



4-H Family Guide



A Guide to 4-H in Lawrence County



Welcome to 4-H!

We are excited to welcome you as a new member in the world's largest youth organization—4-H! We invite you to join us in making new friends and having fun!

Like any new adventure, there are always many questions. We hope this guide helps answer some of your questions and directs you along the way. Please contact the Purdue Extension- Lawrence County Office anytime you have questions and use your club leader as a resource too!

Purpose of this Guide

This guide is intended to help families new to Lawrence 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 Lawrence 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 Lawrence 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.

Lesley Lodmell

Lesley Lodmell
Extension Educator-- 4-H Youth Development
County Extension Director
Purdue Extension- Lawrence County

4-H is a **community** of **young people**
 **across America** who are learning
leadership, citizenship and
life skills.

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Extension.purdue.edu/lawrence

Purdue University, Indiana Counties and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating
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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. 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 Lawrence 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. Lawrence County 4-H offers programming through more than 70 different projects and has 18 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. 4-H club work 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.

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 on 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 Indiana 4-H 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 Handbook 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. Members not complying with established and published dates and deadlines for exhibition may be denied the opportunity to exhibit. 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 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. This material may be available in alternative formats.

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, regardless of their place of residence. In other words, youth are not required to participate in their own county's program and may participate in a different county program provided they have properly enrolled. The only exception to this is if their county of primary 4-H enrollment does not offer a project or statewide activity they want to participate, then the child can enroll in a second county provided they meet Indiana 4-H policy requirements.

Annual 4-H Enrollment/Re-Enrollment

Enrollment is an annual process attained by completing the appropriate county 4-H enrollment process. We encourage you to complete 4-H Online enrollment starting October 1 at <https://4honline.com>. 4-H enrollment is open to youth in grades 3-12 for a maximum of 10 consecutive years. There is a \$20 4-H program fee (\$5 for Mini 4-H), payable at the time of enrollment.

Cancellation Reminder

All Extension meetings, including 4-H meetings, are canceled if school is dismissed or canceled due to the weather. This applies if only one or more Lawrence County school corporation cancel classes due to the weather.

Communication

Purdue Extension- Lawrence County completes most of its communication using email blasts. You receive emails based on the participation categories you select in 4HOnline. Be sure you add us as a safe sender on your email account to ensure our messages do not go to "Junk."

Purdue Extension-Lawrence County Office

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

Location

The Purdue Extension - Lawrence County Office is located in downtown Bedford, across from the courthouse. Our mailing address is 924 16th Street, Bedford, IN 47421.

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (closed noon to 1 pm)

Closed County Government Holidays

Phone--812-275-4623

Voice mail is available during non-business hours

Visit the Extension Office web site at www.extension.purdue.edu/lawrence for information about Lawrence County 4-H.

Purdue Extension-Lawrence County Staff

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4-H GROWS HERE

4-H Basics

The 4-H Symbol

A green 4 leaf clover with a white "H" on each of its leaves.



The 4-Hs

HEAD

HEART

HANDS

HEALTH

MOTTO

"To Make the Best Better"

SLOGAN

"Learn by Doing"

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.

COLORS

Green and White

Green represents springtime

White represents innocence



What Happens When You Enroll in 4-H?

1. Youth and their families select a 4-H club in the county to join.
2. After enrolling in a club, a 4-H member (and family) attends monthly club meetings. At these meetings, members plan club events, vote on items, swap ideas and information on project areas and do fun and educational activities.
3. Youth select at least one project (interest) area in which they focus on through the year.

Beyond local club participation, 4-H families can participate in a variety of county sponsored events, such as project workshops, camps, county fair and more! A 4-H newsletter is emailed about four times a year to alert families of upcoming events. **Be sure to read it!**

How can Families Help?

