

# Beginner's Guide to Vigo County

## 4-H



18 USC 707

## WHAT IS 4-H?

4-H is the largest youth organization in the nation. 4-H grows confident, capable, and caring youth with the life skills to thrive in today's world and succeed in their boldest dreams for tomorrow. 4-H programs are research-based and offer life-changing experiences to youth around the world.

Traditional 4-H is for youth in grades 3-12. Mini 4-H is for youth in K, 1, & 2. In addition, we're always looking for caring adults who want to help change lives by volunteering.

More than 7 million boys and girls are 4-H members throughout the United States. In Indiana, there are over 300,000 4-H members.

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

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

## 4-H FACTS

**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 in the communities and the world. 4-H has three main mission areas: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM); Healthy Living; and Civic Engagement.

**The 4-H MOTTO:** "To make the best better."

**EMBLEM:** A four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf. The "H" stands for Head, Heart, Hands and Health.



**COLORS:** The 4-H colors are green and white. Green symbolizes nature's most common color. Green represents life, springtime, and youth. White symbolizes purity.

### THE 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.

## WHO'S WHO IN 4-H

**4-H member** - Any child currently in grade 3 through grade 12 during the current year, who fills out a 4-H enrollment form.

**Mini 4-H member** - Any child currently in kindergarten through second grade during the current year, who fills out a 4-H enrollment form.

**Club Leader** - An adult volunteer who is responsible for the organizational aspects of the club.

**Livestock Superintendent** - A volunteer who assists with the livestock project. They will check-in 4-H member's livestock at the fair and set-up the show.

**Junior Leader** - A 4-H member who is in grade 7 through 12. The group has monthly meetings, performs community service projects, and sponsors various events.

**Parents** - Important to the success of the child in 4-H. Parents are encouraged to attend club meetings as well as county-wide events with their child.

## COUNTY LEVEL

**4-H Council** - The 4-H Council meets monthly and is the policy-making organization for Vigo County 4-H. There are elected persons on this board and additional appointed members.

**Extension Educators** - They are professionals who help to carry out Purdue Extension programs and serve as a source of research-based information. Our county has 5 educators – a Health and Human Science Educator, Community Development, Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, two 4-H Youth Development Educators.

You will work most closely with the 4-H Educators Tabby Flinn and Sara Haag. Tabby oversees the community clubs, Shooting Sports, Blacksmithing, and Junior Leaders. In addition, she works with the following projects: all of Exhibit Hall, Mini 4-H, dog, cat, and little critters. Sara oversees the Livestock clubs and projects along with Junior Leaders. She also manages the 4-H trips, camp, and scholarships.

**Support Staff** - They are professionals who support all the programs the Extension Educators implement throughout the year. They help to manage all the paperwork and telephone communication with all clients including Master Gardeners, Extension Homemakers, and the 4-H members.

**Extension Office**- The Extension Office is located south of the courthouse at 275 Ohio St. The telephone number is 812-462-3371. The Extension Office hours are 8 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

## STATE LEVEL

**Purdue University** - Purdue is a land grant university that has the responsibility for taking education to the people of the state. The 4-H program is part of that directive in the Youth Development & Agricultural Education Department.

**State 4-H Program** -The State 4-H Program Leader has the responsibility for 4-H programming at the State Level.

**State 4-H 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 trips taken on the state level. Forms for donations 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.

## **4-H MEMBERSHIP**

4-H membership is open to all youth in Vigo County who will be in kindergarten through grade 12. All youth in kindergarten, first, and second grades may participate in the Mini 4-H program. This program allows younger children to participate in special activities until they reach the traditional 4-H age of third grade. The age for traditional 4-H is grades 3 through 12. Youth may participate a maximum of ten years in traditional 4-H.

**Program Fee** – Every 4-H member will owe state program fees that go towards the cost of handbooks, project manuals, and insurance. Additionally, some local clubs also collect club dues to help with their club project and activities. Some clubs have fund-raisers. Indiana 4-H Program Fees are \$15. Mini members do not pay the state fee.

