



March 10, 2025

Dear 4-H Cat Members,

We are excited that you have decided to be a part of the 4-H Cat project! Enclosed is information regarding the 4-H Cat project, including a vaccination form and show information for the Clay County 4-H Fair and the State Fair.

4-H Cat Terms and Conditions: Please be sure to read the Clay County 4-H cat requirements in the county terms and conditions for further rules and policies. The Clay County Terms and Conditions can be found on our website at <https://tinyurl.com/2pjdxxz2>.

Cat Vaccination Form: The 4-H Cat Vaccination form for 2025 is enclosed. This form will need to be completed by a veterinarian *before* you can bring your cat to the Clay County Fair. Read the requirements on the form and please be aware that the vaccinations must be given at least 2 weeks prior to and within one year of the show date. The show is scheduled for July 18th.

Cat Poster: If you plan on exhibiting a Cat Poster at the Clay County Fair, please make sure that you have selected the Cat Poster (animal education) as a project on your 4-HOnline profile.

State Fair Entries: 4-H'ers who plan to show their cat at the Indiana State Fair can view the project and entry requirements via their website at <https://tinyurl.com/2dtneut5>. Please refer to their website for updates and deadlines as well. Currently, the project information has not been updated for 2025, but will be available soon. When the entry information becomes available, more information will be sent out.

The dates of the 2025 Indiana State Fair are August 1 - 17. You can find the livestock schedule here: <https://tinyurl.com/4dwn5hsw>

If you have any questions don't hesitate to reach out to the Extension Office at 812-448-9041 or email Natalie at korniak@purdue.edu.

Sincerely,

Natalie

Natalie Korniak
Purdue Extension Clay County
4-H Youth Development Educator

Ashley

Ashley Evinger
Purdue Extension Clay County
4-H Program Assistant





CLAY COUNTY 4-H CATS

*Updated for 2024

OBJECTIVE:

The 4-H Cat Project provides youth a fun and hands-on learning experience that develops life skills, as well as teaches valuable information about properly caring for their animal. Subjects such as general care, nutrition housing, and health care are presented in the curricular materials, through workshops and in preparation of an exhibit. Youth also have the opportunity to develop responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communication skills through active participation in the 4-H Cat Project.

ENROLLMENT:

- a) All 4-H cats and/or kittens must be owned and cared for by 4-H member by May 15th of the current year.

HEALTH:

- a) Each cat presented for exhibition must be accompanied by a [certificate of vaccination](#) (4-H 777) that is signed by a licensed and accredited veterinarian. This form will indicate the vaccination dates and the date and test results of the feline leukemia test.
- b) Claws must be clipped before participating in the Cat Show.
- c) 4-H cats must be free of fleas, fungus, ear mites, internal or external parasites or other communicable diseases. No cats may be exhibited that test positive for or show any symptoms of any communicable diseases.
- d) Vaccinations must be given within 1 year of show date and at least 2 weeks prior to show date:
 - Feline panleukopenia
 - Feline rhinotracheitis
 - Calicivirus
 - Rabies
- e) All cats must have a negative Feline Leukemia TEST within one hundred eighty (180) days of the show or the Feline Leukemia vaccination within 1 year of show and at least 2 weeks prior to show. The Feline Leukemia vaccination is not a requirement, but is recommended.
- f) It is recommended but not required to consult your veterinarian about a heart worm program. It is required to have a Negative fecal exam for parasites not more than 30 days prior to exhibition.
- g) All cats over 3 months of age must be vaccinated for rabies by a licensed and accredited veterinarian within 1 year of the cat show.
- h) It is recommended that all 4-H cats, other than pedigreed breeding stock, be neutered or spayed.
- i) Pregnant or lactating female cats will not be permitted to show.

GROOMING:

4-H Exhibitors may receive clipping and grooming assistance from members of their immediate family (father, mother, and siblings), legal guardian, from a current Indiana 4-H member, and from individuals enrolled in the Indiana 4-H Approved Animal Grooming Assistance Program. Please contact the Extension Office with questions on how to be approved or to see if you are already on the approved groomers list.



