



A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO 4-H



in Vermillion County



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. This material may be available in alternative formats.



Extension - Indiana 4-H



Table of Contents

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

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

| | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 3 | What is 4-H |
| 4 | 4-H Opportunities |
| 5 | How to Join |
| 6 | Online Registration |
| 7 | Club Information |
| 9 | Projects |
| 11 | 4-H Definitions |
| 13 | Who's Who in 4-H |
| 15 | 4-H Parents |
| 16 | Frequently Asked Questions |



Vermillion
County 4-H

WHAT IS 4-H?

Indiana 4-H History

4-H began more than 100 years ago, and has since grown into the largest youth development program in the nation. 4-H prepares young people to be leaders in their community and around the world through hands-on experiences alongside their peers and caring adults. Backed by a network of more than 6 million youth, 540,000 adult volunteers, 3,500 professionals, and more than 60 million alumni; 4-H delivers research-based programming around positive youth development. 4-H is delivered through America's 109 land-grant universities and the Cooperative Extension Service —reaching every corner of our nation. In Indiana, 4-H can be found in all 92 counties as delivered through Purdue Extension.

Vermillion County 4-H History

In 1886, Vermillion County recorded its first organized county fair activity in the town of Eugene through the formation of the Joint Stock Fair Association. The group established a formal fair organization, marking the beginning of what would become a long-standing county tradition of celebrating agriculture, livestock, and community.



4-H welcomes young people of all beliefs and backgrounds, giving kids a voice to express who they are and how they make their lives and communities better.



Why should I join 4-H?

4-H Opportunities

4-H members can take part in short-term specific interest workshops that focus on anything from poultry to food science! 4-H members also have access to numerous scholarships, educational opportunities, and can build life skills through community involvement. Most of all, 4-H is real-life experience which is exemplified by our slogan "Learn by Doing."

Winning 4-H Plan

4-H welcomes all youth. We strive to make reasonable accommodations for youth with disabilities to participate at all levels of our 4-H program. Contact 4-H Extension Educator **Morgan Lutz** at mwillhit@purdue.edu to set up a meeting to have a discussion on creating a winning 4-H plan with the 4-H member. Accommodations are specific to the individual.

County 4-H Fair

The county fair is a CELEBRATION of the hard work done by 4-H members throughout the entire program year! A time to gather with friends and family and show off the projects. All 4-H members are encouraged to bring their completed projects to the fair for project judging and display.

Additional Opportunities for Involvement

- After-School Programs
- School Enrichment
- Project Workshops
- Achievement Awards
- Junior Leaders
- Clubs
- Day Camps
- 4-H Camp
- Volunteering
- Special Programs
- Career Development Events

4-H Trips

- **Camps** - during 4-H Camp, members participate in activities such as boating, swimming, crafts, and more!
- **4-H Round-Up** - 4-H members can explore a variety of careers on the Purdue University campus.
- **4-H Academy** - is held at Purdue University where participants can learn about science careers in a hands-on way!
- **4-H Band & Chorus** - 4-H members rehearse under the guidance of professional directors and culminate in public performances.



HOW DO I JOIN?

4-H enrollment opens on October 1st every year.
Enroll online at v2.4honline.com.



Interested individuals can visit v2.4honline.com to create a profile, select a club(s), and sign up for projects. For help selecting a club check out the next section!

Returning members will log into your v2.4honline.com account, register for the upcoming year, and make any necessary changes.

The 4-H program is open to any youth in grades 3-12 and has a \$15 state program fee, with a cap of \$45 per family. Mini 4-H is available to any youth in grades K-2 and there is not a fee to participate. If the fees pose a hardship, please contact the Extension Office for a scholarship.

4-H Motto

To Make the Best Better

4-H Slogan

Learn by Doing

4-H Emblem

The National 4-H Emblem is a four-leaf clover with the letter H in each leaf.

4-H Colors

Green and white. Green symbolizes nature's most common color. Green represents life, youth, and springtime. White symbolizes purity.

