

4-H FAMILY GUIDE



A New Member Guide to 4-H Orange County Edition

Updated 11/2025

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WELCOME

2025

Dear New 4-H Family,

Welcome to the Orange County 4-H Program! We are excited to have you join us. We look forward to meeting your family and helping you have a successful 4-H experience. Below are a few things you need to know about our county's 4-H program.

When you signed up through 4-H online, you created an account. You should use the same login credentials throughout your 4-H journey. 4-H online is used to add/drop any 4-H projects you wish to complete, sign up for various 4-H events/trips, as well as for re-enrollment into the next program year. Please keep your personal information current (Mailing address, phone numbers, email address, etc), as this will be the means by which to communicate important information throughout the 4-H year.

Throughout the year, we communicate with our 4-H families primarily by email broadcasts, occasionally by phone, or via printed materials mailed to the primary address you have listed in 4H online. Please be sure to keep this information as up to date as possible to avoid missing important deadline information.

A 4-H project is a learning opportunity for a 4-H member. Our staff is more than happy to assist you with any information on all projects, requirements, and selecting the perfect project for your child's personal interests. The deadline for project entry in the County or State 4-H fair is May 15th each year. Each member must complete at least one project's requirements for that project to count as a completed year in 4-H. Youth can receive the honor of "10-year member" by completing 10 consecutive years in grades 3-12. The projects are then judged and exhibited at the County 4-H fair in the summer.

As a member of 4-H, youth may join one of several 4-H clubs offered in Orange County 4-H. 4-H Clubs are a way for members to build community and learn more about 4-H. Some clubs are project-specific like our Happy Hounds Dog Club, but we also have general clubs which educate youth on a variety of topics related to 4-H including projects. Monthly club meetings typically run January-June. Note: Jr Leaders (6-12 grades) meet monthly year-round.

You may have noted on your account that you would like to be contacted to learn about clubs. Attached is a club list. We anticipate changes as our 4-H year goes forward. However, this list will give you a basic idea of where clubs meet and when. Members may participate in any club's function and can also select both primary and secondary clubs within 4HOnline. A calendar of club events/meetings can be found at <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/orange/index.html>, which we will update as we get new info.

We understand busy schedules and juggling extracurricular activities with school, work, and family time; and club meetings are not mandatory, but are an opportunity to build friendships, memories, and much more. We'd like to encourage you to allow your child to get involved in the experience of it all and attend where possible.

How to keep up with important 4-H information such as: Activities, Events, Programs, & Projects

1. The Orange County 4-H Member Handbook—This contains detailed information about participation in 4-H and requirements for completing and exhibiting different projects.
2. Orange County Extension Newsletter—This includes the 4-H newsletter as it keeps you up to date on new guidelines, workshops, upcoming events, and much more.
3. 4-H Club Meetings—Here you will not only receive information and have fun, but you will have the opportunity for help and advice from leaders, 4-H members and their families.
4. Project Manuals—These manuals have information about how to successfully complete a project and are available in the Extension Office.
5. Social Media – We frequently post 4-H information regarding upcoming events and more.

In this packet, you will find some handouts that will help you out along the way!
Included in this packet:

- **Orange County 4-H Family Guide:** this guide will give you some basics of 4-H, what to expect from our program, and a quick glossary of terms in case you hear or see something you are not familiar with.
- **What is 4-H?:** This handout will give you an overview of the 4-H program
- **4-H Meeting:** Learn about club meetings – what they typically look like, what their purpose is, etc.
- **Pledges:** Each meeting and 4-H event is started with the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H Pledge. A copy of each pledge is in this folder for you to review.
- **Handouts for Parents/Guardians:** Learn what is expected of you as a 4-H Parent. Review some “do’s and don’ts” when it comes to helping your 4-Her. We want you to be involved with the 4-H program, but would remind you that it is a program for the youth!
- **Extension Newsletter:** Our newsletters are sent out quarterly. You may access it on our website. In addition, we send out an email broadcast in 4-H online to the family email in your online account.
- **Important dates:** Be sure to put these dates on your calendar! More will be to come, but these will get you started!
- **Clubs and club leaders list:** See just how many clubs we have in Orange County and who our leaders are.
- **Project Descriptions:** See a quick overview of the projects we offer here in Orange County to see what you might be interested in.
- **Volunteering:** The steps to becoming an approved 4-H Volunteer.

Please scan the QR Code at the conclusion of this letter to view the 4-H Family Guide. If you have any questions after reviewing the guide, please feel free to contact the Orange County Extension Office. We would be happy to go over any questions you may have. We are glad to have you with us. Please let us know how we can help!

Once again, welcome to Orange County 4-H. Follow our Facebook page for all the happenings in Orange County 4-H <https://www.facebook.com/PurdueExtOrangeCounty>. Thank you for joining Orange County 4-H! The 4-H experience is not determined by just projects and participation in the county fair. It is so much more. Your journey begins now!

Thank you,

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WHAT IS 4-H?

4-H is an extracurricular, volunteer led, family-oriented program that includes activities for youth in grades 3rd through 12th, with Mini 4-H being for youth in grades K through 2nd.

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 in their communities and the world. 4-H has four main mission areas: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM); Healthy Living; Civic Engagement and Leadership.

Motto

“To make the best better.”

Emblem

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.



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.

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.

Membership

More than 6 million youth are 4-H members throughout the United States. In Indiana, there are more than 250,000 youth who are 4-H members. Orange County has an enrollment of around 350 each year.

