

INTRODUCTION TO MINI 4-H HANDBOOK

(Grades K-2)



**SULLIVAN COUNTY
2026**

WHAT IS 4-H?

The 4-leaf clover is the emblem of 4-H. Each leaf stands for a word beginning with "H". The Four H's are:

Head - to think and plan

Heart - to be kind and true

Hands - to help others

Health - to enjoy life



THE 4-H PLEDGE

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 country, and my world.

THE 4-H CLUB MOTTO

"To make the best better."

THE 4-H COLORS

White - a symbol of high ideals and purity.

Green - a symbol of nature, life, and youth.

COLLECTION EXHIBIT

Wednesday, July 8 4-8 pm Mini 4-H Collection Exhibit check-in, Exhibit Building (drop off only, will not meet with judges)

Do you like to collect things? Many people have interesting hobbies by collecting all kinds of things. They keep adding to their collections all their lives.

The Mini 4-H Collection Project is easy and fun. Collect and identify 6 or more items -- anything you wish. There are many collections that do not cost very much.

Some ideas you might try are:

Rocks	Leaves	Seeds
Stamps	Stickers	Buttons
Dolls	Coins	Salt Shakers
Arrowheads	Insects	Marbles
Model Cars	Feathers	Shells
Post Cards	Medals	Bottle caps
Pictures	Fossils	Baseball Cards



What other ideas do you have?

You can have fun finding some of these by yourself -- such as the insects or leaves. Other collections need help from your family or friends. Ask them to send you postcards or save stamps.

You may need to get help in identifying your items from your parents, books you have around your home or the library, friends, or booklets in hobby stores. If you collect insects, you need not know the scientific name, only the common name.

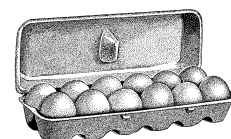
As you add to your collection, you might want to keep a record to help you remember where, when and how you got each item.

Now that you have started your collection, what are you going to do with it? One of the biggest problems with collections is finding a way to keep it neat and clean and still be able to enjoy it.

Many articles can be fastened to poster board, plywood, or a bulletin board. This is a good method for arrowheads, postcards, leaves, medals, feathers, or buttons.

An egg carton can be used to neatly display rocks, shells, or marbles.

Many small items can be kept in an album. You can buy one or make one from a 2 or 3 ring notebook. The notebook can be decorated if you like. These are good for pictures, stamps, coins, postcards, stickers, or feathers.



Perhaps you would like to keep your collection in a box. Shoe boxes and other small boxes are very good. Rocks, fossils, shells, and many other things could be kept in a box.

Seeds and small buttons can be stored in a plastic bag or even glued onto a piece of cardboard or board to make a picture design.

Now that you have decided what you will collect, we hope you will be able to exhibit at least six items from your collection at the Sullivan County 4-H Fair. We suggest your collection be displayed in some way to protect your items and still look nice. Please do not bring items of sentimental or monetary value. Sullivan County 4-H is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items in your display. The Collection could be mounted horizontally on a poster board, in a shoe box, egg carton, or notebook. **BE SURE TO COVER YOUR COLLECTION WITH PLASTIC BEFORE BRINGING IT TO THE FAIR.** Your collection must not take up any more space than 22" x 28". A fair entry tag must be attached to your exhibit. The fair entry tags are available from the Extension Office.

Your exhibit will not be judged. The exhibits will be on display throughout the Fair, and you will receive a participation ribbon for your collection exhibit.

MINI 4-H ACTIVITY DAY

Wednesday, July 15

8:30 am check-in

9:00 am to 1:00 pm Mini 4-H Activity Day

- Mini 4-H Activity Day will be in the 4-H Building beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 15. Participants will take part in a variety of activities and classes.
- Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The Mini 4-Hers will be dismissed at 1:00 p.m.
- This year's theme is Super Heroes! Wear your favorite super hero shirt!



PET PARADE

Saturday, July 11, 4:30 pm, check-in at Livestock Show Arena
5:00 pm, Mini 4-H Pet Parade, Livestock Show Arena

The Pet Parade is another Introduction to Mini 4-H Activity for you. If you have a favorite pet at home, and would like to bring it to the fair, be sure to join us!