Verm Co 4-H Website

extension.purdue.edu/vermillion/vermillion-4-h

Online Registration



*I pledge
my:*

Head

to clearer thinking

Heart

to greater loyalty

Hands

to larger service

Health

to better living

*For my club,
my community,
my country,
and my world.*

What is the difference between the 4-H Online and Fair Entry online systems?

v2.4honline.com is our online registration system for all youth who enroll in the 4-H program. 4-H Online enrollment opens on October 1st; this system will collect your enrollment fees and allows you to sign up for your 4-H projects. Members will also use their 4-H Online profile to submit scholarships and register for events, programs, and trips.

Fair Entry is a system we use to help organize the 4-H Fair, print exhibitor tags, and record results. Fair Entry tells us exactly what projects will be exhibited at the fair. The Fair Entry system opens in mid-May and closes before the fair. All members exhibiting at the fair have to login to Fair Entry and sign-up for the projects they are bringing to the fair. Livestock exhibitors will need to sign up their animals for their show classes.

4-H Online and Fair Entry does save your information and profiles, making it easier for returning members! Members can also add or drop projects every year.

If you need any assistance, or you are having difficulties with 4-H Online or Fair Entry, please do not hesitate to contact our office. We are here to help!

Which Club is Right for Me?



JOIN THE CLUB



Clubs provide the opportunity for face-to-face project review / questions, community service, program updates, and much more. Club meeting attendance is not required to be in 4-H but we encourage our members to attend their club meetings.

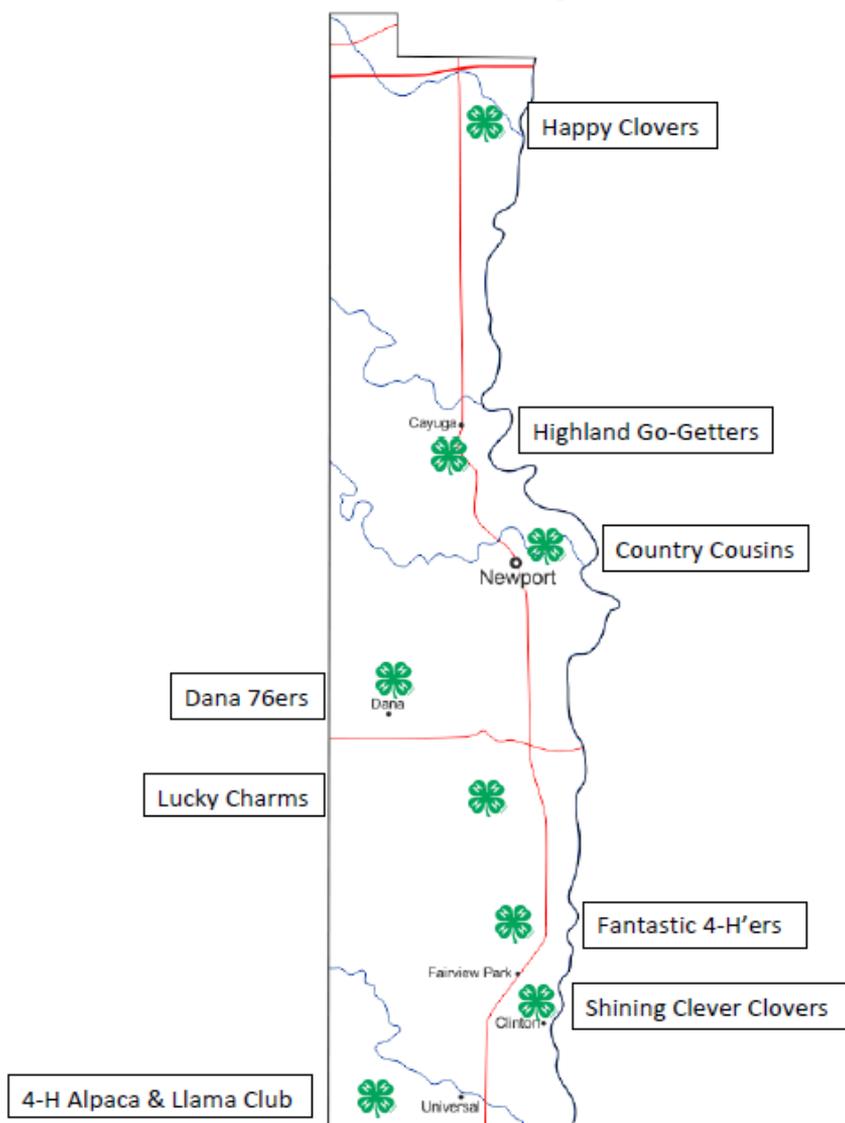
All 4-H clubs will pass along important program updates.