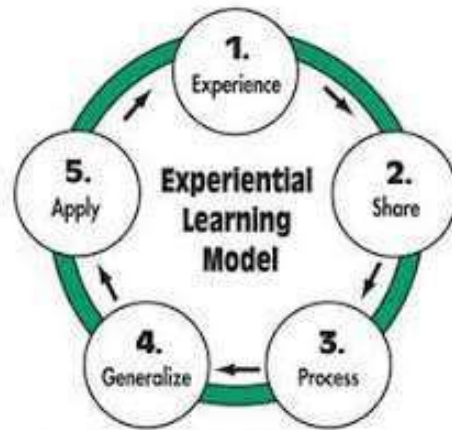
What Makes 4-H Different?

4-H is unique because it is the only youth organization tied to the research base of our nation’s land-grant university system. This connection allows Purdue Extension Staff and the volunteers they work with to receive training based on the most up-to-date research on youth development theory and practice.¹

In Indiana, 4-H can be found in all 92 counties as delivered through *Purdue Extension*. Purdue Extension is the outreach link between local communities, the land grant universities, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Since 1914, this educational system has assisted in the well-being and productivity of people throughout the United States.

HOW DOES LEARNING HAPPEN IN 4-H?

Since young people learn best when they are actively involved in the learning process, 4-H programs are designed to provide hands-on educational experiences that are reinforced through personal and group reflection and application – “do-reflect-apply.” This research based educational methodology is called “Experiential Learning.”^{1 2}



Phaff, J.W., & Jones, J.E., "Reference Guide to Handbooks and Annuals"
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THE 4-H YEAR

A new 4-H year starts October 1 and concludes at the end of September every year. In the fall, Orange County hosts a 4-H Kickoff to educate the public about our 4-H Program. Youth are welcome to enroll at the 4-H Kickoff or by visiting in.4honline.com at any time **beginning** October 1.

Below are some events that take place in Orange County throughout our 4-H Year:

October • Enrollment Begins • 4-H Kickoff • National Youth Science Day • National 4-H Week	November • Indiana Youth Leadership Summit • Jr Leader call out meeting (6th-12th grade)	December • 4-H Scholarships Open • Heifer International Trip Applications Due • Camp Counselor Application Launch (9-12 gr)
January • January 15 –statewide target enrollment date • January 25 -Scholarship Applications Due • Livestock: Beef ID Day	February • Camp Counselor Interviews • Beef ID (Date TBD)	March • Possible workshops coming
April • Camp Registrations open • Possible Workshops coming	May • May 1 – Animal ID Night • May 15 - Drop/Add Deadline • May 15 - Livestock Identification Deadline on 4- H Online • Camp Counselor Trainings • May 16 - Fair Entry Opens • Camp Registrations close • May 29-31 4-H Camp (3rd-8th grade)	June • June 3-4 Mini 4-H Day Camp • 4-H Academy (9th-12th grade) • 4-H Round Up (7th-9th grade) • 4-H Chorus/Band • June 5- Fair Entry Deadline • June 16 & 18 -Project Check-in (judging) • June 19 -Animal Check-in • June 20-26 Orange County Fair • Orange County 4-H Achievement Program
July • Jr Leader Completion Trip (typically end of Jul/early Aug)	August • August 7-23 Indiana State Fair (closed Mondays)	September • Preparation for New 4-H Year • Promotional Events

**Several programs are also held monthly throughout the year including Club meetings, Jr. Leader programs, Mini 4-H events, and workshops. Be sure to read your emails & newsletter for more info!*

**Some dates are subject to change*

WHO'S WHO IN 4-H

LOCAL LEVEL

Mini 4-H Member	Any youth currently in grades K, 1 st or 2 nd who has completed the enrollment process for 4-H.
4-H Member	Any youth currently in grades 3 rd through 12 th who has completed the enrollment process for 4-H
Club Leader	An adult volunteer who is responsible for the organizational aspects of the club. All 4-H volunteers go through a screening process which includes a background check before being allowed to work with 4-H members.
Junior Leader	A 4-H member who is in grade *6 through 12 that has selected to be part of the Jr. Leader project. Jr. Leaders have monthly meetings, perform community service projects, and sponsor various events. *6 th grade is specific to Orange County, not statewide. Some state and area activities will only be offered to grades 7-12.
4-H Parents/Guardians	Important to the success of the child in 4-H. Parents are strongly ENCOURAGED to attend club meetings as well as county-wide events with their child.

COUNTY LEVEL

4-H Council	The 4-H Council meets monthly and is the policy-making organization for Orange County 4-H through the Extension Service of Purdue University. The 4-H Council also provides methods of recruiting members, establishes and services 4-H clubs, develops positive 4-H community awareness, provides continual financial support.
4-H Incorporated Board	The 4-H Inc Board is made up of members to care for the 4-H Fairgrounds and make decisions related to the annual 4-H Fair regarding maintenance and events.
Project Advisor/Leader/Livestock Committee Member	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. Many Project Advisors/Leaders hold workshops based on their projects.
Extension Educators	They are professionals who help to carry out the 4-H program and serve as a source of research-based information.

STATE LEVEL

Purdue University	Purdue is a land grant college that has the responsibility for taking education to the people of the state. The 4-H program is part of that directive and has a state 4-H Office located on campus.
State 4-H Program	The State 4-H Program has the responsibility for 4-H programming at the State Level. The 4-H Program has employees based at Purdue University.
State Specialist	State Specialists have responsibility for the 4-H program on a statewide basis for a specific part of the total 4-H program. They are under the direction of the State 4-H Program Leader at Purdue University.

Indiana 4-H Foundation A nonprofit organization that works to provide additional resources for the 4-H program. They sponsor 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.

4-H CLUBS

4-H clubs are groups of youth and adults who meet on a regular basis and together practice positive youth development and cooperative learning.¹ Clubs usually meet once a month from Jan-July (Junior Leaders meet year-round). Each club elects officers from the club membership. The officers conduct the business portion of the club meeting.

