

4-H

FAMILY GUIDE



A Guide To
4-H In
Dearborn County



PURDUE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
Dearborn County

Dear 4-H Families,

Thank you for your interest in Dearborn County 4-H! This booklet was created to help you learn more about 4-H, what we do and who we are. Regardless of whether you live on a farm or in a town, have one hobby or many, like doing things by yourself or with others, 4-H has something to offer.

The Dearborn County Extension Office is located at 229 Main Street, Aurora, IN in the Aurora City building. We offer informal, educational opportunities in agriculture, community development, health and human sciences, and youth development. As Extension Educators, we work to provide you with the latest scientific information in agriculture, management of resources, helping families learn about healthy living, and developing individual talents through leadership training. Our office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday. The office closes on County holidays.

Should you need additional information, please feel free to contact us at our office. Our telephone number is 812-926-1189. We welcome the opportunity to make your participation in our programs an enjoyable one.

Sincerely,

Liz Beiersdorfer
4-H Youth Development Educator
Dearborn County

Marcia Parcell
Health and Human Sciences Educator
Dearborn County

229 Main Street, Aurora, IN 47001

Phone 812-926-1189 Fax 812-926-3006

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Welcome to Dearborn County 4-H.....	4
Office Hours and Location.....	4
Purdue Extension Dearborn County Staff.....	4
Purpose of this Guide.....	5
What is 4-H and the Cooperative Extension Service?	5
Cooperative Extension Service Mission	5
Indiana 4-H Mission & Vision.....	5
Indiana 4-H Program Philosophy	6
Equal Opportunity/Equal Access.....	6
Enrollment Eligibility/Membership/Residence.....	6
Annual 4-H Enrollment/Re-Enrollment.....	7
Cancellation Reminder.....	7
Transportation of 4-H Youth	7
What is 4-H?.....	7
Emblem.....	8
Motto	8
Slogan.....	8
Colors	8
The 4-H Pledge.....	9
4-H Year	9
Age for Membership.....	9
4-H Parent (Home Helper).....	10
Other Ways That 4-H Parents Can Help	11
Who's Who in 4-H	12
Who's Who in 4-H Continued	13
4-H Clubs.....	14
4-H Clubs Continued.....	15
Dearborn County 4-H Connection	15
Mailings	15
Web Site	16
4-H Projects	16
4-H Handbook.....	16
4-H Project Manuals, Record Sheets and Green Record Book.....	16
My Record of 4-H Achievement.....	17
Project Selection.....	17
4-H Fair Judging	18
Completing the Fair Entry Tag.....	19
Ribbons.....	19
Premium Money	19
Awards & Trips.....	20
Activities and Events.....	20
Summary of County Projects	21
Summary of County Projects Continued.....	22
Example of My Record of 4-H Achievement.....	23
Map of the 4-H Fairgrounds.....	25

Welcome to Dearborn County 4-H

We want to extend a warm welcome to you and congratulate your family for choosing to make 4-H a part of your life. 4-H is a youth development program affiliated with the United States Department of Agriculture and administered in Indiana by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. Locally, the Dearborn County office of the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service administers the Dearborn County 4-H program, and the Dearborn County 4-H Board of Directors is responsible for policy and governance.

Included in this family guide is information we hope will be helpful and provide the tools necessary for your family to have a positive start with your 4-H career. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding this information after you have read it.

Office Hours and Location

The local 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator manages the county 4-H program. Feel free to use any of the means listed below to contact the office with any questions that may arise throughout the year.

The Purdue Extension - 229 Main Street, Aurora, IN 47001. Located in the Aurora City Building.

