

County Specific Projects

This section features projects unique to our county that may not be found in the statewide 4-H curriculum. These county-specific projects offer additional opportunities for youth to explore new skills and interests tailored to our local community. Please note that judging criteria and categories for these projects may differ from the state-level standards. See specific project manuals for more age/grade level guidelines.

Pets

Explore passion for pets and educate others about proper care, training, and the role of pets in our lives. Showcase a topic related to pets, such as nutrition, health, grooming, behavior, or the responsibilities of pet ownership. Create an educational poster, notebook, or display about pet care, training, experiences, or other topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate. Owning or possessing an animal is not required.

Aquatic Science

Learn about fish and aquarium care, from biology and setup to nutrition, disease, and environmental management. Create an educational poster, notebook, or display about an aquatic science topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate. Owning or possessing aquatic animals or fish is not required. Live aquatic animals may not be exhibited for this project.

Automotive

Learn about vehicle systems, maintenance and car care, safety, engine parts, driving laws, vehicle technology and automotive careers through hands-on learning and research. Create an educational poster, notebook, or display about an automotive topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate.

Collections

Explore a personal interest by gathering, organizing, and documenting a collection of items. They learn record-keeping, presentation, and storytelling skills by displaying their collection through a notebook, poster, or table display accompanied by required forms and a written story. Guns, knives, hazardous, or live items are NOT eligible. Accompanying the exhibit must be a collection inventory log, liability waiver form, and a story about the collection.

Consumer Meats

Explore meat selection, nutrition, pricing, preparation, storage, and consumer education through posters, notebooks, or reports, with topics becoming more advanced each year. This project encourages real-world learning through research, farm and store visits, interviews, and hands-on cooking experiences. Create an educational poster, notebook, or display about a consumer meats topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate.

Cookie Decorating

Bake, frost, and decorate cookies using homemade frosting and edible decorations, showcasing creativity and skill development. Depending on their level, members exhibit 3, 6, or 12 cookies with uniform, themed designs, or submit a photo portfolio documenting the baking and decorating process. Store-bought cookies are not allowed, but store-bought decorations may be used.

Corn

Explore the science and production of corn through hands-on experiments, observations, and educational displays. Topics include pest identification, germination test, planting depth trial, nutrient deficiencies, erosion, or hybrid performance. Exhibit a full corn plant, germination test, planting depth

trial, quart of corn or popcorn, or an educational poster, notebook, or display about a corn topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate.

Food Preparation Demonstration

Learn important skills in planning, preparing, and presenting food items while practicing clear communication and time management. Gain hands-on experience in food safety, cooking or assembling various dishes, and explaining each step of the process to an audience. Exhibit ability to demonstrate the preparation of a food item or meal, showcasing both the finished product with a dish and techniques that is age/grade appropriate.

Hay & Forages

Learn to identify different types of forages and hay, and develop skills in record keeping for hay production, evaluating hay quality and handling hay samples for presentation. Exhibit a sample of hay, either a flake or slice from a square bale or an equivalent amount from a round bale, along with a card identifying the forage type and a completed hay record sheet, or an educational poster, notebook, or display about a hay and forage topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate.

Outdoor Adventures

Explore hiking preparation, safety, gear, nutrition, weather, and environmental responsibility to build knowledge and share outdoor adventure tips with others. Create an educational poster, notebook, or display about an outdoor adventure topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate.

People in My World

Learn about different cultures, governments, histories, and global connections, explore diversity by researching other countries, languages, art forms, family heritage, and international perspectives. Develop a broader understanding and appreciation of the world and its people through research and creative expression. Create an educational poster, notebook, or display about a people in your world topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate.

Plant Science

Conduct experiments related to plants, deepening their understanding of plant growth, development, and care. They develop skills in scientific observation, data collection, and analysis while exploring various plant science topics through hands-on investigation and creative presentation. Create an educational poster, notebook, or display about a plant science topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate.

Self-Determined

Any project that does not fit into any other category. Submit a project outline to the 4-H Educator for approval before exhibition. There are no specific divisions or levels for this project.

Soybeans

Learn how soybeans grow and how different factors affect their development, and participate in activities like testing germination, studying light effects on flowering, farm management, crop care, and preparing soybeans for use. Exhibit a peck of soybeans along with a display or project explaining their completed activities, such as germination, nutrient deficiencies, or how planting dates affect yields, or create an educational poster, notebook, or display about a soybean topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate.

Weeds

Identify common Indiana weeds by studying their characteristics such as flowers, leaves, stems, roots, and seeds, research effective methods to control and prevent weed growth, and develop skills in pest management, and record keeping. Create a collection of pressed weeds or weed seeds mounted on poster boards or placed in binders with clear labels and information about each plant, along with completed record sheets documenting their findings and control methods, or other educational poster, notebook, or display about a weed topic of choice that is age/grade appropriate.

Welding

Learn about different types of welds and welding positions while developing hands-on skills in metal joining and fabrication. Gain knowledge of welding techniques and safety by creating and labeling welds on posters or original metal projects. Exhibit an educational posters illustrating various weld types and positions or metal articles that showcase specific welds, clearly labeled to demonstrate understanding and craftsmanship.