Using the club locations and map on the next page, families can choose clubs that meet close to their preferred location.



Clubs can be switched at any time. Please contact the Extension Office for more details.

Vermillion County 4-H Clubs



WHAT PROJECTS SHOULD I PICK?

OVER 50 PROJECTS TO CHOOSE FROM!

A 4-H project is a learning experience for the 4-H member. Each member must take at least one project and complete the requirements for that project to count as a completed year in 4-H. The projects are judged and exhibited at the County Fair.

There are several projects for members to choose from. 4-H members are expected to complete all of the projects they enroll in. Projects provide the basis of 4-H by offering various educational experiences. The 4-H project is a teaching tool that can be used to develop many, valuable life skills in addition to the more evident project skills. Projects are real-life experiences that help 4-H members learn to make sound decisions. Projects also put the hands and minds to work.

For complete project guidelines, terms and conditions, and exhibit requirements as well as 4-H policies and procedures, be sure to see the current 4-H Handbook. Each family is provided one 4-H Handbook free of charge. Copies are available in the Extension Office, and also on our county website.

Livestock and animal projects have various enrollment deadlines and other special requirements; information on these deadlines and policy information can be found in the 4-H Handbook as well.

Project Selection

Parents and the member should know and fully understand what is expected of the 4-H member before they enroll in a project. Projects are selected in the Indiana 4-H Online system by May 15th. Usually, younger members should limit their selection to just a couple of projects. Older youth may be able to do several more. When helping a child select a project, parents and leaders should consider the following:



- Does the project meet the needs and interests of the member? It's important to remember that in many cases a child doesn't really know if he would like a particular project without first giving it a try.
- Does the project keep with ability of the member, yet provide a challenge? The amount of time a member has to work on the project and the amount of time required by the project.
- Does the project fit into the family needs and situation?
- How much will the project cost?
- Is there adequate space and equipment available?
- Is there opportunity for ownership and management responsibilities?
- Are club or project leaders willing to help, and likewise, are parents willing to help?

Fair Ribbons

Ribbons are awarded for projects judged and exhibited at the county fair as follows:

- **Mini 4-H Ribbon** - Mini 4-H is considered cooperative rather than competitive, so every project receives a Mini 4-H ribbon.
- **Grand Champion** - best exhibit in the entire project
- **Reserve Grand Champion** - second best exhibit in the entire project
- **Champion** - best exhibit of each division
- **Reserve Champion** - second best exhibit of each division
- **Blue, Red & White** - Every project receives one of these ribbons.
- **Green** - participation
- **State Fair** - exhibit proceeds to the Indiana State Fair

FAIR JUDGING AND RIBBONS



Fair Judging

Non-livestock projects to be exhibited at the fair will be taken to the Fairgrounds on the designated project check-in days. Check your newsletter/fair schedule or contact the Extension Office or your Club Leader for information on when project check-ins will be held. Check-in and judging stations are placed throughout the 4-H Community Building.

Vermillion County uses open judging; this means the judge will evaluate the project while the 4-H member is present. The 4-H member may be asked to explain how the project was created or what was learned during the process. Comment cards will be left from the judge after the completion of judging.