The 4-H program encourages parents, grandparents, guardians, and family members to help the 4-Her with his/her projects. Here are some suggestions:

- ☐ Help youth select projects that relate to their interest/hobbies.
- ☐ Attend club meetings with your child.
- ☐ Give encouragement and supervision, but allow the 4-Her to do their own work.
- ☐ Help youth develop a record keeping system for their project work. (This may mean finding a special place for records and 4-H materials in the home and reviewing that information periodically with them.)
- ☐ Read the 4-H Newsletter/4-H emails and help them stay on top of dates, deadlines, rules, etc
- ☐ Be willing to help whenever possible for the club as extra adult hands, hostess, driver, chaperone, etc. as the need arises.
- ☐ Be positive. Praise them when they succeed & be there to help when they struggle. Let them learn!
- ☐ Seek help from Extension Staff, Club Leaders, fellow 4-Hers, as well as people with specific expertise in project areas.
- ☐ HAVE FUN!

Mini 4-H

Mini 4-H is a noncompetitive 4-H program for youth in grades K-2. Members can attend club meetings, complete projects, and create exhibits for the county fair. There are special, age-appropriate projects just for Minis.

Mini 4-H Members can show animals, but we cannot guarantee there will be barn space to house them the week of fair. Minis can: Use another 4-H member's animal or bring their animal the day of the show. Mini 4-H members are still required to complete paper work related to animal health (i.e. Vaccination Forms). For larger animals (such as Swine, Cattle, and Horses), Minis are required to have a regular 4-H member in the show ring with them.



Helpful 4-H Links

Purdue Extension- Lawrence County Website

<https://extension.purdue.edu/lawrence>

Lawrence County 4-H Handbook

<https://bit.ly/LC4HHandbook>

Lawrence County 4-H Clubs and Leaders

<https://bit.ly/LC4HClubs>

Archived Lawrence County 4-H Newsletters

<https://bit.ly/LC4HNews>

Indiana 4-H Website

<http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/>

4HOnline

<https://4honline.com>

Lawrence County FairEntry

<https://lawrencecounty.fairentry.com>

Purdue Extension- Lawrence County Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/PurdueExtensionLawrenceCounty>



Did You Know?

In most 4-H projects, 4-H members are divided by their level, which is usually based on their grade level. Division include:

- Minis: Grades K-2
- Juniors: Grades 3-5
- Intermediate: Grades 6-8
- Senior: Grades 9-12

4-H Calendar

October

- 4-H Enrollment Open
- 4-H Club Meetings
- National 4-H Week

November

- 4-H Enrollment Open
- Area Jr Leader Retreat
- 4-H Club Meetings

December

- 4-H Enrollment Open
- 4-H Club Meetings

January

- 4-H Enrollment Open
- 4-H Club Meetings
- State 4-H Scholarship Deadline

February

- Steer Weigh-In
- 4-H Club Meetings

March

- 4-H Club Meetings
- Teen Leadership Weekend

April

- Area 2 Performing Arts Festival
- 4-H Counselor Training
- 4-H Club Meetings

May

- 4-H Club Meetings
- County Animal Identification Day
- Animal Identification Due in 4HOnline or in office
- FairEntry Opens

June

- 4-H Club Meetings
- 4-H Camp
- Mini Day Camp
- State 4-H Trips (4-H Academy @ Purdue, 4-H Round Up, 4-H Band and Chorus, etc.)
- FairEntry Deadline

July

- 4-H Club Meetings
- Lawrence County 4-H Fair
- Project Judging
- County Communications Contest
- Junior Leader Completion Trip
- Area Tractor Driving Contest

August

- Indiana State Fair

September

- Rule Change and Planning for next year



HEAD

Did You Know?

A 4-H club usually elects the following officers:

- President—conducts meetings and appoints committees.
- Vice President — is in charge of the program plans.
- Secretary— keeps minutes and attendance records.
- Treasurer— pays club bills and deposits funds received.
- Recreation Leader— helps plan parties and leads games.
- Reporter— writes newspaper stories about club events.
- Historian— keeps a lasting record of the club's yearly story.



HANDS

4-H Vocabulary

4-H:

The youth development program of Extension designed for young people age 5-19; members participate in clubs, activities, and events and complete project work with a group or on their own.

