

**4-H**

***FAMILY GUIDE***



**A Guide To  
4-H In  
Dearborn County**

Dear 4-H Families,

Thank you for your interest in Dearborn County 4-H! This booklet was created to help you learn more about 4-H, what we do and who we are. Regardless of whether you live on a farm or in a town, have one hobby or many, like doing things by yourself or with others, 4-H has something to offer.

The Dearborn County Extension Office is located at 229 Main Street, Aurora, IN in the Aurora City building. We offer informal, educational opportunities in agriculture, community development, health and human sciences, and youth development. As Extension Educators, we work to provide you with the latest scientific information in agriculture, management of resources, helping families learn about healthy living, and developing individual talents through leadership training. Our office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday. The office closes on county holidays.

Should you need additional information, please feel free to contact us at our office. Our telephone number is 812-926-1189. We welcome the opportunity to make your participation in our programs an enjoyable one.

Sincerely,

Liz Beiersdorfer  
4-H Youth Development Educator  
Dearborn County

Marcia Parcell  
Health and Human Sciences Educator  
Dearborn County

John Hawley  
Agriculture, Natural Resources Educator  
Dearborn County

**229 Main Street, Aurora, IN 47001**

**Phone 812-926-1189 Fax 812-926-3006**

Purdue University, Indiana Counties and U.S Department of Agriculture Cooperating  
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## Welcome to Dearborn County 4-H

We want to extend a warm welcome to you and congratulate your family for choosing to make 4-H a part of your life. 4-H is a youth development program that is a part of the United States Department of Agriculture and administered in Indiana by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. Locally, the Dearborn County office of the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service administers the Dearborn County 4-H program, and the Dearborn County 4-H Board of Directors is responsible for policy and governance.

Included in this family guide is information we hope will be helpful and will provide the tools necessary for your family to have a positive start with your 4-H career. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding this information after you have read it.

### Office Hours and Location

The local 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator manages the county 4-H program on a daily basis. Feel free to use any of the means listed below to contact the office with any questions that may arise throughout the year.

The Purdue Extension - 229 Main Street, Aurora, IN 47001. Located in the Aurora City Building.

Office Hours are:

Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Closed County Government Holidays

Phone- 812-926-1189

Voice mail is available during non-business hours

Visit the Extension Office web site at [www.extension.purdue.edu/dearborn](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/dearborn) under 4-H information, for information about Dearborn County 4-H.

Visit the Dearborn County 4-H Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/DearbornCounty4H](http://www.facebook.com/DearbornCounty4H)

### Purdue Extension Dearborn County Staff

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[pchase@purdue.edu](mailto:pchase@purdue.edu)

## **Purpose of this Guide**

This guide is intended to help families new to Dearborn County 4-H become familiar with our program. It should serve as a valuable resource for members and parents to improve understanding of the terms, structure and operations of the 4-H program. While some families new to Dearborn County 4-H may have transferred from another county, it is important to understand each county in Indiana has its own way of doing things. Therefore, just because it happened one way in "xyz" county, does not mean it will be the same in Dearborn County. Please do not hesitate to contact the Extension Office at any time throughout the year. The Extension Office staff is here to serve your educational needs and wants your family to be successful in our local youth development program.

## **What is 4-H and the Cooperative Extension Service?**

4-H is a non-formal educational program provided by the United States Department of Agriculture and delivered through its Cooperative Extension Service. The Cooperative Extension Service is administered in Indiana through its land grant university, Purdue University. CES offers educational programs in the areas of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Health and Human Sciences, Community Development, and 4-H Youth Development. In Dearborn County, Extension Staff receive program direction and support from the Extension Board that is comprised of a cross-section of people throughout the county.

4-H provides youth in grades 3-12 educational programs through participation in project and club related activities. Dearborn County 4-H offers programming through more than 100 different projects and has 20 community 4-H clubs. 4-H project workshops provide members with technical training that each member needs to be successful not only in discipline, but also with life-long technical skills. 4-H club work provides members with life-long leadership and social skills that will be of benefit to every member in career preparation. 4-H camp provides youth with educational programming while having fun and meeting friends from eight counties in our Area.