4-H Club

- A 4-H Club is recognized as at least five available youth from at least three different families that have completed the 4-H enrollment process. A 4-H Club has by-laws, a constitution, club officers, and abides by Indiana 4-H policies.

4-H Enrollment

- Each 4-H member enrolls online at the beginning of the 4-H year to join a 4-H club.

4-H Handbook

- The book which lists the Vermillion County rules and guidelines for every project exhibit. A new book is published annually. It is very important that all 4-H families read and are familiar with this book. It is usually available in January each year and one copy is free to each family.

Extension Newsletters

- The extension newsletter is emailed and mailed, to every 4-H family currently enrolled in 4-H Online. This gives information about county-level 4-H meetings and activities offered to 4-H members, leaders, and parents along with other events hosted by our HHS and ANR educators. This newsletter is a great source of information.

4-H Project Workshop

- Workshops in 4-H are an opportunity to learn more about the skills needed to complete a project. You will not finish a project at the workshop, but gain knowledge and understanding of what is expected.

4-H Year

- The 4-H year is always the same, October 1st - September 30th every year.

Fair Schedule

- Normally available about a month before the fair. They contain detailed information about the schedule of events during the fair.

Green Folders

- Available at your County Extension Office; These are folders to hold the "My Record of Achievements" and all of your completed record sheets. This book will be used for the entire 4-H career.

Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care (replacing YQCA)

- All 4-H members who exhibit livestock are required to have a current certificate. Information on training and registration will be sent to livestock exhibitors and will be in the extension newsletter.

"My Record of 4-H Achievement"

- This is a form on which the member records his or her projects and describes the member's experiences and knowledge gained. 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 your 4-H Green Folder, with your project record sheets. Be sure to update your information every year.

Project Manuals

- 4-H member and leader guides are typically written by university specialists and serve as suggestions of areas to study in your 4-H projects. Some 4-H projects have manuals and are available at the Extension Office. They are also available for purchase at shop4-h.org. Manuals are not required but hold some valuable information when completing your projects.

Project Record Sheets

- 4-H record sheets 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. All completed project record sheets should be signed by the 4-H Club Leader. Record sheets can be found on our website.

Skills Card

- A few projects require a skills card. This is to be exhibited along with the project detailing the techniques and/or materials used. The 4-H Handbook labels which projects specifically will need a skills card. All skills cards can be found on our website.

Who's Who in 4-H?

County Level

4-H Council

- The 4-H Council meets monthly and is the policy-making organization for Vermillion County 4-H. There are elected persons on this board and additional appointed members.

County 4-H Youth Development

Extension Educator

- Represents Purdue University Extension as the county-based professional responsible for the day-to-day operations and decisions of the county 4-H Youth Development Program. He or she helps interpret 4-H policies and works directly with volunteers in the development of the county 4-H program.

Livestock Superintendent

- A volunteer who assists with the specific livestock project. They will check-in 4-H member's livestock at the fair and set-up for the show.

Extension Staff

- They are the professionals who guide, teach, and administer the Extension Programs. They help to manage all the paperwork and telephone communication with agriculture constituents, Extension Homemakers, and the 4-H members. They are staff members of Purdue University and Vermillion County.

Local Level

4-H Member

- Any youth in grades 3 - 12 who participates in a local 4-H group or activity.

Mini 4-H Member

- Any youth in grades K - 2 who participates in a local 4-H group or activity.

4-H Club Leader

- A volunteer who is responsible for the organizational part of the club.

Junior Leader

- A 4-H member in grades 7 - 12 and is willing to assume additional leadership and mentoring responsibilities within the 4-H program.

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 Volunteer

- Coordinates and helps with experiences for 4-H members based on a topic of interest and within the volunteer's area of expertise.

Who's Who in 4-H?

National Level

National 4-H Council

- Cooperates with local and state 4-H programs as it provides funding for national initiatives. Located in Washington, D.C.



State Level

Purdue University

- Purdue is a land-grant university that has the responsibility for taking education to the people of the state. The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of the directive in the State 4-H Office housed in the College of Agriculture.