4-H Council

Assists Extension staff to determine program priorities and policies for local 4-H and Extension Programs; the council is made up of local volunteers with a variety of backgrounds and expertise.

4HOnline

The 4-H database that manages 4-H enrollment of youth, animal identification, and trip participation.

Animal Identification

This is the process by which members ensure their animal has the correct identification (tag, tattoo, etc) and report this to the Extension Office.

Club

A group of young people led by screened volunteers and administered by Extension who participate in 4-H learning experiences, educational activities, and events. Types of clubs include:

Community Club- A general interest club that gives members a well-rounded experience

Special Interest Club- A club with a focus on a specific project area such as Animals, Robotics, or Shooting Sports

SPARK Club- A short-term, special interest club that meets for at least six hours and focuses on one topic of interest to youth.

Conference Judging

The type of judging that happens at county fair. 4-H members meet with a judge for project evaluation; the judge asks questions about what the 4-H member learned while working on the project and gives the member feedback

County 4-H Fair

The county fair provides an opportunity for 4-H members to exhibit and display the items that demonstrate what they have learned through their project meetings and experiences over the enrollment year. This is a major event where many people see what 4-H members accomplish.

County Extension Educators

An Extension Staff member with subject matter expertise; youth development or 4-H educators oversee the 4-H program

Enrollment

A 4-H member enrollment must be completed annually for each 4-H member. This is the process of updating information in 4HOnline and paying the enrollment fee. We strive to get this completed as close to the program year starting (October 1) as possible.

Exhibits

A completed project, trained animal, or presentation prepared for evaluation or display at the county fair, contest, or competition.

FairEntry

The 4-H database that manages exhibit entries for the county fair.

Green Record Book

A green folder where members store their record sheets to help them keep track of their 4-H involvement. The green record book encourages organization and is a good reference tool for when they complete trip and scholarship applications.

Handbook

The book that contains all of the project guidelines, exhibit requirements, and 4-H policies. It is updated annually and is posted on the Purdue Extension-Lawrence County Website.

Junior Leader

A 4-H member in grades 7-12 that attends Junior Leader meetings to learn leadership skills. Junior Leaders also participate in social activities, community service, and help their 4-H clubs and leaders.

Life Skills

Abilities youth learn to help them live successful, productive lives; 4-H youth programs provide learning opportunities for young people to gain life skills, practice them, and use them throughout their lives.

Mini 4-H

A noncompetitive 4-H program for youth in grades K-2. Members can attend club meetings, complete projects, and create exhibits for the county fair.

Poster

Many exhibits involve creating a poster. Posters must follow the guidelines listed in the Lawrence County 4-H Handbook. The Extension Office sells the foam boards and clear sleeves that meet the requirements.

Projects

A 4-H project is an area that you want to learn more about during the year. There are projects on just about any topic you would like to study and explore, from art to woodworking, from computers to rabbits, from clothing to small engines.

Project Manual/Book

Most projects have manuals that provide educational material and/or learning activities for members. These are available from the Extension Office, and many are moving online digitally through the state 4-H website.

Record Sheets

Each project has a record sheet for a 4-H member to summarize things they have learned through their project. It helps them keep track of what they have learned and encourages record keeping. They are not currently required at the time of judging, but they are highly encouraged.

Ten Year Member

A member who has completed 10 years of regular 4-H, which is the longest amount of time a member can participate.



Notes and Autographs

As a new member, it is important to know when things happen and to meet the people involved. Use this page to help you keep track of everything.

Name of my 4-H Club _____

My club meets at (where) _____

The meetings begin at _____

Our Club meeting dates are _____

The projects I am interested in are _____

Introduce yourself to each officer listed below. Ask them to tell you what they do as an officer and have them sign their name.

Club President _____

Club Vice President _____

Club Secretary _____

Club Treasurer _____

Club Reporter _____

Club Leader(s) _____

Another 1st year member _____

A person you've never met before _____

4-H Youth Development Educator _____

Need contact information for club leaders? Check it out on our website

<https://bit.ly/LC4HClubs>