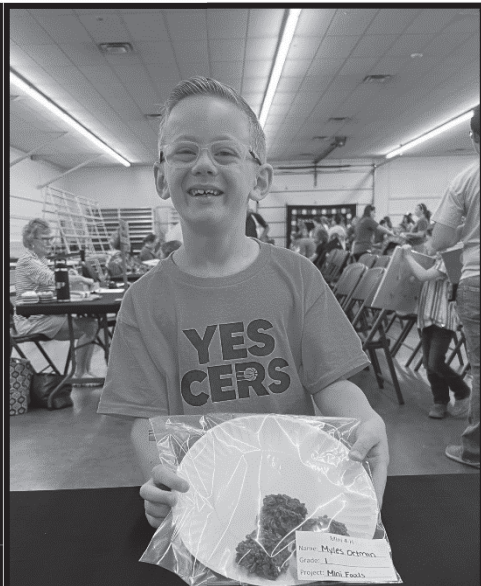


Mini 4-H Projects



MINI 4-H GENERAL POLICY

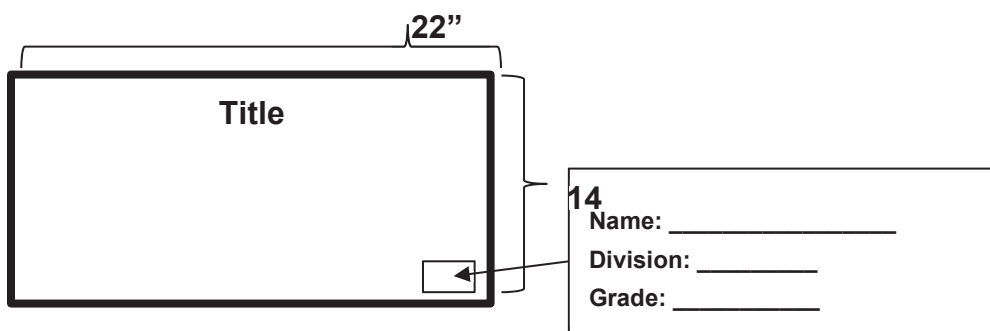
- The Mini 4-H Program is designed to supplement and introduce Kindergarten, First and Second graders to the 4-H Program.
- Mini 4-H is open to any youth who is in Kindergarten, First or Second grade by the spring of the current year.
- Mini 4-H projects are: limited to those listed in this section. Mini 4-H is non-competitive.

SAFETY POLICY FOR MINI/EXPLORING 4-H MEMBERS

- The safety and well-being of our 4-H youth is of the utmost importance. Although kindergarten is specified as the time when a child may begin participation in some 4-H events and activities, parents are encouraged to take into consideration their child's physical and mental development before agreeing to let the child begin to show, work with or care for animals. Each child matures at a different rate and children in grades K-2 may still be too young to begin showing, working with or caring for animals.
- The State 4-H Youth Department at Purdue University has agreed to allow Mini 4-H members in grades K-2 to participate in some animal projects subject to certain conditions. These conditions are following safety guidelines:
- Mini 4-H members, in grades K through 2, will be allowed to show, work with or care for animal projects after their parent or legal guardian has signed a liability release. Mini 4-H members may independently show, work with or care for animals that weigh 300 pounds or less. Mini 4-H members may only show, work with or care for animals over 300 pounds when they are assisted by a parent, legal guardian or another adult designated, in writing, by parent or legal guardian." Livestock participation is not guaranteed for all Mini 4-H participants.
- Mini 4-H members exhibiting horses must wear ASTM or SEI standard F1163 (or above) certified helmets whenever mounted. The 4-H member is responsible to see that this specified headgear is properly fitted with the approved harness in place and fastened whenever a rider is mounted.
- If the guidelines stated in this policy are not followed for a particular event or activity, then such event or activity shall not be considered to be a 4-H event or activity and shall not be under the auspices of Extension 4-H Educators or covered by Purdue University.

QUESTIONS REGARDING ALL MINI 4-H EXHIBITS

- Contact the 4-H Staff and Volunteers at Purdue Extension-Hancock County with any questions about Mini 4-H or Mini 4-H Projects
 - Olivia Dickson, odickson@purdue.edu, 317-462-1113
- Helpful resources
 - <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/hancock/>
 - <https://v2.4honline.com/>
 - <https://fairentry.com/>
 - Purdue Extension- Hancock County Phone Number: 317-462-1113
 - Purdue Extension- Hancock County Address: 972 E Park Ave, Greenfield, IN 46140
 - Hancock County Fairgrounds Address: 620 Apple Street. Greenfield, IN 46140
- Posters
 - All mini project posters should be 22"x14"
 - Name labels should be placed in the bottom right-hand corner of all projects
 - Posters should be plastic covered
 - Posters and sleeves are available for purchase at Purdue Extension Hancock County.



