

# 4-H - The Key to Your Child's Future



New Family Orientation

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Original Work by : Kenneth R. Lafontaine  
Extension Educator, (Emeritus)  
4-H Youth Development & Chair  
Hardin Co.

Adapted by: Elizabeth M. Miller,  
Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development  
Auglaize Co.



Dear Parents:

We would like to welcome your family to the Auglaize County 4-H program. 4-H can provide an exciting, fun, interesting and rewarding experience for your children. But your help is needed.

Parents of 4-H members play a major role in the growing experience their children can have in 4-H. Your interest and support of 4-H programming will help your child to grow. One gets no more out of something than they put in it.

4-H needs your help and assistance and you have an opportunity to profit along with the youngsters. Find out more about 4-H so you can help your family members "MAKE THE BEST BETTER" through 4-H.

Sincerely,

*Beth Miller*

Elizabeth M. Miller  
Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development  
Auglaize County

## **WHAT IS THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF 4-H?**

Youth development!! The basic philosophy in 4-H is to strengthen the mental, physical, moral, and social development of youth, developing more desirable citizens and leaders. The main objective is the development of boys and girls through participation in project, events and various activities.

## **WHY DO YOUTH ENJOY 4-H?**

While all youth are different, they are also alike in many ways. Your child(ren) share five inner desires with all youth.

1. TO BELONG
2. TO ACHIEVE
3. TO BECOME INDEPENDENT
4. TO EXPERIENCE NEW THINGS
5. TO HAVE AFFECTION

The wide variety of "learn by doing" projects, activities and events which make up the 4-H program contribute to meeting these needs. Decision making, individual responsibility, achievement and recognition further help make 4-H satisfying.

## **WHY AND WHEN DID 4-H ORIGINATE?**

4-H work began in 1902 as a means of reaching parents with improved farm and home practices. It was based upon the assumption that if new ideas were instilled in the minds of the youngsters, they would in turn convince their parents to try these innovations. The second reason 4-H was developed was because the schools were not meeting the needs and interest of rural youth.

The first organized 4-H clubs were small groups covering a single topic such as beef, corn, gardening, and canning. There were corn and pigs clubs in Ohio as early as 1904.

## **HAVE 4-H OBJECTIVES CHANGED SINCE ITS EARLY DAYS?**

Yes! Following the "teach improved practices to farmers and homemakers through their children" ideas came World War I and the "food for victory" theme. Following the war, the "keep them on the farm" objective was foremost in people's minds. Food production was emphasized again during World War II.

Today, the objective is the development of boys and girls, providing a wide variety of learning opportunities in which all youth can participate. 4-H today is for all kids, whether they live in the country or in the city.

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE 4-H PROGRAM?

**Ohio State University Extension** is a cooperative program funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, the land-grant colleges (in our case, The Ohio State University), and the Auglaize County Commissioners.

Extension has the charge of bringing up-to-date information from the university to the people of Ohio, and to bring back to the university those problems that can be solved only by careful study and research. The purpose of Ohio State University Extension in Auglaize County is to provide instruction and practical demonstrations in agriculture, marketing, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, and community development to ALL residents of the county. The County Extension Advisory Committee hires Extension educators in agriculture, family and consumer sciences, and 4-H to plan and conduct the respective programs in the county.

Members and parents typically work with the club volunteers to deal with questions and concerns, but may feel free to call the county office for information as well. A family newsletter, called the "4-H Gazette" is sent to each family in March, May, July and October. Please read these newsletters carefully when they arrive.

If you fail to receive a copy of the newsletter, notify your advisor or the Extension Office. If you are receiving more than one copy, we appreciate knowing that as well. If you are a blended family and we haven't "blended" you on our mailing list, please let us know that also.

### HOW DO I REACH OSU EXTENSION?

\*The OSU Extension, Auglaize County office is located at 208 S. Blackhoof St. in Wapakoneta. Office hours are Monday through Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

\*Our phone numbers is **419-739-6580**. Fax is **419-739-6581**.

*We have voice mail if you cannot reach us during work hours.*

\*Look for information on our website at: <http://auglaize.osu.edu>



## MOTTO

*"TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER"*

## EMBLEM

The 4-H emblem is the four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf, standing for head, heart, hands, and health.

