

Posey County 4-H Project Descriptions

A 4-H project is what a 4-H'er learns, makes or does; for example: learn to grow a garden, make a dress, or take care of and train an animal. 4-H members should take at least one project each year and complete the records for that project. The family of a 4-H'er should take an active interest in his/her project- help, encourage, offer advice, but please remember, **the 4-H'er learns by doing.** 4-H project descriptions are included to give the new 4-H member a better idea of what each project is about. If you have any questions or concerns, please check out the state website at <http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/> or email Cheven at maycm@purdue.edu.

AEROSPACE - Have you ever looked closely at a rocket? The fascination of flying an airplane, launching a rocket, and discovering information about space help youth reach new heights in the Aerospace project.

AMERICANA - The purpose of this project is to motivate interested youth in preserving items of our early American past. The rewards for preserving an antique of the past are the pleasure of sharing it with others in the future. Projects may be entered as originals or restored by the exhibitor.

AQUATIC SCIENCE - Fish are lovely to look at, and with a little planning they can be inexpensive, easy, interesting, soothing, and educational. You will learn how to take care of fish and about the different parts of and habitats of fish if you take this project.

ARTS & CRAFTS - Display your creative talents by making projects in fine arts, needlecraft, models and basic crafts. You will have fun learning about new and exciting crafts and making items of your very own creation.

BABY THINK IT OVER - This is a **Junior and Senior (Grades 6-12) project only. You may take this project only once.** You must care for Baby Think It Over for a two day period, giving it all the care and attention it needs. The baby you receive will be randomly chosen from the three available babies. You must keep the baby at all times (no one can baby-sit for you), tending to it when it cries, treating it gently and patiently, protecting it from rough handling, and taking care of the baby's items (i.e., diaper bag, car seat, etc.).

BEEF - The 4-H Beef project is more than just showing your beef cattle at the 4-H Fair. Learning in this project is more important than winning! Selecting a breeding animal, raising a calf, feeding a steer, evaluating a carcass into retail cuts, and selecting and preparing beef for the family are all included in the Beef project.

BEEF POSTER - Are you ready to learn more about beef? Learning about cattle isn't all you will be doing. You will learn about yourself too!

BICYCLE - Bicycling is fun, as you will find out in this project. Areas covered range from the history of the bicycle and its maintenance to bicycle safety. You will also learn how to care for your bike and to be safe when riding it.

CAKE DECORATING - Cake decorating can be fun and exciting. The purpose of this project is to express your creative abilities through decorating cakes, either by adding frosting or trimmings in fancy designs. Cake decorating requires no special talent, just the right method and plenty of practice.

CAT - Do you have a pet cat? In the cat project, you can exhibit your cat or your family's cat at the 4-H Fair cat show. Judges consider how 4-H member carries, holds, controls, and displays his/her cat. Cats are judged on health, cleanliness, grooming, and general condition.

CAT POSTER - Are you ready to learn about cats? You will learn about cat parts, breeds, cost to raise a cat, how to care for a cat, and much more. If you don't already have a cat, some of the activities will help you decide what kind of cat might be best for your family.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT - Playing goes on every day in the land of young children. Playing and having fun are very important for helping young children to learn. You will learn how to care for babies and young children. This project gives you the opportunity to design and make a toy to help children develop their skills and learn.

COLLECTIONS - Do you like to collect objects as a hobby? Then this is the project for you! You can develop or continue a collection that you choose, such as: tractors, matchbooks, spoons, baseball cards, etc., and exhibit them creatively at the 4-H Fair. You will need to carefully label your collection and fill out your project record sheet to exhibit with your project.

COMPUTER - Learn about the computer language. As you become more advanced, you will write computer programs. These may range from simple to more complex, depending on the division in which you are enrolled.

CONSTRUCTION TOYS - Do you like to build things? You can build anything you want in this project! Use craft sticks, Legos, or almost any other material to make a creative exhibit for the 4-H Fair. Size guidelines for exhibits are listed in the Fairbook.

CONSUMER CLOTHING - We all invest a lot of time and money in clothing. The Consumer Clothing project will help you make wise clothing decisions and have fun shopping at the same time!