Office Hours are:

Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Closed County Government Holidays

Phone- 812-926-1189

Voice mail is available during non-business hours

Visit the Extension Office web site at www.extension.purdue.edu/county/dearborn, under 4-H

information, for information about Dearborn County 4-H, or <https://www.dearborncounty4h.com/>. Visit our Facebook page for current information and programming opportunities. <https://www.facebook.com/DearbornCounty4H/>

Purdue Extension Dearborn County Staff

Liz Beiersdorfer, Extension Educator 4-H Youth Development

Marcia Parcell, Extension Educator, HHS

Pam Chase, Secretary

Tiffany Garrett, Secretary

ebeiers@purdue.edu

mparcell@purdue.edu

pchase@purdue.edu

garret89@purdue.edu

Purpose of this Guide

This guide is intended to help families new to Dearborn County 4-H become familiar with our program. It should serve as a valuable resource for members and parents to improve understanding of the terms, structure and operations of the 4-H program. While some families new to Dearborn County 4-H may have transferred from another county, it is important to understand each county in Indiana has its own way of doing things. Therefore, just because it happened one way in "xyz" county, does not mean it will be the same in Dearborn County. Please do not hesitate to contact the Extension Office at any time throughout the year. The Extension Office staff is here to serve and wants your family to be successful in our local youth development program.

What is 4-H and the Cooperative Extension Service?

4-H is a non-formal educational positive youth development program provided by the United States Department of Agriculture and 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 Dearborn 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 and positive youth development through participation in projects and club related activities. Dearborn County 4-H offers 100 different projects (topic areas of study) and has 13 community 4-H clubs. Various 4-H workshops may be offered throughout the year and would provide members with help to be successful, not only on projects, but also with life skill development. 4-H club activities provide members with leadership and social skills benefiting every member.

"Spark" Clubs are short-term, topic specific programming offered to a variety of age groups. Topics vary annually according to youth interest and volunteer availability. A Spark Club may be all your child chooses to do, and it fulfills the annual 4-H experience. Typically, events are a minimum of 6 hours, although some may be 10-14 hours total.

4-H camp provides youth with educational programming while having fun and meeting friends from eight counties in our Area, usually held the first week of June. Camp is open to all youth grades 3-12. Youth participate as Jr Camp Staff beginning in grade 8, as Jr. Director, Counselors preparing them for camp responsibilities.

Youth in grades K-2 benefit from 4-H programming by joining Mini 4-H often referred to as Clover Buds. Clover buds receive an invitation to attend a discovery event during Fair week and are welcome at all 4-H clubs. There is no fee to join Mini 4-H/Clover Buds, and they may select up to two projects to complete each year. Clover's have 19 project areas from which to choose, and they exhibit

one project at the county fair. Mini 4-H is a home-based non-competitive program that introduces youth to the 4-H program.

Additional 4-H activities include a communications contest offering several types of speeches and creative writing reading, poultry illustrated talk, rabbit ambassador showmanship contest, fashion review and more. See the handbook for more details.

The 4-H Year runs October 1-Sept. 30

Purdue Extension's Mission

Purdue Extension delivers practical, research-based information that transforms 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 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 rich heritage of the 4-H Program is one to be valued and provided for in future generations. The Indiana 4-H program serves youth by providing a strong and educational positive youth development program. Programming is delivered in a variety of settings, including clubs, topic specific clubs (spark clubs), after-school programming, in-school programming, virtual programming, workshops and activities. Caring, capable, and properly vetted adult volunteers assist in the 4-H program as leaders, volunteers and role models for youth.

The Indiana 4-H Youth Policies and Procedures Handbook provides standards, rules and guidelines assuring 4-H is a positive youth development experience across the state. County 4-H policy is guided by the 4-H policy making or governing board (4-H Board of Directors) 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.

It is the policy of 4-H to be an inclusive organization. No county policy or practice is used to arbitrarily exclude youth from either membership or participation. Deadlines for county and state participation are carefully constructed to encourage rather than to discourage participation. Such deadlines are well published in the Master 4-H Activity Schedule, through newsletters, mailings, email and social media. Members not complying with established and published dates and deadlines for livestock Fair exhibition, may be denied the opportunity to exhibit at the county and state fair. Youth should participate in 4-H

program at the level best suited to their individual abilities and development with family support and 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.