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. In Orange County, we have several 4-H Clubs. All Clubs should strive to create a quality learning environment for youth that give members a chance to be an active part of the club, to enhance life skills, and to promote positive youth development throughout all activities. All clubs also participate in community service projects throughout the year.

4-Hers may change membership to another club if they wish. It is important to change your club information on 4-HOnline and notify the leaders of both clubs (the one you are leaving and the one you are joining).

Types of Clubs:

Community Club A club that is usually hosted in a specific part of the county. Meetings in Community Clubs cover a broad range of topics within the 4-H Program

Project Club A club focused more deeply on a specific subject matter related to 4-H Projects. Dog is an example of a Project Club. Meetings in Project Clubs usually focus on topic areas in that specific project.

Selecting a Club

Youth may participate in one or more clubs depending on their interests. It is recommended that if a youth is involved in a project that has a project-related club, they be involved with that club as well since many of those club meetings will help the youth understand topics in that project. Other things to consider when selecting a club: location, dates of meetings, size of club you are comfortable with, and areas of interest.

4-H NEWSLETTER

Our quarterly newsletter is sent electronically through 4-H online to the family email in your account. You may access it our website, or by requesting a hard copy at the Extension Office. Please read your newsletter carefully and keep it handy for any future references to find out about club meetings, project workshops, and other timely 4-H news! It can also be found on the Orange County Extension Website:

<http://www.extension.purdue.edu/orange>

4-H HANDBOOK

The 4-H Handbook is found on the Orange County Extension website. One Handbook is provided per family each year. The Handbook has all projects and requirements listed for the current year.

Members may also ask the project advisor/leader about the project, the completion requirements, and Fair exhibit requirements for that project.

RECORD KEEPING IN 4-H

4-H Project Manuals and Record Sheets

Most 4-H projects have manuals that give in-depth information for that project. Project Manuals are available for those projects. In the past, completion of Project Manuals was required, HOWEVER that is not the case anymore. As long as you complete the record sheet for your project and meet all project requirements you do NOT need to complete the manual.

Some projects may still be guided by the manual. Those projects are noted in the handbook and 4-Hers are encouraged to pick up a manual from the extension office to use while completing their project. Again, the manual will not be graded.

All projects, including livestock, have record sheets. They will be distributed at project manual pick up or by club leaders after that date.

My Record of 4-H Achievement

“My Record of 4-H Achievement” should be filled out completely each year. It is important that these be filled out accurately in order to remember what you have done in 4-H, and to apply for trips, awards and scholarships throughout your 4-H career. A copy of this form is available at the Extension Office or on the [State 4-H website](#).

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 for each project are also available at the Extension Office or on the [State 4-H website](#).

FairEntry

After completing your 4-H Enrollment on 4-HOnline, a secondary website will open after the May 15th deadline each year. This site is called FairEntry and is used to accurately describe which projects you intend to bring to the Orange County 4-H Fair in June.

This site is used for record keeping as well as tracking ribbon placement throughout the fair for projects and livestock shows. FairEntry MUST BE COMPLETED to exhibit any project at the county fair or to sell an animal in the Auction. You will use the same login credentials as with 4-HOnline.

Website: <http://fairentry.com>

4-H PROJECTS

Members have the opportunity to learn more about a subject matter that they choose to study through completing hands-on activities. We refer to these as **projects**. In order to enroll in a project, members should sign up for them at the time of enrolling in 4-H. However, project changes can be made throughout the program year. Each project has a manual or worksheets that guide youth through the learning process as well as a set of guidelines that helps them meet the project requirements.

We provide adult volunteers and staff who are knowledgeable on that particular subject who may provide workshops to allow the youth to learn about that topic in a social environment. Each project has a beginner, intermediate, and advanced level. This allows youth to build on their knowledge each year and continue to challenge their skills.

Projects are meant to be worked on over time, providing an educational opportunity for youth outside of the classroom setting. Often, youth will exhibit and display their project at a local county fair in order to show the community what they have learned.

There is no limit to the number of projects youth can sign up for, however, we suggest starting out with one or two the first year. If you know what project(s) you are looking for, simply find it listed under a specific category listed below.

Several of our 4-H Projects in Orange County have hands-on, educational workshops that 4-H Youth may attend. 4-H members may add or drop projects until May 15 at 11:59 p.m. You may add or drop a project via 4-HOnline.

PROJECT SELECTION

In choosing a project, a member will consult with their parents/guardians and 4-H leader(s). After considering all the projects available and the requirements of each, he or she should select one based on interest, needs, and capabilities; family situation; suitability of the area in which he or she lives.

Early in the 4-H career, a member needs to consider developing a tentative project plan to guide them until they are past 4-H age. Some projects should be continued each year, with increases in the size of the project when possible. Members may also want to enroll in additional projects which are related to his or her other project work. For example, a Wildlife member may want to enroll in Forestry or Soil & Water Conservation.

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.

PROJECT AREAS AVAILABLE THROUGH 4-H

ANIMAL SCIENCES

Develop basic understanding of animals – their purpose and functions. Proper care, feeding and fitting of animals are also emphasized, with accurate records expected. Some project meetings, tours, etc. are required for each.

Animal Poster (Dog, Cat, Rabbit, Poultry, Llama, Alpaca)	Cat	Dog
Beef Cattle (Steers, Heifers, Starters)	Dairy Cattle (Steers, Females, Feeders)	
Small Animal	Goats (Dairy, Meat, Pygmy)	Vet Science
		Rabbit
Horse	Sheep	Swine
		Poultry

COMMUNICATION AND EXPRESSIVE ARTS

Learn to use your imagination and express it through various projects.

