



Gardening

LaPorte County Mini 4-H



Adapted from: Purdue Extension Hendricks County

It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue University is an Affirmative Action institution. This material may be available in alternative formats.

Mini 4-H Parent's Page

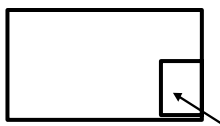
We welcome you and your child to the Mini 4-H program. Mini 4-H is for youth who are in kindergarten, first or second grade during the 4-H year (October 1- September 30). This program is designed to encourage positive development, give youth the opportunity to explore interest, practice small and large muscle control, and introduce you to the LaPorte County 4-H program.

As a Mini 4-H parent or guardian, please support your child through the activities in this handbook. Encourage and praise your child as they have fun learning and sharing with you. Please avoid completing activities for them. Learning by doing is the best educational tool that we can provide for youth.

Mini 4-H exhibition, held annually at the LaPorte County Fair, is an exciting time for all 4-H members, families and friends. It is a week that allows youth to showcase their talents, interests and enthusiasm for learning.

Where Do I Begin?

1. Mini 4-H is open to any youth who is enrolled in either kindergarten, first or second grade on January 1st of the current year.
2. Enroll your Mini 4-H youth on v24honline.com and pay the annual \$5 program fee to be an active Mini 4-H member. Once registered, you will receive a bimonthly email bulletin keeping you informed of Mini 4-H and 4-H opportunities. Any questions can be answered by LaPorte County Purdue Extension at 219-324-9407.
3. Mini 4-H participants complete activities and projects found in this guide. Activities and projects are completed at home.
4. One (1) project from this handbook can be exhibited at the Mini 4-H exhibition. Please complete the Mini 4-H Exhibit tag and attach it to your project, as well as a record sheet (both are included in this manual). Watch your email for dates of exhibit check-in.
5. Some projects require a poster to exhibit. Following are **POSTER EXHIBIT guidelines**:
 - A. Stiff backing 14" high by 22" wide. (This can be cardboard or foam core board.)
 - B. Be positioned HORIZONTALLY.



Mini 4-H Exhibit Tag

What Do the H's in 4-H Mean?

Head, Heart, Hands, and Health

4-H Symbol: A four-leaf clover with an "H" on each leaf

4-H Colors: Green and White

4-H Motto: "To make the best, better!"



4-H PLEDGE

I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking,

I promise to use my head to make good choices.

my **HEART** to greater loyalty,

I promise to use my heart to be a good friend.

My **HANDS** to larger service,

I promise to use my hands to do helpful things for others.

And my **HEALTH** to better living,

I promise to take care of my body and to show others to live in a healthy way.

For my club, my community,

I promise to help my group, my community,

My country, and my world.

Mini 4-H Gardening Exhibition

This project will introduce you to plants. Plants are fun to grow. Some are for decoration or pleasure, while others can be used for food. You do not have to have a garden. Many plants can grow in your house or on your porch in pots or plants.

Kindergarten & First Grade Project Options:

A product from “Seeds in a Bag” Poster or “Container Gardens”

Completed Record Sheet

Second Grade:

A product of “Grow a Green Bean Plant”, or “Grow a Potato Vine

Completed Record Sheet

Emails and the biweekly 4-H bulletin will note the date and time for Mini 4-H exhibit check in. You may exhibit 1 project from this handbook. Remember to include the completed Record Sheet and Mini 4-H Exhibit Tag with your exhibit.

Your questions can be answered by calling Purdue Extension at 219-324-9407

MINI 4-H EXHIBIT		
Project: (Circle One)		
Arts & Crafts	Bicycle Safety	Bugs
Collections	Cookie Decorating	
Farm Animals	Foods	Gardening
Little Peeps	Models	Nature/Plants/Trees
Pets	Recycling	Sewing
Sun, Stars & Space	Wearable Art	
NAME: _____		GRADE: _____

Kindergarten & First Grade

Seeds in a Bag

Needed Materials:

- Plastic self-closing bag
- Paper Towel
- Water
- Tape
- Beans (Lima or Kidney)
- Growth Chart, in manual
- Pencil or Crayon
- Poster Board (see page 3)

Directions:

Draw a picture of your seed on Day 1 on your Growth Chart.

