

# Start your Mini 4-H Adventure today!



Join 4-H Here





# Mini 4-H Guide 2024-2025



Welcome to Elkhart County's Mini 4-H program! Mini 4-H introduces Kindergarten, first, and second graders to 4-H. Elkhart County 4-H sponsors many activities to help youth learn and have fun. We are excited to have you as a part of one of the best organizations around and we hope to learn and grow with your children for years to come!

This newsletter will give you details for the activities planned for Mini 4-H. Though attendance is not required, we hope you will take part in these events planned just for you. Please call us at the Purdue Extension Elkhart County office at 574-533-0554 for more information.

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I am excited to be working with the Mini 4-H group of Leaders, Educators and future 4-Hers! I have been involved in 4-H since I was a youngster! I was a "Club Kid" and desperately wanted to be a "Livestock Kid". My parents were city folk and had careers that did not allow for that dream to become my reality. When I became a parent, my three kiddos did clubs and livestock. Mind you we were still learning, but I found 4-H to be the best of the best! We were involved with Rabbit Club for over 14 years, and I served in almost every role imaginable. I was a Project Leader, Advisory Board Member and Assistant Leader. While sharing that with all three of my children, my daughters were in Cat Club for 4 and 6 years and my middle daughter was also in Saddle Club. We covered quite the variety of animals. I look forward to working along side of you as we embark on another Mini 4-H adventure.

Mary Kay Longacre  
Mini 4-H Organizational Leader  
Building Superintendent

## Mini 4-H Events 2025

(Subject to change)



### Welcome Event :

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 6:00pm-7:00pm  
Location: Sheep/Swine Arena, Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds  
**\*Project Overview**

Pre-register here:

[https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bfvYIYWpSmTbuxo](https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bfvYIYWpSmTbuxo)



### Workshop:

Saturday, April 26, 2025 8:30am-10:45am  
Registration and Welcome 8:30am-8:45am  
Workshops 8:45am-10:45am  
Location: Goshen Intermediate School

\*Pre-registration Required: <https://miniworkshop.4honline.com>



### Livestock Camp:

Wednesday, June 11, 2025 8:30am-2:00pm  
Location: Beef Arena & Sheep/Swine Arena  
Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds

\*Pre-registration required: <https://MiniLivestockCamp.4honline.com>



### Day Camp:

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 8:30am-2:45pm  
Registration and check-in from 8:30am-9:00am  
Location: Bonneyville Mill County Park, Bristol, Indiana

\*Pre-registration required: <https://MiniDayCamp25.4honline.com>

Family  
**FUN** night

Be on the look out for more information to  
come on two Family Fun Nights!

## Important Mini 4-H Dates



*Fair Week*  
*July 18-26, 2025*

### Mini 4-H Project Check-In:

July 10, 2025 from 12-6pm  
Location: ECCC

### Mini 4-H Project Check-Out:

July 27, 2025 from 12-3pm  
July 28, 2025 from 12-5pm  
Location: ECCC



## The 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.



## Fun At the Fairgrounds



**Date:** April 19, 2025

**Time:** 9:00-1:00pm

We invite you to hop into the excitement of the 2nd annual Spring Eggstravaganza at the Fairgrounds! We are so egg-cited to share an afternoon of colorful surprises, hidden treasures, activities galore, and best of all a petting zoo!

Register your little ones in March of 2025 at  
[www.4hfair.org/events/2025/spring-eggstravaganza](http://www.4hfair.org/events/2025/spring-eggstravaganza)

## Mini 4-H Welcome Event



All Mini 4-H'ers and their parents are invited and encouraged to attend the Mini 4-H Welcome Event on Tuesday, February 25, 2025. It will be held in the Sheep & Swine Arena on the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds from 6:00pm-7:00pm.

**Register by scanning the QR code or using the link.**

[https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bfvYIYWPsmTbuxo](https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bfvYIYWPsmTbuxo)

This event gives you a chance to meet the Mini 4-H leaders and ask questions about the Elkhart County 4-H program. A Project overview will be given and project leaders will be available to answer any project questions you may have. We encourage you to check out all of the Mini 4-H Project Descriptions in this newsletter.



## Mini 4-H Workshop



The Mini 4-H Workshop will be held Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 8:30am-10:45am.