CORN - This project will help you have a working knowledge of corn production and management and develop wise techniques in growing corn. This is done by raising corn, completing project activities and exhibiting your product at the 4-H Fair.

CREATING WITH A MIX - Have you ever wanted to be an inventor? For this foods project, you will either create a recipe, or use another recipe that uses a box mix. Let those creative juices flow!

CREATIVE WRITING - The Creative Writing Project is designed to help you explore your writing talents. You may choose to try poetry, or you may wish to experiment with essays, short stories or newspaper reporting done in conventional or desktop publishing format.

DAIRY - Milk is described by many as "nature's most perfect food." Most of the milk we drink comes from the dairy cow. You will gain information on feeding, care, management, and record keeping in this project.

DAIRY POSTER - Are you ready to learn about dairy cattle and the dairy industry? In this project, you will learn about cow parts, breeds, cost to raise a calf, how to care for a dairy animal and much, much more. If you don't already have a dairy animal, some of the activities will help you decide whether you want to raise dairy cattle or not.

DOG - Would you like to show your dog at the 4-H Fair? Would you like to teach your dog basic obedience skills? This project helps you do that. Meetings are held weekly, starting in early spring, and showing one's dog at the 4-H Fair is optional.

DOG POSTER - Are you ready to learn about dogs? In the dog poster project, you will learn about dog parts, breeds, cost to raise a dog, how to care for a dog, and many more things. You might even learn how to decide what kind of dog you would like to have.

EGG - Do you have birds that lay eggs? If so, you can enter them as a 4-H project. Eggs are used for our food and to bake with. They are very important to us, and this project will help you learn why.

ELECTRIC - What is electricity? Where does it come from? Take this project and find out the answers to these questions and more. You will discover the world of electricity! You will learn how to make such projects as circuit boards, extension cords, lamps and others items that could lead to a career in electricity.

ENTOMOLOGY - This is a learning, doing, and exploring project. Insects are found all around us, and this project will help us learn more about them. You will learn how to collect, preserve and identify insects. Each year you will expand your collection of insects.

FAMILY CAMPING - Let's go camping! You will learn: how to build a fire, types of outdoor cookery and how to make them, how to tie knots, how to find the direction, outdoors manners and campfire songs. This project is planned to help you develop these camp skills that will make you a better camper.

FLORICULTURE (FORMERLY FLOWERS) -

Flowers are a part of nearly everyone's life. This project will help you learn how to grow, care for and identify them. As you advance in this project, you will learn about perennials and will expand what you already know about annual flowers, indoor plants and floral arrangements.

FOOD PRESERVATION - Learn about the processes used to preserve food for use in the months ahead. There are special methods used in preserving food--freezing and canning. You will discover how to properly prepare foods to be preserved and which method is the best to use. Exhibit those products that you have preserved for your family's future consumption.

FOODS - Everyone likes to eat--so let's learn how to prepare those tasty foods. You will start with cookies and advance to yeast breads and other products. You will learn about the Food Guide Pyramid and how to plan a well-balanced menu for a day. This is a fun project to help you learn how to cook.

FORESTRY - America's forests are one of its grandest and proudest natural resources. You will learn various skills in this project. These range from learning about trees and collecting leaves to timber harvesting and marketing or preparing a woodland management plan.

GARDEN - Vegetables fresh from the garden taste so delicious. You, too, can raise fresh vegetables by taking the garden project. Planning a garden, garden safety, garden tips, garden pests, garden diseases, insect management, growing tips and harvest tips are areas covered in this project.

GENEALOGY - Have you ever wondered where your family came from originally? Tracing your family heritage can be fun and very interesting. This project is designed to help you discover your "roots" and document what you find.

GEOLOGY - At some time or another, each of us has stopped to look at a rock because it was unusual in some way. It may be the shape, color or size of the rock. This project will help you learn more about rocks--how they are formed, the different types, what minerals and fossils are, and how to identify rocks.

GOAT - We have two goat projects - Meat Type Goats and Pygmy Goats. This is the perfect project for a child who wants to care for and show an animal at the 4-H Fair, but not a large one.