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 in on January 1 of the 4-H year. A child may enroll in only one 4-H program in Indiana. Youth are required to participate in their own county's program. The only exception is if their primary county 4-H program does not offer a project or statewide activity they want to participate in, their friends participate in a different county, etc. There are acceptable reasons youth want to participate in a 4-H program different than their county program. If a family decides they want their child to participate in a 4-H program in another county, then the family must submit a form to the Indiana State 4-H office for approval to join. Youth may not enroll in the same project in two counties at the same time. Youth may enroll in another counties Spark programming. Enrollment registers a child in the 4-H program. Youth from Ohio or Kentucky may enroll in Dearborn County 4-H. Contact the 4-H Educator in Dearborn County to learn how.

Annual 4-H Enrollment/Re-Enrollment

Enrollment is an annual event completed through the appropriate county 4-H enrollment process. Youth enroll in 4-H Online October 1 through September 15 of following year, at <https://v2.4honline.com>. 4-H enrollment is open to youth in grades 3-12 for a maximum of 10 consecutive years. 4-H members may drop or add fair exhibit projects through 4-H Online, through May 15, allowing time for fair preparation. There is a \$15 4-H program fee, payable at the time of enrollment. In the case of a family having more than 3 children the fee is waived beginning with the 4th child.

Mini 4-H enrollment is open to youth grades K-2. Enrollment is completed on 4-H online; and there is no enrollment fee.

Cancellation Reminder

Check with your club leader for cancelation information. Check Eagle Radio 99.3 for county 4-H event cancelations. Look for cancelation notice from 4-H online emails or texts, or social media.

Transportation of 4-H Youth

Parents are asked to transport their children to 4-H activities. When a 4-H member requires transportation to a 4-H event or activity and the parent is unable to provide that transportation, the following guidelines should be followed:

- *Parents are encouraged to arrange transportation for their children.

- *Anyone under the age of 21 cannot be asked to serve as a driver and transport other youth to or from events and activities.

- *Under no circumstances should personal vehicles carry more people than the vehicle is designed for (a seat belt for each occupant).

- * Parents must give written permission for a child to ride with another driver.

What is 4-H?

4-H is a positive youth development program that develops life skills through project completion, activities and events.

4-H is an extracurricular, volunteer led, family-oriented program.

4-H offers activities for boys and girls in grades K through 12.

4-H is for urban as well as rural youth.

4-H helps young people develop life skills. A life skill is an ability that one can use in everyday life. Examples of basic life skills are:

1. Building self-confidence.
2. Developing curiosity and decision-making skill.
3. Setting and meeting goals.
4. Relating to other people.
5. Developing a concern for the community.
6. Developing leadership skills.

EMBLEM-copyright protected

The 4-H emblem is the four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf.
The Hs stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.



The copyright number must be included in all uses of the 4-H Clover by law. Do not superimpose any item over the clover.

MOTTO

"To make the best better."

This should be the objective of every member and volunteer.

SLOGAN

"Learning by Doing."

COLORS

The 4-H colors are green and white. Green symbolizes nature's most common color and represents life, springtime, and youth. White symbolizes purity.

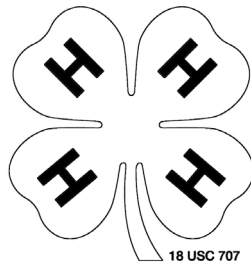


THE 4-H PLEDGE

4-H members should learn the national 4-H 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.



4-H PARENT (HOME HELPER)

Purpose: Provide support to your child in 4-H.