Youth in grades K-2 can benefit from 4-H programming by joining Clover Buds (mini 4-H). Clover buds will receive an invitation to attend a discovery event each spring and are welcome at all 4-H clubs. There is no fee to join Mini 4-H and Clover Buds, who may select up to two projects each year. Clover's have 19 project areas to choose from, but exhibit only one project at the county fair. Clover-Buds is a home-based non-competitive program that introduces youth to the 4-H program.

## **Purdue Extension's Mission**

We deliver practical, research-based information that transforms lives and livelihoods.

## **4-H Mission and Vision**

**4-H 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 their communities and world.

**4-H Vision:** Indiana 4-H Youth Development strives to be the premier, community-based program empowering young people to reach their full potential.

## **Indiana 4-H Program Philosophy**

The Indiana 4-H program serves the youth of Indiana by providing a strong educational youth development program. This program delivers educational experiences in a variety of settings. Caring, capable and contributing adults assist in the 4-H program as role models for youth. The rich heritage of the 4-H Program is one to be valued and provided for in future generations. The Indiana 4-H Youth Policies and Procedures Handbook includes certain standards and guidelines to assure that 4-H is a positive youth development program. County 4-H policy is guided by the county 4-H policy making or governing board (i.e., 4-H Board of Directors) as provided by the County Extension Board. Legal authority for the 4-H Program rests with the Director of the Cooperative Extension Service at Purdue University. No county 4-H policy may conflict with state 4-H policy or with federal guidelines and requirements. Deadlines for county and state participation are carefully constructed to encourage rather than to discourage participation. Such deadlines are well published in the Master 4-H Annual Schedule, through newsletters, mailings, and email. Members not complying with established and published dates and deadlines for exhibition may be denied the opportunity to exhibit. It is the policy of 4-H to be an inclusive organization. No county policy or practice is used to arbitrarily exclude youth from either membership or participation. Youth should participate in 4-H Youth Development opportunities at levels and times that best suit the youth's development and support family involvement.

## **Equal Opportunity/Equal Access**

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.

## **Enrollment Eligibility/Membership/Residence**

Enrollment in Indiana 4-H is open to any youth enrolled in grades 3-12. Grade is defined as the school grade the child is enrolled on January 1 of the 4-H year. A child may enroll in only one 4-H program in Indiana, regardless of their place of residence. In other words, youth are not required to participate in their own county's program and may participate in a different county program provided they have properly enrolled. The only exception to this is if their county of primary 4-H enrollment does not offer a project or statewide activity they want to participate, then the child can enroll in a second county provided they meet Indiana 4-H policy requirements. Enrollment registers a child in the 4-H program.

## **Annual 4-H Enrollment/Re-Enrollment**

Enrollment is an annual process attained by completing the appropriate county 4-H enrollment process. 4-H Online enrollment is October 1 through May 15 at <https://in.4honline.com>. 4-H enrollment is open to youth in grades 3-12 for a maximum of 10 consecutive years. 4-H members may drop or add projects through 4-H Online, through May 15. There is a \$15 state 4-H program fee, payable at the time of enrollment.

Mini 4-H enrollment is open to youth grades K-2. Enrollment is completed on 4-H online; and there is no enrollment fee.

## **Cancellation Reminder**

Check with your club leader for cancellation information. Check Eagle Radio 99.3 for county 4-H event cancellations. Look for cancellation notice from 4-H online emails or texts.

## **Transportation of 4-H Youth**

When there is a need for a 4-H member to have transportation to a 4-H event or activity and the parent is unable to provide that transportation, the following guidelines should be followed:

\*Parents are encouraged to arrange their own rides for their children.

\*Anyone under the age of 21 must not be asked to serve as a driver and transport other youth to or from events and activities.

\*Under no circumstances should personal vehicles carry more persons than the vehicle is designed for (a seat belt for each occupant).

## **What is 4-H?**

4-H is an extracurricular, volunteer led, family-oriented program.

4-H offers activities for boys and girls in grades K through 12.

4-H is for urban as well as rural youth.

4-H helps young people develop life skills. A life skill is an ability that one can use in everyday life.

