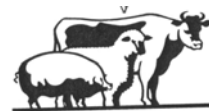




## FUTURE 4-H



The Future or Mini 4-H is a program designed to provide non-competitive, developmentally appropriate activities and experiences for youth in grades 1 and 2. Objectives include: the acquisition of friendships outside their immediate families; the exploration of how things work; the development of both large and fine motor skills; and a grasp of cooperative or group learning.

An important concept of the Future 4-H program is the recognition that young children develop at different rates. Competition is deemphasized. Future 4-H program characteristics include:

- Learning activities are planned which invite children to explore materials and ideas without the pressure to complete a project or compete in an event;
- Low adult to child ratios that allow for more individualized interaction and support;
- Simple but fun and stimulating activities;
- Encouragement of children to participate in group activities by sharing and/or displaying their work;
- Rewards are identical for all participants;
- Projects are not judged but discussed and used as teaching aids.

### **Safety Policy for Future 4-H Members**

The safety and well being of our 4-H youth is of the utmost importance. Although Future 4-H is specified as the time when a child may begin participation in some 4-H events and activities, parents are encouraged to take into consideration their child's physical and mental development before agreeing to let the child begin to show, work with, or care for animals. Each child matures at a different rate, and children in grades 1-2 may still be too young to begin showing, working with, or caring for animals. The State 4-H Youth Department at Purdue University has agreed to allow Future 4-H members to participate in some animal projects subject to certain conditions.

Each county may determine its own programs, classes, and participation requirements subject to the following safety guidelines: "Future 4-H members will be allowed to show, work with, or care for animal projects after their parent or legal guardian has signed a liability release. Future 4-H members may independently show, work with, or care for animals that weigh 300 pounds or less.

Future 4-H members may only show, work with, or care for animals over 300 pounds when they are assisted by a parent, legal guardian, or another adult designated in writing by parent or legal guardian." (*The word assisted means that the adult has control of the animal at all times.*)

If the guidelines as stated in this policy are not followed for a particular event or activity, then such an event or activity shall not be considered a 4-H event or activity and shall not be under the auspices of or sanctioned by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service or the LaGrange County 4-H Club Association.