Responsibilities:

1. Help your child enroll in the 4-H Club and meet the 4-H requirements
2. Help your child select one or more suitable 4-H Projects to complete.
3. Make sure your child attends 4-H Club meetings. Provide or arrange for transportation.
4. Help your child complete any 4-H responsibilities he or she volunteered for, been elected to, or selected for.
5. Let your club leader know if you cannot attend.
6. Consider offering to help with club activities.
7. Consider becoming an approved volunteer.
8. Support your child's 4-H project work.
 - A. Read the **Dearborn County 4-H Connection**, to be aware of dates important for your 4-Her. Read emails sent to your family from 4-H Online.
 - B. 4-H Project manuals and record sheets are available to pick-up from the Extension Office throughout the year.
 - C. Help your child attend project workshops as appropriate
 - D. Help your child gather materials needed for their project(s).
 - E. Help your child complete one or more articles for exhibit and make sure he/she can exhibit them at the County 4-H Fair. Provide transportation and encouragement.
 - F. Help your child complete 4-H project records along with "My Record of Achievement", all kept in the Green Record Book. Club/project leaders will review and sign before the fair.
 - G. Green books are not turned in but retained by the youth for future reference to work completed and accomplishments achieved.

Who to contact for Assistance:

1. 4-H Club Organizational Leader
2. 4-H Project Leader (, Shooting sports, livestock & animal species chairs and assistants)
3. Experienced 4-H Parents and 4-H members
4. 4-H Project Manuals available at the Extension Office
5. State 4-H web page <https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/>
 - a. This page offers comprehensive information about each state project and activity
6. Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service Office - Dearborn County 812-926-1189
7. Dearborn County 4-H Information- <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/dearborn/> all record sheets, forms, applications, etc. and the 4-H handbook can be found and printed from this location.+
8. Dearborn County 4-H Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DearbornCounty4H/>
9. Dearborn County 4-H webpage- <https://www.dearborncounty4h.com/>

Time Commitment:

Participation involves about 1 hour per month for club meetings and time for 4-H project work.

Actual time depends on individual youth. A minimum of 6-10 hours per year should be expected; depending on the number of projects enrolled in or if livestock projects are involved.

Benefits:

Helps your child learn, grow and develop life skills needed for future success, encourages shared experiences with your child, helps your child develop a sense of belonging, generosity, mastery, and independence, encourages a sense of community & service. Develops a sense of accomplishment and confidence.

Qualifications:

- Interest in your child's activities.
- Commitment of time and energy to your child.
- Ability to assist, while allowing the member to do his/her own work.

OTHER WAYS THAT 4-H PARENTS CAN HELP:

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.
3. Show your interest and enthusiasm for the projects selected.
4. Ask for suggestions about what resources and activities are available to 4-H members.
5. Guide your child to ensure that when a project is started, it is also completed.
6. Encourage your 4-Her when he/she succeeds and provide even more encouragement when he/she fails.
7. Be an example! Help your 4-Her to be a good sport and appreciate the successes of others.
8. Keep informed about 4-H through information that comes to members of your family. Visit your profile in 4H online regularly and read the **Dearborn County 4-H Connection** and other email/mailings your 4-H'er will receive.
9. Be a 4-H booster in your community. Support 4-H by sponsoring awards for the 4-H Fair and Achievement program. Contact the Extension Office if you are willing to sponsor a 4-H Fair trophy or another award for 4-H.
10. Make 4-H Club work FAMILY work but let the boys and girls do their work and carry their own jobs to completion.
11. 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. Do not wait to be asked; just volunteer to help!
12. Attend 4-H meetings and other special events.
13. Help your 4-Her find a way to participate in special events that interest him/her such as county contests, 4-H camp & camp counselor, Fair, displays, local workshops, area workshops, state workshops, Fashion Review, royalty contest, 4-H Academy@Purdue state trips, Roundup, Career Development Events, etc.
14. Support your local 4-H leaders. Get acquainted with them. Let them know you appreciate their efforts.
15. Volunteer your time to help with duties associated with the 4-H Fair. It takes a village to make this happen.

16. Offer your services to assist the local leaders. You have knowledge and skills that are needed in 4-H.
17. If the need arises, help find local leaders for your 4-H Club. Several kinds of leaders are necessary to the success of clubs: organization, project, and activity leaders. Consider helping in one of these ways yourself. Volunteer applications are completed on 4-H Online. If you have questions about what type or volunteer role to select, please contact the 4-H Educator.
18. Remember the real object of 4-H is to develop children into successful adults and good citizens. The way they work on projects, participate in meetings, and conduct themselves at competitive events, etc., will help set work and character standards for the rest of their lives.

