

CLAY COUNTY 4-H MEMBER HANDBOOK



2026



This book belongs to: _____

4-H Club: _____



Extension - Clay County

Provided by: Purdue Extension—Clay County
4-H Youth Development
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Brazil, IN 47834

Phone: 812-448-9041

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am-4 pm

Website: <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/clay/>



H  **AD**
H  **EART**
H  **ANDS**
H  **EALTH**

WEBSITES TO USE & KEEP YOU INFORMED:

4-H Online: v2.4honline.com

Fair Entry: www.fairentry.com

Clay County 4-H: <https://tinyurl.com/sdvpj662>

Clay County 4-H Facebook: [Clay County 4-H](#)



CLAY COUNTY PURDUE EXTENSION TEAM:

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Extension - Clay County

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CLAY COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ADAM EVINGER

President/Van Buren Township

MEGAN STEVENSON

Vice President/At-Large

SHELBY HOFMANN

Secretary/Lewis Township

SARAH BOONE

Treasurer/At-Large

SEAN DRAKE

Brazil Township

NICK WARNER

Cass Township

KEVIN SHONK

Dick Johnson Township

BRANDON CROWLEY

Jackson Township



JACOB TALBOT

Perry Township

MITCHEL RIDDELL

Posey Township

CHELSEY BURK

Sugar Ridge Township

MARTY RYAN

Washington Township

SCOTT TIEKEN

Adult Leader

BRITTANY DUNCAN

Adult Leader

HANNAH THOMPSON

Adult Leader

ELIZABETH COLEY

At-Large

What is 4-H?

4-H is the largest youth serving organization in the country. It is a volunteer led program that reaches youth in both rural and urban settings. Professional leadership is given by Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. Local leadership is provided by 4-H Youth Extension Educators and 4-H Program Assistants. Support for 4-H programs is a joint effort of local county government, Purdue University and the USDA. 4-H programs are hands-on, age appropriate and university based. 4-H helps youth improve their self-confidence; learn subject matter; and develop important skills including leadership, citizenship communication and decision making that can be applied over a lifetime. 4-H is young people sharing, doing and learning together in all kinds of projects, events, activities and informal situations, with the guidance of their adult family members and other adult volunteer club leaders, members choose projects that fit them and where they live. Group activities and events such as talent contest, trips, camps, fairs, shows and workshops provide additional opportunities and learning experiences. 4-H is open to all youth, regardless of their ethnic background, race, religion, gender or personal creed. Most 4-H clubs have meetings once a month. During these meetings, decisions are made concerning group sponsored activities, community service efforts, project opportunities, fund-raising projects, etc.

What Should I Expect From My 4-H Club and Advisors?

- Notice of 4-H club meetings and/or a printed schedule of club meetings for the year
- Information provided at one of the first meeting:
 - 4-H Club Program, Calendar of Activities
 - Advisor Contact information
- Information provided at all meetings:
 - Review of the 4-H Calendar
 - Reminders of Upcoming Deadlines, Requirements, etc.
 - What's coming up in the Club & how can my child get involved?
- Help in selecting and receiving Project Books
- Hands-on learning experiences ... project work, demonstrations, livestock quality assurance and/or horse safety programs, field trips/tours, etc.
- Opportunity to give back to the community through service projects.
- Opportunity to build leadership skills through serving as a club officer, on a committee, leading the American or 4-H Pledges, etc.
- Opportunity to have FUN with friends (new and old) through recreational, social, educational and/or competitive activities

What Does Your 4-H Club Expect From Parents?

- Help your child attend club meetings, activities and events. Notify the club advisor, if your child can't attend a meeting/activity
- Pay for your child's state 4-H dues and club dues (if applicable)
- Transport your child to all club meetings and activities
- Attend special events planned by the 4-H club
- Encourage and guide your child's project work.
- Read the 4-H newsletter, mailings, Project Requirement Sheets, Fair schedules and other information with your child. Use the county 4-H website to find project and fair requirements and find answers to questions
- Encourage your child to participate in club/county skillathons/project judgments, clinics/workshops, 4-H camp, public speaking opportunities and much more
- Encourage your child to keep up-to-date records and complete their project(s)
- Model a positive attitude, good sportsmanship, respect and cooperation
- Assist with 4-H club activities in your areas of interest and expertise...teach a project skill, help with a community service project, plan a field trip, assist with fundraising, etc.
- Help out the club...host a meeting, provide refreshments, sponsor an award
- Support the club by cooperating with club advisors and exhibiting a positive attitude towards your child's personal and club 4-H goals

What do I need to "Do" as a 4-H member?