## COLORS

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

## 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.

## **WHAT IS A 4-H CLUB?**

A 4-H club is group of boys and girls organized with officers appropriate to the group and with one or more leaders under the sponsorship of Ohio State University Extension. The club is organized within a neighborhood, a school, a church, a business or social unit. The size of the club should be suitable to the age of the members, meeting place and leadership available. This type of club is called a community 4-H club.

Also, youth are 4-H members by taking part in project clubs (one subject), special interest groups, and school enrichment programs.

## 4-H YEAR

4-H clubs begin meeting in February or March of the new 4-H year. They organize around this time to be able to meet our April 15 enrollment deadline. Organizing dates are set by the individual clubs.

## AGE FOR MEMBERSHIP

4-H membership is open to all youth who are 8 and in the third grade and have not passed their 19th birthday by January 1st of the current year. Any youth age 9 or above is eligible for project membership, regardless of grade level. Cloverbud members are youth ages 5 and in kindergarten through second grade. Contact the Extension Office for details regarding this program.

## LEADERSHIP

Adults serve as volunteer leaders. There are three types of leaders:



1. **Organizational** - This leader organizes meeting location, enrollment, club program and serves as the club's contact with the County Extension Office.
2. **Project** - This leader provides direction and support for member's project work.
3. **Activity** - This leader coordinates club wide activities outside of the project area.

## **PROJECTS**

Other than age, the only requirement for 4-H membership is that 4-H'ers enroll in at least one project. There are over 150 projects from which to choose. Members are expected to complete the projects in which they enroll.

The 4-H project has been described as the member's "gateway" to the rest of the 4-H programs. From our standpoint, it might be better to turn the description around to say that the project is the "gateway" to the boy or girl.

Projects provide the basis of the 4-H program by offering various educational experiences. Carrying out a project will help the member "LEARN BY DOING" as well as learn why things happen the way they do.

## WHY PROJECTS?

The project is a teaching tool that can be used to develop many desirable traits in addition to the project skills. Project work is important in developing boys and girls to their maximum potential. Project work is a "means to an end" and not the "end in itself". This means that the objective of 4-H - the development of the child - is the most important consideration, not the garment the member makes or the calf they raise.

## WHAT ARE PROJECTS?

Projects are real-life experiences that help 4-H'ers learn to make sound decisions. Projects put the hands and minds to work. 4-H projects take on a wide variety of interests and activities that are designed to attract boys and girls regardless of their place of residence, economic status, race, etc. Project manuals outline how to complete the projects and direct the child's learning activities. In some project areas, there are additional resources which can be purchased, check the Family Guide to 4-H for details.

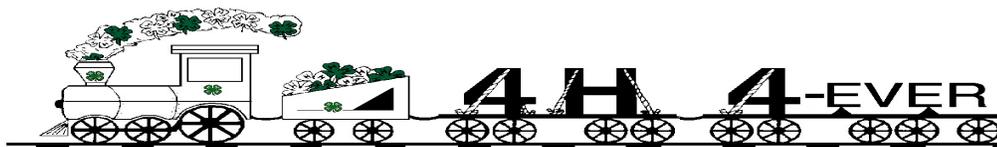
## WHAT SHOULD PROJECTS DO FOR THE 4-H'ERS?

Projects are important. Working with projects can produce satisfaction such as:

- \* **A feeling of accomplishment**
- \* **Challenging of abilities**
- \* **Attention**
- \* **Excelling**
- \* **Prestige**
- \* **Pride of Ownership**

The objectives of 4-H projects are to:

1. Create a sense of ownership.
  2. Give satisfaction of achievement.
  3. Strengthen family and community ties.
  4. Provide opportunities for club members to:
    - a.) Learn skills connected with the project
    - b.) Develop and understand knowledge related to the project
  - c.) Develop desirable attitudes for a satisfying life
    - d.) Assume responsibilities
    - e.) Provide positive competition
    - f.) Make meaningful decisions
  5. Provide a leisure time activity to help keep youngsters busy in positive activities, not involved in undesirable activities.
  6. Explore career opportunities and thus the need for continued education.
- All the projects are in a sense career explorative, giving each member a taste of the work, responsibilities, etc. involved.



