



The Beginner's Guide to 4-H in Clinton County

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What is 4-H?

4-H is a “learning by doing”, volunteer led, family-oriented program.

4-H is for youth in third through grade twelve. Mini 4-H is for youth in second grade. Cloverbuds is for youth in kindergarten and first grade.

4-H is for all youth, regardless of where they live.

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

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.

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

4-H YEAR: A new 4-H year in Clinton County starts October 1 of each year.

WHO'S WHO IN 4-H

4-H member - Any child currently in grade 3 through grade 12 during the current year, who completes the 4-H on-line enrollment and meets their project requirements.

Mini 4-H member - Any child currently in second grade during the current year, who completes the on-line 4-H enrollment.

Cloverbud member - Any child currently in kindergarten or first grade during the current year, who completes the on-line 4-H enrollment or paper enrollment form.

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

Project Advisor - A volunteer who answers questions a 4-H member may have about a project. This person is often a person with special expertise in a particular subject area. Project Advisor's contact information is listed at the top of each rule sheet.

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 and does many community service projects.

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 - This is the short name for the Clinton County 4-H Council, Inc. The 4-H Council meets monthly and is the policy-making organization for Clinton County 4-H. There are elected persons on this board and additional appointed members. Members are elected to three-year terms.

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 three educators – a 4-H Youth Development Educator, a Health and Human Science Educator, and an Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator. We also have an Extension Program Assistant. Together they comprise Purdue Extension in Clinton County. The Extension Office is located at 1111 S. Jackson St., Frankfort, Indiana. The telephone number is 765-659-6380 and the fax number is 765-659-6382. The Extension Office hours are 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

Extension Office

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 agriculture and other community constituents, Extension Homemakers, and the 4-H members.

Fair Council - The Fair Council is the common name for the Clinton County Fair Council, Inc. The Fair Council is a separate entity from Purdue Extension and 4-H. They manage the Clinton County Fairgrounds and host the 4-H Program at the County Fair.

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 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.

AGE FOR MEMBERSHIP

4-H membership is open to all youth in Clinton County who will be in kindergarten through grade 12. All youth in kindergarten and first grades may participate in the Cloverbud Program. All youth in the second grade may participate in the Mini 4-H program. These programs allow 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.

4-H MEMBERSHIP

Youth may choose to join a 4-H Club or enroll in SPARK Club Experiences.

There are several 4-H Clubs in Clinton County. Each club has at least one adult volunteer leader while a few clubs have several leaders working together. The names of the clubs and the primary contacts are available from the Extension Office.

4-H CLUB

A 4-H Club is a group of boys and girls organized with officers and a volunteer adult leader. The different types of 4-H Clubs are:

Local – Representing a local area

County (project) Club – A group organized for a specific project. Examples would be Paw Prints (dog), Bits & Spurs (horse and pony), Shooting Sports, etc.

What local club can you join?

A 4-H member may join any local (township) club in the county. Note: You may also join any of the county (project) clubs.

Local 4-H Club

Program Fee – Every 4-H member will owe county and 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 projects and activities. Some clubs have fund-raisers. Indiana 4-H Program Fees are \$15 and Clinton County Program Fees are \$10. Mini members do not pay the state fee. The total fee for regular 4-H members is \$25, and the total cost for Mini 4-H members is \$10 and Clovebuds is \$5.

Meetings

- **Time** – The local club may choose when and where the meetings are to be held. Some clubs meet once a month and others meet every few weeks. Contact your local club leader for when your particular club meets.
- **Agenda** – Pledges, business, demonstrations, program, recreation, refreshments.

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.

Project Workshops

A variety of workshops in different project areas are offered each year.

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 public performance.

4-H Camp

This three day, two night camp takes place each June 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 Camp Tecumseh near Brookston, Indiana with 4-H members from Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Howard, Miami, Newton, Pulaski, Tiptecanoe, and White Counties. Those in grades nine 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, Entomology, Forestry, Horse & Pony, Horticulture, Livestock, Livestock Skill-a-thon, Meat Evaluation, Soils, and Wildlife Habitat. While not an official career development event the county also offers the Tractor Operator Contest.