SHOW:

- a) All kittens must be at least 4 months of age by the day of the show.
- b) No cats will be left overnight at the fairgrounds!
- c) A 4-H member may enter and show a maximum of 2 cats in the 4-H cat show.
- d) The cat(s) may be purebred or household pets. Cats do not need to be registered or pedigreed in order to be in the 4-H cat show.
- e) Cats will be classed according to their predominant characteristics.
- f) All 4-H cats must be brought and taken from the show in carriers. Cats on leashes without pet carrying cases will not be accepted. Please do not use paper/cardboard boxes as carriers. A plastic laundry basket with a lid makes a secure carrier. The only time the animal should be removed from the carrier is when they are showing or for last minute grooming. Leashes and collars should be used.
- g) The cat will be removed from its carrier during judging. The member will stay and watch his or her cat being judged, then return it to its carrier. 4-H cats must not be left unattended at any time. If a cat is not on the judging table at the time the class is judged, they will not be judged. The member is not allowed to speak with the judge unless so required by the judge.
- h) Each 4-Hers cat will be judged on (a) health, (b) cleanliness, (c) grooming, (d) personality, and (e) if all categories are equal, the judge will choose a winner by its "star quality."
- i) 4-H exhibitors are asked to read the General Terms & Conditions printed in the front of this catalog regarding other 4-H related policies and information.
- j) Classes offered
 - Kitten
 - Adult short hair
 - Adult long hair
 - Purebred (must have registration papers)
- k) Household Kittens ages should be between 4 to 8 months on day of show. Any kitten becoming 8 months old on show day will be considered an adult cat.
- l) Household adult cats 8 months of age or older on show day.
- m) Purebred cats of a recognized breed, kept pure for many generations. They may be registered. If the cat is registered, it must have a current registration number from one of the national cat registries, such as the Cat Fanciers Association.
- n) Longhaired cats whose coat has long top hair, with a thick wooly undercoat. The length of hair on a cat's tail is often used as a determining factor. Hair length is normally 1 1/2" or more.
- o) Short hair cats whose coat has only short hairs, a smooth, textured coat. Cat tail hair is usually less than 1 1/2" in length.

SHOW AWARDS

Champion Showmanship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior • Intermediate • Senior 	Grand Champion Cat
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4-H CAT SHOWMANSHIP KNOWLEDGE PROGRAM

- a) The purpose of this optional 4-H cat activity is to help the members learn and become more aware of current cat fanciers knowledge, techniques and related management and show procedures.
- b) All questions for showmanship test are taken from 4-H Cat Manuals for appropriate grade level.



- c) There are three parts to the Showmanship Knowledge Program
 - 1. Part 1 written quiz about cats
 - 2. Part 2 handling cat, removing from cage, etc.
 - 3. Part 3 oral quiz with judge about their cat
- d) There will be three divisions:
 - 1. Junior: Grades 3-5
 - 2. Intermediate: Grades 6-8
 - 3. Senior: Grades 9-12

STATE FAIR:

Special entry required by July 1 or date set by the [Indiana State Fair](#).

MANUALS:

Find these project books for FREE at the Extension Office!

- [Cat Level 1: Purr-fect Pals](#)
- [Cat Level 2: Climbing Up!](#)
- [Cat Level 3: Leaping Forward](#)

REFERENCES:

- [Purdue Extension Cat Project](#)
- [Indiana State Fair Book – Cat Show](#)