Arts & Crafts	Construction & Architectural Replica	Consumer Clothing
Leisure Education (Do Your Own Thing)	Fashion Revue	Home Environment
Photography	Cake Decorating	Sewing
		Collections
Public Speaking	Performing Arts	Needlecraft
		Model Craft
		Fine Arts

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Gain skills in various Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math-related projects.

Aerospace	Agricultural Tractor	Small Engines	Electric	Tractor Safety and Operator Skills
Woodworking	Computer: Programming, Block- and Text-based Programming			Robotics
Web Design and Computer Entrepreneurship		Computer Forensics		3-D Printing
Hardware and Networking Design/Install/Repair		Graphic Design		Computer Art

HEALTHY LIVING

These projects help 4-Hers develop healthy living techniques for themselves, their families, and their community.

Child Development	Food Preservation	Bicycle	ATV Safety
Health	Microwave Cooking	Sportfishing	
Shooting Sports	Food Preparation	Sports/Physical Health	

LEADERSHIP & CITIZENSHIP

Develop leadership skills through activities in your local club and also at the county and state level.

Genealogy	Junior Leader	Leadership
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PLANT & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Learn about natural resources, wildlife, conservation practices, and issues affecting our environment.

Entomology	Beekeeping	Floriculture	Geology
Weather & Climate	Forestry	Soil & Water	Garden
Wildlife			

FAIR JUDGING

Projects exhibited at the 4-H Fair will be judged, although members may choose to exhibit without being judged and receive a participation ribbon. Non-livestock exhibits will be checked in and judged in the week prior to fair. The judging method we use is called “open judging”.

Open judging means that your Fair exhibits will be judged in your presence, at Project Check-in. Here are some questions that you may be asked in an open judging setting.

- ✓ What new things did you learn?
- ✓ Have you taken 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 this exhibit that you want me to know.
- ✓ What did you like best (or least) about this project?
- ✓ Did you have any difficulty with this exhibit or do you have any questions that I may be able to answer?

Indoor Project Judging Procedures:

1. Determine the day and time your exhibit will be judged (look for information in the newsletter, at the Extension Office, and from your Club Leader).
2. On judging day, find the area of the Fairgrounds where your project will be judged. You will need to wait in line until it is your turn to check in.
3. When it is your turn to be judged, hand your exhibit and your project record sheet to the assistant at the table.
4. After you have checked-in with the assistant, you will be able to move in front of the judge. The judge will talk with you about your project and may ask questions.
5. The judge will tell you the ribbon color that you have earned.
Champions/Reserves will not be known until the day that the exhibit building opens.
6. Your project will stay at the fair for the week.
7. Be sure to pick up your projects during Project Pick Up. No projects will be allowed to go home early! Project Pick Up times are generally Thurs after 8pm and last day of fair by 10am.

RIBBONS

Youth in Orange County can have conference judging with their judge. This means that the judging process is open for youth only as parents must wait in the lobby. Youth have the experience of talking with the judge, answering questions, and telling the judge about their 4-H project and components.

A 4-H judge is hired to evaluate exhibits, demonstrations, or record of standards for each exhibit. Ultimately, the final decision relies with the hired judge.

Below are the ribbons that are used for 4-H Exhibit Hall Projects (non-animal) and their meaning:

Grand Champion: One is selected for each project area from the Division Champions and is the "First Place" overall within each project area.

Reserve Grand Champion: One is selected for each project area and is the "Second Place" overall within each project area.

Champion: One is selected for each division of the project area, and is selected from the "Blue Group" awards and is "First Place" of that specific division.

Reserve Champion: One is selected for each division of the project area, and is selected from the "Blue Group" awards and is "Second Place" of that specific division.

Selected for State Fair: awarded to projects that are chosen by judges to represent Orange County at the Indiana State Fair.

Blue (Excellent): awarded to those entries that exceed that average standard and indicates a certain degree of excellence and may be given to multiple participants.

Red (Good): awarded to those entries that meet or are slightly below the average standard for the respective class/division/project.

White (Fair): awarded to entries that do not meet the average standard. The level of accomplishment is less than expected.

Green (Participation): awarded when required components or pieces are missing from the exhibit or handbook rules are not followed. Participation ribbons are also given to projects turned in after project check-in/judging closes.

Mini 4-H Multi-Colored: not judged in competition with others; all mini-4-H projects receive a ribbon for completion of the project.

AWARDS & TRIPS

Numerous awards are given in 4-H throughout the year. Most youth are recognized during the 4-H Fair, either during their livestock show or at the Achievement Program for exhibit hall projects.

Some 4-H members are eligible (based on grade) to apply for trips that usually take place throughout the year. Many of these are educational workshops at Purdue University. Funding for trips vary, sponsorship or cost assistance may be offered depending upon the trip on a case by case basis.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Each club will have special activities for their club members throughout the year. In addition, there are county-wide 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 emails, newsletters, check Facebook, and website to know when & which workshops are offered.

4-H Camp -This camp takes place each June and is open to 4-H members in grades 3-8. The 4-H members participate in many outdoor activities as they learn by doing. 4-Hers in grades 9-12 may apply to be Camp Counselors.

4-H Roundup - This event takes place in June each summer and is open to 4- Hers grades 7-9. 4-Hers travel up to Purdue and stay overnight in the dorms on campus while attending career workshops, touring campus as well as many fun activities planned with 4-Hers from all over the state. 4-H Band and Choir takes place during Roundup.

4-H Academy @ Purdue – This event takes place in June and is held at Purdue University and is designed specifically for youth in grades 9-12 to get hands-on experiences through a diverse selection of workshop opportunities. Youth will stay on Purdue Campus dorms and meet youth all across the state learning about all aspects of 4-H.

Mini 4-H Day Camp - This active day camp is designed to introduce 4-H activities and projects to students in kindergarten through 2nd grade. Crafts, games, snacks and guest speakers make this a great learning opportunity for youth who are considering joining a 4-H Club. This program is led by the local Extension office.