## **WHAT ARE SOME GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING PROJECTS?**

Parents and the member should know and understand what is expected of the 4-H'er before he or she enrolls in a project. Projects are selected in the early spring before the enrollment deadline. Usually, younger members should limit their projects to one or two. Older, experienced members may be able to do several different ones, including those that are more difficult. Factors which parents and leaders, should consider in helping a club member to select a project are:

1. Meet the needs and interest of the member. The problem can be that in many cases the youngster doesn't really know if he would like a particular project without first giving it a try!
2. Project is in keeping with age and ability (physical and mental) of the member. Will it challenge him educationally?
3. How much time does the member have and how much time does the project require? What season of the year is most of the activity of the project?
4. Is the project acceptable to you as parents and does it fit into the family's needs and situation?
5. How much will the project cost?
6. Is there adequate space and equipment available?
7. Is there an opportunity for ownership and management responsibilities?
8. Are there leaders to help with the project in the club or are the parents willing to help the member with the projects?

## **HOW ARE PROJECTS CONDUCTED?**

Project work is conducted through various activities and events such as:

1. Project meetings (in the local club)
2. Regular club meetings (demonstrations, project talks, etc.)
3. Tours - to visit projects of members.
4. Family activity at home.
5. Exhibiting project at show, fairs, etc.
6. Record keeping.

## **WHERE IS PROJECT INFORMATION FOUND?**

All 4-H projects are listed in the Ohio 4-H Family Guide. Each family will receive a copy at the beginning of the year. The Family Guide includes a description and indicates the difficulty level of each project. The Extension Office has project books available for review. You can also view project books at: <https://ohio4h.org/books-and-resources/project-central>

Information on project completion requirements, judging requirements and exhibit guidelines are also available. These requirements are distributed to each 4-H family. We refer to it as the "Section 7."

## COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

At the end of each 4-H year members are evaluated on the quality of their participation. The advisors of your child's club will do this evaluation. To be considered complete each member must meet a set of minimum standards. Individual clubs have some flexibility in determining the standards for their clubs. Be sure you understand how your child will be evaluated, ask your advisors for this information. Advisors evaluate member participation based on the following criteria. Did the member:

- complete at least one project?
- attend club meetings regularly?
- provide help to the club when asked?
- carry out duties assigned?
- complete work appropriate for member's skill level?

## PROJECT GRADES AND INCOMPLETES

Advisors will assign a project grade (A, B, C) by July 1. **Once a project has been assigned a project grade, it is considered a complete project and the 4-H member is considered complete and a member in good standing for that year.** Fair and judging participation is optional to be a completed 4-H member. If they are interested in having their project further evaluated and in competing for awards, then they must participate in the junior fair.

If a member does not make any effort toward a project or fails to participate in the club as outlined, they may be assigned an incomplete (I). Members receiving an incomplete for ***any*** project will not be given credit for that 4-H year.

If a member chooses to participate in project judging and/or the county fair shows, their advisor's grade will be combined with the judge's grade to give a final project grade.



## 4-H CLUB MEETINGS

### PURPOSE OF 4-H CLUB MEETINGS

The purpose of 4-H meetings are to help boys and girls:

1. Acquire new information
2. Learn creative use of leisure time
3. Develop social skills
4. Acquire desirable leadership and citizenship traits.



4-H members are thus given the opportunity to learn and practice decision making in group situations by using the knowledge and skills acquired at these meetings. 4-H members are expected to attend the monthly meetings. **PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND MEETINGS WITH THEIR 4-H'ERS.** 4-H is a family organization.

### HOW OFTEN DO CLUBS MEET?

Most clubs meet 8 to 10 times between enrollment time and the county fair. Some clubs meet weekly, some bi-monthly and still others in some other combination. Clubs are free to establish their own schedule based on what works best for the membership.

### WHAT IS A CLUB MEETING LIKE?

The 4-H meeting is balanced between business, educational program and recreation. 4-H meetings normally don't last over 1 1/2 hours.