GENERAL LIVESTOCK TERMS & CONDITIONS

**Updated for 2025*

LIVESTOCK HEALTH

- A. Emergency Medical/Death of Animal Clause: After **May 15, 2025** no animal may be substituted or replaced due to death or a medical condition, ***unless it is the ONLY animal the member has to exhibit in that species.*** In cases such as this, a signed letter from a veterinarian must be provided to the Extension Office. The substituted animal may only receive a participation ribbon in all exhibited classes except showmanship. Substituted animals may be sold in the Clay County 4-H Auction. Concerns or questions should be addressed to the Extension Office.
- B. Clay County follows state health requirements for livestock and animal projects. Animals will be inspected upon arrival by a veterinarian or a representative appointed by the Clay County 4-H Council. No livestock/animal should be unloaded or enter the barns until an inspection has occurred by the barn superintendent and/or veterinarian. We reserve the right to refuse entrance to any livestock/animal that the veterinarian deems unhealthy and shows signs of communicable disease.
- C. During the Fair: All exhibitors must remove from the premises any livestock that exhibit symptoms of disease that may be infectious or contagious when requested by the Indiana State Veterinarian or his agents. Failure to meet all health requirements will result in removal of animals presented by an exhibitor.
- D. Fraud and/or deception will not be allowed relative to 4-H exhibits. Fraud and/or deception being defined to include, but not limited to, the following:
- 1) Tampering (altering) and/or misrepresentation relative to an animal's breeding, age, ownership, and/or method of preparation or completion: (For example, with animal exhibits this includes, but is not limited to, coloring that alters or misrepresents breed characteristics, pumping, attaching hair/hair substitutes, or filling).
 - 2) Unethical fitting of animal exhibits considered as consisting of administration of any natural or foreign substance (to include, but not limited to, drugs covered in #c below, blood, oils, steroids, air, chemical substance) or performance of any surgical procedure, altering the animal's configuration or natural conformation of any part of the animal's body, or rendering its tissues unfit for human consumption is prohibited.
**Exceptions that are allowed to 1 and 2 above include hoof trimming, dehorning, removal of hair, manipulation of normally attached hair, castration, branding, tattooing, ear notching, docking of tails on sheep and swine, and coloring that does not alter or misrepresent breed characteristics.*
 - 3) 4-H market animals shall not contain any identifiable or unidentifiable foreign substance, including drugs, steroids, or chemicals, greater than those standards established by the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) or Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as permissible for sale for consumption as human food both on day of show and day of shipment to market from the Clay County Fair. Drugs may not be administered to a 4-H animal exhibit at the Clay County Fair except those approved by the project superintendent. The project superintendent must witness the procedure.



OWNERSHIP & REGISTRATIONS

- A. Each 4-H member shall own or lease his/her 4-H exhibit. Ownership, personal possession, and regular care of the animal must be in effect on or before the county and state enrollment deadlines (**May 15, 2025**) and continuously until after the 4-H show at the county and/or state fair.
- B. All breeding animals must be registered in their respective breed associations and earmarked or tagged to coincide with their individual registration papers. Registrations will be checked by the barn superintendent.
- C. An original certificate of registration, transfer or a FAX directly from the National Breed Association to the Extension Office for 4-H purebred animals must be presented to the 4-H superintendent prior to the time of show. This document must show that the 4-H exhibitor owns the animal(s) being exhibited, either entirely or in part with family or legal guardian, before the State 4-H project enrollment date (**May 15, 2025**) and continuously until show date.
- D. For 4-H breeding animals, acceptable registrations include family corporations and/or partnerships of 4-H members with one or more parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or legal guardians. Acceptable registrations are:
- 1) In the 4-H member's name
 - 2) John Smith & Sons
 - 3) John Smith, Sons & Daughters
 - 4) John Smith & Family (family includes sons, daughters, and legal guardian youth only)
 - 5) Mark Smith (brother) & Mary Smith (sister)
 - 6) Family corporations, where the 4-H member's name appears as a holder of stock in the corporation, and proof of the same must be supplied on or before the enrollment date
 - 7) Family partnership, where the 4-H members father, mother, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent, and/or legal guardian is also in the family partnership and the 4-H member's name appears on the legal, notarized partnership. A copy of the written document must be on file with the Extension Office before the ID deadline.
- E. 4-H breeding beef, Boer goats, dairy goats, sheep, and swine will NOT be accepted in the State Fair 4-H Show if they are registered in a father's name only, farm name only, or partnerships with unrelated persons (such as "Smith View", "Smith Oak", John Doe and William Smith (4-H member)", "Long Oak and William Smith (4-H Member)", etc.).
- F. For 4-H dairy cattle: family corporations and/or partnerships of the 4-H member with unrelated persons or dairy operations are also acceptable.
- G. Dairy heifers, horses and ponies may be leased, subject to approval of the county 4-H dairy or horse and pony committee and the respective County Extension Educator. That form can be found [HERE](#) and will need to be turned into the Extension Office by **May 15, 2025**.