4-H Demonstration and Public Speaking Contests -Demonstrations are a “show-and-tell” presentation that gives members a chance to speak in front of a group and develop public speaking skills. For those who enjoy public speaking, there is a county public speaking/demonstrations contest, as well as the opportunity to speak at the Indiana State Fair.

SPARK Programs – Short term programs designed to “spark” interest of youth in a specific topic area. These vary in topics and have a minimum of six hours of education throughout a time period. The program ends with a culminating project where youth showcase what they learned. Exhibit at the Fair is not required. For more information on Spark Clubs, please contact our office.

BECOMING AN ADULT VOLUNTEER

The process to becoming an approved volunteer in the 4-H program, requires a few simple steps.

1. Create a 4HOnline Profile- You will begin the application process by enrolling as a new adult volunteer through the 4HOnline website, selecting the volunteer type(s) you wish to serve in, providing personal information and character references, and electronically signing necessary consents. Once your enrollment is submitted, we complete a limited background check. (If you require assistance with this process, please reach out to our office).
2. Complete Youth Trainings- Annual trainings are valid part of protecting the youth that we serve in our 4-H program.
3. Meet with an Educator -We may schedule a volunteer orientation/interview with the 4-H Educator where you will discuss volunteer roles, policies and procedures.

4-H Terms Used in Orange County

4-HOnline: A website designed as an enrollment and data management system for 4-H throughout Indiana. Members must enroll in 4-H and pay a *\$15 program fee in order to be in 4-H in Indiana. The 4-HOnline website allows youth and parents to sign up for projects, change contact information, and receive access to any information from the Extension Office. 4-H members must enroll on 4-HOnline before the advertised deadline! (Note: There is no program fee for grades K-2) *If financial barriers exist, please reach out to our office at 812-723-7107).

4-H Handbook: May be found on the web or at the Orange County Extension Office, this book describes all projects, many activities and awards. It contains all the rules for non-livestock projects and should be used as a reference throughout the year. Read EVERYTHING related to your projects so you will not be disappointed on judging day.

Achievement Program: A program held at the conclusion of fair (after the Livestock Auction) to celebrate the accomplishments of all of our 4-Hers. It is open to all 4-H families.

Adult Leader: A person who volunteers their time to recruit, plan, organize, counsel, encourage, compliment, redirect, and whatever else it takes to make sure members have a great 4-H experience. These people are not paid, so please be considerate of their time and let them know how much they are appreciated.

Tag-Day/ID Day: Many animals must be identified by a county ear tag or tattoo. Beef and Dairy Steers are typically tagged-in in January/February. In late April/early May, Rabbit, Poultry, Goats, and Sheep have a tag-in day for animals to receive their necessary tags. Poultry Blood Testing takes place during this event. Swine tags will be available for pick up on tag-in day as well. All members intending to exhibit livestock must attend ID Day to complete necessary paperwork and meet eligibility requirements for exhibition.

Community Service Project: Each club is encouraged to complete a service project that helps their community.

Communications Contest: A contest is held at the fair for those members who would like to compete with a speech or demonstration.

Drop/Add Deadline: If you would like to add a project or delete one that you had signed up for by May 15. You may drop/add projects on 4-HOnline until May 15th. This date also serves as the state deadline for animal identification. Note: A Firm Deadline of 11:59pm on this date, with NO EXCEPTIONS, must be enforced according to Indiana State 4-H Policies and Procedures!

E-Mail Blasts: We send out e-mails with important reminders and program information. If you would like to receive these, make sure to update your email address on your 4-HOnline account – or call the Extension Office. We will never give out this information to third parties.

Extension Educator: The title given to a professional employed by Purdue University to coordinate the 4-H program at the local level.

FairEntry: FairEntry is a secondary website to 4-HOnline. This website is used for 4-Hers to specify exactly what projects/livestock they are bringing to fair. This data-tracking system also keeps record of ribbon placements and other awards for the 4-Her. FairEntry must be completed to exhibit both animal and non-animal (static) projects.

Fashion Revue: A public fashion show for members in the clothing project who choose to participate. 4-Hers are judged on modeling, style, accessorizing, and fit. Consumer Clothing members MUST participate to complete their project.

Indiana 4-H Foundation: A statewide “4-H booster” association that provides funds for trips, scholarships, materials and grants for programs all over the state.

Indiana State Fair: Held in Indianapolis at the State Fairgrounds. Projects eligible for the fair must be checked in ahead of time. Animal projects must be entered by June 1 through the Indiana State Fair website (must meet May 15th Animal ID requirements). *The State Fair website is a completely different website than 4-HOnline.*

Judging Teams: These are usually livestock judging teams. Members learn to evaluate animals and defend their evaluations by giving oral reasons before an experienced judge. Orange County currently has Horse & Pony, Livestock, Dairy, Soils, and Forestry judging teams.

Junior Leaders: County wide project for members in grades 6 and above focusing on leadership, citizenship and fun. *Statewide Jr Leaders is 7-12 grades, however 6th grade may participate in Orange County.

Livestock Identification: Each livestock project must have their animals identified on 4-HOnline. This is in addition to the regular 4-HOnline sign up for the 4-H member. A premise ID number is required on each animal. Be sure to pay close attention to due dates for Livestock information!

Orange County 4-H Fair: The culmination of the 4-H year! Members display their projects, show livestock, and participate in special events throughout the week.

Mini 4-H: A “pre-4-H” program for children in grades K, 1 and 2 (as of January 1 of the fair year). Members take projects, attend workshops, and exhibit at the fair.