Examples of basic life skills are:

1. Building self-confidence.
2. Developing an inquiring mind and making decisions.
3. Setting and meeting goals.
4. Relating to other people.
5. Developing a concern for the community.
6. Developing leadership skills.

## **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.



## **MOTTO**

"To make the best better."  
This should be the objective of every member and volunteer.

## **SLOGAN**

"Learn by Doing."

## **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.





## THE 4-H PLEDGE

4-H members should learn the national 4-H pledge.

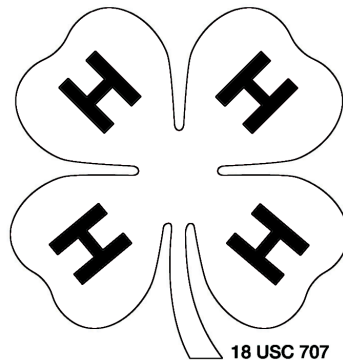
I pledge

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.

## GRADE FOR MEMBERSHIP

4-H membership is open to all boys and girls in Dearborn County who are currently in grades 3 through 12. Youth may participate a maximum of ten years in traditional 4-H.

All young persons in kindergarten, first and second grades may participate in the Mini 4-H program, also called Clover Buds.



## 4-H PARENT (HOME HELPER)

**Purpose:** Provide support to your child in 4-H.

### **Responsibilities:**

1. Help your child enroll in the 4-H Club and meet the 4-H requirements
2. Help your child select one or more suitable 4-H Projects to complete.
3. Make sure your child attends 4-H Club meetings. Provide or arrange for transportation.
4. Monthly 4-H calendars are available with published monthly newsletters, **4-H Connection**
5. Help your child to complete any 4-H responsibilities he or she volunteered for, been elected to, or selected for.
6. Attend as many Club meetings as possible and let your club leader know if you cannot attend.
7. Consider offering to help with club activities.
8. Offer to volunteer your help as possible.
9. Support your child's 4-H project work.
  - A. Read the **Dearborn County 4-H Connection**, and review the calendar to be aware of dates important to your 4-Her.
  - B. 4-H Project manuals and record sheets are available to pick-up from the Extension Office throughout the year.
  - C. Make sure your child attends any project workshops. Provide or arrange for transportation.
  - D. Help your child gather any materials needed for their project.
  - E. Help your child complete one or more articles for exhibit and make sure he/she can exhibit them at the County 4-H Fair. Provide transportation and encouragement.
  - F. Help your child complete, and turn in on time, 4-H project records along with "My Record of Achievement", all kept in the *Green Record Book*.

### **Assistance Available:**

1. 4-H Club Organizational Leader
2. 4-H Project Leader (livestock specie chairs and assistants)
3. Experienced 4-H Parents and 4-H members
4. 4-H Project Manuals
5. State 4-H web page <https://extension.purdue.edu/4h/Pages/default.aspx>
  - a. This page offers comprehensive information about each state project and activity
6. Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service Office - Dearborn County 812-926-1189
7. Dearborn County 4-H Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DearbornCounty4H/>

### **Time Commitment:**

One 4-H year includes about 1 hour per month for club meetings and time for 4-H project work. Actual time depends on individual youth. A minimum of 6-10 hours per year should be expected; depending on the number of projects enrolled in or if livestock projects are involved.

### **Benefits:**

Help your child learn and grow, share experiences with your child, improve relationships with your child, contribute to youth in your community, and develop a sense of accomplishment.

### **Qualifications:**

- Interest in child's activities.
- Commitment of time and energy to 4-H members.
- Ability to assist, but still allow the member to do his/her own work.