MINI 4-H GENERAL PROJECTS

MINI BLOOM-N-VEGGIES

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

- 4-Her may choose to exhibit 1 or both of the options listed for their division.
- All flowers should be exhibited in disposable, non-glass containers.
- Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating name, division, and grade.

Division 1 (Kindergarten): Exhibit one of the following:

- One bloom from a zinnia or marigold flower you have grown as explained in manual.
- One plate of any vegetable listed in manual. For the number of vegetables to exhibit, please refer to your mini manual.

Division 2 (1st Grade): Exhibit one of the following:

- Two blooms from a zinnia or marigold flower you have grown as explained in manual.
- One plate of any vegetable listed in manual. For the number of vegetables to exhibit, please refer to your mini manual.

Division 3 (2nd Grade): Exhibit one of the following:

- Three blooms from a zinnia or marigold flower you have grown as explained in manual.
- Two plates of any vegetable listed in manual. For the number of vegetables to exhibit, please refer to your mini manual

MINI BUGS

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

- Attach a label to your exhibit indicating name and grade.

All Divisions: using the Mini 4-H Bug Manual create a bug of your choice (ant, butterfly, spider, etc) to display or create a picture labeling the parts of an ant, butterfly, or spider. All projects should be able to be displayed hanging up and not be bigger than a standard piece of paper.

MINI CAKE DECORATING

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

- All exhibits must be displayed on a sturdy disposable plate or covered cardboard.
- Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating name, division, and grade.

Division 1 (Kindergarten): Exhibit 3 regular size cupcakes with frosting of your choice with sprinkles.

Division 2 (1st Grade): Exhibit 3 regular size cupcakes with frosting of your choice. Must have a design made of either frosting or candy (i.e., heart made of M&M's, smiley face made from licorice, etc.).

Division 3 (2nd Grade): Exhibit 3 regular size cupcakes with frosting of your choice, smooth on top. Must have a border on each (i.e., star, line, zig-zag, etc.). You may use any technique learned from the previous 2 years.

MINI COLLECTIONS

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

- Exhibits may be on a display board, in a box, on a poster, or in a notebook not to exceed 22" x 14" and **must be securely attached to prevent damage to the items**. (Examples of collections: buttons, matchbox cars, hats, etc.)
- Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating name, division, and grade.

Division 1 (Kindergarten): Exhibit 6 representative samples of your collection.

Division 2 (1st Grade): Exhibit 6 representative samples of your collection that have never been exhibited before. You may include a picture of entire collection, however, only 6 items are to be exhibited.

Division 3 (2nd Grade): Exhibit 6 representative samples of your collection that have never been exhibited before. You may include a picture of entire collection, however, only 6 items are to be exhibited.

MINI CRAFTS

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

- Learn how to do 1 of the different crafts highlighted in your manual. You may choose to make an article in any of the art or craft areas. Included are: needlecraft, latch hook, macramé, ceramics, pottery, leathercraft, painting and drawing, model building, wearable art, Lego building and miscellaneous crafts.
- Legos and models should be exhibited on a display board. All pieces should be securely attached and sturdy enough to withstand being moved several times. Size should not exceed 22" x 14".
- Rubber cement may be used to secure loose pieces.
- All pictures should be prepared for display with matting and plastic or a frame.
- If artwork is displayed on a poster, poster should be displayed horizontally and mounted on a firm backing and covered in plastic. Artwork should not exceed 11x16.
- Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating name, project, and grade.
- Each 4-Her may exhibit 1 type of craft and/or on Lego project.

All Divisions (Grades K, 1, 2): Exhibit one simple craft.

MINI FASHION REVUE

Refer to Judging Schedule and Fair Schedule for Fashion Revue time and date.

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

Mini 4-H Fashion Revue is a fun and confidence-building opportunity for youth to model on stage in front of parents, grandparents, family, and friends. Best of all, you can select an outfit you already have in your closet! Participants are encouraged to choose clothing they enjoy wearing and feel comfortable in, so they can shine and feel confident while on stage.

All Divisions (Grades K, 1, 2):

- Put together an outfit our choice
- Model it during project judging
- Answer a few simple questions about your outfit with the judge:
- You will model an outfit during the 4-H Fashion Revue Public Presentation (see Fair Schedule).
- Make sure the outfit is safe to walk in and has good visibility
- Most of all, use your creativity, your imagination, and have fun!