Location: Goshen Intermediate School  
925 S Greene Rd  
Goshen, IN 46526

**Pre-Registration Required.** Register by scanning the QR code or by using the link <https://miniworkshop.4honline.com>

At the workshop, project leaders will provide fun hands-on activities so that youth can learn more about the project. Since the actual project for display will be completed at home, youth can participate in any of the workshops (even other projects that they will not exhibit this year). **Mini 4-H manuals will be available.**

- The models workshop participants need to bring a model to complete at the workshop.
- The cake decorating workshop participants need to bring their own bags, tips, frosting and a form to practice on.

All other workshop supplies will be provided.





## 4-H Mini Livestock Camp



**Wednesday, June 11, 2025**

**8:30-2:00pm**

**Elkhart County Fairgrounds  
Beef Arena & Sheep/Swine Arena  
\*Pre-registration required**



**Pre-Register by scanning the QR code or by using the link.**

<https://MiniLivestockCamp.4honline.com>

*Join us as we bridge the gap between our Mini 4-Hers and their families with many of our fantastic livestock clubs. Kids will have a blast mingling with a menagerie of animals, from cattle to chirpy poultry and even friendly canines.*



## Mini 4-H Day Camp



Mini 4-H Day Camp is a chance for Kindergarten, first, and second graders to meet older 4-H'ers. Day camp activities are planned and conducted by teen 4-H members with the assistance of adults. Youth travel around Bonneyville Mill County Park and stop at various stations to participate in fun activities.

**When:** Wednesday, June 18, 2025  
Registration and check-in 8:30-9:00am  
Day Camp: 9:00am-2:45pm  
**Where:** Bonneyville Mill County Park  
53373 C.R. 131  
Bristol, Indiana 46507



Parents are not required to stay. Pre-registration is required for both youth and adults wishing to stay. **Pre-register by scanning the QR code or by using the link.**

<https://MiniDayCamp25.4honline.com>



**HEAD**



**HEART**



**HANDS**



**HEALTH**



## Mini 4-H Projects



### Arts & Crafts

In this project you will experiment with different colors and textures to create an art project of your choice. For your exhibit you will mount your art work on a poster.



### Beef

Complete a poster project and be paired with an animal by Beef Club leaders. Participate in a non-competitive show with the animal's owner.



### Bicycle

This project will teach you how to care for your bicycle and ride it safely. For your exhibit you will make a poster about what you have learned.



### Collections

Do you save rocks, buttons, butterflies or anything else? This project helps you organize your things.



### Cake Decorating

This project will teach you the basics of cake decorating to prepare you for a future cake decorating project in 4-H.



### Dinosaurs

In this project you will learn about dinosaurs and how they lived long ago.



### Pets

This project teaches how to have fun and care for your pet.



### Sewing

In this project you will begin to collect the tools you will need to start sewing.



### Tractor

In this project you will learn about tractors, how they are used, and safety precautions.



## Mini 4-H Projects



### Farm Animals

In this project you will learn about farm animals. You may choose from dairy cows, beef cattle, goats, sheep, rabbits, poultry, horses and swine.



### Foods

In this project you will learn about the food groups and My Plate guidelines. As you learn to mix and measure ingredients, you will have fun making cookies.



### Flowers & Garden

You will learn how to plant and care for your flowers & garden.



### Models

This project helps you learn to follow directions. You will complete a snap together model.



### Bugs

In this project you will explore some of the things that make bugs different from each other.



### Forestry

In this project you will study types of seeds and leaves of trees. You will also learn how animals make their homes in trees, what trees give us and how trees help us.



### Wildlife

This project helps you learn what animals need to survive.



### Photography

The Mini 4-H Photography project, currently in development, will introduce children in grades K-2 to the basics of photography, including how to capture everyday moments using simple cameras or smartphones. Participants will use their photos to create a Mini 4-H poster for the fair, exploring creative photo composition while learning to express their perspectives.

## Mini 4-H Leaders

Listed below are the names of the Mini 4-H Project Leaders.