## OTHER WAYS THAT 4-H PARENTS CAN HELP

1. Learn about 4-H: what it stands for, how it operates, how it is funded.
2. Advise your child in selecting 4-H projects.
3. Show your interest and enthusiasm for the projects selected. Ask for suggestions about what members could do to learn.
4. See that when a project is started, it is also completed.
5. Encourage your 4-Her when he/she succeeds and provide even more encouragement when he/she fails.
6. Be an example! Help your 4-Her to be a good sport, and appreciate the successes of others.
7. Keep informed about 4-H through information that comes to members of your family. Visit your profile in 4H online regularly and read the **Dearborn County 4-H Connection** and other mailings your 4-H'er will receive.
8. Be a 4-H booster in your community. Support 4-H by sponsoring awards for the 4-H Fair and Achievement program. Contact the Extension Office if you are willing to sponsor a 4-H Fair trophy or another award for 4-H.
9. Make 4-H Club work FAMILY work, but let the boys and girls do their work and carry their own jobs to completion. Be their guide only.
10. Provide transportation to local meetings and county events in which your child and others of the club are interested. Or, provide refreshments for meetings or special functions. Do not wait to be asked; just volunteer this help!
11. Attend 4-H meetings and other special events.
12. Help your 4-Her find a way to participate in special events that interest him/her such as county contests, 4-H camp & camp counselor, Fair, displays, local workshops, area workshops, state workshops, Fashion Review, royalty contest, 4-H bowling, 4-H Academy@Purdue state trips, Roundup, Career Development Events, etc.
13. Support your local 4-H leaders. Get acquainted with them. Let them know you appreciate their efforts.
14. Offer your services to assist the local leaders. You have knowledge and skills that are needed in 4-H.
15. If the need arises, help find local leaders for your 4-H Club. Several kinds of leaders are necessary to the success of clubs: organization, project, and activity leaders. Consider helping in one of these ways yourself. Volunteer applications are available in the Extension Office.
16. Remember that the real object of 4-H is to develop your sons and daughters into finer citizens. The way they work on projects, participate in meetings, and conduct themselves at competitive events, etc., will help set work and character standards for the rest of their lives.

## WHO'S WHO IN 4-H

4-H member	Any child currently in grade 3 through grade 12 who is properly enrolled in 4-H annually and meets the club requirements.
Club Leader	An adult volunteer who is responsible for the organizational aspects of the 4-H club.
Project Mentor	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. Project Mentors currently are being sought & confirmed in select project areas. When available, names and telephone numbers will be shared with 4-H Club leaders and 4-H members. If you have expertise in a project area and would like to become a mentor, please contact the Extension Office.
Junior Leader	A 4-H member who is in grades 7 through 12. The Junior Leader year runs from August through August. The group has monthly meetings, performs community service projects, and participates in various events. Completion Trips are determined each year and eligibility is based on completing required events.
Parents	Important to the success of the child in 4-H. Parents are ENCOURAGED to attend club meetings as well as countywide events with their child.

## COUNTY LEVEL

**All 4-H volunteers go through a stringent screening process which includes a background check before being allowed to work with 4-H members.**

4-H Board of Directors	4-H Board of Directors meets monthly on the first Thursday and is the policy-making organization for Dearborn County 4-H. There are 11 volunteers with voting rights on this board, including two Junior Leader members. The president of the 4-H Fair Board also sits on the board. Members of the Dearborn County 4-H Association elect 4-H board members to three-year terms during the annual Achievement Banquet. If you are interested in becoming a 4-H BOD member, please contact the Extension Office.
Extension Educator	The professional who helps to carry out the 4-H program and serves as a source of research-based information. Dearborn County has one 4-H educator, and their title is 4-H Youth

Development Educator. The Extension Office is located at 229 Main Street, Aurora, IN 47001. Email addresses for staff can be found in the Dearborn County 4-H Handbook. Office hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. The office is closed on county holidays.

#### 4-H Fairboard

The 4-H Fairboard is a subcommittee of the 4-H Board of Directors. Fair Board members serve three-year terms and are elected to service by the Fair Board. As volunteers, their purpose is to oversee the 4-H Fairgrounds and make decisions related to the annual 4-H Fair.

### **STATE LEVEL**

#### Purdue University

Purdue is the land grant college in Indiana that has the responsibility for taking education to the people of the state. The 4-H program is part of that directive in all 92 Indiana counties.

#### State 4-H Program Leader

The State 4-H Program Leader has the responsibility for 4-H programming at the State Level. The 4-H Program Leader is based at Purdue University.

#### State Specialist

State Specialists have responsibility for the 4-H program on a statewide basis. Each one has a specific part of the total 4-H program. They are based at Purdue University and are under the direction of the State 4-H Program Leader.

#### Indiana 4-H Foundation

This nonprofit organization 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.