Soak the beans in water overnight.

Draw a picture of your bean when you see a change. Draw it on your Growth Chart.

Lightly wet the paper towel with water. If it is dripping, then it is too wet. Place paper towel in the self-closing bag.

Place beans inside the self-closing bag, making sure they are against the wet paper towel.

Close the bag and tape to a sunny window.

Check the seeds each day and continue drawing pictures on your Growth Chart as you see any changes in your seeds.

Mount your Growth Chart on poster board. If seeds are not rotten, the self-closing bag may also be displayed. If paper towel is dry, add a few drops of water.

You may transfer your bean plant to a pot if you wish. You will need a pot that will drain (hole in the bottom) and potting soil. **This is not your exhibit!**

If this poster is your exhibit for the county fair, attach the County Tag.

Container Gardens

Needed Materials:

- Small size paper bathroom cup
- Garden or Potting Soil
- Small rocks, sand or charcoal
- Seeds (Select a quick growing seed. Grass seed can germinate in 7-14 days)
- Water

Directions:

Carefully fill a small size paper bathroom cup with garden or potting soil

Fill the pot with soil up to 1/2 inch below the top of your pot.

Poke holes in the soil with your finger and place seeds in each hole. Lightly press soil over seeds. Water lightly. Too much water will drown your plant.

Keep the cup in a sunny spot. Water when dry.

Care for your plant at least 3 weeks before displaying.

If this is your exhibit for the county fair, attach the County Tag.

Second Grade

Grow a Bean Plant

Needed Materials:

- Small size paper bathroom cup
- Bean Seed (Green, wax, lima, etc.)
- Potting Soil
- Water

Directions:

Carefully fill a small size paper bathroom cup with garden or potting soil

Fill the pot with soil up to 1/2 inch below the top of your pot.

Poke holes in the soil with your finger and place seeds in each hole. Lightly press soil over seeds. Water lightly. Too much water will drown your plant.

Keep the cup in a sunny spot. Water when dry.

Care for your plant at least 3 weeks before displaying.

If this is your exhibit for the county fair, attach the County Tag.

Grow a Potato Vine

Needed Materials:

- 1 Sweet or White Potato
- 1 Jar
- Water

Directions:

Fill the jar with water.

Place the potato in the top of the jar.

Do not let the potato to fall in to the jar. If the jar is too big, you can stick toothpicks in the potato so it will sit on top of the jar.

Place in a well-lighted area, but not in direct sun.

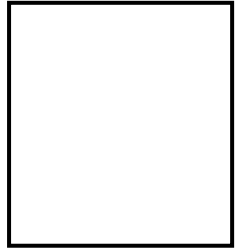
In a few weeks, leaves will begin to grow and turn in to vines.

When large enough, your plant can be placed in a pot or basket.

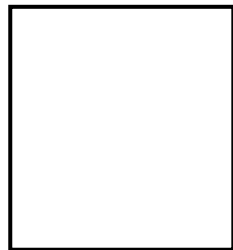
If this is your exhibit for the county fair, attach the County Tag.

My Seed's Growth Chart

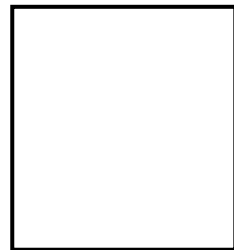
Draw your seed as it appears in the self-closing plastic sandwich bag