## **4-H CLUB**

A 4-H Club is a group of youth organized with officers and volunteer adult leaders. The generally meet monthly from January through the fair. Some clubs meet year-round. Youth may participate in one more club depending on their interests. It is recommended that if a youth is involved in a project that has a project-related club, they be involved with that club as well since many of those club meetings will help the youth understand topics in that project. Other things to consider when selecting a club: location, dates of meetings, size of club you are comfortable with, and areas of interest. A list of 4-H Clubs with club leader contact information is available on our website or from the Extension Office.

## **4-H PROJECTS**

Members have the opportunity to learn more about a subject matter that they choose to study through completing hands on activities. We refer to these as projects. In order to enroll in a project, members must sign up for them at the time of enrolling in 4-H through May 15.

There are several projects for members to choose from. Projects provide the basis of 4-H by offering various educational experiences. Carrying out a project helps the member “LEARN BY DOING.” The 4-H project is a teaching tool that can be used to develop many life skills in addition to the more evident project skills. Projects are real-life experiences that help 4-H members learn to make sound decisions. Projects put the hands and minds to work. Many valuable life skills are learned by completing 4-H projects!

Most 4-H projects have manuals that give in-depth information for that project. Project manuals are available at the Extension Office. For complete project guidelines, terms and conditions, and exhibit requirements as well as 4-H policies and procedures, be sure to see the current Vigo County 4-H Fair Book. Copies are available on the website. Livestock and animal projects have various enrollment deadlines and other special requirements, information on these deadlines and policy information can be found in the handbook also.

## **PROJECT SELECTION**

Parents and the member should know and fully understand what is expected of the 4-H member before they enroll in a project. Projects can be added or dropped through May 15. When helping a child select a project, parents and leaders should consider the following:

- Does the project meet the needs and interests of the member? It's important to remember that in many cases a child doesn't really know if he would like a particular project without first giving it a try.
- Does the project keep with ability of the member, yet provide a challenge? The amount of time a member has to work on the project and the amount of time required by the project.
- Does the project fit into the family needs and situation?
- How much will the project cost?
- Is there adequate space and equipment available?
- Is there opportunity for ownership and management responsibilities?
- Are club or project leaders willing to help, and likewise, are parents willing to help?

## **ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

Each club will have special activities for their club throughout the year. In addition, there are county-wide events that a 4-H member may participate in.

### SPARK Clubs

Short term programs designed to "spark" interest of youth in a specific topic area. These vary in topics and have a minimum of six hours of education throughout a time period. The program ends with a culminating project where youth showcase what they learned. Exhibit at the Fair is not required.

### Project Workshops

A variety of workshops in different project areas are offered each year. Look for announcements of workshops in the 4-H Newsletter and online.

### Fashion Revue

A fashion show for 4-H members in the sewing project who choose to participate. Pre-judging is held before the fair and awards are announced during the fair.

### 4-H Demonstration and Public Speaking Contests

Demonstrations are a "show-and-tell" presentation that gives members a chance to speak in front of a group and develop public speaking skills. For those who enjoy public speaking, there

is a county public speaking/demonstrations contest, as well as the opportunity to speak at the Indiana State Fair.

4-H Camp

This three-day, two-night camp takes place each summer and is open to 4-H members in grades 3-6. The 4-H members participate in many outdoor activities as they learn by doing. We camp at Shakamak State Park near Jasonville, Indiana with 4-H members from Clay, Sullivan, and Owen Counties. Those in grades eight and above may apply to be Camp Counselors.

Career Development Events

Career Development Events allow a member to study in depth a specific topic and compete in contests to test that knowledge at the county, area, and/or state level. Topics include Crops, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Foods, Dairy Goat, Entomology, Forestry, Horse & Pony, Horticulture, Livestock, Livestock Skill-a-thon, Meat Evaluation, Poultry and Eggs, Soils, and Wildlife Habitat. Vigo County traditionally has Hippology/Horse Bowl, Horse Judging, and Livestock Judging Teams.