## Dearborn County 4-H Club Leader Information 2018-2019

- Camelid Crew (formerly Alpaca)**
  - Jenny Wilk 513-200-4166; [jwilk9265@gmail.com](mailto:jwilk9265@gmail.com)
  - Shari Caldwell 812-926-2446 or 513-218-7540, [scaldwell4@centurylink.net](mailto:scaldwell4@centurylink.net)
  - **Meets** 3rd Tuesday of each month. Call for time and location
- Aurora Wildcats**
  - Cathy Brandt-812-584-0473 [brandtc@comcast.net](mailto:brandtc@comcast.net)
  - Carol Basso-812-655-2094 [carolmartybasso@yahoo.com](mailto:carolmartybasso@yahoo.com)
  - **Meets** 4th Thursday 6 pm Activity Center, Conwell St. Aurora
- Dog Daze**
  - Carol Basso-812-655-2094 [carolmartybasso@yahoo.com](mailto:carolmartybasso@yahoo.com)
  - Michael Basso-812-747-7310 or 812-655-2367
  - **Meets** Tues evenings at Carol Basso's home January-June 6:30 pm.
- Dover Hoosier Helpers**
  - Kathy Kuhn-812-637-6185 [kmkuhn@fuse.net](mailto:kmkuhn@fuse.net)
  - **Meets** Sunday's at 4 pm, Dover Church Hall October-Fair. Please call to confirm which Sunday of the month.
- Eldorado Horse & Pony**
  - Heather Bear 812-221-0172
  - Lisa Lawrence 812-623-6692 or 812-212-5599 [lilaw22@gmail.com](mailto:lilaw22@gmail.com)
  - Nikki Manning 812-623-6486 or 812-209-9285, [nikkimanning@me.com](mailto:nikkimanning@me.com)
  - **Meets** last Wednesday of the month; call for details
- Great Caesars**
  - Steve Kittle-812-926-6278 [sdkittle@embarqmail.com](mailto:sdkittle@embarqmail.com)
  - Sandy Lang 812-432-5860
  - Carla Bergmann-812-744-7650
  - **Meets** St. John's School Farmers Retreat; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 1:30pm
- Happy Hooves**
  - Brad Dawson 513-341-7002, [braddawson487@gmail.com](mailto:braddawson487@gmail.com),
  - Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, 6 pm, Fair Office, Fair Grounds
- Happy Udder Bunch**
  - Diana Hubbard-812-637-9922 c 812-221-0716
  - Karen Weber-812-623-0141
  - [Boer] Sara Kraus-812-212-6166 [sarascool95@yahoo.com](mailto:sarascool95@yahoo.com)
  - **Meets** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs of each month, NDPL, 7 pm, call to confirm
- Lagamorph Lounge (rabbit)**
  - Tricia Ober 513-313-2795; [tricia.ober@boone.kyschools.us](mailto:tricia.ober@boone.kyschools.us)
  - **Meets** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of month, 6:30 pm 20741 N Manchester Rd