### WHAT IS THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM?

This part of the program is designed to help members learn more about the subjects of general interest. 4-H teaching is unique - it is "learning by doing". Good 4-H teaching employs seeing, hearing, and doing. Generally the educational program will include talks and demonstrations by the 4-H'ers. Outside speakers may present programs for 4-H meetings.

### DEMONSTRATIONS

Demonstrations are "show and tell" type presentations where the 4-H'ers share some of the things they've learned in their 4-H projects. Actual articles are used to show the steps necessary for a finished product. Most demonstrations consist of three parts: 1) introduction explains the purpose of the demonstration; 2) body outlines subject step-by-step; and 3) summary reviews important points and gives opportunity for questions.

## **BUSINESS SESSION**

The business portion of the meeting should be short and snappy. It should be a small democracy in action. Club officers, with the assistance of the adult volunteers, will conduct the meetings.

## **RECREATION**

Recreation is a "fun" time involving all members. Recreation will vary from challenges, group singing, dodge ball, relays, guessing games, table games to sports.

## **REFRESHMENTS**

Clubs may serve refreshments at meetings, although they are not essential. If asked to provide refreshments, families should select simple, nutritious, and inexpensive treats.

# **FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITY**

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF 4-H MEMBER**

4-H parents need to know what is expected of the 4-H member in order to effectively assist their child. The goal of 4-H is to meet the basic needs of youth and help them acquire essential life skills through planned "learn by doing" experiences. The 4-H program provides its members with many opportunities. It helps develop skills and interests. It offers trips and scholarships for those that put forth that extra effort. It is the responsibility of the 4-H member to get involved and to take advantage of the opportunities provided in 4-H.

Some of the major responsibilities of the 4-H member are listed below:

1. Select a 4-H project with the help of your parents.
2. Read the 4-H project book you receive and do the activities in the book.
3. Attend and participate in 4-H club meetings and activities.
4. Attend and participate in county, district, and state activities, work shops, and programs when possible.
5. Help plan and support 4-H club activities - community service, fund raising, etc.
6. Read the 4-H mail that comes to your home. Share this information with your parents.
7. Keep a current and up-to-date 4-H calendar of meetings and activities.
8. Ask parents to remind you of upcoming events and due dates.
9. Ask your parent, relative, or other adult to serve as a project helper to assist with your 4-H project.
10. Serve as an officer of the club or on a committee when asked.
11. Since most groups or clubs are judged by the behavior of individual members, it is the responsibility of the 4-H member to conduct him/herself at all times during 4-H

meetings and activities in a manner that would be a credit to the individual, the family, the 4-H club, the county and the state.

12. Keep your parents informed of your 4-H activities.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS**

Parental interest and encouragement are major influences on young 4-H'ers. If parents are involved right from the beginning, chances are high for a successful 4-H experience. Some of the major responsibilities of 4-H parents are listed below:

1. Assist child in selecting a 4-H project he or she can do and will enjoy.
2. Read the project book your child receives. You will find ways you can help your child with the project.
3. Serve as a "4-H Project Home Helper" to your child. This means you don't do the work for the child, but you guide and assist.
4. Attend 4-H club meetings and activities with your child as often as possible. This will help you understand the type assistance your child needs.
5. Read the 4-H mail that comes to your home. This will help you stay up-to-date on what is going on. You will be able to remind your child of upcoming events and due dates.
6. Encourage your child to attend 4-H meetings and activities. You should make sure your child has a way to get to the events.
7. Offer to assist the 4-H club advisors with specific tasks.
8. Provide light refreshments for 4-H club meeting when requested.
9. Lend your kitchen, backyard, living room, garage, or basement for an occasional 4-H club meeting when requested.
10. Share a hobby or interest of yours with 4-H club members during a meeting.
11. Assist your child in keeping records. A member is to keep a written record of what they do in 4-H, including: projects, demonstrations, awards received, leadership positions held, and community service involvement.
12. Contact advisors with concerns and questions. Communicate with advisors regarding your child's special needs or any family situations which could affect your child's participation. The better the volunteers understand your child, the more help they can give.

Accommodations can be made for youth with disabilities through our [Winning 4-H Plan](#). Please contact the Extension Office for more information and assistance.

## **EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**STATE AND NATIONAL:** Most activities conducted beyond county lines are outlined in the Family Guide to 4-H.