Ideas for your Exhibit

- Select items from your closet and put together an outfit.
- Create a costume
- Create a dress up outfit
- Create a party outfit
- Wear a sporting outfit

MINI FOODS

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

Learn about working in the kitchen and how to prepare simple foods you and your family will enjoy.

- Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating name, division and grade.
- A 3 x 5 recipe card with plastic is to accompany the cookies.

Division 1 (Kindergarten): Exhibit 3 no-bake cookies on a paper plate.

Division 2 (1st Grade): Exhibit 3 no-bake cookies (different type than previous) on a paper plate.

Division 3 (2nd Grade): Exhibit 3 baked cookies (dropped cookies) on a paper plate.

MINI PETS

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

- Posters are displayed horizontally 22" by 14", and mounted on a firm backing and covered in clear plastic or other transparent material.
- Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating name, division, and grade.

Division 1 (Kindergarten): Exhibit a poster with 2 photos of your pet and share your pet's name, type of pet, and age

Division 2 (1st Grade): Exhibit a poster with 3 photos of your pet and how you take care of your pet

Division 3 (2nd Grade): Exhibit a poster with 3 photos of a pet you would like to have and information about that pet.

MINI PHOTOGRAPHY

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

Learn about basic photography skills

- Posters are displayed horizontally, 22" by 14", and mounted on a firm backing and covered in clear plastic or other transparent material.
- Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating name, division, and grade.
- Exhibit three 4" x 6" pictures at the fair. The pictures may be color, black and white, or some of each. Use the title for your poster: "My Life".

The 3 pictures should be of the following:

Division 1 (Kindergarten): 1 picture of a flower/plant and 2 pictures of your choice

Division 2 (1st Grade): 1 picture of a person and 2 pictures of your choice

Division 3 (2nd Grade): 1 picture of an animal or insect and 2 pictures of your choice.

MINI SEWING

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

- Learn about basic sewing skills
- Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating name, division, and grade.

Division 1 (Kindergarten): Exhibit a sewing box.

Division 2 (1st Grade): Exhibit a Kool Cat or Honey Bear felt animal. Pattern is available from the Extension Office.

Division 3 (2nd Grade): Exhibit a throw pillow, wash-cloth pillow, or a cut-out pillow.

MINI WILDLIFE

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

Learn about different animals and how they are important to nature.

- Posters are displayed horizontally, 22" by 14", and mounted on a firm backing and covered in clear plastic or other transparent material.
- Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating name, division and grade.

Division 1 (Kindergarten): Exhibit a poster with 2 of the animal pictures from your manual that you have colored and labeled properly.

Division 2 (1st Grade): Exhibit a poster with the 3 bird pictures from your manual that you have colored and labeled properly.

Division 3 (2nd Grade): Exhibit a poster with 6 animal pictures from your manual that you have colored and labeled properly.

MINI 4-H ANIMAL OPPORTUNITIES

MINI BEEF

Mini Beef Show: Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 5:00pm

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

- Posters are displayed horizontally, 22" by 14", and mounted on a firm backing and covered in clear plastic or other transparent material.
- Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating name, division and grade.

Division 1 (Kindergarten): Exhibit a poster on your favorite breed of cattle

Division 2 (1st Grade): Exhibit a poster on the cuts of beef.

Division 3 (2nd Grade): Learn how to care for a calf and the proper way to show one. Show a calf at the 4-H Fair. The calf must be one that is at the fair and being shown by a 4-Her. There is not enough space to allow Mini 4-H exhibitors to bring in cattle. While showing the beef calf, a parent, legal guardian, or another adult designated in writing by parent or legal guardian will have control of the animal at all times. you can either find your own 4-H beef exhibitor to pair up with prior to the fair, or the committee will assign you a 4-Her to work with prior to the fair. be sure to let the superintendent know if you'll need a calf or notify the extension office by May 15th that you will need to be matched with a 4-Her.

MINI CATS

Mini Cat Show: Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 6:00pm

Project Superintendent: Heather Melton 317-847-5908 or melton43@purdue.edu

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

- You do NOT need to own a cat to participate in the Mini 4-H Cat project.
- Posters are displayed horizontally, 22" by 14", and mounted on a firm backing and covered in clear plastic or other transparent material. Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right-hand corner indicating your name and grade.