GOAT POSTER - If you don't already have a goat, you might need some help deciding if you should raise one. Are you ready to learn more about goats? In the Goat Poster project, you will learn about goat parts, breeds, cost to raise a goat, and how to care for a goat.

HEALTH - Are you healthy? Find out the signs of good health and how to achieve them. Emphasis is put on personal health, family health, physical fitness and health careers. The information you learn about health is to be exhibited at the 4-H Fair on a poster or in a notebook, depending upon the division in which you are enrolled.

HOME ENVIRONMENT - Do you like decorating &/or interior design? Do you like rearranging your own space? Are you crafty and creative? Then this project may be just for you! This project allows youth to be creative in their own space while applying the principles of home design and decoration as well as learning about the care and organization of home furnishings.

HORSE & PONY - You learn the importance of proper care in feeding and grooming of your animal in this project and keeping a record of expenses. Attendance at monthly meetings is required to learn important information on training and caring for your animal. 4-H'ers must have certified helmets on and they must be fastened anytime they are mounted on their horse. This also applies at the State Fair.

HORSE POSTER - Are you ready to learn more about horses? You'll learn about horse parts, breeds, costs of raising a horse, and how to care for a horse. Don't be afraid to jump right in!

JUNIOR LEADERS - Emphasis in the Junior Leader project is placed on training Junior Leaders to assist the local 4-H leader in running the 4-H program on the local level. The project is designed to help Junior Leaders gain leadership skills by working with peers and other members of the community.

MEMORY BOOK - You will be creating a treasured record of your 4-H experiences in this project. Your record tells your 4-H story for awards and recognition. It serves as a record of your 4-H experiences and cherished memories of your 4-H days. It also is a record of your personal growth, and will be a treasured keepsake when you are older. To help in record keeping that will play an important part in developing your resume as you prepare to participate in county, state and national competition.

MICROWAVE COOKING - The Microwave Cooking project contains exciting youth activities that focus on using the microwave to prepare everything from simple snacks to complete meals. The materials are designed for students in Grades 3-12, and each learner guide has activities that focus on the following: Techniques and Utensils, Nutrition, Food Preparation, and Meal Preparation.

MODELS - Consists of cars, planes, ships etc. Youth learn model construction, painting and how to purchase the right kinds of kits and supplies.

PERSONALITY - This project will help you understand who you are and where you've come from. This is accomplished by looking at yourself, family and friends. The more advanced divisions help you look at specific areas in your life--dating, money management, citizenship, careers, etc.

PET PALS - For this project, you will learn about small animals. Then, you will either exhibit a poster OR you may choose to exhibit one of the following animals: Gerbil, Guinea Pig, Bird, Hamster, Mice and Rat, Equipment. Animals must be exhibited in a secure cage, and they are only at the fairgrounds during judging (2 hours MAX).

PHOTOGRAPHY - You will learn about the basic elements of photography. Like any skill, improvement will come through practice. The basic elements discussed in the manual are light, a camera, film, a subject and processing. You will also learn about caring for your camera, basic camera handling, elements of a good picture, and indoor and outdoor picture taking.

POTATO - Would you like to learn how to grow potatoes? Then you can exhibit a minimum of 24 potatoes and a maximum of 36 potatoes of any variety at the 4-H Fair.

POULTRY - This project focuses on the small backyard flock and emphasizes poultry husbandry and related topics. By actively participating, you will learn about poultry breeds, stages of growth and flock management and improvement. You will also have opportunities to develop skills in showmanship, decision making, and time management.

POULTRY POSTER - Are you ready to learn more about poultry? You'll learn about poultry parts, breeds, cost of raising poultry, how to care for them, and much, much more.

RABBITS - In the rabbit project, you are going to learn how to feed, manage and show rabbits. Areas covered are: breeds; what to look for when selecting rabbits; housing; feeding; reproduction; tattooing; how to have healthy rabbits; record keeping; how to dress rabbits, and kinds of production.

RABBIT POSTER - Are you ready to learn about rabbits? Some of the fun and learning will be about new ideas and places to go for information. You will learn all about rabbits, so hop to it!

