

Ripley County 4-H Guide

The basics of 4-H in Ripley County for Beginners.

Note: The Ripley County 4-H Manual includes all guidelines and rules for the 4-H Program.



Please contact the Ripley County Purdue Extension Office with any questions.

Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Closed on Most Holidays

Phone: 812-689-6511

Address: 525 W Beech Street

Osgood, IN 47037

Website: extension.purdue.edu/county/ripley/4h-ripley-county

Facebook: Purdue Extension Ripley County

Facebook Group: Ripley County 4-H Fair

Who is who in 4-H

- Extension Educators
 - The 4-H Youth Development Educators are employed through Purdue Extension to help oversee the 4-H program in the county while also doing youth programs through the 4-H program and in-school or after-school opportunities.
 - Dave Osborne, 4-H Youth Development | Ag & Natural Resources | County Extension Director
 - Baylee Dwenger, 4-H Youth Development | Health & Human Sciences
- Extension Office Manager and Program Assistants
 - They help to keep the office running smoothly. They can help answer questions or connect you with one of the educators or a leader if needed.
 - Brenna Sarringhaus, Office Manager
- 4-H Fair Board Member
 - Adult Volunteers who work together to make decisions, raise money, and volunteer time to make the 4-H fair happen.
- Club Leader
 - Adult volunteers who help to run 4-H clubs. They help to provide information to 4-H members and facilitate club meetings and activities.
- Livestock Superintendent and Assistant Superintendents
 - Adult volunteer who help to organize animal ID Days and shows during the fair. They are also available to help answer questions related to the project.
- Project Leader
 - Adult volunteers with knowledge of the project area. Livestock project Leaders may assist at ID days, during shows, and help to answer your specific questions throughout the year. Static or non-animal project leaders may offer workshop opportunities and are also available to answer project-specific questions throughout the year.
- Jr. Leaders
 - A group of experienced 4-H members who help out in multiple capacities throughout the year. Youth must be in grades 7-12 to participate in Junior Leaders
- 4-H Member – Youth in grades 3 through 12 who have completed their 4-H enrollment.
- Mini 4-H Member – Youth in Kindergarten, 1st grade, or 2nd grade who are interested in joining 4-H and have completed their enrollment.

Vocabulary

In the following section, you will find a list of important terms that we use in 4-H. Some of these things can be difficult to differentiate between so please get in contact with a club or project leader or the extension office if you have questions.

- **4-H Online**

This is the online system where you enroll for 4-H. During enrollment, which is open annually from October 1 through January 15, you choose what club you plan to participate in and the projects you plan to complete. Livestock animal ID information must also be inputted into 4-H online after each ID Day and NO LATER than May 15.

To reach the 4-H Online website go to... v2.4honline.com

NOTE: 4-H Online isn't user-friendly if you use a cell phone. For the best experience use a computer. If the internet or a computer is not available to you, please come by the extension office and we can assist.



- **4-H Club**

A 4-H Club is a group of 4-H members who get together each month for meetings, do activities, participate in community service, and so much more. This is a great way to get to know other 4-H members and get help from other members or leaders.

- **Club Meeting**

Club meetings are monthly gatherings where club members meet to get information, ask questions, and have fun.

- **Fair Entry**

This is an online system where you enter what you are bringing to the fair. Fair Entry opens during the summer and is typically due a couple weeks before the fair. This helps us to create entry tags and show bills. Information will be sent out annually with updated dates and instructions on how to complete Fair Entry.

To reach the Fair Entry website go to <https://fairentry.com/>



NOTE: Fair Entry isn't user-friendly if you use a cell phone. For the best experience use a computer. If the internet or a computer is not available to you, please come by the extension office and we can assist.

- **4-H Manual (AKA Handbook)**

The Ripley County 4-H Manual is a book that lays out all the project requirements and rules for Ripley County. A copy of this can be picked up from the Extension Office or you can find them on our website: <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/ripley/4h-ripley-county.html>

NOTE: The Ripley County and the Indiana State Fair animal requirements and rules are not always the same, you can find the State Fair animal rules on the Indiana State Fair website.

- **Project Books**

Project books are supplemental materials to the projects you decide to participate in. Project books often times include ideas about what to make or bring to the fair, activities, and information about the project. Project books can be picked up from the extension office. Project books are given out when you enter the next level or division of a project, therefore you should keep your project books from year to year. You may not need a new project book every year.

- **Exhibit Card**

When projects come to the fair, there should be an exhibit card on the project. This card identifies the project to you and lets the public know who completed the project. Exhibit cards are sent out a couple of weeks ahead of the fair. Exhibit cards are approximately 2.5 inches wide by 5.5 inches tall and should be placed in the bottom right-hand corner of all poster projects. Exhibit Cards for non-poster projects should be placed in the bottom right-hand corner or in another location that is easily visible.