County Fair

4-H members are encouraged to bring their completed projects to the fair for project judging and display. Information about times to bring and pick-up projects are located in the newsletter and from your local club leader. The county fair is a celebration of the hard work done by 4-H members throughout the entire program year!

**4-H TRIPS**

Indiana 4-H offers multiple trips for 4-H members to participate in. Each year the 4-H Council rewards 4-H members that have worked hard and participated often in various 4-H programs with scholarships to cover the cost of registration. Selection of recipients will be made off the completed Trip Interest Form due each spring. Most of the trips take place in June.

**THE 4-H YEAR**

A new 4-H year starts October 1 and concludes in September of every year. Youth are welcome to enroll by visiting [in.4honline.com](http://in.4honline.com) at any time *after* October 1. Below are some events that take place in Vigo County throughout our 4-H Year:

<p><b>October</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrollment Begins</li> <li>• National Youth Science Day</li> <li>• National 4-H Week</li> <li>• Jr. Leader Kick Off Event</li> </ul>	<p><b>November</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indiana Youth Leadership Summit</li> </ul>	<p><b>December</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-H Scholarships Open</li> </ul>
<p><b>January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 15 – target enrollment date</li> <li>• January 25 Scholarships Due</li> </ul>	<p><b>February</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YQCA Training Begins</li> <li>• Cattle Tag Day</li> </ul>	<p><b>March</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trip Interest Forms Due</li> </ul>

<p><b>April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camp Counselor Applications Due</li> <li>• Volunteer Week</li> <li>• April 1 – Beef Steer Info Due on 4-HOnline</li> </ul>	<p><b>May</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 15 – Drop/Add Project Deadline</li> <li>• May 15 – Livestock Identification Deadline on 4-Honline</li> <li>• Livestock Tag-in</li> <li>• Camp Counselor Trainings</li> <li>• Spring Flower Pick Up</li> </ul>	<p><b>June</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mini 4-H Day Camp</li> <li>• 4-H Camp (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade)</li> <li>• 4-H Academy (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)</li> <li>• State Jr. Leader Conference</li> <li>• 4-H Round Up (7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade)</li> <li>• 4-H Chorus/Band</li> </ul>
<p><b>July</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vigo County 4-H Fair!</li> <li>• Pre-fair judging</li> <li>• Jr. Leader Completion Trip</li> </ul>	<p><b>August</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indiana State Fair</li> </ul>	<p><b>September</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation for New 4-H Year</li> </ul>

**MY RECORD OF 4-H ACHIEVEMENT**

White cards labeled “My Record of 4-H Achievement” should be filled out completely each year. These are available from County Extension Office and on the website. 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. Be sure to update your information every year. A copy of your “My Record of 4-H Achievement” is due by Tuesday of fair week at noon to the 4-H fairgrounds office.

**FAIR JUDGING**

Non-livestock Projects to be exhibited at the 4-H Fair should be taken to the Fairgrounds on the designated project check-in day. Check your newsletter or contact the Extension Office or your leader for information on when project check-in will be held. Check-in and judging stations are placed throughout the 4-H Exhibit Hall. The judging method Vigo County uses is open judging. Open judging means the judge will evaluate the project while the 4-H member is present. The 4-H member may be asked to explain how the project was created or what was learned during the process.

**FAIRENTRY**

All Exhibit Hall projects and selected Livestock projects are required to pre-enter project through FairEntry. This site is used for record keeping as well as it tracks ribbon placement throughout the fair for projects and livestock shows. Directions on entering projects into the system will be made available in June.

**RIBBONS**

4-H uses the Danish system of ribbon awards. In this system, the ribbon placings are defined as follows: Ribbons are awarded for projects judged and exhibited at the county fair as follows:

**Mini 4-H Ribbon:** Mini 4-H is considered cooperative rather than competitive, so every project receives a Mini 4-H ribbon.