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, AWARDS, and CONFERENCES

Each year 4-H members are able to participate in various 4-H programs offered through the university. These trips may include 4-H Academy or Round-Up at Purdue University. Most of the trips take place in June and July. Information, found in the newsletter, which is emailed to all 4-H members. Additional information about state trips can be found at the State 4-H website: <https://extension.purdue.edu/4h/>.

4-H PROJECTS

A 4-H project is a learning experience for the 4-H member. Each member must take at least one project and complete the requirements for that project. The projects are judged and exhibited at the fair.

There are several projects for members to choose from. 4-H members are expected to complete the projects they enroll in. 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!

For complete project guidelines, terms and conditions, and exhibit requirements as well as 4-H policies and procedures, be sure to see the current Clinton County 4-H Rule Book. Copies are also available at our county website at <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/Clinton/>. Copies are also available by contacting your 4-H club leader or the Extension Office.

Livestock and animal projects have various enrollment deadlines and other special requirements; information on these deadlines, as well as policy information can be found in the rule book 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 are selected through the on-line enrollment process. Projects can be added or dropped until May 15th. Usually, younger members should limit their selection to just a couple of projects. Older youth may be able to do several more. 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?

4-H PROJECT MANUALS AND RECORD SHEETS

Most 4-H projects have manuals that give in-depth information for that project. There is a record sheet for each project. A project is considered completed when the record sheet is turned in. Project manuals, rule books, and record sheets are handed out by the 4-H Club Leaders.

MY RECORD OF 4-H ACHIEVEMENT

White forms labeled “My Record of 4-H Achievement” should be filled out completely each year. The “My Record of 4-H Achievement” is to be kept in the front of your green 4-H Record Book, with your project record sheets. 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. 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.

FAIR JUDGING

Non-livestock Projects to be exhibited at the 4-H Fair should be taken to the Fairgrounds on the designated pre-fair 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 Building and Clinton Hall. The judging method Clinton County uses is a combination of open and closed judging. Most judging is open, unless otherwise noted. 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. Closed judging means the judge will evaluate the project at a later time without the 4-H member present. Comment cards will be left from the judge for closed judging projects.

Members may also choose to complete an action demonstration. If this option is chosen, the member demonstrates an aspect of the project i.e., a game created for Child Development during the fair.

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:

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 - very complete exhibit, meets exhibition requirements, and is well constructed

Red - adequately constructed but does not fully meet exhibit requirements

White – poorly constructed and barely meets exhibit requirements

Green – participation only

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

4-H INFORMATION

Purdue Extension Website

The Extension office website is located at <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/Clinton/>. Be sure to check the 4-H Youth Development tab to access project rules, the latest newsletter, and other 4-H opportunities. Don't forget to "Like" Clinton County 4-H on Facebook to stay up to date with all 4-H happenings in the county as well!

Clinton County 4-H Rule Book

The Clinton County 4-H Rule Book contains general 4-H policies as well as specific project information members need to know. Copies of the general rule book and livestock rule book are available from the Extension Office and our website at <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/Clinton/>.

Local Newspapers and Radio Stations

Current 4-H information is often featured in the local newspaper. News articles include reports and photographs on events that have already occurred, as well as information on how to become involved in upcoming 4-H events.

Email

Specific project or activity information is often sent via an email message with attachment. Please be sure your updated email is in the in.4honline.com system.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Step 1: Enroll online at <https://in.4honline.com/> or contact the Purdue Extension Office in Clinton County via telephone or stop in to chat. The 4-H online enrollment period is October 1st – January 15th. The phone number is 765-659-6380 x1812. The office is located at 1111 S. Jackson St., Frankfort, Indiana.

Step 2: Membership is gained by annually enrolling in 4-H. There is a program fee of \$25 per regular 4-H member in grades 3-12, a \$10 program fee for Mini 4-H, and a \$5 Cloverbud members in grades K-2.

Step 3: After enrolling in 4-H, you need to choose one of the 4-H Clubs that best fits your interests, activities, and schedule. Once you are in a club, leaders usually send out postcards with dates and times of scheduled meetings.

Step 4: 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. See you at the Fair!

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, project advisor or livestock superintendent, or the Extension Office. A list of Clinton County 4-H leaders and volunteers is available from the Extension Office.

PURDUE EXTENSION—CLINTON COUNTY

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