- H. 4-H animals purchased, sold, or offered for sale after the enrollment deadline and prior to the County Fair shall not be eligible to show at the County Fair or State Fair.
- I. 4-H animals shown after the 4-H animal enrollment deadline (May 15), should not be shown by anyone other than the 4-H member that enrolled said animal. This term/condition does not apply to siblings and parents, who may show each other's animals at any show during the year without jeopardizing 4-H eligibility. This policy applies to all 4-H animal projects. For animal projects without enrollment the person who enters them in Indiana 4-H is equivalent of the enroller of the animals. If this rule is found to be broken, the animal in question will not be eligible to be shown at the County Fair or in a 4-H Class at the Indiana State Fair.
- J. For 4-H animals that are eligible to be co-enrolled by siblings, a declaration of who will be showing the animal during the Clay County 4-H Fair is required in Fair Entry before **July 1, 2025**.

GROOMING

NEW FOR 2025

4-H Exhibitors that use groomers for show day assistance at the Clay County 4-H Fair, your groomers **WILL NOT** be required to be enrolled in the Indiana 4-H Approved Animal Grooming Assistance Program. However, if you plan to have groomers assistance at the State Fair, those individuals *may be required* to be enrolled in the Indiana 4-H Approved Animal Grooming Assistance Program. Please reach out to the Extension Office in the Spring for enrollment assistance or refer to the State Fair rule books.

4-H EXHIBITOR EXPECTATIONS

- A. All 4-H Livestock may only be shown by current Clay County 4-H members only.
- B. There should be no use of electronics i.e.: cell phones, bluetooth, etc. between a 4-H exhibitor and any person (s) during judging unless a service device for a disability is required.
- C. **Each exhibitor must be present at set up and clean up. Each superintendent is to see that his or her department is set up and cleaned up. The Superintendent will assign duties.**
- D. All livestock exhibitors will furnish their own feed and watering utensils as well as feed their animals.
- E. Livestock animals shall be under the daily care and maintenance of the exhibitor. **Pens/stalls must be kept clean & dry, barn aisles must be kept clear of tack/debris at all times to provide easy accessibility to visitors.** Decisions shall be left to the discretion of the Council and superintendent in regards to compliance.
- F. 4-H'ers are expected to show their own animals. In cases where this cannot be done, the member may request another Clay County 4-H member to serve as a substitute showman. Requests must be made to the Barn Superintendent or the Clay County 4-H Council no later than check-in at the Fair. Requests will be granted only in the case of: 1) Illness, 2) Injury, 3) Conflict of more than one animal per class, or 4) circumstances deemed unavoidable.



G. To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training. This is an annual program that can be completed in-person by attending one of the classes on the following dates at the Fairgrounds:

- **March 19, 2025**
- **April 29, 2025**
- **May 22, 2025**
- **June 30, 2025**

An online option is available for \$12 through the YQCA program. Once you complete this [online course](#), you must email the Extension Office your final certificate emailed to you at completion showing your certification number.

SHOW PROCEDURES

- All livestock exhibits are due as designated in the fair schedule. No livestock is to be unloaded until checked by that species superintendent and/or a Vet. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- The superintendent will be in charge of assigning livestock pen space.
- In livestock classes, placing ribbons will be awarded to the first five placings in each class.
- Exhibitors who fail to show required registration papers will show their animals in the Crossbred Class.
- Animals shown at other shows after the enrollment deadline under different ownership will not be eligible for the Clay County 4-H Show. This does not apply to siblings and parents, who may show each other's animals at any show during the year without jeopardizing 4-H eligibility.
- Competition placings do not become official until the completion of all post judging animal verification such as, but not limited to, retinal scan or RFID tag reading.
- If, in the opinion of the judge or superintendent, the club members cannot safely handle the animal, they will be credited for completing the project.
- Only animals for exhibition during the fair may be on the 4-H Fairgrounds. Those animals not scheduled for overnight stay may be here only during exhibition.
- After a Champion is selected, the second-place exhibit in that same class automatically becomes eligible to show for Reserve; likewise a Reserve Champion to an exhibit selected for Grand Champion becomes eligible for Reserve Grand Champion.