“My Record of 4-H Achievement”: You keep a copy of these cards for your entire 4-H career. The original will also be turned into the Extension Office or your 4-H Club leader.

Newsletter (Quarterly): This comes from the Extension office. It’s filled with very important information and is one source of communication with 4-H families. **Please read it and share it!**

Officers: Each club elects their own officers to include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and possibly others. Members learn to conduct business through active leadership

Open Judging: A style of judging where the 4-H member can talk directly with the judge while their project is being graded. Parents must wait outside of judging area, but are not allowed to speak to the judge.

Stall Reservation: Each member taking livestock to the fair must turn in a pen/stall reservation form so that livestock superintendents will know how many animals to expect and plan where they will be housed. Stall forms and fees are due in Extension office by May 15th, fee returned after clean out of stall has been confirmed by Livestock Committee.

Poster Project: Many projects must be completed on a 22” x 28” poster displayed horizontally. They must be covered in heavy plastic (not saran wrap) and have space in the lower right-hand corner for an exhibit tag. You can purchase the correct size foam board and plastic sleeves at the Extension Office! Note: Photography Salon sleeves are also available.

Premise ID: A number given by the Indiana State Board of Animal Health to identify locations where animals are housed. All livestock members will need to submit their premise ID number on the enrollment form. More information is available at www.in.gov/boah.

Program Fee: A \$15 program fee is required of all 4-H members (except Mini). This fee is a state-wide fee that provides insurance for youth for 4-H events as well as provides money to the Indiana 4-H program. If fee is a financial barrier, please contact our office regarding sponsorships.

Project Exhibit Tag: A tag generated by FairEntry that is put on the bottom right corner of every 4-H project displayed during the Orange County 4-H Fair. This tag includes information such as your name, club, and a description of your project. It does not include personal identification information such as address or phone number.

Project Fair/4-H Kickoff: An “open house” is held every year in October to allow parents and potential 4-H members to experience what 4-H is about. Many projects are on display, last year’s project winners, and leaders and junior leaders on hand to answer questions regarding 4-H, how to join, etc.

Project Manual: Most projects have manuals that provide educational material and/or learning activities for members.

Pullorum-Typhoid testing: It must be certified that all poultry at the fair have come from Pullorum-typhoid free flocks or they must be tested and found free of Pullorum-typhoid. Testing is offered at no cost to 4-H members during Animal ID Day.

Record Sheet: Most projects have record sheets or activity books that must be turned in BEFORE the fair to complete. Check the project handbook to find out whether your record sheets are turned in to your local leader or turned in with your project.

SPARK Program: A short-term program based on a specific topic designed to “spark” interest of youth. Programs must be a minimum of six hours and include a culminating project at the end of participation. Exhibit at the Fair is not required.

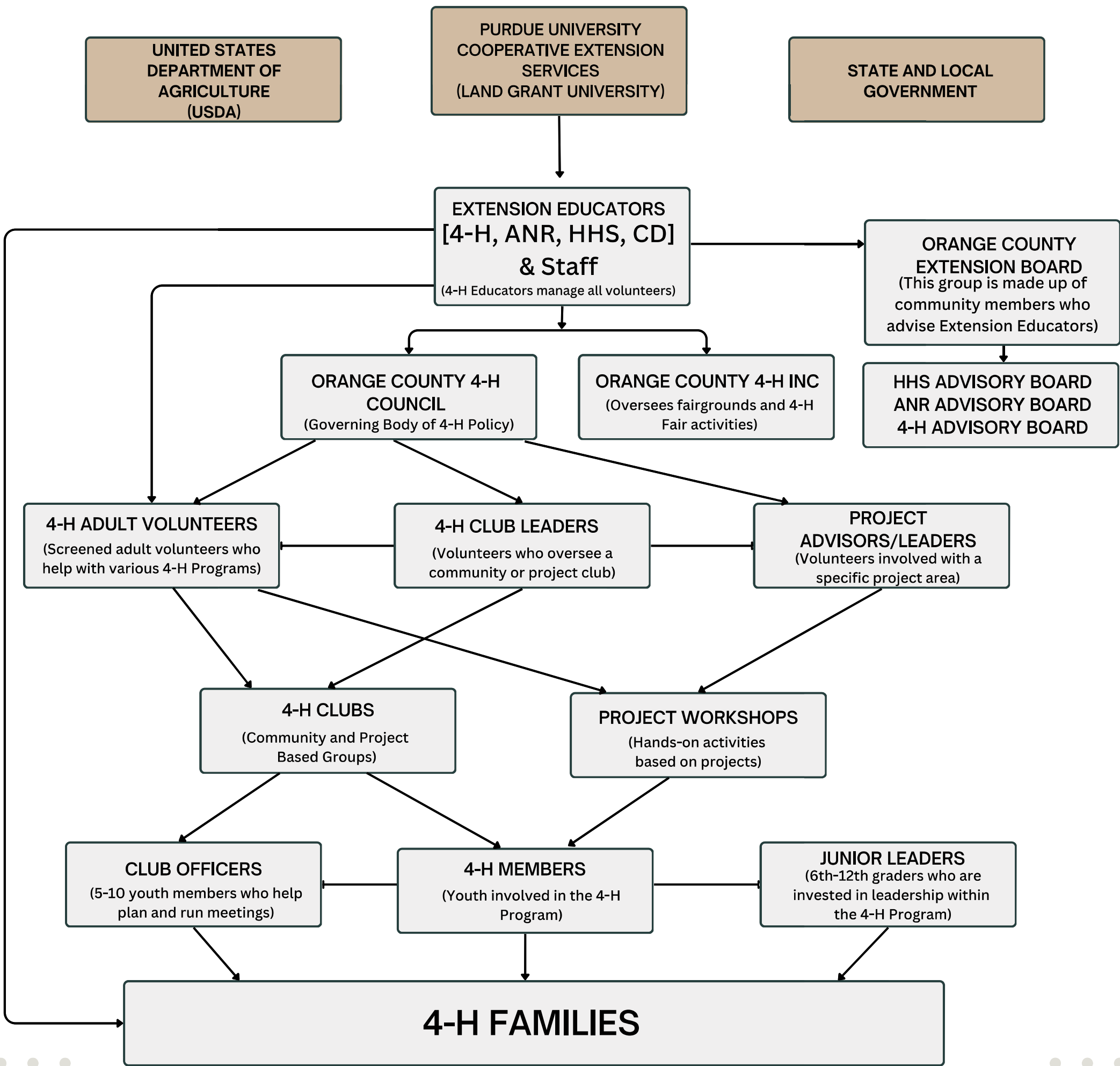
State Fair Livestock Entry: Livestock entries for state fair exhibition are due June 1 on a different website than 4-HOnline! You will need to sign up on the State Fair Website to reserve your spot at the State Fair.