WHO'S WHO IN 4-H

4-H member	Any child currently in grade 3 through grade 12 properly enrolled in 4-H online annually.
Mini 4-H	Also known as Clover bud Any child currently in grades Kindergarten through grade 2 properly enrolled in 4-H online annually.
Club Leader	An adult volunteer who is responsible for the organizational aspects of a 4-H club.
Project Mentor	A volunteer who answers questions a 4-Her may have about a project. This person is often a 4-H parent with special expertise in a particular subject area. Names and telephone numbers will be shared with 4-H Club leaders and 4-H members. If you have expertise in a project area and would like to become a mentor, please contact the Extension Office.
Junior Livestock Superintendent	Youth grades 3-12, appointed by specie chair or elected at specie review meeting, who assists specie leaders throughout the year, especially during the fair. Mentors other project members.
Junior Leader	A 4-H member who is in grades 7 through 12. The Junior Leader year runs from August through August. The group has monthly meetings, performs community service projects, and participates in various educational and skill building events. Completion Trip is determined annually and eligibility is based on completing required events.

Parents Important to the success of the child in 4-H. Parents are ENCOURAGED to attend club meetings as well as countywide events with their child.

COUNTY LEVEL

The 4-H Youth Development Educator is responsible for screening, approving or removing all 4-H volunteers participating in the county program. Every applicant goes through a screening process which includes a background check, and reference consultation, before being allowed to work with 4-H members. All 4-H volunteers must enroll in 4-H online annually to remain in active approved status. The 4-H Educator is responsible for oversight of the 4-H program, assisting 4-H families, implementing policies and procedures as directed by the State 4-H Office and Purdue Extension, providing volunteer development, and offering 4-H programming throughout the county and beyond.

4-H Board of Directors 4-H Board of Directors meet monthly on the second Thursday of the month and are the policy-making organization for Dearborn County 4-H. Elected senior members and two Junior Leader members appointed annually make up the board. Additional ex officio members: the president of the 4-H Fair Board, Past 4-H BOD president and Association Treasurer. Members of the Dearborn County 4-H Association hold an election to elect approved volunteers to the 4-H board for a three-year term during the Association Annual meeting and Achievement Banquet. Members may complete no more than two 3year terms, before leaving the board for at least one year. If you are interested in becoming a 4-H BOD member, please contact the Extension Office.

Extension Educator The professional charged with oversight of the 4-H program and serves as a source of research-based information. Dearborn County has one 4-H educator, and their title is 4-H Youth Development Educator. The Extension Office is located at 229 Main Street, Aurora, IN 47001. Email addresses for staff can be found in the Dearborn County 4-H Handbook. Office hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. The office is closed on county holidays.

4-H Fair Committee 4-H Fair Committee is a subcommittee of the 4-H Board of Directors. Fair Committee members must be approved volunteers and serve three-year terms, elected to service by the Fair

Committee. As volunteers, their purpose is to oversee the 4-H Fairgrounds and make decisions related to the annual 4-H Fair. The Fair Committee is responsible for generating income to run the 4-H program.

STATE LEVEL

Purdue University

Purdue is the land grant college in Indiana responsible for taking education to the people of the state. The 4-H program is part of that directive in all 92 Indiana counties.

State 4-H Program

State 4-H Program Leader is responsible for the oversight and management of the 4-H program across the State. The 4-H Program Leader is based at Purdue University.

State Specialist

State Specialists have responsibility for the 4-H program on a statewide basis. Each one has 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 Program Leader.

Indiana 4-H Foundation

This nonprofit organization works to provide additional resources for the 4-H program. They sponsor 4-H youth scholarships, funding for county and state programs, finance the State 4-H Leaders recognition, trips for outstanding youth to National 4-H Congress, as well as underwrite the cost of many 4-H trips offered on the state level. Forms for donation 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.

Dearborn County 4-H Club

County Clubs are listed in the handbook along with club leaders and contact information. The handbook is updated annually.