There are several ways you must prepare for the Pet Parade. Be sure to read all of this section to make sure you are ready for this activity.

- Animals in the Pet Parade must meet the same requirements as the other 4-H animals. The health requirements are below.
- Participants and their pets must be pre-enrolled in the Pet Parade. This may be done by completing the form in this packet and returning it to the Sullivan County Extension office by July 1.
- Participants and their pets should arrive at the Show Arena 30 minutes prior to the Pet Parade. Report to the specified area near the Show Arena for last minute instructions.
- All pets must be properly restrained. Space in the barns will not be provided for Pet Parade animals.
- Pet Parade animals will not be permitted in the livestock barns and must leave the Fairgrounds immediately following the Pet Parade.
- Each participant and pet will be introduced and will receive a participation ribbon.
- Mini 4-H members, in grades K through 2, will be allowed to show, work with, or care for animal projects after their parent or legal guardian has signed a liability release. Mini 4-H members may independently show, work with, or care for animals that weigh 300 pounds or less. Mini 4-H members may only show, work with, or care for animals over 300 pounds when they are assisted by a parent, legal guardian, or another adult designated in writing by parent or legal guardian. (The word assisted means that the adult has control of the animal at all times.)

LIVESTOCK RULES

****The section below has been paraphrased with the most relevant information for you. However, all of BOAH requirements will be followed at the Sullivan County 4-H Fair for all events with animals. Refer to the 2026 4-H Handbook for the complete information.**

For more information on horse health requirements, call the Indiana State Board of Animal Health at 317-544-2400 or visit BOAH's website at: www.in.gov/boah/2383.htm.

This section describes the Indiana State Board of Animal Health's (BOAH) requirements for all animal exhibitions in the state.

1. Failure to meet all animal health requirements will result in removal of animals from the exhibition premises.
2. The following animals are not eligible for exhibition in Indiana:
 - a. Animals that originate from a herd that is under quarantine.
 - b. An animal prohibited from exhibition under any law or order.
 - c. Any animal classified as a brucellosis "suspect".
 - d. Animals showing signs of any infectious or communicable disease or that are a health hazard to people or other animals.
 - e. Any animal that does not meet state animal health requirements.

3. Any animal that develops or shows signs of any infectious or communicable disease during exhibition must be removed from the premises, including the surrounding exhibition grounds. An owner who is disputing the exclusion of his/her animal(s) from exhibition may not exhibit the animal in question pending any appeal.

Species Specific Requirements

Cattle

Identification (ONE of the following)

- a. 840 tags
- b. NUES (brite) tags
- c. Official USDA Program tags

Swine

Identification (**ONE** of the following)

- a. 840 tags
- b. NUES (brite) tags
- c. Official Premises ID Number ("PIN") tag
- d. Ear notch: Ear notch must be recorded in the book of a purebred registry association.
- e. Tattoo: Tattoo must be registered with a swine registry association.

Sheep and Goats

Identification (**ONE** of the following)

- a. Official Scrapie identification tag, with US shield
- b. Official Scrapie tattoo
- c. Registration tattoo: Tattoo must be noted on the registration paper and accompany the animal
- d. Registration microchip: Electronic implant must be noted on the registration paper and accompany the animal

NOTE: Wethers younger than 18 months of age must bear a unique and permanent form of identification

Horses

We recommend only using horses less than 300 pounds for mini 4-H day due to the size of the livestock arena the event takes place in. Additionally, any animals weighing more than 300 pounds need to be controlled by a parent/guardian.

Testing a. **Horses that originate within Indiana** do not need an equine infectious anemia (EIA, Coggins) test for exhibition in Indiana.

b. **Horses that originate outside of Indiana** must meet the following requirements prior to entering Indiana:

- Each horse must test negative for EIA within 12 months of the date of exhibition. Each horse must be accompanied by an official certificate of veterinary inspection that indicates the date and results of the EIA test.