Web Site: 4-H information is provided on-line at Orange County Extension’s web site. Visit www.extension.purdue.edu/orange for updated calendars, newsletters, project information and forms.

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA): A training that must be completed yearly by 4-H members planning to exhibit a livestock animal at the State 4-H Fair and open class shows (except cats, dogs, horses, and Small Animal). Trainings are offered online only and can be substituted for county ILQC training requirements. Cost of 1-year certification is \$12.

Indiana 4-H Livestock Quality Care (I4HLQC): A training that must be completed yearly by 4-H members planning to exhibit a livestock animal at the Orange County Fair (except cats, dogs, horses, and Small Animal). Trainings are offered both online and in-person. Cost of 1-year certification is \$3.

THE 4-H FAMILY TREE



My Record of 4-H Achievement **EXAMPLE**

This is an EXAMPLE of what would be turned in to your club leader.

EXAMPLE

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Club: _____ Township: _____ Boy or Girl: _____

Parent or Guardian's Name: _____

Year	Project	Div/Lev	Description of Exhibit	County Placing	State Placing
2014	Child Development	2	Poster about Child Care	Blue, Honor	---
2014	Geology	2	Exhibit box with six rocks and sandpaper showing texture	Blue, Honor, Champion, State Fair	Blue
2015	Home Environment	3	Refinished coffee table	Red	----
2015	Jr. Leaders	N/A	Year of service	Blue	---
2015	Astronomy	3	A poster describing different types of stars and locations	Blue, Honor, Champion, Grand Champion	N/A
2015	Swine	3	Berkshire Gilt	4 th in class	----
2014	Child Development	3	Imagination in a box	Blue, Honor, Champion, State Fair	Blue, Honor

Year	Meetings Attended Local	Meetings Attended County	Committee Work	Offices Held	Activities Participated In	Workshops attended	Judging Events
2014	7	8	Recreation	Club Recreation Leader	None	Child Development	None
2015	10	6	Refreshments	Secretary, Recreation Leader		Child Development, Astronomy	Livestock

Year	Public Speaking /Demonstrations	Community Service	4-H Promotion	Trips Attended	Awards Received	Field Trips, Tours, Mass Media
2014	Club Demonstration	Visit County Home	Indiana 4-H Week Library Display	4-H Camp	1 st year pin	Weather Station
2014	---	Canned Good Drive	---	Club trip to roller skating rink	Outgoing members	School trip to Airport
2015	How to refinish a table	Caroling at nursing home	Handed out 4-H Flyers	Round-Up	2 nd year pin	None
2015	---	Canned Good Drive	---	----	----	---

My Record of 4-H Achievement

(To be kept in your Record Book)

Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

Town	zip
------	-----

Club _____ Township _____ Boy or Girl _____

Parent or Guardian's Name _____

[illegible]

Year	Meetings Attended	Committee Work	Offices Held	Activities Participated In	Workshops Attended	Judging Events	
Ex. 1990	7	8	Refreshments	Secretary	Fashion Revue	Clothing	Dairy Foods

Year	Public Speaking/ Demonstrations	Community Service	4-H Promotion	Trips Attended	Awards Received	Field Trips, Tours Mass Media
Ex. 1990	Growing Squash	County Home Visit	Indiana 4-H Week Display	4-H Camp	1 st Year Pin	Weather Station

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers Related to 4-H in Orange County

- **Who is eligible to be a 4-H member and when can I join?** Any youth in grades 3 through 12 is eligible to join. We have a special program for those in grade 2: Mini 4-H. For even younger youth, they can participate by exhibiting as a Future 4-H'er. All 4-H is based on the grade you are in on January 1st of that program year. Enrollment deadline is May 15th. There are many clubs in the county.
- **What is the cost to be a 4-H member?** There is a yearly \$15 enrollment fee. Project costs can vary. Most projects have a manual which are provided free of charge the first year in specific project/level and are available at the Extension Office. There is a huge range of cost in projects from something as inexpensive as a poster for a few dollars to a couple of thousand dollars for a steer. If program fees are a barrier, please contact our office regarding sponsorships/assistance.
- **Can a member enroll in additional projects after they turn in their enrollment form?** Yes, a member may add projects at any time by logging into your 4-H online account and making changes. Drop/add for each project year is May 15th.
- **Why should I go to club meetings and workshops?** Meetings and workshops serve as the information link for members. Members receive help on projects, make friends and learn about life skills. **All members** are highly encouraged to attend meetings on a regular basis. **Parents** are also encouraged to attend meetings to stay informed.
- **Does a member have to take a project to the county fair?** All members are highly encouraged to take projects to the fair. If something happens that keeps you from doing this, but you have completed the project, you can still get credit for completing by showing your project to your leader. The fair is the culmination of preparation, hard work and learning. Friendly competition and fellowship are valuable parts of learning. The fair is a showcase of an exhibitor's projects. If unable to attend judging night due to family schedule conflicts, member can submit video explanation, record sheet, description of project/photos to serve as verification of project completion.
- **My animal died; how can I complete my project?** Unfortunately, this does happen. The project can be completed in any animal area by completing a poster which can be entered in the fair or by turning in the project manual to the project superintendent. Animal substitutions can be made if prior to May 15th deadline as long as Indiana BOAH tagging requirements have been met.
- **What ribbon system is used?** We use two different ribbon systems at the fair. Non-animal projects and some animal projects use the Danish system. This means that more than one blue ribbon may be awarded in a class. Each division will have a grand champion and a reserve grand champion designated. Livestock projects use placing ribbons, 1st-6th places.