CLAY COUNTY LIVESTOCK AUCTION

- All animals must be sound and healthy in order to be sold in the Clay County 4-H Livestock Auction. If the animal is found to be unsound, the project superintendent, auction committee and 4-H Council will make the final decision on whether the animal will go through the auction.
- All 4-H members are required to complete the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training in order to sell in the livestock auction.
- A Premise ID will be required for all Beef, Boer Goats, Dairy, Dairy Goats, Meat Goat Wethers, Pygmy Goats, Sheep and Swine sold at auction.
- Exhibitors wishing to exhibit beef animals or dairy steers weighing below 850 pounds must sign a release form acknowledging that their animal is not eligible for the beef sale at the auction unless a buyer is secured.
- Swine weighing less than 230 pounds at weigh in may be shown at the fair but will not be allowed to be sold in the livestock auction. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Exhibitors wishing to exhibit swine weighing



below 230 pounds must sign a release form acknowledging that their animal is not eligible for sale at the auction unless a buyer is secured.

- F. Once an animal has gone through the auction it may not be exhibited at the Indiana State Fair or any other 4-H affiliated show.
- G. Sale order for each species will be: 1. Grand Champion; 2. Reserve Grand Champion; 3. Grand Champion Born and Bred; 4. Reserve Grand Champion Born and Bred. Others will draw for sale order. In the event that the person having Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion does not sell that animal, but sells another animal, they must draw for sale order.
- H. If the market is available for any species of animals sold in the auction, the animal will be pegged, sold and either shipped or kept as designated by the buyer. Animal species sold in the auction include cattle, swine, poultry, goats, sheep and rabbits.
- I. Poultry exhibitors may enter either a meat pen of Cornish type chickens weighing 5 pounds each or more or a meat pen of ducks weighing 5 pounds each or more in the livestock auction. Another option is selling a turkey.
- J. Rabbit Exhibitors may sell one meat type entry in the auction. Auction entries must be from one of the Meat Rabbit Classes which include Meat Pens (3 rabbits), Single Fryer, Roaster or Stewers.

SHOWMANSHIP CONTESTS

4-H Showmanship Rules for Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy, & Goats

- A. There will be four showmanship divisions with a Champion and Reserve Champion in each division.
 - a. **Junior Showmanship** – for 4-H members who are grades 3, 4, 5 on January 1st of the current year.
 - b. **Intermediate Showmanship** – for 4-H members who are grades 6, 7, 8 on January 1st of the current year.
 - c. **Senior Showmanship** – for 4-H members who are grades 9, 10, 11, & 12 on January 1st of the current year.
 - d. **Champion of Champion Showman** – includes all senior showmanship winners and Champion of Champion winners of previous years.
- B. A member may win the junior, intermediate, and senior divisions only once and will show in the next level the following year.
- C. A winning senior may compete in the Champion of Champions division in the year he/she wins the senior division.
- D. 4-H members may win the Champion of Champions division any number of times.
- E. Division(s) may be added/deleted at the discretion of the superintendent.
- F. An alternate out of the Champion of Champions will be selected.

ROUND ROBIN SHOWMANSHIP

- A. The following species will be shown: sheep, horses, meat goats, dairy goats, dairy cattle, swine, and beef.
- B. The Champion of Champions from each species will compete in the Round Robin contest. Any 4-H'ers winning in more than one category must choose one species only. The alternate chosen from the Champions of Champions will fill the opening.
- C. All animals will be shown natural, with no advance grooming allowed. The Superintendents will make sure that the animals are clean and equally presentable.
- D. The Superintendent of each species will provide all of the equipment needed for showing their species.



