

**ARE YOU NEW TO 4-H?  
CHECK THIS GUIDE OUT!**

# **NUTS AND BOLTS OF BROWN COUNTY 4-H**

Brown County Purdue  
Extension Office

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# STEP 1: ENROLLMENT

Families enroll their 4-Hers on 4-H Online at <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>. You can also come to the Extension Office to complete your enrollment in person. Each year, enrollment begins on October 1. There is a *suggested* deadline of January 15, but you can enroll through early summer.

A screenshot of the 4-H Online login page. It has a white background with a light blue border. At the top, it says "Login Email" and "Password" next to input fields. At the bottom, there is a blue button that says "Sign in".

## STEP 2: INVOLVEMENT

During enrollment, you select a county club. These clubs meet at least once a month at the fairgrounds or other locations.

- Brown County 4-H Gang: 2nd Saturday @ 10 A.M.
- Shooting Sports: 2nd and 4th Mondays @ 6 P.M.
- (March – May)
- Junior Leaders- Grades 7-12: 1st & 3rd Mondays @ 5:30 P.M.
- Lick Creek Love Bugs: 3rd Wednesday @ 6 P.M.
- Cattails Cat Club: 2nd Tuesday @ 5:30 P.M.
- Muddy Paws Dog Club: Tuesdays @ 6 P.M. starting in March
- Bit & Bridle Horse and Pony: 3rd Tuesdays @ 6 P.M.
- Cattle Crossing Club: 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 P.M.
- BC Lambchoppers: 4th Tuesday @ 6 P.M.
- Brown County Goat-Getters: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday @ 6 P.M.
- Birds of a Feather Poultry Club: 2nd Tuesday @ 6 P.M.
- Brown County Rabbit Club: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday @ 7 P.M.
- BC Pork Folks: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday @ 6 P.M.

We attend the Southeastern Indiana 4-H Camp in June with other counties in our area. 47 Brown County 4-Hers attended in 2024, so this camp is a cherished tradition!



## STEP 3: DATES

4-H dates are important, and they hardly ever change! Sign up for the Brown County 4-H Remind by texting the message @88e7d3b to the number 81010.



- October 1: 4-H enrollment opens
- January 15: 4-H enrollment's *suggested* deadline
- Last Sat. in April: ID Day for cattle, goats, sheep, swine, starter steers, and heifers
- May 15: 4-H Online enrollment deadline for horses, goats, sheep, swine, and cattle
- May 15: deadline for Animal Lease Form and vaccination form
- May 16-22: Fair Entry window
- May 28: 4-H and Mini 4-H Project Judging
- First full week in June: 4-H Camp
- Saturday before fair week: pen set-up for animals
- Second full week in June: Brown County 4-H Fair



Dates in 4-H serve a few purposes. First, they are teaching tools for 4-Hers. Timeliness and organization are important, and natural consequences follow missed deadlines. Secondly, deadlines help 4-Hers keep on track with their projects. Lastly, dates scaffold our 4-H program and help families plan their own calendars accordingly.

# STEP 4: PROJECTS

## Inside Projects

Inside or static projects refer to those displayed in the Exhibit Building during the fair. They range from posters to cakes, woodworking to writing, and models to vegetables. Brown County offers 40 different inside projects.



You have two major resources for inside projects: the specific project's manual and the Brown County 4-H Handbook. The project manual includes educational activities and ways to learn more about the project. You purchase the manual at the Extension Office for \$2; some may cost more. Manuals and projects make great weekend and school break activities!



The Brown County 4-H Handbook lists each project's specific requirements, and the handbook is updated every year. The handbook is available for free in the Extension Office or on our website.

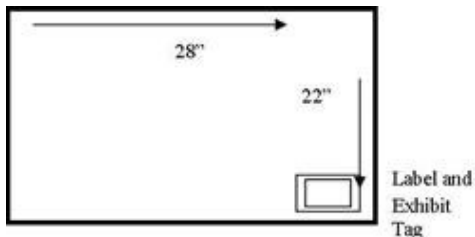
PICK YOUR PROJECT

# STEP 4: PROJECTS



When it comes to getting the project ready for the county fair, there are a few things to note.

- First, every project requires a **reference list**.
- Second, **posters and sleeves** are typically purchased at the Extension Office for \$5 because they must be a special size.
- Third, **all posters are displayed horizontally** EXCEPT for salon prints that are displayed vertically as part of the photography project.



# STEP 4: PROJECTS

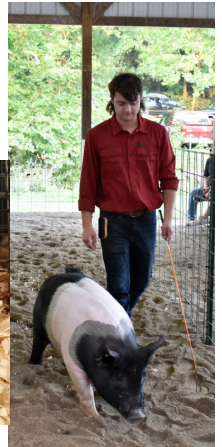
## Animal Projects

Animal projects refer to the live animals that you can show in 4-H. In Brown County, these projects include cats, dogs, cattle, goats, horses, poultry, rabbits, sheep, and swine.