- **Lawrenceville Shamrocks**
  - Brenda Osman-812-623-0801
  - **Meets**-Call for meeting time.
- **Manchester Rowdies**
  - Rachel Thies 812-926-2393
  - Sherry Love 812-744-5190
  - Amber Fehr 812-584-5967
  - Monetta Roessler 812-432-3069
  - Rachael McCarthy-Roessler 812-584-6599
  - **Meets** first Monday of each month November-Fair & Thursday before the fair begins; 7 pm, Community United Methodist Church, 18189 Possum Ridge, Aurora, IN
- **St Leon Lucky Leafers**
  - Cathy Kolb-812-637-2357 [ckolb@fuse.net](mailto:ckolb@fuse.net)
  - Marcia Stenger-812-576-4701
  - Karen Herth-812-576-2049
  - **Meets** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues of the month, St. Joseph School in St. Leon, 6:30pm
- **Stateline Roadrunners**
  - Patty Bourquein 812-637-6820 [roadrunners4h@comcast.net](mailto:roadrunners4h@comcast.net)
  - Lisa Pope-812-623-3782
  - Cindy Hubert-812-637-6305
  - Debra Galey-812-637-9898
  - Criss Green-812-637-3905
  - **Meets** last Monday of the month; September-June 6:30 pm Bright Elementary
- **SAFE (Shooting Sports)**
  - Steve Stenger-812-576-4701 (Site Coordinator) [wood@etczone.com](mailto:wood@etczone.com)
  - Greg Green 513-349-0101 [ggreen1971@comcast.net](mailto:ggreen1971@comcast.net) (Site Coordinator)
  - Cathy Kolb-Information 812-637-2357 [ckolb@fuse.net](mailto:ckolb@fuse.net)
  - Richard Bower 812-623-3362 Hunter's Education
  - Darrell Williams 812-744-4760 shotgun
  - Steve Stenger- 812-576-4701 [wood@etczone.com](mailto:wood@etczone.com); shotgun
  - Kyle Stenger 812-576-4701 [kmstenger05@yahoo.com](mailto:kmstenger05@yahoo.com) shotgun
  - Criss Green 812-637-3905; [cgreen@lpld.lib.in.us](mailto:cgreen@lpld.lib.in.us) archery
  - Carla Bergman 812-744-7650 or 513-633-5944; [zangbuilder@fuse.net](mailto:zangbuilder@fuse.net) archery
  - Cindy Hubert 812-623-6305; [hubert3@comcast.net](mailto:hubert3@comcast.net) archery
  - Darren Callahan 812-487-2999 or 513-252-3814 [callahandt@gmail.com](mailto:callahandt@gmail.com) rifle
  - Greg Green 513-349-0101 [ggreen1971@comcast.net](mailto:ggreen1971@comcast.net) rifle
  - Nick Bergman 812-744-7650 [ncbergmann@seidata.com](mailto:ncbergmann@seidata.com) pistol
  - Cari Cogar 513-266-9361 [caricogar@yahoo.com-pistol](mailto:caricogar@yahoo.com-pistol) & Outdoor Skills Coordinator
  - Zach Hoffman 812-0160 muzzleloader
  - Earl Shuter 812-584-8411 [eshuter0517@gmail.com](mailto:eshuter0517@gmail.com), muzzleloader

## □ Jr Leaders

- Liz Beiersdorfer 812-926-1189, [ebeiers@purdue.edu](mailto:ebeiers@purdue.edu)
- Cathy Kolb 812-637, [ckolb@fuse.net](mailto:ckolb@fuse.net)
- Matt Jarvis 317-409-7070, [matt.jarvis@in.usda.gov](mailto:matt.jarvis@in.usda.gov)
- Meets first Tues. of month, annually, 7 pm, Ext. Office

4-H clubs generally meet once a month. Call your leader for club meeting dates. Many clubs meet September-the Fair.

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. Ask your leader if there are annual club dues. 4-Hers may belong to more than one club. Many youth belong to a general club, as well as, project clubs like shooting sports (SAFE) or livestock clubs.

4-Hers may change membership to another club if they wish. It is important to notify the Extension Office 812-926-1189 and the leaders of both clubs (the one you are leaving and the one you are joining).

Clubs elect officers from the club membership. The officers conduct the business portion of the 4-H club meeting.

## Newsletter-4-H Connection

This newsletter is sent to every 4-H home in Dearborn County enrolled in 4-H online. It is called the 4-H Connection. Read your **4-H Connection** to find out about 4-H Club meetings, project workshops, and other timely 4-H news! This newsletter is mailed to the members through the US Postal Service bulk mailing system. It is also on the Extension Office web site at [www.extension.purdue.edu/dearborn](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/dearborn).

## 4-H MAILINGS

The Extension Office tries to effectively communicate with 4-H families in several ways. The **Dearborn County 4-H Connection** is one way, but other information needing delivery in a timely manner is mailed first class in an envelope with the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service return address, a post card, or emailed. Regardless of how you receive the information, please read the information immediately so important deadlines and opportunities are not missed. When you receive a letter or Postcard in the mail with this return address, it is not junk mail and should be opened immediately.

*Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service  
Dearborn County  
229 Main Street, Aurora, IN 47001  
Cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture*



## WEB SITE

The Extension Office maintains a web site at [www.extension.purdue.edu/dearborn](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/dearborn). It is updated frequently and a way for the office to be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 4-H newsletters and other useful information are available on the web site. There are links that provide educational resources to the 4-H members and their families, such as, project record sheets. The State 4-H website link is also available on our webpage. If you cannot find a project form you require on our webpage, please visit the State website.

## 4-H PROJECTS

4-H projects are learning experiences for the 4-H members. 4-H members must sign up for at least one project each year and complete the records for that project. A member is encouraged to exhibit at the Fair as part of their project completion.

Some projects are divided by grade, while others are divided by the number of years of participation in that project. Grade is determined by the grade the member was in at the time of enrollment, or the school year preceding the Fair.

4-H members may add or drop projects until May 15. To add or drop a project, please manage through 4-H Online.

## 4-H HANDBOOK

Each 4-H family will receive a 4-H Handbook when they receive their 4-H project manuals. The Handbook has the information members need to know about what their Fair exhibit should include. The 4-H Handbook is also found on the Extension Office website at [www.extension.purdue.edu/dearborn](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/dearborn).

Members may ask the club or project leaders about the project, as well as, the completion and 4-H Fair exhibit requirements for that project. You will find a list of club and project club leaders in the 4-H Handbook.

## 4-H PROJECT MANUALS, RECORD SHEETS AND GREEN RECORD BOOK

Most 4-H projects have manuals that give in-depth information for that project. Project manuals and record sheets are available to pick up from the Extension office at any time. Check with your club leader, as many pick up manuals and record sheets for club members and distribute them at club meetings. Dearborn County 4-Hers enter/list projects taken each year onto the Achievement Record Sheet. The Achievement sheet is the first page of the Green Folder. Record sheets are required to verify completion in a project and should be kept in the green folder given to first year members by the 4-H Club Leaders. It is commonly referred to as the "Green Record Book". The first green record folder is free. Replacement folders are available at minimal cost from the Extension Office. It is important for 4-Hers and parents to read the 4-H project manuals thoroughly. They are

full of good information that will help your child learn to prepare an exhibit for the 4-H Fair. Always refer, however, to the 4-H Handbook for project exhibit specifics. Only current year records should be included in the Green Folder when presented on Project Check-In Day. It is wise to keep another folder at home to store each year's record sheets when removed from the Green Folder.

## **MY RECORD OF 4-H ACHIEVEMENT**

White forms labeled "My Record of 4-H Achievement" (4-H 620-W) should be filled out completely each year. These are available from 4-H Club Leaders and the County Extension Office. 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. The "My Record of 4-H Achievement" is to be kept in the front of your Green Record Book, with your project record sheets. Be sure to update your information every year.

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.

An example of how to complete the "My Record of 4-H Achievement" is found near the end of this publication.

## **PROJECT SELECTION**

In choosing a project, a member will consult with his or her parents and 4-H leader(s). After considering all the projects available and the requirements of each, he or she should select one based on:

1. Interest, needs, and capabilities
2. Family situation
3. Suitability of the area in which he or she lives

Members enrolling for the first time will take a minimum of one project. As a member gains knowledge and experience, the scope of the project may be increased and additional projects might be selected. A brief explanation of each project is included in the 4-H Handbook. Members may also ask the Extension Educator, club leaders, or other 4-H parents/members about project requirements for that project.

Early in the 4-H career, a member should consider developing a tentative project plan to guide him or her through their 4-H experience. Projects of high interest should be continued each year, with increases in the depth of the project when possible. Members might try additional projects, which are related to his or her other project work. For example, an electric project member may want to enroll in home environment, woodworking,

or automotive projects. If possible, an older member could consider expanding project work to develop a complete farm, ranch, business, or home management program.

Project work is the core of the 4-H member's experience. 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.

## Fair entry Registration

Fair Entry registers projects 4-H members are bringing to the fair. This is separate from 4-H online enrollment, which registers the child in 4-H. Both registrations are necessary each year.