- E. All animals of the contestants involved will not be used in the contest. Furthermore, no animals housed at the same facility or having the same Premise ID as a participating contestant will be allowed.
- F. Each contestant will enter a “lottery” and draw a number one-six at the start of the contest. This number will determine the animal they will show throughout the entire contest. For example, a member draws number five, this member will always exhibit animal number five in each species. The Superintendent in each species will number the animals one-six. The contestants will know to walk directly to their designated animal.
- G. Each species winner will enter the ring first for his/her species.
- H. Jeans and boots or hard shoes are required for safety.
- I. After the contest starts, the contestants will not be allowed to leave the show ring, except for the one authorized break. Spectators will only be allowed in the bleachers area of the Show Arena.
Communication between participants and spectators is not allowed and could result in disqualification of contestants.
- J. There will be a 15 minute time limit per class.
- K. Judges’ names MUST be submitted to the extension office by **June 1, 2025**. A brief biography for each judge must be prepared before the start of the Round Robin and submitted to the Round Robin committee chair on Sunday of the fair. The committee will be responsible for asking judges to remain until the end of the competition. The Committee Chair will work with the educator and superintendents to hire judges.
- L. A point system will be used with points assigned to each round as follows: first place, 1 point; second place, 2 points; third place, 3 points; fourth place, 4 points; fifth place, 5 points, and sixth place, 6 points. The winner will be the contestant with the lowest score at the end of the Round Robin.
- M. All past and current winners of the Round Robin competition will be unable to compete again for the remainder of their 4-H eligibility.
- N. The first and second place winners will receive awards at the conclusion of the contest.
- O. In case of a tie, a written test will be administered at the contestant/parent meeting on Thursday afternoon. This test will consist of twelve questions, two from each species. The test will be created by the Round Robin Committee and Youth Extension Educator. No outside help can be given during this test. This includes spectator advice or electronic devices. The tests will be sealed in an envelope at the meeting and only be used if a tie should occur. If a contestant fails to appear at the information meeting, that individual will not be included in the tie breaker.
- P. If any problems or questions arise during the contest, the Round Robin Committee’s decision will be final. Judges’ decisions are final and will be kept confidential.
- Q. Rabbit and Poultry Champions/Senior Division Winners will be recognized during the Round Robin and may be asked to complete an action demonstration for the spectators/exhibitors.



**2025 Certificate of Completion of
Indiana 4-H Program Requirements
for Exhibition of Cats**
(these vaccinations are required at all 4-H cat shows)

4-H-777-W
(10/24)

4-Her's Name _____

Grade in School _____ County _____
(as of January 1, 2025) (County you are enrolled in 4-H)

Address _____
(Street or P.O. Box)

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

X _____
Extension Educator (Signature) (Date)
(Verifies county of 4-H Cat Membership for Indiana State Fair only.)

Educator's office phone # () - _____

**To be filled in by 4-H Cat Project Leader or
County Extension Educator**
This cat should be shown at the following class(es):

X _____
4-H Cat Project Leader (Signature) (Date)
(Verifies level of showing)

Leader's phone # () - _____

Recommended Procedures

Heartworm consultation _____ Date _____

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus Test _____

- For disability needs, please notify your Extension Educator, 4-H leader or the show chairperson.
- This original form **MUST** be brought by the 4-H member to all 4-H cat shows.
- Cats will be examined by a veterinarian at time of exhibition: any sign of a communicable disease will result in cat being sent home. Female cats in season will not be admitted.
- **All signatures must be completed prior to exhibition.**

This section is to be completed by veterinarian whose signature appears below.

Name of cat _____

Color and Markings _____

Vaccination tag number _____ Weight _____

Breed _____ Date of Birth _____

Sex: ___ Male ___ Castrated ___ Female ___ OVH (spay)

Required Procedures

Date

Rabies vaccination _____

Panleukopenia vaccination _____

Rhinotracheitis vaccination _____

Calicivirus vaccination _____

Feline leukemia vaccination or test
_____ 1 yr _____ 3 yr

(Negative test within 180 days of show **or** vaccination within 1 year of show.)

Fecal parasite exam or deworming
by veterinarian
(required within 6 months of exhibition) _____

Vaccinations must be given at least 2 weeks prior to and within 1 year of show date.
Contact the State 4-H Office with questions about exhibition requirements.

X _____
Veterinarian (Signature) (Date)

(Address) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

(Phone) () - _____

I hereby certify that the cat described on this has been vaccinated by a licensed/accredited veterinarian.

X _____
4-H member (Signature) (Date)

X _____
4-H Parent or Legal Guardian (Signature) (Date)
(Verifies the above is complete and accurate)