**Cats, dogs, and horses** each have their own club. These species also require a vaccination form that your vet must complete. Club leaders will teach you how to show your animal at the fair.



**Cattle, goats, poultry, rabbits, sheep, and swine** also have their own clubs. Leaders of each species educate youth on their animals throughout the year.



# STEP 4: PROJECTS

## Deadlines are critical for animal projects.

- You must have possession of your 4-H animal by **May 15**. This includes leasing.
- You must attend the **April ID day** for cattle, goats, sheep and swine. At ID Day, we weigh your animal and give it the required tags to show. Poultry exhibitors must attend the poultry ID and blood testing day in May (TBD).
- You must enter your cattle, goats, horses, sheep, and/or swine's information (birthdate, breed, tag, weight, etc.) on **4-H Online by May 15**, or you will not be able to show. The 4-H Educator enters all new animals' information, and families are responsible for entering returning animals' information.
- **Animal Lease Forms** are available at the Extension Office and are also **due May 15**.
- **Animal Vaccination Forms for cats, dogs, and horses** are available at the Extension Office and are also **due May 15**.
- You must attend the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care training if you show cattle, goats, poultry, rabbit, sheep, or swine. These trainings are offered in-person for free.

Aside from your leaders and experienced 4-Hers, resources for animal projects include species-specific handbooks from Ohio State University Extension and workbooks. All are available in the Extension Office.





## STEP 5: FAIR

The Brown County 4-H Fair is the second week in June (June 9-14, 2024) and a wonderful time for our 4-Hers and their families!

### **All Exhibitors:**

Everyone enters their projects on Fair Entry by May 22. Fair Entry opens on May 16.



### **Inside Project Exhibitors:**

Project judging for the inside projects occurs before fair. You bring completed projects to the Exhibit Building. You check them in, and once the judge is available, you present the project to him or her. We have closed judging, so caregivers watch from the entryway as their young person talks to the judge. Verbal and/or written feedback is given, and then ribbons are revealed on the Monday of fair week when the building opens!

### **Animal Exhibitors:**

Cat, dog, and horse shows typically occur before fair week; these animals do not stay on the fairgrounds.

Exhibitors are needed the Saturday before fair week to help set up pens, ready the barns, and stake their claim to a pen, cage, etc. Animals stay through Friday of fair week; some will stay until Saturday when they are sold in the livestock auction. Regularly feeding and watering your animals are critical.

As for showing, each species has its own unique style of presenting the animal to the judge. Your leaders and experienced 4-Hers can help you, and you're always welcome to practice in the show arena!



## STEP 6: 4-H PORTFOLIO

The last step of the 4-H year is to complete your 4-H Portfolio. When you first enroll, you will receive a binder with ten tabs as a gift from 4-H Council. For members in grades 3-5, you will complete your 4-H Story. Members in grades 6-8 will create a 4-H Resume, and members in grades 9-12 will work on a 4-H Cover Letter. You can also keep scoresheets, pictures, and even ribbons in your binder too.

By the time you are a ten-year member, you will get to see all that you have accomplished in 4-H and be prepared for whatever the future holds!

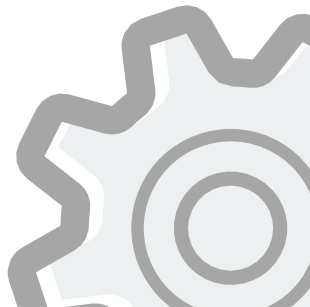
The 4-H Portfolio is due to the Extension Office by September 1. The 4-H educator will review your portfolio and give you feedback. You can then pick up your portfolio at the 4-H awards ceremony or when you re-enroll for the new program year in October.



## STEP 7: CELEBRATION

Celebration of members' efforts and achievements is an important part of our 4-H community. What does this look like?

- Club trips and banquets
- Recognition of 4-H Scholarship Recipients at the Brown County High School Awards Ceremony
- Special graduation attire for 4-H seniors
- 4-H Senior Awards Ceremony during the Fair Queen Contest
- Annual 4-H Awards Ceremony and Dinner
  - Each member receives a pin for their year in 4-H!



# WELCOME TO BROWN COUNTY 4-H!

This is a great community whose focus is serving young people and giving them opportunities to learn by doing.

Ask all the questions! Get plugged into a club, and see all that 4-H can do for young people, their families, and our county.

Welcome aboard!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Roberts". The script is fluid and cursive.

Allison Roberts, 4-H Educator