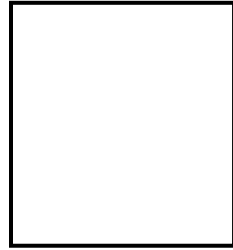
Day 1



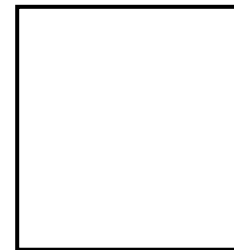
Day 2



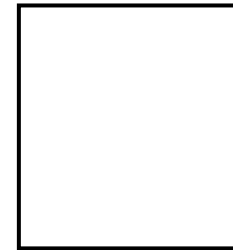
Day 3



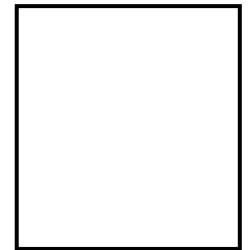
Day 4



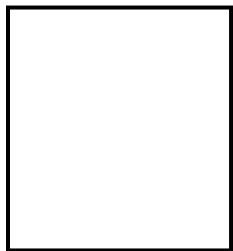
Day 5



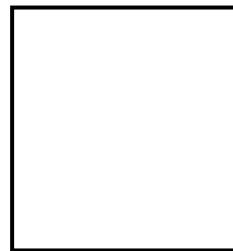
Day 6



Day 7



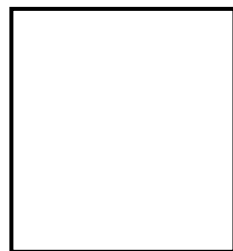
Day 8



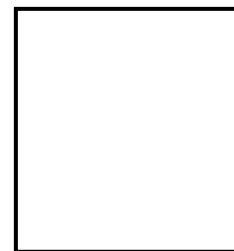
Day 9



Day 10



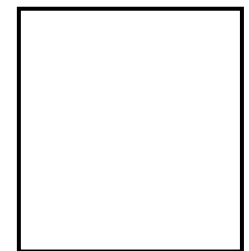
Day 11



Day 12



Day 13



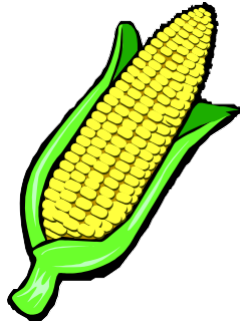
Day 14

Digging for Food!

Draw a circle around the foods that come from under the ground.



Peanuts



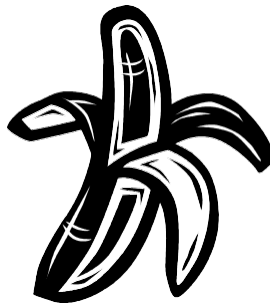
Corn



Apples



Carrots



Bananas



Radishes



Tomatoes



Potatoes



Blackberries

Key: Peanuts, Carrots, Radishes, and Potatoes

What Do Plants Need?

Circle all of the things plants need to grow.



Donuts



Candlelight



Chocolates



Paint



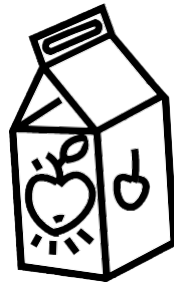
Oxygen



Soil



Cats



Juice



Sunlight



Water



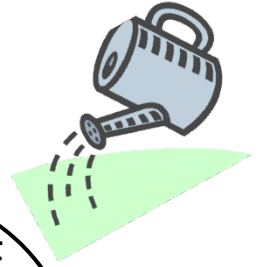
Moonlight



Sandwich



Gardening Fun



R B E O S A M O L F
U E S P A D E D S V
S A T R L M T E H T
O N N A U P S W O A
S S A K W E E D S N
T G L B J Y O S E P
O B P C O R N E F S
R A V M T E O V L D
R D H O E R A O U E
A T F N K N P L T E
C E T B U S H G J S
W O T S E A F H L T

Find these words in the word search above

BEANS

HOE

SPADE

BUSH

HOSE

STEM

CARROTS

PLANTS

SUN

CORN

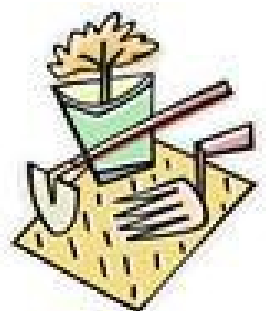
ROOTS

WATER

GLOVES

SEEDS

WEEDS





Mini 4-H Gardening Record Sheet

My favorite part of the project was _____

While doing my gardening project I learned

My favorite vegetable is _____.

Name:

Date:
