sense of community & service. Develops a sense of accomplishment and confidence.

**Qualifications:**

- Interest in child's activities.
- Commitment of time and energy to your child.
- Ability to assist, but still allow the member to do his/her own work.

**OTHER WAYS THAT 4-H PARENTS CAN HELP:**

1. Learn about 4-H: what it stands for, how it operates, how it is funded.
2. Advise your child in selecting 4-H projects.
3. Show your interest and enthusiasm for the projects selected. Ask for suggestions about what members could do to learn.
4. See that when a project is started, it is also completed.
5. Encourage your 4-Her when he/she succeeds and provide even more encouragement when he/she fails.
6. Be an example! Help your 4-Her to be a good sport, and appreciate the successes of others.
7. Keep informed about 4-H through information that comes to members of your family. Visit your profile in 4H online regularly and read the **Dearborn County 4-H Connection** and other mailings your 4-H'er will receive.
8. Be a 4-H booster in your community. Support 4-H by sponsoring awards for the 4-H Fair and Achievement program. Contact the Extension Office if you are willing to sponsor a 4-H Fair trophy or another award for 4-H.
9. Make 4-H Club work FAMILY work, but let the boys and girls do their work and carry their own jobs to completion. Be their guide only.
10. Provide transportation to local meetings and county events in which your child and others of the club are interested. Or, provide refreshments for meetings or special functions. Do not wait to be asked; just volunteer this help!
11. Attend 4-H meetings and other special events.
12. Help your 4-Her find a way to participate in special events that interest him/her such as county contests, 4-H camp & camp counselor, Fair, displays, local workshops, area workshops, state workshops, Fashion Review, royalty contest, 4-H bowling, 4-H Academy@Purdue state trips, Roundup, Career Development Events, etc.
13. Support your local 4-H leaders. Get acquainted with them. Let them know you appreciate their efforts.
14. Volunteer your time to help with duties associated with the 4-H Fair. It takes a village to make this happen.
15. Offer your services to assist the local leaders. You have knowledge and skills that are needed in 4-H.

16. If the need arises, help find local leaders for your 4-H Club. Several kinds of leaders are necessary to the success of clubs: organization, project, and activity leaders. Consider helping in one of these ways yourself. Volunteer applications are available in the Extension Office.
17. Remember the real object of 4-H is to develop your sons and daughters into fine 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.

## WHO'S WHO IN 4-H

4-H member	Any child currently in grade 3 through grade 12 properly enrolled in 4-H online annually.
Mini 4-H or	Also known as Clover bud Any child currently in grades Kindergarten through grade 2 properly enrolled in 4-H online annually.
Club Leader	An adult volunteer who is responsible for the organizational aspects of the 4-H club.
Project Mentor	A volunteer who answers questions a 4-Her may have about a project. This person is often a 4-H parent with special expertise in a particular subject area. Names and telephone numbers will be shared with 4-H Club leaders and 4-H members. If you have expertise in a project area and would like to become a mentor, please contact the Extension Office.
Junior Leader	A 4-H member who is in grades 7 through 12. The Junior Leader year runs from August through August. The group has monthly meetings, performs community service projects, and participates in various educational and skill building events. Completion Trip is determined each year and eligibility is based on completing required events.
Parents	Important to the success of the child in 4-H. Parents are ENCOURAGED to attend club meetings as well as countywide events with their child.

### COUNTY LEVEL

**The 4-H Youth Development Educator is responsible for screening, approving or removing all 4-H volunteers participating in the county**

program. Every applicant goes through a screening process which includes a background check, and reference consultation, before being allowed to work with 4-H members. All 4-H volunteers must enroll in 4-H online annually to remain in active status.

**4-H Board of Directors** 4-H Board of Directors meets monthly on the first Thursday and is the policy-making organization for Dearborn County 4-H. There are elected volunteers on this board, including two Junior Leader appointed members. The president of the 4-H Fair Board also sits on the board as a non-voting member. Members of the Dearborn County 4-H Association elect approved screened volunteers to the 4-H board members to three-year terms during the annual Achievement Banquet. Members may complete no more than 2-3year terms, before leaving the board for at least one year. If you are interested in becoming a 4-H BOD member, please contact the Extension Office.

**Extension Educator** The professional charged with oversight of the 4-H program and serves as a source of research-based information. Dearborn County has one 4-H educator, and their title is 4-H Youth Development Educator. The Extension Office is located at 229 Main Street, Aurora, IN 47001. Email addresses for staff can be found in the Dearborn County 4-H Handbook. Office hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. The office is closed on county holidays.

**4-H Fair Committee** 4-H Fair Committee is a subcommittee of the 4-H Board of Directors. Fair Committee members must be approved volunteers and serve three-year terms, elected to service by the Fair Committee. As volunteers, their purpose is to oversee the 4-H Fairgrounds and make decisions related to the annual 4-H Fair. The Fair Committee is responsible for generating income to run the 4-H program.

## **STATE LEVEL**

### **Purdue University**

Purdue is the land grant college in Indiana responsible for taking education to the people of the state. The 4-H program is part of that directive in all 92 Indiana counties.

### **State 4-H Program**

State 4-H Program Leader is responsible for the oversight and management of the 4-H program across the State. The 4-H Program Leader is based at Purdue University.

**State Specialist**

State Specialists have responsibility for the 4-H program on a statewide basis. Each one has 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 Program Leader.

**Indiana 4-H Foundation**

This nonprofit organization works to provide additional resources for the 4-H program. They sponsor 4-H youth scholarships, funding for county and state programs, finance the State 4-H Leaders recognition, trips for outstanding youth to National 4-H Congress, as well as underwrite the cost of many 4-H trips offered on the state level. Forms for donation are available at the County Extension Office. They also sponsor the 4-H license plate program. Contact the Extension Office for information about license plates for your vehicles.

## Dearborn County 4-H Club Leader Information

### 2023 - 2024 Dearborn County 4-H Club Leader Information

<b>Camelid Crew</b>			
	Carla Bergmann	513-633-5944	zangcontractors@gmail.com
	Amanda Cotton	812-655-3783	<a href="mailto:cottonclan160@gmail.com">cottonclan160@gmail.com</a>
	Contact Carla for meeting details		
<b>Dog Daze</b>			
	A. J. Fox		andfox4511@gmail.com
	Krystal Huelsman	812-584-7145	krystaldboggs@gmail.com
	Alexis Bissett (Lexi)	812-290-8446	
	Contact A. J for meeting details		
<b>Dover Hoosier Helpers</b>			
	Sharlena Hountz	513-236-0487	
	Kathy Kuhn	812-637-6185	kmkuhn@fuse.net
	Contact Kathy or Sharlena for meeting details		

<b>Eldorado Horse &amp; Pony</b>			
	Lisa Lawrence	812-212-5599	lilaw22@gmail.com
	<b>Contact Lisa for meeting details</b>		
<b>Great Caesars</b>			
	Sandy Lang	812-584-0408	
	Amy Ashcraft	812-584-2751	
	<b>Contact Sandy for meeting details</b>		
<b>Happy Hooves</b>			
	Brad Dawson	513-341-7002	
	Karen Herth	513-260-0665	herth@etczone.com
	<b>Contact Brad or Karen for meeting details</b>		
<b>Happy Udder Bunch</b>			
	Diana Hubbard	812-637-9922 812-221-0716	jhfarms@zoomtown.com
	[Boer] Sara Kraus	812-212-6166	sarascool95@yahoo.com
	<b>Contact Diana for meeting details</b>		
<b>Jr. Leaders</b>			
	Liz Beiersdorfer	812-926-1189	ebeiers@purdue.edu
	Matt Jarvis	317-443-8467	matt.jarvis@in.usda.gov
	<b>Meets 1st Tues. of month 7pm Ext. Office</b>		
<b>Lagomorph Lounge Rabbit Club</b>			
	Tricia Ober	513-313-2795	tricia.ober@boone.kyschools.us
	<b>Call Tricia for meeting details</b>		
<b>Manchester Rowdies</b>			
	Rachel Thies	513-509-7855	rachel@demurelaw.com
	Madison Jarvis	317-292-1057	
	Kelly Dunn	765-729-8047	



	Monetta Roessler	812-432-3069	
	Matt & Michelle Jarvis	317-409-7070	
	Ellen Bruce	812-744-5568	ellen.bruce@sdsc.k12.in.us
	<b>Contact Rachel or Matt for meeting details</b>		
	<b>Robotics</b>		
	<b>SAFE</b>		
	Greg Green – Site Coordinator	513-623-6865	ggreen1971@comcast.net
	Steve Stenger – Site Coordinator	812-576-4701	wood@etczone.com
	Criss Green – Archery	812-637-3905	ndbmangr@one.net
	Carla Bergmann – Archery	513-633-5944	<a href="mailto:zangcontractors@gmail.com">zangcontractors@gmail.com</a>
	Adam Tippin – Archery	812-789-9555	ckros6@gmail.com
	Earl Shuter – Muzzleloader	812-584-8411	eshuter0517@gmail.com
	Robin Newman – Shotgun	812-907-0985	kasi Newman0507@yahoo.com
	Steve Stenger – Shotgun	812-576-4701	wood@etczone.com
	Kyle Stenger – Shotgun	812-617-6587	kmstenger05@yahoo.com
	Darren Callahan – Rifle	513-252-3814	callahandt@gmail.com
	Greg Green – Rifle, Outdoor Skills	513-623-6865	ggreen1971@comcast.net
	Mike Slayback – Rifle	513-444-7950	Whitey121.ms@gmail.com
	Nick Bergmann – Pistol, Archery	812-744-7650	ncbergmann@seidata.com
	Cari Green – Outdoor Skills, Pistol	513-266-9361	caricogar@yahoo.com
	<b>See <a href="#">SAFE</a> manual for dates</b>		
	<b>St Leon Lucky Leafers</b>		
	Karen Schebler	812-292-6600	kschebler@sunmandearborn.k12.in.us
	<b>Contact Karen for meeting information</b>		
	<b>Stateline Roadrunners</b>		
	Cris Green	812-637-3905	ndbmangr@one.net
	<b>Contact Cris for meeting information</b>		

4-H clubs generally meet once a month. Call your leader for club meeting dates. Many clubs meet September through the Fair.

4-Hers may belong to any 4-H Club in the county. Residence does not restrict club membership. However, most 4-Hers belong to the club closest to where they live or attend school. Ask your leader if there are annual club dues. 4-Hers may belong to more than one club. Many youths belong to a general club, as well as, project clubs like shooting sports (SAFE) or livestock clubs.

4-Hers may change membership to another club if they wish. It is important to notify the Extension Office 812-926-1189 and the leaders of both clubs (the one you are leaving and the one you are joining).

Clubs elect officers from the club membership. The officers conduct the business portion of the 4-H club meeting.

## **Newsletter-4-H Connection**

This newsletter is sent to every 4-H home in Dearborn County enrolled in 4-H online. It is called the 4-H Connection. Read your **4-H Connection** to find out about 4-H Club meetings, project workshops, and other timely 4-H news! This newsletter is mailed to the members through the US Postal Service bulk mailing system or can be emailed through 4-H online. It is also on the Extension Office web site at [www.extension.purdue.edu/county/dearborn](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/county/dearborn).

## **4-H MAILINGS**

The Extension Office tries to effectively communicate with 4-H families in several ways. The **Dearborn County 4-H Connection** is one way, but other information needing delivery in a timely manner is mailed first class in an envelope with the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service return address, a post card, or emailed. Regardless of how you receive the information, please read the information immediately so important deadlines and opportunities are not missed. When you receive a letter or Postcard in the mail with this return address, it is not junk mail and should be opened immediately.

*Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service  
Dearborn County  
229 Main Street, Aurora, IN 47001  
Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture*

## **WEB SITE**

The Extension Office maintains a web site at [www.extension.purdue.edu/county/dearborn](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/county/dearborn). It is updated frequently and a way for the office to be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

4-H newsletters and other useful information are available on the web site. There are links that provide educational resources to the 4-H members and their families, such as, project record sheets. The State 4-H website link is also available on our webpage. If you cannot find a project form you require on our webpage, please visit the State website.

Dearborn County 4-H/Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DearbornCounty4H/> is a social media resource to find current news, event/program opportunities, etc.

## **4-H PROJECTS**

4-H projects are learning experiences for the 4-H members. 4-H members must sign up for at least one project each year and may complete the records for that project continuing the education. A member is encouraged to exhibit at the Fair as part of their project experience, but are not required to exhibit.

Some projects are divided by grade, while others are divided by the number of years of participation in that project. Grade is determined by the grade the member was in January 1 of current 4-H year.

4-H members may add or drop projects until May 15. To add or drop a project, please manage through 4-H Online family account.

## **4-H HANDBOOK**

4-H Handbooks are updated annually and are made available as soon as possible. 4-H Handbooks are available online at the Extension webpage. Limited copies of the handbook will be printed each year and may be requested when receiving 4-H project manuals. The Handbook has information members need to know and provides project exhibit guidelines.

Members may ask the club or project leaders about the project, as well as, 4-H Fair exhibit guidelines for that project. You will find a list of club and project club leaders in the 4-H Handbook.

## **4-H PROJECT MANUALS, RECORD SHEETS AND GREEN RECORD BOOK**

Most 4-H projects have manuals that give in-depth information for that project. Project manuals and record sheets are available to pick up from the Extension office at any time. Check with your club leader, as many pick up manuals and record sheets for club members and distribute them at club meetings.

Dearborn County 4-Hers enter/list projects taken each year onto the Achievement Record Sheet. The Achievement sheet is the first page of the Green Folder. Record sheets verify project work and should be kept in the green folder given to first year members by the 4-H Club Leaders or Extension Office. It is commonly referred to as the "**Green Record Book**". The Green Book may be presented to judges on project check in day so results can be entered. The first green record folder is free. Replacement folders are available at minimal cost from the Extension Office. Green Folders are for the use of the 4-H member to record projects, state fair experiences, workshops, club office, awards, etc. and should be used when completing scholarship applications, especially the Indiana 4-H Foundation Accomplishment scholarship.

It is important for 4-Hers and parents to read the 4-H project manuals thoroughly. They are full of good information that will help your child learn to prepare an exhibit for the 4-H Fair. Always refer, however, to the 4-H Handbook for project exhibit specifics.

## **MY RECORD OF 4-H ACHIEVEMENT**

White forms labeled "My Record of 4-H Achievement" (4-H 620-W) should be filled out completely each year. These are available from 4-H Club Leaders and the County Extension Office. It is important that these be filled out accurately in order to remember what you have done in 4-H and to apply for trips, awards and scholarships throughout your 4-H career. The "My Record of 4-H Achievement" is to be kept in the front of your Green Record Book, with your project record sheets. Be sure to update your information every year.

4-H records should be filled out as completely and accurately as possible. Parents may oversee the child's work, but we expect the child to do his or her own writing. Record sheets are not required to be turned in, but are an additional educational opportunity to improve knowledge and skills in a project.

An example of how to complete the "My Record of 4-H Achievement" is found near the end of this publication.

## **PROJECT SELECTION**

In choosing a project, a member will consult with his or her parents and 4-H leader(s). After considering all the projects available and the requirements of each, he or she should select one based on:

1. Interest, needs, and capabilities
2. Family situation
3. Suitability of the area in which he or she lives

Members enrolling for the first time will take a minimum of one project. As a member gains knowledge and experience, the scope of the project may be increased and additional projects might be selected. A brief explanation of each project is included in the 4-H Handbook. Members may also ask the Extension Educator, club leaders, or other 4-H parents/members about project requirements for that project.

Early in the 4-H career, a member should consider developing a tentative project plan to guide him or her through their 4-H experience. Projects of high interest should be continued each year, with increases in the depth of the project when possible. Members might try additional projects, which are related to his or her other project work. For example, an electric project member may want to enroll in home environment, woodworking, or science-based projects. If possible, an older member could consider expanding project work to develop a complete farm, ranch, business, or home management program.

Project work is the core of the 4-H member's experience. Successful project completion results in member satisfaction and expansion of future project work. The learning experiences one obtains through his or her project could even lead to career/vocation possibilities.

## **Fair entry Registration**

Fair Entry registers projects 4-H members are bringing to the fair. This is separate from 4-H online enrollment, which registers the child in 4-H. Both registrations are required each year.

You sign in through the 4-H online link. Each child needs to provide information regarding all projects they intend to bring to the fair, along with a short description. If you are not exactly sure what you will bring, but know your division requires a poster, indicate "poster" in the description.

Fair Entry is required and a deadline for registration completion is posted every year in the newsletter, social media, and webpage. Step by step instructions for Fair Entry registration are mailed to families in the spring for your convenience.