- **Record Sheets**

Record sheets are paper sheets or packets that are to be filled out for each project a 4-H member takes. You should bring your record sheets with you on the morning of project check-in as some judges may ask to see them. Animal record sheets should be brought to livestock check-in as the project volunteers may ask to see them. These records are also very helpful when filling out scholarships so it's important to keep good records.

4-H Important Dates & Deadlines

Dates and times are subject to change. Please Check the monthly newsletters for the most up-to-date information or contact the Ripley County Extension office with questions.

Link to Newsletters: <https://extension.purdue.edu/county/ripley/newsletters>

October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10/1 – 4-H Online opens for enrollment • National 4-H Week – First week of October
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-H Online Enrollment is open • 11/17 – 4-H Camp Junior Staff Applications due
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12/29 – Scholarship Help Hours 9 AM-11 AM @ Ripley Co. Ext. Office
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/3 – Scholarship Help Hours Noon-5PM @ Ripley Co. Extension Office • 1/4 – Scholarship Help Hours Noon-5PM @ Ripley Co. Extension Office • 1/15 – 4-H Enrollment ends • 1/25 – Indiana 4-H Scholarships due in 4-H Online
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2/7 – 4-H Camp Junior Staff Training (see letter for more details) • 2/24 – Southeastern Indiana 4-H Volunteer Conference 10 AM-2 PM
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3/9 – Beef ID Day • 3/15 – 4-H Club Audits and Financial Reports Due
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4/20 – 4-H Camp Junior Staff Training (see letter for more details)
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5/4 – Sheep, Goat, Dairy Feeder Steer and Rabbit ID Day • 5/15 – Drop/Add project deadline • 5/15 – Animal ID information due in 4-H Online • 5/15 – Indiana State Fair DNA Samples must be turned in
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6/3 – Junior Staff arrive at 4-H Camp • 6/4 – Campers arrive at 4-H Camp • 6/7 – Campers & Junior Staff leave 4-H Camp • 6/15 – Mini 4-H Day
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair Entry Opens and Closes - See Newsletter for specific dates • 7/12 – Rabbit Meat Pen ID Day • 7/20 – Exhibit Hall project check-in 8 AM-12 Noon • 7/21 – Animal project check-in 6 AM-2 PM • 7/20-7/27 – Ripley County 4-H Fair
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indiana State Fair
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

- Attend Club Meetings
 - Club meetings typically start in October. You should do your best to attend meetings so that you can stay up to date with all things 4-H.

- Drop / Add project deadline
 - **May 15th**
 - You may change the projects you are enrolled in at any time before this deadline. You can add or drop any projects, but you may not add animal projects once the ID Day has passed. Once the drop/add deadline has passed you will need to contact the extension office about dropping or adding projects.
- ID Days
 - Different species have separate ID Days. On these ID days, you bring your animals to the fairgrounds. They are then weighed and tagged for the fair. After each ID Day you are responsible for entering your animals and their information into 4-H Online. Please pay attention to monthly newsletters and the Purdue Extension - Ripley County Facebook page for more information on ID day dates, times, and procedures.
- Animals Entered into 4-H Online
 - Immediately following each ID day you should input your animals and their information into 4-H Online
- Pick Up Books & Record Sheets
 - Anytime from **January – June** you should stop in the extension office and pick up your project books and record sheets for the year.
- Begin Projects
 - You can start projects as soon as you would like. We suggest starting your projects in **May or June** the more time you spend on your projects the better they will be. Some people think we are crazy, but a great time to start your projects are over your Winter and Spring School Breaks.
- Fill Out Record Sheets
 - You should be filing your animal record sheets out throughout the whole time that you have your animals but we suggest filling your non-animal record sheets be filled out right after you finish your project.
- Attend IQLC Training
 - In order to exhibit animals at the fair you must complete a Quality Assurance Training. This can be completed in person by attending an Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care (IQLC) training. It can also be completed online through the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Training

Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care IQLC	Youth for the Quality Care of Animals YQCA
No Cost	Cost: \$12.00
No registration required	Register via yqcaprogram.org
In-Person See the Newsletters for dates, locations, and times.	Virtual Complete on your own time at your own pace.
Must attend, sign in, and participate in one of the trainings. No proof is required at county fair check-in.	Must provide proof of a valid, unexpired, course completion certificate to the Extension Office prior to checking in at the fair.

- Project Check-In
 - Project check-in takes place on **July 20**. This is when you bring your non-animal projects to the fair. On this day you will talk to a judge and answer questions about the project you made. Don't forget to bring your record sheets with you.

- Animal Check – In
 - Animal check-in takes place on **July 21**. This is when you bring your animals to the fair for the week.
- Auction
 - The auction happens on **Friday at the fair**. This is when community members come to the fair to buy market animals.
- Project Check-out
 - Project check-out happens on the **last Saturday of the fair**. This is when you pick up your non-animal projects from the exhibit hall. If you have a project that was eligible for the state fair you do not need to pick it up, but you do have the opportunity to take it home and make improvements. If you choose to take a state fair entry home it is your responsibility to return it to the extension office by the set date for state fair entries.