

May 27, 2021

Dear 4-H Family,

The 2021 4-H year is fully underway! We hope your 4-H year is off to a great start! Hopefully you have been able to attend at least one 4-H club meeting and have started making new friends! At this time of year, most of our members are attending club meetings where they are learning new skills, developing teamwork and leadership abilities, and making new friends. If for some reason you have not been able to attend club meetings, please let us know. We can help you connect with your club leader or, if necessary, help you find a club that is a better fit for your family. Please note that attendance at meetings is not mandatory, but participation in your club will enrich your 4-H experience and is strongly encouraged.

Members have started to work on their 4-H projects. Check your newsletter for information about project activities, and due dates. Remember that the project superintendents are available to answer questions! You can find their contact information in the back of your 4-H Resource Handbook.

The 2021 Starke County 4-H Fair is right around the corner now! The Fair is a culmination of the learning 4-H members have done throughout the year. It is also a way to celebrate accomplishments by the 4-H members. The 2021 Starke County 4-H Fair dates are July 10-16.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities:

- FairEntry – Online registration of all the projects 4-H members will be exhibiting at the Fair. Starke County started utilizing FairEntry in 2016. This system is used statewide. More information was mailed and emailed to all 4-H members in May.
- 4-H Project Exhibit Judging – Starke County has open judging for all of the static or exhibit building projects. This means 4-H members have the opportunity to sit with the judge while their project is being judged. It is a great learning experience for all involved! 4-H members are allowed to have one helper with them during the 4-H project judging in the exhibit building. This can be a parent, older sibling, grandparent, adult who helped you with the 4-H project. A tentative project judging schedule is included with this letter. Exploring 4-H projects are not part of open judging. Those projects are reviewed by the Exploring 4-H Club Leaders.
- Many 4-H projects require a record sheet or project manual to be turned in along with the project/exhibit for judging. Some projects also require Skills Sheets. A chart of what is needed is on the inside of the cover page of the 4-H Handbook and included with this letter.
- There is no entrance or parking fee for the Starke County 4-H Fair.
- Information about State Fair projects will be mailed to all those who qualify for the State Fair.
- 4-H members who earn trophies with their 4-H Exhibit Building projects will receive those awards during a ceremony on Thursday, July 15th at the Show Arena starting at 5:00 pm. Lists of the winners with trophies will be available in the Exhibit Building after project judging.
- The 4-H Livestock Judging Contest is Friday, July 16th, registration at 9:00 am and the contest starts at 9:30 am at the Show Arena. This is a fun learning event for 4-H members in grades 3-12.
- 4-H members have the opportunity to participate in a fun water activity called Battle of the Barns on Friday, July 16th. Youth in grades 3-12 can participate in the event. Registration is available all week of the fair and the deadline is Friday, July 16th at 12:00 pm. The event starts at 1:00 pm.

- The 4-H Livestock Auction will start at 5:00 pm in the show arena. Information about what animals and how many animals a 4-H member can sell is in the 4-H Handbook.
- 4-H project exhibit pick-up is on Saturday, July 17th from 10:00-11:30 am. If you cannot pick up your project during this time slot, please contact your 4-H Club Leader. Projects will NOT be released early.
- 4-H ribbons that members earn are attached to their projects during 4-H project judging. Ribbons can be picked up when you pick up your project on Saturday, July 17th. The only exception is the Foods, Food Preservation, and Create-with-a-Mix Projects. Ribbons can be picked up the day of judging on Tuesday, July 6th.
- Every 4-H member (grades 3-12) needs to complete their white “My Record of Achievement” and turn in the form by the Friday of Fair, July 16th. The forms can be turned into the Fair Office. If you are unable to turn in your Achievement Record during the fair, please bring to the Extension Office as soon as possible. These forms are available from your 4-H Club Leaders and 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 when selecting 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 annually in November.

Our Purdue Extension – Starke County website has a plethora of information available. The website is located at 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

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.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure(s) – 2: Tentative 2021 Starke County Fair Judging Schedule
Record Sheet & Project Manual Guidelines