For Your 4-H Club:

- Participate in Club Activities:
 - Community Service
 - Fund Raising
 - Fairs/Trips/Outings
- Get to know fellow club members & advisors
- Ask questions

For Projects:

- Select one or more projects to complete
- Get and keep your project book(s) and materials
- Begin work early on your project; ask questions as needed of your advisor
- Complete all project requirements (see Project Terms & Conditions) and exhibit project at the Fair.
- Turn in you Record Of Achievement

Once you've done these things, you will have completed a year of 4-H membership

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4-H PROJECT BOOKS AND MATERIALS:

Special Interest Projects, Clothing Projects, and Food & Nutrition Projects

“Special Interest” is the broad term we use in Clay County 4-H to describe all the 4-H projects that focus on a special interest. It includes pet animals, vet science, child development, creative arts, health, shooting sports, woodworking, etc. Each Special Interest Project has a project book/manual which outlines the learning experiences and activities a member will do in order to complete the project. Project books are available at the Extension Office and are free for Clay County 4-H Members. All Project Terms and Condition and Record Sheets can be downloaded from the [Clay County 4-H website](#).

Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care

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 18, 2026
- April 27, 2026
- May 21, 2026
- June 30, 2026

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.

4-H Terms to Know:

- **Terms and Conditions**—All of the rules and requirements for the year, including project requirements. This is available on the [website](#).
- **Completion**—This means a 4-H member completes their project and all membership requirements by the end of each 4-H year.
- **My Record of 4-H Achievement**—You can record your projects that you have done for the year on this [record sheet](#). You can also record the activities, meetings and committees that you have participated in during the year. Watch your emails & newsletters for the date that your Record of Achievements (usually the around the first of September). These are reviewed to help determine the Outstanding 4-H member awards.
- **Project**—A 4-H project is what a 4-H member learns, makes or does; for example: learn to grow a garden, make a lego model, or show a rabbit. 4-H members should take at least one project each year and complete records for that project. The 4-H members family should take an active interest in the project.
- **Project Manuals**—Project manuals are guides written by specialist that help you learn by leading you through activities and offering suggestions to help you complete your projects.
- **Project Record Sheet**—Your project record sheet helps you keep track of each of your projects during the 4-H year.
- **Fairgrounds Clean-up**—Days set for the 4-H club leaders, 4-H Council members and 4-H Club members to clean and prepare the fairgrounds for the 4-H Fair.
- **Project Check-in and Check-out**—All 4-H exhibits are entered during this time before the 4-H Fair officially starts. See your monthly newsletter for accurate check-in and check-out times.
- **4-H Online**—This is where you will create an account for your family to share. This site is where you will enroll every year for the new 4-H year and register for projects, clubs & animals.
- **Fair Entry**—This is where you register what projects you are bringing to the Clay County Fair. You MUST have your projects entered here by the deadline to be able to bring your projects to the fair.
- **Open Judging**—We have an open judging policy here at the Clay County Fair. You bring your projects in and the judges are on hand to talk to you about your project. Time is limited as there are many projects to be judged that evening.
- **Livestock Project Superintendent** - This is the approved 4-H adult volunteer who is appointed the position of running the barn, shows, and other species related events during the Clay County 4-H fair.
- **Exhibit Hall Project Superintendent** - This is an individual who volunteers to help a project specific judge during the Exhibit Hall open judging before fair begins. Their main duties include assisting the judge during check-in by recording results, placing ribbon on projects, organizing displays, and helping with any other questions the judge may have.



4-H Projects

Projects are a great way for 4-H members and their families to learn something new or practice something they enjoy. What follows is a list of projects that Clay County offers. Remember to check out our project Terms & Conditions Handbook for a full description of each project! <https://tinyurl.com/sdvvpj662>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerospace (Rockets)* • Arts & Crafts* • ATV Poster* • Beef* • Beef Poster* • Beekeeping_* • Cake Decorating* • Cat * • Cat Poster* • Child Development* • Collections • Communications* • Computer Science* • Construction Toys-(LEGOs)* • Consumer Clothing* • Consumer Clothing Fashion Revue • Create-a-Mix • Creative Writing* • Crops • Cupcake Decorating • Dairy* • Dairy Poster* • Do Your Own Thing • Dog* • Dog Poster* • Electric * • Entomology* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Scene* • Fashion Review* • Fine Arts* • Floriculture* • Foods, Baked* • Foods, Preserved* • Forestry* • Garden* • Genealogy* • Geology* • Gift Wrapping • Goat* • Goat Poster* • Health* • Home Environment* • Horse & Pony* • Horse Poster* • Junior Leaders* • Lawn & Garden Tractor • Llama /Alpaca (Poster -Craft)* • Microwaving • Mini 4H (grades K-2) • Model Craft* • Needle Craft* • Pet Animal • Photography * • Poultry* • Poultry Poster* • Public Speaking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rabbit* • Rabbit Poster* • Recycling • Scrapbooking • Sewing, Wearable* • Sewing, non-wearable* • Sheep* • Sheep Poster* • Shooting Sports-Archery • Shooting Sports-Firearms • Shooting Sports Safety* • Small Engines* • Soil & Water Conservation* • Sportsfishing_* • Strawberry • Swine* • Swine Poster* • Tractor Safety/Skills* • Tractor Poster (lawn poster or ag tractor poster) * • Vet Science* • Weather* • Welding • Wildlife* • Woodworking* • Zero Turn Mower Safety* |
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* Eligible to be shown at the Indiana State Fair