**Building Superintendent:** Mary Kay Longacre

**Assistant Superintendents:** Samantha & Dustin Mast & Jill Garris

**Arts & Crafts:** Denise Rush & Morgan Rush

**Beef** Pam Vander Wey & Taylor Thwaits

**Bicycle:** Elaine Mast

**Cake Decorating:** Nicki Toland

**Collections:** Jan Nunemaker

**Dinosaurs:** Taylar Clanton

**Farm Animals:** Kandy Walter & Cheryl Gall

**Flower & Garden:** Darlene Byland

**Foods:** Holly Helbling

**Models:** Dustin Mast & TBD

**Nature Projects (Bugs/Forestry/Wildlife):** Britt Calentine

**Pets:** Brittany Leazenby & Pat McKinley

**Sewing:** Lauren Whalen

**Tractor:** Emili Zahner, Kandy Walter, Cheryl Gall

**Photography:** Stevie Plank



## Where do I find supplies?

In an effort to assist you, below is a list of resources for supplies. This list is not all inclusive. No endorsement by 4-H of products or services is implied or intended.

**11" x 14" foam poster boards and clear plastic sleeves that fit the Mini 4-H posters are available for purchase at the Purdue Extension Elkhart County office. Please note we only accept cash or check. Office hours are 8:00-4:30pm, Monday-Friday.**

Cake Decorating Forms are available for a fee in the Extension Office. Dioramas should be in a standard size shoebox (no oversize boxes, please) and covered with roll vinyl.

Models should be mounted on a base no larger than one inch larger than the model, in all directions. This can be a piece of cardboard with toothpicks on each side of the tires, to keep the model from rolling off the base or a decorative base of your choosing. Legos are acceptable!

## 4-H Friday Nugget

The 4-H Nugget is our newsletter that is emailed every 1st and 3rd Friday to your email account after enrollment. If you would like to receive a paper version, please visit the Purdue Extension Office. They are available in the foyer which is open to the public 24/7.



## 4-H Online vs. FairEntry

When do we need to use them?  
Why do we use them both?

4-H Online	FairEntry
<b>Who?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents/ Families</li> <li>ALL 4-H Members</li> <li>ALL Program Volunteers</li> <li>Specialty Groups</li> </ul>	<b>Who?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4-H Fair Exhibitors</li> <li>Superintendents</li> <li>Fair Judges</li> <li>Check-in Volunteers</li> <li>Media Outlets for Fair Results</li> </ul>
<b>What?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal Identification</li> <li>Selecting project areas to explore.</li> <li>4-H Trips and other events</li> <li>4-H Scholarships Application</li> <li>Club rosters for 4-H Leaders</li> </ul>	<b>What?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation for county fair</li> <li>County Fair Project Labels</li> <li>State Fair Qualifying Entries</li> <li>Livestock Show Bills</li> <li>Organization of Fair Results</li> </ul>
<b>When?</b> <p>From start to end of the program year: October through September.</p>	<b>When?</b> <p>Fair Season: Typically May through August</p>
<b>Where?</b> <p><a href="https://v2.4honline.com/">https://v2.4honline.com/</a></p>	<b>Where?</b> <p>Direct link provided by county office or <a href="https://faireentry.com/Public/FindYourFair">https://faireentry.com/Public/FindYourFair</a></p>
<b>Why?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To express interest in the 4-H Program</li> <li>Improved communication between County and State and 4-H Families</li> </ul>	<b>Why?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare for county and state fair</li> <li>Get accurate numbers for project display purposes, and stall assignments</li> </ul>


**PURDUE UNIVERSITY**  
 Extension - 4-H Youth Development

Purdue University is an equal opportunity employer.

## Contact Elkhart County 4-H

Purdue Cooperative Extension Service – Elkhart County  
 Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds  
 17746 County Road 34 Ste E  
 Goshen, IN 46528-6898  
 574-533-0554

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday  
 Elkhart County 4-H website: [www.extension.purdue.edu/elkhart](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/elkhart)



Forms, deadlines, and information about upcoming events along with Mini 4-H manuals are available on our website. Mini manuals can be printed at home to avoid a trip to the Extension office.

Find and Follow us on Facebook:  
 Elkhart County 4-H and Purdue Extension Elkhart County

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Extension - Elkhart County





# Mini 4-H program!

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If you are in need of accommodations to attend this program, please contact Corey Sharp prior to the meeting at 574-533-0554 or [sharp22@purdue.edu](mailto:sharp22@purdue.edu) 2 weeks prior to event. For special dietary needs, contact Corey Sharp prior to the meeting at 574-533-0554 or [sharp22@purdue.edu](mailto:sharp22@purdue.edu) 2 weeks prior to event. If you need an interpreter or translator, please contact Corey Sharp prior to the meeting at 574-533-0554 or [sharp22@purdue.edu](mailto:sharp22@purdue.edu) 3 weeks prior to event.