All Divisions (Grades K, 1, 2): Exhibit a stuffed animal cat at the fair

- **NO real cats are to be brought** in by Mini 4-H members please.
- The stuffed animal cat needs to have free moving limbs that are separate from the body.
- You will bring your stuffed animal cat to the judging table in proper holding form and present the cat just like in the 4-H cat show.
- You will be asked a few basic knowledge questions about cats. Example: What is a baby cat called?
- If you have a cat of your own, you are encouraged to bring a photo of the cat as well, so you may share it with the judge.
- Prepare a poster about one of the following topics:
 - Parts of the cat- You are also encouraged to color the cat in the same colors/patterns as your own cat or the cat you wish to own in the future. Template can be acquired from Extension Office
 - How to properly care for a cat
 - A similar activity

MINI COLTS AND FILLIES

Mini Colts & Fillies Show: Saturday, June 20, 2026

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

Learn how to care for a horse/pony and the proper way to show one.

- You must have your own horse/pony to participate.
- While showing the horse/pony, a parent, legal guardian or another adult designated in writing by parent or legal guardian will have control of the animal at all times.
- Each youth must fill out a Horse & Pony Enrollment form and have it signed by a Horse & Pony Leader by May 15th.

- Each youth participating in the Colts and Fillies class is strongly recommended to attend at least 2 supervised practice workshops in Lead Line class in order to participate safely at the Hancock County 4-H Horse Show.

MINI DAIRY

Mini Dairy Show: Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 3:00pm

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

Learn how to care for a dairy cow and the proper way to show one.

- Posters are displayed horizontally, 22" by 14", and mounted on a firm backing and covered in clear plastic or other transparent material.
- Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating name, division and grade.

Division 1 (Kindergarten): Exhibit a poster with a picture of a dairy animal that you color. You can find your own favorite picture to use! You can color her to look like any of the dairy breeds.

Division 2 (1st Grade): Exhibit a poster of 3 dairy breeds labeled with their respective name with pictures of the breeds.

Division 3 (2nd Grade): Learn to care for a calf and the proper way to exhibit a dairy heifer. You will be able to show a young heifer calf with the help of parent or legal guardian. The calf must be already at the fair and shown by a 4-Her. We encourage 2nd graders to show an animal but if you are unavailable, you may exhibit a poster.

- And/or you can also choose to exhibit a poster with a picture of a dairy female. A minimum of 20 parts or features of the animal need to be identified on the picture.

MINI GOATS

Mini Goat Show: Friday, June 26, 2026, 4:00pm

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

- Posters are displayed horizontally, 22" by 14", and mounted on a firm backing and covered in clear plastic or other transparent material.
- Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating name, division and grade.

Division 1 (Kindergarten): Exhibit a poster with pictures of goats

Division 2 (1st Grade): Exhibit a poster on one of the following

- Favorite breed of goat
- Products we get from goats
- Basic goat care and well-being.

Division 3 (2nd Grade): Learn how to care for a lamb and the proper way to show one.

- Show a goat at the 4-H Fair. The goat must be one that is at the fair and being show by a 4-Her as there is not enough space to allow Mini 4-H goat exhibitors to bring in their own goats. You can either find your own 4-H goat exhibitor to pair up with prior to the fair, or the committee will assign you a 4-Her to work with prior to the fair. Be sure to let the superintendent know if you'll need a goat or notify the Extension Office by May 15th that you will need to be matched with a 4-Her

MINI LLAMA & ALPACA

Mini Llama Show: Thursday, June 25, 2026, 5:00pm

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

- Posters are displayed horizontally, 22" by 14", and mounted on a firm backing and covered in clear plastic or other transparent material.
- Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating name, division and grade.

Division 1 (Kindergarten): Exhibit a poster with both of the llama and alpaca pictures from the Mini 4-H manual that you have colored and cut out. Be creative – feel free to add a pasture, barn or mountains to the background of your poster.

Division 2 (1st Grade): Exhibit a poster with pictures of various uses for llamas and alpacas. You may use photos, magazine pictures, internet pictures, drawings, etc.

Division 3 (2nd Grade): Learn how to care for a llama/alpaca and the proper way to show one. Show a llama or alpaca at the 4-H Fair with the help of an older 4-Her. The animal must be one that is at the fair being shown by a 4-Her. There is not enough space to allow Mini 4-H exhibitors to bring in their own animal. You can either find your own 4-H llama exhibitor to pair up with prior to the fair, or you will be assigned one to work with prior to the Mini Show.

MINI PIGS

Mini Pig Show: Sunday, June 21, 7:00pm

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

- Posters are displayed horizontally, 22" by 14", and mounted on a firm backing and covered in clear plastic or other transparent material.
- Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating name, division and grade.

Division 1 (Kindergarten): Exhibit a poster with pictures of pigs (snapshots, magazine picture, drawings, etc.).

