

August 2, 2021

Dear 4-H Family,

Congratulations on successfully completing your first year in the Starke County 4-H Program. We hope you have had a great experience as a new 4-H member. There are many components to the program and a lot to learn, so don't worry if you still feel uncertain about some things. Now you know what questions to ask and where you can turn for help.

If you have not completed and turned in your white 4-H Record of Achievement, please do so as soon as possible. Members in grades 3-12 are to complete this record every year. These forms are available in the Extension Office. Your Achievement Record is very important as you continue with the 4-H Program because the information recorded on the form is used to select 4-H Scholarship winners at the county and state levels. The Record is also used during the 4-H Royalty Competition and for other awards given in the fall annually.

There are many volunteers who help plan and organize the 4-H Program every year and the 4-H Fair. Your 4-H Club Leaders and project leaders are part of this volunteer group. They give a lot of their time throughout the year to help 4-H members prepare for the 4-H fair and provide many learning opportunities for the youth. Another group is the Starke County 4-H Council. These volunteers meet year round planning 4-H events and the 4-H Fair. They also give of their time to make sure 4-H members have memorable experiences and learn many life skills. It is important to always thank these volunteers for what they do for you! They believe in the 4-H program and you as 4-H members and love to watch you learn and succeed. Sending them handwritten thank you notes is another way to show your appreciation for what they do for the 4-H program.

The Starke County Fair Board also works year round to help plan the 4-H fair and continually updating facilities for 4-H members, their families, and projects. Thank you notes is also a great way to thank them for their hard work and dedication to make the Starke County 4-H Fair a success.

There is another group of people in the community who also deserve a big "Thanks," the 4-H trophy donors and Livestock Auction buyers. If you won a trophy during your first year of 4-H, congratulations! People from all over Starke County sponsor every trophy for the 4-H Program. The name and address of the sponsor should be on the bottom or back of your trophy. 4-H Livestock members had the opportunity to sell their animals during the Auction on Friday of fair. The livestock buyers believe in you as 4-H members and the 4-H Program. You can thank them by sending a thank you note. I know they greatly appreciate the thought!

The 2021 Indiana State Fair is from Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup>-Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

2021-2022 4-H reenrollment will begin on Friday, October 1, 2021! Reenrollment is on the same website you enrolled in 4-H this year, [v2.honline.com](http://v2.honline.com).

As you prepare for the 2021-2022 4-H program year, keep in mind 4-H projects you would like to learn more about or participate in next year. Project information is always available in the 4-H Handbook. Also, be

thinking about 4-H club elections! As you continue in the 4-H program, you can start serving as a club officer and role model for younger youth.

The 2021 4-H Achievement Night Program is still being planned for this year. The event may possibly be in October at the Starke County Fairgrounds. All 4-H members are invited to attend. During this program, awards are presented to many 4-H youth including 4-H Junior Leaders, project medal winners, and the coveted Leadership, Citizenship, and Achievement awards. A 4-H Council committee selects the project medal winners. The committee examines the top 3-5 project manuals/record sheets previously selected by the project superintendent, from each 4-H project. They select one youth as the winner for each project with the most complete and thorough information on their record sheets and in the manual. Youth who win are not necessarily those who won with their 4-H project at the fair. This is an opportunity to recognize youth who put the extra effort into their book work. A letter will be mailed to winners in September, inviting them to the program. The Leadership, Citizenship, and Achievement awards are given to older 4-H members based on their completed 4-H Record of Achievement from their cumulative years in 4-H.

Our Purdue Extension – Starke County website has a plethora of information available. The website is located at [www.extension.purdue.edu/starke](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/starke)  
The Indiana 4-H website also has information about the 4-H program and statewide opportunities for youth at [www.extension.purdue.edu/4h](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/4h)  
Like us at: “**Purdue Extension – Starke County**” to stay connected and receive reminders on Facebook.

If you have any questions regarding the 4-H program, please contact your local club leader or the Extension Office. Our phone numbers is: 574-772-9141. Our office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:00pm. You can also email me at [jwickert@purdue.edu](mailto:jwickert@purdue.edu).

Sincerely,

Julia K. Miller,  
Extension Educator,  
County Extension Director/4-H Youth Development