NOTE: Suckling foals that are accompanied by their dam, when the dam has tested negative for EIA within the last twelve months, are exempt from the EIA testing requirement

Poultry

Indiana defines poultry as: chickens, turkeys, ostriches, emus, rheas, cassowaries, waterfowl (domesticated fowl that normally swim, such as ducks, geese and swans), and game birds (domesticated fowl such as pheasants, pea fowl, partridge, quail, grouse, and guineas) but **NOT** doves and pigeons.

Testing All poultry presented for exhibition, except waterfowl, must meet ONE of the following requirements:

- a. Test negative for pullorum-typhoid within 90 days prior to the date of the exhibition.
- b. Hatched from eggs that originate from a certified NPIP pullorum-typhoid clean parent flock.
- c. Originate from a flock that is certified NPIP pullorum-typhoid clean.

Dogs - Vaccination Requirements:

a. All dogs 3 months of age and older must be vaccinated for rabies by a licensed and accredited veterinarian in accordance with the state rabies vaccination law.

b. A certificate of vaccination or other statement, signed by a licensed and accredited veterinarian, that indicates the vaccinations each animal has been given must accompany the animal to the exhibition.

c. A certificate of veterinary inspection may be used to document vaccinations.

Cats - Vaccination Requirements:

a. All cats 3 months of age and older must be vaccinated for rabies by a licensed and accredited veterinarian in accordance with the state rabies vaccination law.

b. A certificate of vaccination or other statement, signed by a licensed and accredited veterinarian, that indicates the vaccinations each animal has been given must accompany the animal to the exhibition.

c. A certificate of veterinary inspection may be used to document vaccinations

MINI 4-H HORSE & PONY

Monday, July 13 5:00 pm Mini Horse & Pony Show

1. All horses that show in Mini 4-H Horse and Pony must be vaccinated to the same standards as regular horse and pony horses. A vaccination form is enclosed with this packet.
2. Youth must have just completed kindergarten, first or second grades of the current year and properly enrolled in Mini 4-H through v2.4honline.com. There is not an enrollment fee for Mini 4-H members.
3. **NO** riding without supervision of approved adult volunteer.
 - a. Ride only in designated area
 - b. Absolutely no cowboying
 - c. Must wear boots
 - d. Must wear approved safety helmet
 - e. Horses must be under control of the parent or volunteer at all times.
4. The child must demonstrate ability to participate without undue injury to themselves or other members.
5. Final decision of eligibility (of both horse and rider) will be determined by the leader and official fair volunteers overseeing the Mini 4-H Horse & Pony show.
6. Parent or legal guardian, or another active, approved 4-H adult volunteer, designated in writing by parent or legal guardian, will be responsible for their child and horse. When the children bring their horses or work with a horse, parent or legal guardian, or another active, approved 4-H volunteer (designated in writing by parent or legal guardian) are expected to stay at the clinics and fair activities.
7. Parent or legal guardian, or another active, approved 4-H volunteer, designated in writing by parent or legal guardian, are welcome to help if the appropriate volunteer screening has been completed.
8. All members must show showmanship class. Showmanship will be stressed.
9. Clinics will be offered for practice and instruction.
10. Horses and ponies for Mini 4-H will be brought in the same day of the show and taken home the same day. Mini 4-H participants will have **NO** barn facilities.



Extension - Sullivan County



MINI 4-H PET PARADE OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

MINI 4-HER'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE
NUMBER _____ BIRTHDATE _____
(Month) (Day) (Year)

PARENT OR GUARDIAN NAME (for introduction purposes): _____

PET'S NAME _____

TYPE OF ANIMAL (calf, hamster, goat, etc.) _____

Mini 4-H members, in grades K through 2, will be allowed to show, work with, or care for animal projects after their parent or legal guardian has signed a liability release. Mini 4-H members may independently show, work with, or care for animals that weigh 300 pounds or less. **Mini 4-H members may only show, work with, or care for animals over 300 pounds when they are assisted by a parent, legal guardian, or another adult designated in writing by parent or legal guardian.** *(The word assisted means that the adult has control of the animal at all times.)*

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE EXTENSION OFFICE BY JULY 1

Office hours are: Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

The secure drop box is available under the mailbox, in the brick structure across the road from the office.

Email your form to: sullivances@purdue.edu