Clay County 4-H Clubs

Once the club meetings dates are set for the year, we will communicate those with you through email and newsletters.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-Ever Achievers - meets in Staunton • Clever Clovers - Led by Summer Long, meets in Clay City • Harrison Handy Happy Helpers - Led by Alicia Jacobs & Jacinda Tucker, meets in Clay City • Jackson Township Farmhands - Led by Stephanie Schopmeyer, meets at the Fairgrounds • Laker Leaders - Led by Kenna Slough, meets at Shakamak School • Mini 4-H (Grades K-2) - Led by Natalie Korniak and the Junior Leaders, meets at the Fairgrounds • Van Buren Hustlers - Led by Marlene Halfhill, meets at the Fairgrounds • Archery - Led by Dan Wisely, meets at the Fairgrounds • Firearms - Led by Ron Hofmann, meets at the Lost Creek Conservation Club in Staunton | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Leaders - Led by Natalie Korniak & Dustin Stevenson, meets at the Fairgrounds • Swine - Led by Madison McDonald & Adam Evinger, meets at the Fairgrounds • Goats - Led by Amy Stagg & Jessica Stewart, meets at the Fairgrounds • Poultry - Led by Mitch Riddell, meets at the Fairgrounds • Tractor - Led by Dwight Ludwig • Dog - Led by Derik Tipton, meets at the Fairgrounds • Horse & Pony - Led by Jesse Johnson, meets at the Fairgrounds • Rabbit - Led by Melissa Orman, meets at the Fairgrounds • Cattle - Led by Ross Hyatt and Deedra Arvin, meets at the Fairgrounds • Sheep - Led by Laura Van Horn and Hannah Thompson, meets at the Fairgrounds |
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2026 4-H Club MEETING DATES

Clay County

CLAY COUNTY 4-H FAIR
JULY 18-24, 2026

New 4-H Member Meeting

- JAN 14
- 5:30 PM
- EXHIBIT HALL

Swine Club

- JAN 12
- FEB 9
- MARCH 9
- APRIL 13
- MAY 11
- JUNE 8
- 6:00 PM
- EXHIBIT HALL

Junior Leaders

- JAN 19
- FEB 15
- MARCH 16
- APRIL 20
- MAY 18
- JUNE 15
- 7:00 PM
- EXHIBIT HALL

Horse & Pony

- JAN 15
- FEB 19
- MARCH 19
- APRIL 16
- MAY 21
- JUNE 18
- 7:00 PM
- EXHIBIT HALL

Jackson Twp. Farmhands

- JAN 22
- FEB 26
- APRIL 23
- MAY 21
- JUNE 18
- 6:00 PM
- EXHIBIT HALL

Clever Clovers

- JAN 5
- FEB 2
- MARCH 2
- APRIL 6
- MAY 4
- JUNE 1
- 7:00 PM
- CLAY CITY FIRST CHURCH

Van Buren Hustlers

- JAN 8
- FEB 12
- MARCH 12
- APRIL 9
- MAY 14
- JUNE 11
- JUNE 25
- 7:00 PM
- EXHIBIT HALL

Dog Club

- JAN 26
- FEB 23
- MARCH 23
- 6:00 PM
- EXHIBIT HALL
- APRIL - 6,13,20,27
- MAY - 4,11,18
- JUNE - 1,5,8,12,15,19,22,26,27
- 5:00 PM
- SHOW ARENA

Mini 4-H

- MARCH 16
- APRIL 20
- MAY 18
- JUNE 15
- 6:00 PM
- EXHIBIT HALL

Goat Club

- JAN 25
- FEB 22
- APRIL 19
- MAY 16
- JUNE 13
- 2:30 PM
- EXHIBIT HALL

Top Shots Firearms

- JANUARY 17
- FEBRUARY 21
- MARCH 21
- 12:30 PM
- LOST CREEK CONSERVATION CLUB
- APRIL 8
- APRIL 16
- MAY 13
- MAY 21
- JUNE 10
- JUNE 18
- 6:00 PM
- LOST CREEK CONSERVATION CLUB