RECYCLING - This project lets you reuse old items to make a new exhibit! A recycled item is any item that is no longer used in its original form. Exhibits are judged based on originality and creativity, with consideration given to the grade level of the exhibitor.

SCRAPBOOKING - Scrapbooking is a fun way to preserve your memories and let your creative side shine! There are guidelines for each of the three divisions (Clover, Junior, and Senior), and the topic you choose as your scrapbook's focus does not have to be related to 4-H.

SEWING - Sewing teaches basic sewing skills in the lower divisions and advances to special construction techniques in the upper divisions. You will also learn about proper grooming, clothing selection, pattern and material selection and choosing the right style for you. You'll be able to apply these skills in making garments for yourself.

SHEEP - Gain experience raising sheep in this project. Items covered are: selecting market animals; parts of sheep; breeds; selecting breeding animals; facilities and equipment; feeding your animals; lambing and care of newborns; health and trimming.

SHEEP POSTER - Are you ready to learn more about sheep? You will learn some great information about sheep parts, breeds, costs to raise sheep, how to care for them, and much, much more.

SMALL ENGINES - Do you enjoy messing around and repairing engines? This project will teach you the differences between two-cycle and four-cycle engines; principles of operation; proper service; maintenance and simple engine repairs. You will demonstrate the knowledge you've gained by exhibiting a display at the 4-H Fair.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION - You will learn more about the importance of conservation of water and soil in this project. This will be accomplished by doing experiments and activities to help you understand water and soil.

SOYBEANS - This project is designed to help you learn about the soybean plant--its history; the seed; plant parts; varieties; planting; fertilizing and harvesting. This will help give you a working knowledge of soybean production and management and develop techniques in growing soybeans.

SPORTFISHING - Do you like to fish? Do you want to learn more about wildlife and aquatic science? Then Sportfishing is for you!

SPORTS - Do you like to play sports? Then you will love the sports project. You can teach your club or your friends all the new activities you learn!

STRAWBERRY - Everyone loves strawberries! You might like to take this project so you will have those tasty berries in your garden. In this project, you will learn how to prepare the soil, and plant, fertilize, and maintain your plot.

SWINE - In the swine project you will learn about Management--how much to pay; selecting the animal; selecting a breed; records; housing; feeding; management at farrowing time and health programs.

SWINE POSTER - The Swine Poster project will offer challenges and opportunities to explore a wide range of activities related to swine. You will learn all kinds of important skills and knowledge about swine production.

TRACTOR MAINTENANCE - The 4-H Tractor Maintenance project gives you an opportunity to "learn by doing." You will learn that better tractor care results in longer tractor life, more power, and lower operating costs. This 4-H training will be beneficial throughout your lifetime.

TRAVELOGUE - Traveling is exciting, fun, and educational. The purpose of this project is to help make your traveling even more enjoyable. After your trip, you will have a complete record of the events and activities of your trip!

VETERINARY SCIENCE - Veterinary Science is the branch of medicine that deals with the treatment and prevention of animal disease. This project will acquaint you with the characteristics and care of healthy animals. You will also become familiar with the causes and prevention of disease.

WEATHER - We all depend upon the weather. You will learn what makes weather and do experiments with weather-makers. You will have the opportunity to become a storm spotter and construct some of your own equipment. You will study clouds and how they are formed. Weather fronts and symbols are covered at more advanced levels.

WEEDS - You will gain knowledge about weeds and understand their role in the environment. A weed can be described as a "plant out of place" that is usually objectionable. Classification of weeds; how they're spread; how they're harmful; and how they are controlled, will be discussed in this project.

WILDLIFE - Learn about our wildlife resources--birds, fish, Herptiles, and mammals in this project. You do this in exciting and interesting ways. Learn how these animals fit into the grand scheme of our world. This knowledge will provide you with a lifetime of wildlife enjoyment.

WOOD SCIENCE - This project is planned to help boys and girls learn how to use tools in woodworking. Intermediate members learn about kinds of woods and how to care for tools. You will be learning woodworking skills to make different articles.

Contact [Cheven Meyncke May](#) if you have questions on any of these projects.