If registration is not completed by the deadline, families will register projects before having projects judged on project check-in morning. If you would like help completing Fair Entry registration, please call the office for assistance at 812-926-1189.

## 4-H FAIR JUDGING

Projects exhibited at the 4-H Fair will be judged. Non-livestock exhibits will be checked in and judged on Project Check-In Day between 9:00 and 11:30 am. Check-in and judging stations are placed throughout Agner Hall, on the Fairgrounds. Judging is conference style. Meaning your 4-H Fair exhibits will be judged in your presence, as you check in. Here are some questions you may be asked in a conference judging setting.

- ✓ 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 the 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?
- ✓ What life skills did you develop by completing this project?

## COMPLETING THE EXHIBIT ENTRY TAG

How to complete the Exhibit entry tag:

ENTRY TAG	
PROJECT NAME	Electricity
DIVISION/LEVEL	Division 1
ENTRY	Parallel Circuit Board
AGE/GRADE	9 years/3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade
NAME	Chris Clover
CLUB	Classy Clovers

Securely attached the Exhibit entry tag in the lower right-hand corner of poster exhibits, or in a visible place on non-poster exhibits. Project cards are available to print from the Extension Office web page under 4-H.

## RIBBONS

4-H uses the Danish system of ribbon awards. In this system, the ribbon placings are defined as follows:

Purple..... Outstanding work  
Blue Honor .....Very good work  
Blue ..... Above the average of the group  
Red ..... Average  
White..... Below the average of the group

## AWARDS & TRIPS

Awards are given to 4-H members at the Annual 4-H Achievement Program held in the fall. Award applications are included a fall **4-H Connection** or in a separate mailing August - September. Any 4-H member may apply, as long as they were enrolled in the particular project during the 4-H year. Only 4-H members who apply are considered for these awards. Year pins are presented to all members upon completion of a 4-H year and are distributed by 4-H Club leaders.

Older 4-H members are eligible to apply for trips taken the following summer. Most of the trips take place during June and July. Trip and Award Applications are mailed to all 4-H members each spring. Eligibility information is included in the Trip and Award Application. Completed applications are submitted as directed on the trip and award form.

### **Major 4-H Trips -see handbook or trip form for more details**

National 4-H Conference-usually spring

4-H Academy@ Purdue- June

State 4-H Band

4-H Round-UP-held during or just after our fair week

State Fair Exhibit Hall Workers-end of July through State Fair

National 4-H Dairy Conference

State 4-H Junior LEADER CONFERENCE

State 4-H Chorus

Citizenship Washington Focus  
State Fair Youth Leadership Conference-  
Indiana 4-H Leadership Summit  
National 4-H Youth Congress

## ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Each club will have special activities for their club members throughout the year. In addition, there are countywide events in which a 4-Her may participate.

Project Workshops - A variety of workshops in different project areas are offered each year. Be sure to read your **4-H Connection** for workshop details.

Officer Training - This is held in January for all members of 4-H Clubs to give them ideas and helpful hints about office and club member responsibilities. At least 4 club members must attend to qualify for honor club status.

Achievement Program - The 4-H Achievement Program is held in the fall, and is a time to recognize the accomplishments of 4-H members and volunteers. All 4-H members and volunteers are invited to attend. Association by-law approval and new 4-H BOD members are elected during this meeting.

Verbal Communications Contest 4-H members may register to participate in a variety of public speaking activities at the local and state level. See handbook for event details. Local participants will share their presentation and be judged during Fair Week.

### 4-H Camp

This four day, three-night camp takes place each summer and is open to 4-H members in grades 3-12. The 4-H members participate in educational classes each morning and have choice of activities every afternoon. Evening speakers and other evening activities are scheduled each day. We camp at Camp Higher Ground, off ST 46 between St. Leon, IN and Harrison, Ohio. 4-Hers from Brown, Dearborn, Decatur, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, and Switzerland Counties come together for a great experience. 4-Hers in grades 8-12 may apply to be Counselors-In-Training (CIT). Those in grades 9 and above may apply to be Camp Counselors or CIT's, and typically, those youth in their senior year may apply to become a Junior Director.

## SUMMARY OF COUNTY PROJECTS

Check out the listing of projects in the handbook or on 4-H online. For additional information, contact one of the 4-H Club Leaders or the Dearborn County Extension Office.