4-H clubs generally meet once a month. Call your leader for club meeting dates. Many clubs meet September through the Fair.

4-Hers may belong to any 4-H Club in the county. Residence does not restrict club membership. However, most 4-Hers belong to the club closest to where they live or attend school. Ask your leader if there are annual club dues. 4-Hers may belong to more than one

club. Many youths belong to a general club, as well as project clubs like shooting sports (SAFE) or livestock clubs.

4-Hers may change membership to another club if they wish. It is important to notify the Extension Office 812-926-1189 and the leaders of both clubs (the one you are leaving and the one you are joining).

Clubs elect officers from the club membership. The officers conduct the business portion of the 4-H club meeting.

Newsletter-4-H Connection

This newsletter is sent to every 4-H home in Dearborn County enrolled in 4-H online. It is called the 4-H Connection. Read your **4-H Connection** to find out about 4-H Club meetings, project workshops, and other timely 4-H news! This newsletter is mailed to the members through the US Postal Service bulk mailing system or can be emailed through 4-H online. It is also on the Extension Office web site at www.extension.purdue.edu/county/dearborn.

4-H MAILINGS

The Extension Office tries to effectively communicate with 4-H families in several ways. The **Dearborn County 4-H Connection** is one way, but other information needing delivery in a timely manner is mailed first class in an envelope with the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service return address, a post card, or emailed. Regardless of how you receive the information, please read the information immediately so important deadlines and opportunities are not missed. When you receive a letter or Postcard in the mail with this return address, it is not junk mail and should be opened immediately.

*Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service
Dearborn County
229 Main Street, Aurora, IN 47001
Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture*

WEB SITE

The Extension Office maintains a web site at www.extension.purdue.edu/county/dearborn. It is updated frequently and offers 4-H forms and resources 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 4-H newsletters and other useful information are available on the web site. There are links that provide educational resources to 4-H members and their families, such as, project record sheets. The State 4-H website link is also available on our webpage. If you cannot find a project form you require on our webpage, please visit the State website.

Dearborn County 4-H/Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DearbornCounty4H/> is a social media resource to find current news, event/program opportunities, etc.

4-H PROJECTS

4-H projects are learning tools for 4-H members. Members must sign up for at least one project each year and may complete the records for that project continuing the education. A member is encouraged to exhibit at the Fair as part of their project experience but is not required to exhibit.

Some projects are divided by grade, while others are divided by the number of years of participation in that project. Grade is determined by the grade the member as of January 1 of current 4-H year.

4-H members may add or drop projects until May 15. To add or drop a project, please manage through 4-H Online family account. This deadline provides adequate time for the Extension Office support staff to prepare judging booklets for project check in and more.

4-H HANDBOOK

The 4-H Handbook is updated annually and is made available as soon as possible into the new 4-H year. 4-H Handbooks are available online at the Extension webpage. Limited copies of the handbook will be printed each year and may be requested when receiving 4-H project manuals. The Handbook has information members need to know and provides project exhibit guidelines.

Members may ask club or project leaders about the project, as well as 4-H Fair exhibit guidelines for that project. You will find a list of club and project club leaders in the 4-H Handbook.

4-H PROJECT MANUALS, RECORD SHEETS AND GREEN RECORD BOOK

Most 4-H projects have manuals that give in-depth information for that project. Project manuals and record sheets are available to pick up from the Extension office at any time during office hours. Check with your club leader before you make the trip, as many volunteers pick up manuals and record sheets for club members and distribute them during club meetings.

Dearborn County 4-Hers enter/list projects taken each year onto the Achievement Record Sheet. The Achievement sheet is the first page of the Green Folder. Record sheets verify project work and should be kept in the green folder given to first year members by the 4-H Club Leaders or Extension Office. It is commonly referred to as the **"Green Record Book"**. The Green Book may be presented to judges on project check-in day so results can be entered. The first green record folder is free. Replacement folders are available at minimal cost from the Extension Office. Green Folders are for the use of the 4-H member to record projects, state fair experiences, workshops, club office, awards, etc. and should be used when completing scholarship applications, especially the Indiana 4-H Foundation Accomplishment scholarship.