**Purple Rosette Grand Champion** – Best overall in a particular project

**Pink Rosette Reserve Grand Champion** – Second best overall in a particular project

**Purple Champion** – Best in project division

**Pink Reserve Champion** – Second best in project division

**Blue** – Exceeds project requirements

**Red** – Meets average project requirements

**White** – Below average of the project requirements

**Green** - Completion

## 4-H INFORMATION

### PURDUE EXTENSION WEBSITE

The Extension office website is located at <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/vigo/>. Be sure to check the Youth pages regularly for the newsletter, meetings announcements, project workshops, and other timely 4-H opportunities. Don't forget to "Like" Purdue Extension- Vigo County 4-H on Facebook to stay up to date with all 4-H happenings in the county as well!

### VIGO COUNTY 4-H FAIR BOOK

The Vigo County 4-H Fair Book contains general 4-H policies as well as specific project information members need to know. It also contains detailed information about the schedule of events during the fair. The book is generally updated by spring each year. Limited copies are available from the Extension Office and our website.

### EMAIL & MAIL COMMUNICATION

Specific project or activity information is primarily sent as an email from 4HOnline and at times is sent by letter in the mail. 4HOnline emails can be sent to the spam/junk folder of your email. Please try and check for these and mark them as a safe sender.

## HOW DO I GET STARTED?

**Step 1:** Enroll online at <https://in.4honline.com/>. The 4-H open enrollment period is October 1<sup>st</sup> – January 15<sup>th</sup>. While enrolling you will select your club(s) and projects. Please make sure all contact information entered is correct since we use this system to contact you about all 4-H opportunities! There is a program fee of \$15 per regular 4-H member in grades 3-12, does not apply to Mini 4-H members in grades K-2. You can pay with a credit or debit card online or select 4-H check. If 4-H check is selected you can pay with check or cash in the Extension Office. Please note the office cannot accept cards!

**Step 2:** Get involved! Begin to attend club meetings and check out the website to learn about all the cool events, activities, and trips planned. Last but not least, ask lots of questions as you get started and have fun.



**4-H Help:** Whenever you have a question, there is someone to contact for an answer. Don't hesitate to ask! You can call your club leader or the Extension Office.

## **PURDUE EXTENSION—VIGO COUNTY**

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(812) 462-3371

<http://www.extension.purdue.edu/vigo/>

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## 4-H TERMS USED IN VIGO COUNTY

**4-HOnline:** A website designed as an enrollment and data management system for 4-H throughout Indiana. Members must enroll in 4-H and pay a \$15 program fee in order to be in 4-H in Indiana. The 4-HOnline website allows youth and parents to sign up for projects, change contact information, and receive access to any information from the Extension Office.

**4-H Fair Book:** May be found on the web or purchased at the Vigo County Extension Office starting in the spring. This book describes all projects, many activities and awards. It contains all the rules for non-livestock projects and should be used as a reference throughout the year. Read EVERYTHING related to your projects so you will not be disappointed on judging day.

**Achievement Night:** An awards ceremony on the final night of fair to celebrate the accomplishments of all of our 4-Hers. It is open to any 4-H families.

**Adult Leader:** A person who volunteers their time to recruit, plan, organize, counsel, encourage, compliment, redirect, and whatever else it takes to make sure members have a great 4-H experience. These people are not paid, so please be considerate of their time and let them know how much they are appreciated.

**Tag Day:** Many animals must be identified by a county ear tag. Beef and Dairy Steers are typically tagged-in at the fairgrounds in February. In May, Goats and Sheep have a tag day for animals to receive their necessary tags.

**Community Service Project:** Each club is encouraged to complete a service project that helps their community.

**Drop/Add Deadline:** If you would like to add a project or delete one that you had signed up for by May 15. You may drop/add projects on 4-HOnline until May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**E-Mail Blasts:** We send out e-mails with important reminders and program information. If you would like to receive these, make sure to update your email address on your 4-HOnline account – or call the Extension Office..

**Extension Educator:** The title given to a professional employed by Purdue University to coordinate the 4-H program on the local level.

**Fair Board:** The Wabash Valley Fairboard plans and organizes fair events such as the carnival and grandstand events. The 4-H Program is responsible for and in charge of those things associated with the 4-H part of the fair.