Rabbit Club

- JAN 11
- FEB 15
- MARCH 15
- APRIL 12
- MAY 3
- JUNE 14
- JULY 12
- 3:00 PM
- EXHIBIT HALL

Harrison Handy Happy Helpers

- JAN 19
- FEB 16
- MARCH 15
- APRIL 20
- MAY 18
- JUNE 15
- 6:00 PM
- CLAY CITY FIRST FINANCIAL BANK

Sharp Shooters Archery

COMING SOON

FAIRGROUNDS



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2026 4-H Club MEETING DATES

Clay County

CLAY COUNTY 4-H FAIR
JULY 18-24, 2026

Poultry Club

- JAN 13
- FEB 10
- MARCH 10
- APRIL 14
- MAY 12
- JUNE 9
- 7:00 PM
- EXHIBIT HALL

LAKER LEADERS

- JAN 6
- JAN 19
- FEB 23
- MARCH 30
- APRIL 27
- MAY 18
- JUNE 8
- JULY 6
- 6:00 PM
- SHAKAMAK AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Sheep Club

- JAN 3
- FEB 5
- MARCH 5
- APRIL 2
- MAY 7
- JUNE 4
- JULY 2
- 6:00 PM
- EXTENSION OFFICE

Cattle Club

- FEB 2
- MARCH 2
- APRIL 6
- MAY 4
- 6:30 PM
- EXHIBIT HALL

Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training

- MARCH- 18
- APRIL- 27
- MAY- 21
- JUNE- 30

REQUIRED FOR ALL 4-H YOUTH PARTICIPATING IN BEEF, DAIRY, GOATS, POULTRY, RABBITS, SHEEP, AND SWINE.

6:00 PM

EXHIBIT HALL

*MEMBERS MUST HAVE THIS TRAINING COMPLETE BY JULY 1, 2026 IN ORDER TO SHOW THEIR LIVESTOCK.

Livestock Tag Days

- CATTLE - FEBRUARY 20, 4-8 PM
- SHEEP - MAY 8, 4:30-7:30 PM
- GOATS - MAY 9, 9-11 AM

PLEASE REFER TO THE TERMS & CONDITIONS TO DETERMINE IF YOU NEED TO ATTEND TO HAVE YOUR LIVESTOCK IDENTIFIED.

CLAY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

2026 Clay County 4-H Fair Show Days

- DOG OBEDIENCE - MON, 7/13
- DOG AGILITY - TUES, 7/14
- RABBIT SHOW-SAT, 7/18
- CONTESTING-SAT, 7/18
- MINI 4-H SHOWS-SAT, 7/18
- MEAT GOAT SHOW-SUN, 7/19
- WESTERN SHOW-SUN, 7/19
- POULTRY SHOW-SUN, 7/19
- BEEF SHOW-MON, 7/20
- ENGLISH SHOW-MON, 7/20
- DAIRY SHOW-TUE, 7/21
- SHEEP SHOW-TUE, 7/21
- SWINE SHOW-WED, 7/22
- DAIRY GOAT SHOW-THU, 7/23

*SHOW TIMES WILL BE RELEASED CLOSER TO FAIR.

**ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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The 4-H Emblem

The National 4-H emblem is a four leaf clover with the letter “H” on each leaf. The four “H’s” stand for: Head, Heart, Hands and Health. These for “H’s” represent the training and development in which 4-H members participate. The meaning of the four “H’s” is clearly shared in the 4-H pledge below.



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I PLEDGE

MY HEAD

TO CLEARER THINKING,

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

MY HEART

TO GREATER LOYALTY,

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

MY HANDS

TO LARGER SERVICE,

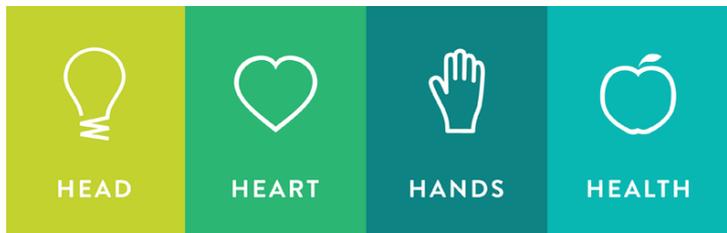
● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

& MY HEALTH

TO BETTER LIVING,

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

FOR MY CLUB, MY COMMUNITY, MY COUNTRY AND MY WORLD





CLAY COUNTY 4-H



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