Division 2 (1st Grade): Exhibit a poster on one of the following:

- Favorite breed of pig- Include picture(s), short description, and explanation of why it is your favorite.
- Products we get from pigs.
- Overview of swine well-being and care.

Division 3 (2nd Grade): Learn how to care for a pig and the proper way to show one.

- Show a pig at the 4-H Fair. The pig must be one that is at the fair and being show by a 4-Her as there is not enough space to allow Mini 4-H swine exhibitors to bring in their own pigs. You can either find your own 4-H swine exhibitor to pair up with prior to the fair, or the committee will assign you a 4-Her to work with prior to the fair. Be sure to let the superintendent know if you'll need a pig or notify the Extension Office by May 15th that you will need to be matched with a 4-Her.

MINI POCKET PETS

Mini Pocket Pets Show: Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 6:00pm

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

Learn how to care for a pocket pet and the proper way to show one.

- You may exhibit 1 or 2 small animals of the same species.
- You must own and care for your own mice, rats, gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, hermit crabs, lizards, turtles, ferrets, hedgehogs, chinchillas, frogs, fish, bugs, salamanders, or sugar gliders.
- You must own animal on or before May 15th.
- You are responsible for the pocket pet and all materials needed, such as cages with secure lids, feed, water, etc.
- Pocket Pets must be taken home immediately after judging.
- Ferrets are required to have a Vaccination form showing updated rabies and distemper vaccines.
- **NO** Eastern Box Turtles are allowed to be shown due to Indiana State DNR Laws.

Division 1 (Kindergarten): Refer to the manual for your project. The following is an example of a question the judge may ask: why did you choose to own this type of animal?

Division 2 (1st Grade): Refer to the manual for your project. The following is an example of a question the judge may ask: how did you care for your animal?

Division 3 (2nd Grade): Refer to the manual for your project. The following is an example of a question the judge may ask: how did you design your pet's habitat?

MINI POULTRY

Mini Poultry Show: Sunday, June 21, 2026, 9:00am

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

Learn how to care for poultry and the proper way to show them.

- Show chicken at the 4-H fair. The poultry must be one that is at the fair and that is provided by the 4-H Poultry Club
- AND/OR Prepare a poster of the parts of an egg- template can be acquired from Extension Office

MINI RABBITS

Mini Rabbit Show: Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 9:00am, Check in starts at 8:00am.

Project Superintendent: David Wildman 317-467-4889

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

- Prepare a poster of the parts of a rabbit- template can be acquired from Extension Office
- Exhibit 1 rabbit
 - Mini 4-H Rabbit members may attend all rabbit club meetings and workshops and are encouraged to do so. Mini 4-H Rabbits members are not permitted to hold officer positions within the club but may participate in other club activities.
 - Mini 4-H Rabbit members may own the rabbit exhibited or borrow a rabbit from another exhibitor to complete the project. It is the responsibility of the 4-H member and family to locate a rabbit for exhibition. The rabbit should be one that the Mini 4-H member may work with throughout the summer
 - The exhibitor will be evaluated on his/her ability to carry the rabbit to and from the judges table and be evaluated on his/her ability to answer general questions about rabbit care, ownership and the breed of rabbit handled. The rabbit will not be judged.
 - Rabbits used only for the Mini 4-H Rabbit project will not participate in the rabbit barn display during the week of the fair, however Mini 4-H Rabbit members are encouraged to participate in rabbit barn activities such as feeding/watering duties and serving as building host/hostess.

MINI SHEEP

Mini Sheep Show: Thursday, June 25, 2026, 9:00am

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

- Posters are displayed horizontally, 22" by 14", and mounted on a firm backing and covered in clear plastic or other transparent material.
- Attach a label to your exhibit in the lower right hand corner indicating name, division and grade.

Division 1 (Kindergarten): Exhibit a poster with pictures of sheep

Division 2 (1st Grade): Exhibit a poster on one of the following

- Favorite breed of sheep
- Products we get from sheep
- Basic sheep care and well-being.

Division 3 (2nd Grade): Learn how to care for a lamb and the proper way to show one.

- Show a lamb at the 4-H Fair. The lamb must be one that is at the fair and being show by a 4-Her as there is not enough space to allow Mini 4-H sheep exhibitors to bring in their own sheep. You can either find your own 4-H sheep exhibitor to pair up with prior to the fair, or the committee will assign you a 4-Her to work with prior to the fair. Be sure to let the superintendent know if you'll need a lamb or notify the Extension Office by May 15th that you will need to be matched with a 4-Her