**FairEntry:** FairEntry is a secondary website to 4-HOnline. This website is used for 4-Hers to specify exactly what projects/livestock they are bringing to fair. This data-tracking system also keeps record of ribbon placements and other awards for the 4-Her.

**Fashion Revue:** A public fashion show for members in the clothing project who choose to participate. 4-Hers are judged on modeling, style, accessorizing, and fit. Consumer Clothing members MUST participate to complete their project.

**Indiana State Fair:** Held in Indianapolis at the State Fairgrounds. Projects eligible for the fair must be checked in ahead of time. Animal projects must be entered by June 1 through the Indiana State Fair website. *The State Fair website is a completely different website than 4-HOnline.*

**Junior Leaders:** County wide project for members in grades 7 and above focusing on leadership, citizenship and fun.

**Livestock Identification:** Each livestock project (except Rabbits and Poultry) must have their animals identified on 4HOnline. This is in addition to the regular 4HOnline sign up for the 4-H member. A premise ID number is required on each animal. Be sure to pay close attention to due dates for Livestock information!

**Newsletter:** This comes from the Extension office quarterly and is posted to the website and emailed through 4HOnline. It's filled with very important information and is our main source of communication with 4-H families. **Please read it and share it!**

**Officers:** Each club elects their own officers to include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and possibly others. Members learn to conduct business through active leadership.

**Officers' Training:** This program is usually held every year in early spring. Officers from all clubs are invited to workshops to learn what is involved in performing the duties of their elected office.

**Open Judging:** A style of judging where the 4-H member can talk directly with the judge while their project is being graded. Parents may attend open judging, but are not allowed to speak to the judge.

**Pen/Stall Reservation:** Each member taking livestock to the fair must turn in a pen/stall reservation form so that livestock superintendents will know how many animals to expect and plan where they will be housed.

**Poster Project:** Many projects must be completed on a 22" x 28" poster displayed horizontally. They must be covered in heavy plastic (not saran wrap) and have space in the lower right hand corner for an exhibit tag. You can purchase the correct size foam board and plastic sleeves at the Extension Office.

**Premise ID:** A number given by the Indiana State Board of Animal Health to identify locations where animals are housed. All livestock members will need to submit their premise ID number on the enrollment form. More information is available at [www.in.gov/boah](http://www.in.gov/boah).

**Program Fee:** A \$15 program fee is required of all 4-H members (except Mini). This fee is a state-wide fee that provides insurance for youth for 4-H events as well as provides money to the Indiana 4-H program.

**Project Exhibit Tag:** A tag generated by FairEntry that is put on the bottom right corner of every 4-H project displayed during the Vigo County 4-H Fair. This tag includes information such as your name,

club, and a description of your project. It does not include personal identification information such as address or phone number.

**Project Manual:** Most projects have manuals that provide educational material and/or learning activities for members.

**Pullorum-Typhoid testing:** It must be certified that all poultry at the fair have come from Pullorum-typhoid free flocks or they must be tested and found free of Pullorum-typhoid.

**SPARK Program:** A short-term program based on a specific topic designed to “spark” interest of youth. Programs must be a minimum of six hours and include a culminating project at the end of participation. Exhibit at the Fair is not required.

**4-H Council:** Each township has someone who serves on the 4-H Youth Council. This group meets monthly and is the governing body of 4-H in Vigo County.

**Web Site:** 4-H information is provided on-line at Vigo County Extension’s web site. Visit [www.extension.purdue.edu/vigo](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/vigo) for updated calendars, newsletters, project information and forms.

**Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA):** A training that must be completed yearly by 4-H members planning to exhibit a livestock animal at the Vigo County 4-H Fair (except cats, dogs, horses, llamas/alpacas, and little critters). Trainings are offered both online and in-person.

# 4-H Basics

## The 4-H Symbol

A green 4 leaf clover with a white "H" on each of its leaves.



## The 4-Hs

HEAD

HEART

HANDS

HEALTH

## MOTTO

"To Make the Best Better"

## SLOGAN

"Learn by Doing"

## 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.

## COLORS

Green and White

Green represents springtime

White represents innocence