It is important for 4-Hers and parents to read the 4-H project manuals thoroughly. They are full of good information that will help your child learn to prepare an exhibit for the 4-H Fair. Always refer; however, to the 4-H Handbook for project exhibit specifics.

MY RECORD OF 4-H ACHIEVEMENT

White forms labeled "My Record of 4-H Achievement" (4-H 620-W) should be filled out completely each year. These are available from 4-H Club Leaders and the County Extension Office. It is important that these be filled out accurately 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 the front of your Green Record Book, with your project record sheets. Be sure to update your information every year.

4-H records 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. Record sheets are not required to be turned in but are an additional educational opportunity to improve knowledge and skills in a project.

An example of how to complete the "My Record of 4-H Achievement" is found near the end of this publication.

PROJECT SELECTION

In choosing a project, a member will consult with his or her parents and 4-H leader(s). After considering all the projects available and the requirements of each, he or she should select one based on:

1. Interest, needs, and capabilities
2. Family situation

3. Suitability of the area in which he or she lives

Members enrolling for the first time must select a minimum of one project. As a member gains knowledge and experience, the scope of the project may be expanded and additional projects selected. Having said that, a member may take as many projects as they feel they can complete. A brief explanation of each project is included in the 4-H Handbook. Members may also ask the Extension Educator, club leaders, or other 4-H parents/members about project requirements for that project.

Early in the 4-H career, a member should consider developing a tentative project plan to guide him or her through their 4-H experience. Projects of high interest should be continued each year, with increases in the depth of the project as possible. For example, an electric project member may want to enroll in home environment, woodworking, or science-based projects. As possible, an older member might consider expanding project work to develop a farm, ranch, business, or home management program.

Members might try additional projects related to those project topics they are interested in. This could be the experience which leads them to find a "spark" of interest that guides their future. Youth should explore every project of interest sometime in their 4-H tenure to net the most educational return from the experiences.

Project work is the core of the 4-H member's experience. Successful project completion results in member satisfaction and expansion of future project work. The learning experiences one obtains through his or her project could even lead to career/vocation possibilities.

Fair entry Registration

Fair Entry registers projects 4-H members are bringing to the fair. This is separate from 4-H online enrollment, which enrolls the child in 4-H. Both registrations are required each year.

Sign in through the 4-H online link on the Fair Entry website. Each child needs to provide information regarding all projects they intend to bring to the fair, along with a short description. If you are not exactly sure what you will bring, but know your division requires a poster, indicate "poster" in the description.

Fair Entry is required and a deadline for registration completion is posted every year in the newsletter, social media, and webpage. Step by step instructions for Fair Entry registration are mailed to families in the spring for your convenience.

If registration is not completed by the deadline, families will register projects before having projects judged on project check-in morning. If you would like help

completing Fair Entry registration, please call the office for assistance at 812-926-1189.

4-H FAIR JUDGING

Projects exhibited at the 4-H Fair will be judged. Non-livestock exhibits will be checked in and judged on Project Check-In Day between 9:00 and 11:30 am. Check-in and judging stations are placed throughout Agner Hall and livestock on the Fairgrounds. Judging is conference style meaning your 4-H Fair exhibits are judged in your presence, as you check them in. Here are some questions you may be asked in a conference judging setting.

- ✓ What new things did you learn?
- ✓ Have you completed this project before?
- ✓ How much time did you spend on this project?
- ✓ What were your goals for this project?
- ✓ What would you like to change about your exhibit?
- ✓ Tell me something about the exhibit that you want me to know.
- ✓ What did you like best (or least) about this project?
- ✓ Did you do this exhibit at school or was it in a workshop setting?
- ✓ Did you have any difficulty with this exhibit?
- ✓ What life skills did you develop by completing this project?