**COUNTY:** See county 4-H calendar for specific dates.

### **4-H Camp**

All members up to age 15, as of January 1, are eligible to participate in a 5 day, 4 night residential camp held at 4-H Camp Palmer in Fayette, Ohio. Camp dates for 2019 are June 18-22. Registration forms are sent in the May 4-H Gazette.

### **Clothing, Special Interest and Nutrition Judging**

All Clothing, Special Interest, and Nutrition projects are judged before the beginning of the county fair at the fairgrounds. Members are evaluated by judges who have knowledge in that field. The child will have about a 5 minute interview with the judge. Judges will ask questions about the project and the child's educational display or "product " made. Judges will assign project grades based upon the interview which determines the child's knowledge of the project and the project display.

Members come to judging at a scheduled time. Judging schedules are mailed in the 4-H Gazette in July. Members must complete project requirements to receive a grade ribbon and premium money.

### **Livestock Interview Judging**

All livestock members must participate in a livestock interview prior to the fair. Members will be interviewed based on years in the project. Members are evaluated by judges who have knowledge in that field. The child will have about a 5 minute interview with the judge. Judges will ask questions about the project book, records and the child's animals. Judges will assign pass/fail grades based upon an interview with the child to determine knowledge of the project book, records and the project animal. Sample questions are available. Interviews are evaluated pass/fail. Members who fail or do not attend the interviews will not be eligible for awards at the fair.

### **Auglaize County Fair**

The county fair serves as a showcase for 4-H. Eligible animals are judged and exhibited. All other projects which have been judged are displayed. Club advisors organize local club participation. The 2019 Auglaize County Fair is July 28-August 3. All members whose projects are judged and exhibited receive grade ribbons and premium money.

**Participation in the county fair and other project judging is optional for completion. Receiving an advisor's grade means a project is considered complete.** The junior fair experience is an opportunity for 4-H members to compete and showcase their projects.

Members choosing to participate will have their advisor's grade averaged with the judge's grade. The grading policy is as follows:

A + A = A	FINAL GRADE
A + B = B	FINAL GRADE
A + C = B	FINAL GRADE
B + B = B	FINAL GRADE
B + C = C	FINAL GRADE
C + C = C	FINAL GRADE

Projects which receive B's or C's will not be eligible to compete for placings or awards in graded classes. All members are still allowed to participate in non-graded events, such as the style review or dairy cattle showmanship. **THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THE RULE ON AWARDS WOULD BE IF THERE ARE NO A'S IN A PARTICULAR CLASS, THEN A BEST OF CLASS COULD BE AWARDED.**

Judges will be notified of the members receiving B's and C's, these members will be removed from competition before placings or awards are awarded.

### **A Final Thought on Judging**

Many new 4-H families ask "what is the key to success in project judging?" There is no magic formula! The best advice is for your child to be familiar with their project book and their personal project. Have an adult practice "interviewing" your child about their project - the child's ability to talk with the judge about their project is important. Some clubs may conduct mock judging to help with this process. Be sure to finish the project early enough that you are not feeling stressed on judging day. Have your child well rested and plan to arrive on time. Also, plan to wait your turn, with over three hundred projects judged on most days, we cannot get everyone in and out in 10 minutes!

There are really two aspects to judging - comparing the child to the standard (the project expectations) to determine the project grade (or pass/fail in livestock interviews) and the competition with others to determine placings.

4-H is about youth development, projects are a means to teach life skills. If you are involved in the program only for the competition, you may soon become disillusioned or disappointed. If you are involved for the opportunities which 4-H offers your child and see awards as "icing on the cake" then I think you will find that 4-H will meet your family's needs.

### Ohio State Fair

For those who excel in county project work, there is an opportunity for further recognition. Members are selected to participate in learning activities at the Ohio State Fair. Eligible projects are identified in the Family Guide to 4-H. Selections are made during project judging. Livestock members may choose to exhibit at the state fair, they do not "qualify" through county fair placings. Entries for state fair livestock are due in June. Exceptions are horses, who have a qualifying show earlier in the summer.

### Demonstrations

All members are eligible to give demonstrations at the county fair and compete for spots at the state fair demonstration activity.



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