- **What goes to the Indiana State Fair?** For livestock and other animals, there is a special entry for that is sent by the exhibitor directly to the State Fair Entry Department with a fee. All properly enrolled livestock and other animals may go to the State Fair. All livestock animals must have hair DNA samples submitted to the county office by May 15th in order to exhibit at the State Fair. There are varying dates, but the first due is for beef, sheep and swine and that date is June 1st. Forms are available in the office or the State Fair website. Non-animal projects are limited on the numbers that are eligible for the State Fair. The ones eligible will receive a letter that gives the dates they need to be taken to the fair. The Extension Office does take projects that are brought in by the designated time up to the Indiana State fairgrounds if they are not too large or fragile.

- **How often will my child and I have to go to the county or state fair?** If you take livestock projects, you will need to go every day to take care of your animals. Exceptions to this are dogs, cats and small animals (lizard, parrot, etc.), which are brought to the fair only on their day of judging and taken home after the show. Non-livestock projects are brought to the fairgrounds before the fair starts and are picked up on the last day of the fair.

- **What are Junior Leaders?** Junior Leaders are 4-H members who are enrolled in the Junior Leader project and are in *7th grade or higher. They assist the 4-H Leaders in organizing activities and helping younger 4-H members with their projects. They also participate in many community service projects and help with all aspects of the county fair. *Open to 6th grade in Orange County. The Junior Leaders club meets monthly year-round, typically the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm.

- **As a 4-H parents, how can I help my child?** Assist your child in the selection of 4-H projects that are interesting and work with your home situation and family lifestyle. Show your interest and enthusiasm. Read over the handbook and project manual with your child to help them understand how to get started and what to do as they work on their project(s). Assist your child, but do not do the project for them. Your job is to teach, not to govern but to guide and not to control. Parents are encouraged to stay informed about workshops and other 4-H activities and opportunities such as camp, scholarships, retreats, community service, etc.)

ORANGE COUNTY 4-H CLUB LIST 2025-2026



HAPPY HOUNDS

CLUB LEADERS: Lisa Prow, Kelsey Hedge
CONTACT: lprow30@gmail.com
MEETS: workshops Feb-Jun
LOCATION: 4-H Block Building, Paoli

LUCKY STARS

CLUB LEADERS: Connie Kerby, Stevie Allen,
Jaclyn Love, Elizabeth Lowe
CONTACT: conniekerby1976@gmail.com
MEETS: workshops Feb-Jun
LOCATION: Ames Chapel UMC, Paoli

LUCKY HORSESHOES

CLUB LEADERS: Chloe Laws, **co-leader needed**
CONTACT: 812-653-8917 (text)
MEETS: Feb-Jun dates TBD
LOCATION: 4-H Block Building, Paoli

ORANGE COUNTY HELPING HANDS

CLUB LEADERS: Crystal Edwards, Lisa Prow
CONTACT: 812-653-2021 (text)
MEETS: 2nd Thurs of Month 6pm
LOCATION: 4-H Block Building, Paoli

ORANGE COUNTY JUNIOR LEADERS

CLUB LEADERS: Becky Padgett, **co-leader needed**
ADVISOR: Veronica Portillo, Educator
CONTACT: vportill@purdue.edu
MEETS: 2nd Tues of Month 6pm
LOCATION: 4-H Block Building, Paoli

SMART COOKIES

CLUB LEADERS: Destany Pingle, Sarah Cook,
Wendy Bruner
CONTACT: dpingle@gmail.com
MEETS: Mar-July
LOCATION: Orange County Community Foundation, Paoli

UNION VICTORS

CLUB LEADERS: Audrey Hoskins, Abram Hoskins
CONTACT: ahoskins7513@gmail.com
MEETS: 1st Wed of Month 6pm, Jan-Jul
LOCATION: Love Family Sheep Farm, Orleans

Hey Parents,

**Want to Join a
club, or even start
your own?**

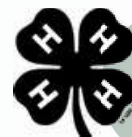
**Orange County 4-H
has a place for
YOU!**

**Adults interested
in becoming an
approved 4-H
volunteer should
contact**

**Purdue Extension-
Orange County.**

812-723-7107

orangeces@purdue.edu



Purdue Extension Office Orange County

**Our Office is located at the Orange County Complex Building
(located just off the square in Paoli)**

Address: 205 E Main St, Ste 4, Paoli, IN, 47454

Phone: 812-723-7107

Email: orangeoces@purdue.edu

Hours: 8am-4pm Monday-Friday

Extension Educators:

- **Agriculture & Natural Resources/4-H Youth Development/CED**
 - Julie Harris – carrell@purdue.edu
- **Health & Human Services/4-H Youth Development:**
 - Veronica Portillo MPH, vportillo@purdue.edu

Office Staff:

- **Office Manager:**
 - Amie Wilson – wils1379@purdue.edu
- **Secretary:**
 - Shannon Lagle – lagle@purdue.edu



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