COMPLETING THE EXHIBIT ENTRY TAG

How to complete the Exhibit entry tag:

ENTRY TAG	
PROJECT NAME	Electricity
DIVISION/LEVEL	Division 1
ENTRY	Parallel Circuit Board
AGE/GRADE	9 years/3 rd Grade
NAME	Chris Clover
CLUB	Classy Clovers

Securely attach the Exhibit entry tag in the lower right-hand corner of poster exhibits, or in a visible place on non-poster exhibits. Project cards are available to print from the Extension Office web page under 4-H or may be picked up from the Extension Office.

RIBBONS

4-H uses the Danish system of ribbon awards and ribbon placings are defined as follows:

Purple..... Outstanding work
Blue HonorVery good work
Blue Above the average of the group
Red Average
White..... Below the average of the group

AWARDS & TRIPS

Awards are given to 4-H members at the Annual 4-H Achievement Program held in the fall. Award applications are included in the **4-H Connection** or in a separate July/August mailing. Any 4-H member may apply, if they were enrolled in the particular project during the 4-H year. Only 4-H members who apply are considered for these awards. Year pins are presented to all members upon completion of a 4-H year and are distributed by 4-H Club leaders.

Older 4-H members are eligible to apply for trips taken the following summer. Most of the trips take place during June and July. Eligibility information is shared from the Extension Office. Completed applications are submitted in 4-H Online events unless otherwise indicated.

Major 4-H Event/Trips -see handbook or State 4-H website for more information

State Events <https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/get-involved/state-programs/index.html>

- State 4-H Ambassador Program
- 4-H Academy@ Purdue- June-grades 9-12
- State 4-H Band
- State 4-H Chorus
- 4-H Day at the Statehouse-usually February
- 4-H Discovery Challenge and Discovery Classroom
- Invention Convention
- State Robotics Competition
- 4-H Round-UP-held during or just after our fair week-grades 7-9

- Shooting Sports Competition
- UAV/Drone Contest

Related to IN State Fair

<https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/get-involved/state-programs/index.html>

- State Fair Exhibit Hall Workers-end of July through State Fair
- Communications Events at the Indiana State Fair
- State Fair Education Stations

National Events <https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/get-involved/national-programs/index.html>

- National 4-H Conference
- National 4-H Youth Congress
- National 4-H Dairy Conference
- National Presidential AI Challenge

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Each club will have activities for their club members throughout the year. In addition, there are countywide events in which a 4-Her may participate.

Project Workshops - A variety of workshops in different project areas are offered each year. Be sure to read your **4-H Connection** and 4-H Online Broadcast emails for workshop details.

Officer Training - This is held in January for **all members** of 4-H Clubs providing them with leadership ideas, officer duties, teambuilding ideas, and club member responsibilities. At least 4 club members for large clubs, or 20% of small clubs must attend to initially qualify for honor club status.

Achievement Program - The 4-H Achievement Program is held in the fall and is a time to recognize the accomplishments of 4-H members and volunteers. All 4-H members and volunteers are invited to attend. Dearborn County 4-H Club Association by-law approval and new 4-H BOD members are elected during this meeting.

Verbal Communications Contest 4-H members may register to participate in a variety of public speaking activities at the local and state level. See handbook for event details. Local participants will share their presentation and be judged during Fair Week.

4-H Camp

This four-day, three-night camp takes place the first week of June and is open to 4-H members in grades 3-12. The 4-H members participate in educational classes each morning

and have a choice of activities every afternoon. Evening speakers and other evening activities are scheduled each day. We camp at Camp Higher Ground, off ST 46 between St. Leon, IN and Harrison, Ohio. 4-Hers from Brown, Dearborn, Decatur, Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, and Switzerland Counties come together for a great experience. 4-Hers in grades 8-12 may apply to be Counselors-In-Training (CIT). Those in grades 9 and above may apply to be Camp Counselors or CIT's, and typically, those youth in their senior year may apply to become a Junior Director.

SUMMARY OF COUNTY PROJECTS

Check out the listing of projects in the handbook or on 4-H online. For additional information, contact one of the 4-H Club Leaders or the Dearborn County Extension Office.