Visit <https://dearborncountyindiana.fairentry.com> and sign in through the 4-H online link. Each child needs to provide information regarding all projects they intend to bring to the fair, along with a short description. If you are not exactly sure what you will bring, but know your division requires a poster, indicate "poster" in the description. Fair Entry is required and a deadline for registration completion is posted every year in the newsletter, social media, and webpage. Step by step instructions for Fair Entry registration are mailed to families in the spring for your convenience. If registration is not completed by the deadline, families will register projects before having projects judged on project check-in morning. An assistant will be available to help families complete registration.

## 4-H FAIR JUDGING

Projects exhibited at the 4-H Fair will be judged. Non-livestock exhibits will be checked in and judged on Project Check-In Day between 9:00 and 11:30 am. Check-in and judging stations are placed throughout Agner Hall, on the Fairgrounds. Judging is conference style Meaning your 4-H Fair exhibits will be judged in your presence, as you check in. Here are some questions you may be asked in a conference 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 the exhibit that you want me to know.
- ✓ What did you like best (or least) about this project?
- ✓ Did you do this exhibit at school or was it in a workshop setting?
- ✓ Did you have any difficulty with this exhibit?
- ✓ What life skills did you develop by completing this project?

## COMPLETING THE EXHIBIT ENTRY TAG

How to complete the Exhibit entry tag:

NAME	
Grade	Project
Club	

Securely attached the Exhibit entry tag to the exhibit in a visible place. Place the Exhibit entry tag in the lower right hand corner of poster exhibits.

## RIBBONS

4-H uses the Danish system of ribbon awards. In this system, the ribbon placings are defined as follows:

- Purple .....Outstanding work
- Orange Honor .....Very good work
- Blue .....Above the average of the group
- Red .....Average
- White .....Below the average of the group

## **AWARDS & TRIPS**

Awards are given to 4-H members at the Annual 4-H Achievement Program held in the fall. Award applications are included in the September issue of **the 4-H Connection** or in a separate mailing in September. Any 4-H member may apply, as long as they were enrolled in the particular project during the 4-H year. Only 4-H members who apply are considered for these awards. Year pins are presented to all members upon completion of a 4-H year and are distributed by 4-H Club leaders.

Some 4-H members are eligible to apply for trips taken the following summer. Most of the trips take place during June and July. Trip and Award Applications are mailed to all 4-H members during February. Eligibility information is included in the Trip and Award Application. Completed applications are due to the Extension Office by third Friday of April.

### **Major 4-H Trips**

National 4-H Conference-usually spring  
4-H Academy@ Purdue- second week of June  
State 4-H Band  
4-H Round-UP-usually right after our fair  
State Fair Exhibit Hall Workers-end of July through State Fair  
National 4-H Dair Conference  
State Fair Achievement Trip  
Teens As Teachers  
Global Gateway Experience  
State 4-H Junior LEADER CONFERENCE  
State 4-H Chorus  
Citizenship Washington Focus  
State Fair Youth Leadership Conference-  
Indiana 4-H Leadership Summit  
National 4-H Youth Congress

## **ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

Each club will have special activities for their club members throughout the year. In addition, there are countywide 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 **4-H Connection** for workshop details.

Officer Training - This is held in January for all members of 4-H Clubs to give them ideas and helpful hints about office and club member responsibilities.

Achievement Program - The 4-H Achievement Program is held on a Saturday evening in the fall, and is a time to recognize the accomplishments of 4-H members and volunteers.

Performing Arts - This annual talent show is an event of fun and learning for 4-H Clubs as well as individual 4-H members. The Area offers a Performing Arts Showcase in the spring each year.

#### 4-H Camp

This four day, three-night camp takes place each summer and is open to 4-H members in grades 3-12. The 4-H members participate educational classes each morning and have choice of activities every afternoon. Evening speakers and other evening activities are scheduled each day. We camp at Camp Higher Ground, off ST 46 between St. Leon, IN and Harrison, Ohio 4-Hers from Brown, Dearborn, Decatur, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, and Switzerland Counties come together for a great experience. 4-Hers in grades 7 & 8 may apply to be Counselors-In-Training (CIT). Those in grades 9 and above may apply to be Camp Counselors or CIT's, and typically, those youth in their senior year may apply to become a Junior Director.

### **SUMMARY OF COUNTY PROJECTS**

Check out the listing of projects. For additional information, contact one of the 4-H Club Leaders or the Dearborn County Extension Office.