Program Leader

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

State 4-H Specialists

- State Specialists have 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. Forms for donations 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.

 **4-H GROWS HERE**

4-H Parents

How Can Parents Help?

Parents can be encouraged to share their different talents, means, and available time with the 4-H program. Not all people do the same things well. It takes some analysis to find who can and will do certain tasks. For example, the parent who will never appear in a public meeting may be willing to serve on a committee, help with fair set-up, etc.

The most successful 4-H members have the interest and support of their parents or another caring adult. Often parents are willing to help but are not sure how, when, or where they may get involved. Below are some suggestions for how parents can support 4-H members at home (1-9) and beyond (10-14).

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. Help your child understand how many projects will be reasonable to complete in a given year.
3. Show your interest and enthusiasm for the projects selected. Find out what is suggested for the members to do and learn with them.
4. See that when a project is started, it is also completed.
5. Encourage your 4-H member when they succeed and even more when they fail. Help them see progress achieved and knowledge gained; not just the end result.
6. Be an example! Help your 4-H member be a good sport and appreciate the successes of others.
7. Stay informed about 4-H through information that comes to members of your family.
8. Make 4-H club work FAMILY work. Encourage youth to do their work and carry their own tasks to completion. Be their guide only.
9. 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. Don't wait to be asked, just volunteer this help!
10. Attend 4-H meetings and other special events.
11. Help your 4-H member find a way to participate in special events that interest them such as county contests, camps, fairs, displays, or shows.
12. Support your local 4-H volunteers. Get acquainted with them. Let them know you appreciate their efforts.
13. Offer your services to assist the local volunteer. You have knowledge and skills that are needed in 4-H.
14. If the need arises, help find local volunteers for your 4-H club. Several kinds of volunteers are needed: organizational, project, and activity volunteers. Consider helping in one of these ways yourself. Applications are available in your local Extension Office.

Remember that the real object of 4-H is to develop your children into outstanding, productive adults.

The way they do their activities and projects and conduct themselves at competitive events and meetings will help set work and character standards for the rest of their lives.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Check out our 4-H Handbook on our website for project guidelines to find projects that relate to your child's interests.
- Check to see if there are any project resources available.
- Ask friends who are in various projects.
- Talk with your Club Leader. Once you have decided, enroll the selected projects on v2.4honline.com by May 15!

How do I know which projects to choose?

How do we know what to do for our project?

- 4-H Handbook lists all of the guidelines for each project and the grade/level division, as well as our website.
- The Project Manual, if available - activities and requirements listed.
- Project Workshops - Time for hands-on learning and demonstration.
- Clubs & Club Leaders - Provide guidance and support.

In order to exhibit at the fair, the online enrollment must be completed. The projects must be chosen within the online enrollment. The projects must also be entered into Fair Entry. The fair schedule outlines the dates in which the projects are due for delivery to the Vermillion County Fairgrounds for the fair.

How do I exhibit my projects at the Fair?

What can Mini 4-H members do?

Mini 4-H is a program that has their own projects. Project manuals are available and outline the project requirements. Mini 4-H members can exhibit as many projects as they want. However, they can only exhibit one option per project. Additional learning opportunities are after school Mini 4-H Monthlies held January - May and our Mini 4-H Day Camps held in May/June for youth in grades K-2. All Mini 4-H members must register in 4-H Online each year.

Online: <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/vermillion/vermillion-4-h.html>

Email: mwillhite@purdue.edu

Visit or call the Purdue Extension Vermillion County Office at 703 W Park St Suite #1 Cayuga, Indiana 47928 or 765-492-5330

The 4-H Handbook contains all the project requirements, as well as contact information for all livestock superintendents and club leaders. Our website is also a great resource!

Where can I go for help?



Purdue Extension

Vermillion County



Morgan
Lutz

Vermillion
County
4-H Educator

Contact our office:

Call: 765-492-5330

Stop by:
703 W Park St Suite
#1 Cayuga, Indiana
47928

Email:
mwillhit@purdue.edu

