



# Steuben County 4-H

Purdue Extension Service

## Welcome to Steuben County 4-H!

This publication is provided to help you and your family learn more about the Steuben County 4-H program. As you consider becoming a member of the 4-H program, it is important for you to be informed of the general terms and conditions which govern the Indiana 4-H Program and our

local 4-H program in Steuben County.

We encourage your questions, comments and look forward to receiving your 4-H club enrollment form prior to the club enrollment deadline on April 1.

## Indiana 4-H Program Philosophy:

The Indiana 4-H program serves the youth of Indiana by providing a strong educational youth development program. This program delivers educational experiences in a variety of settings. Caring, capable, and contributing adults assist in the 4-H program as models for young people. We treasure the rich heritage of 4-H and want to ensure that 4-H is available to future generations of Indiana youth.

This brochure sets out certain standards and guidelines to be used to assure that 4-H is good for our youth. County 4-H policy is guided by the Steuben County 4-H Fair Board – as provided by the County Extension

Board. Legal authority for the 4-H program rests with the Director of Cooperative Extension, Purdue University. No county 4-H policy may conflict with State 4-H policy or federal requirements.

It is the policy of 4-H to include as many youth as possible. No county policy or practice should be used to arbitrarily exclude youth from membership. Youth should participate in 4-H youth development opportunities at levels and times that best suit the youth's development and support family involvement.



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### *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 Colors*

*Green and White*

### *4-H Motto*

*"To Make the Best Better"*

## 4-H Club Membership:

Youth may become 4-H members when they enter the third grade and may continue their membership through the completion of grade 12. A member may continue membership for a maximum of ten (10) years.

An individual's 4-H grade is determined by the school grade in which he or she is classified regardless of the time of year he or she enrolls in 4-H. A member does not advance in 4-H grade until he or she enrolls in 4-H for the subsequent school year. Each member should enroll in the division of a project that would best suit his/her interest and potential for personal growth and would enhance their family involvement.

Opportunities in the 4-H program are available to all Indiana youth as defined regardless of race, religion, color, sex, national origin or disability. Married young

men and women of 4-H age may participate in any of the 4-H projects and activities. However, married persons must participate by the same terms and conditions and/or guidelines as unmarried participants. Membership in 4-H is gained by annually enrolling through a Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service Office.

The 4-H club year usually extends from one annual 4-H exhibit to the next. Enrollment is an annual process attained by completing the appropriate county 4-H enrollment form. April 1 is the 4-H Club enrollment for Steuben County.

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### Residence:

Indiana youth typically enroll in 4-H in the county or state in which they reside. However, individuals living in one county **may** join 4-H in another county. There may be educational or social reasons for an individual joining 4-H in a different county than that of their primary residence. During a single calendar year, a 4-H member enrolled in a given project is expected to enroll and exhibit that project only in one county of enrollment.

In the event that a project is not offered in the county of primary 4-H enrollment, a 4-H member may enroll in that specific project in a different

*“Can I join 4-H in Steuben County if I live in another county?”*

county. Approval of this special exception rests with the Steuben County 4-H Fair Board. Participation in 4-H related activities and events (i.e., judging; share-the-fun) must be in the county of primary 4-H enrollment.

This policy is not intended to provide an escape mechanism for troubled 4-H members and families who are unwilling to follow the terms and/or conditions in their current county of 4-H membership. Decisions regarding 4-H membership in a non-resident county (a county you do not live in), rest with the 4-H Board or Council in the receiving county.

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## Expectations of Parents and Members in 4-H:

### Parent/legal guardian Statement:

*I (we) understand, agree to abide by, follow, and comply with the rules, policies and expectations of the 4-H program and will conduct myself (ourselves) in a courteous and respectful manner by exhibiting good sportsmanship and being a positive role model for youth. I (we) also understand that failing to do so will constitute grounds for sanctions and/or dismissal of the member from the program.*

### Member Statement:

*I agree to follow the rules, policies and expectations of the 4-H program and will conduct myself in a courteous and respectful manner by exhibiting good sportsmanship and good behavior. I understand that failing to do so will result in sanctions, discipline, and/or dismissal from the program.*



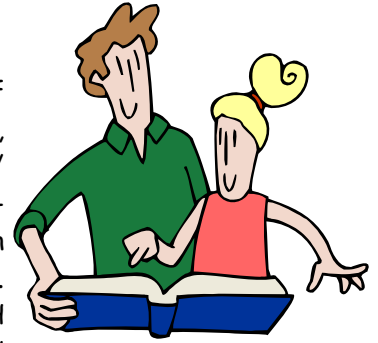
## Deadlines, Participation, Exhibition and Completion:

**Deadlines:** The proper compliance with established, stated and published final dates and deadlines is considered an appropriate expectation of 4-H membership. Submitting things on time and following the rules is part of the 4-H learning experience and is considered a reasonable thing to do. Individuals not complying with these expectations may lose awards and privileges. This is especially true in animal projects where animal ownership, raising and identification has a specific time period as part of the project requirements. Members not complying with established and published dates and deadlines for exhibition may be denied exhibition privileges as well as premiums or awards for that project.

**Participation:** Attendance and participation at 4-H meetings is highly encouraged as a part of the overall educational experience. However, attendance or participation at club meetings cannot be required as criteria for project completion. 4-H meetings should be of the quality that 4-H members should want to attend, participate and learn something beneficial. Also, rewarding 4-H clubs, 4-H members and 4-H volunteers for attendance and participation in meetings, tours, workshops, local and county exhibits, etc. is encouraged. The rewards for participation in 4-H meetings, tours, and activities should be significant enough to cause the 4-H member to see the advantage of reacting positively. 4-H volunteers and members of local clubs may establish goals for attendance, exhibits, completion, etc. to meet the criteria established for awards and recognition as long as they do not conflict with stated county, area/or state policies.

**Exhibition:** Exhibition of 4-H projects in local, county or state exhibits/fairs is considered a privilege and is voluntary on the part of the exhibitor. The exhibition of 4-H projects provides 4-H members an opportunity to display their 4-H projects, entertain wholesome competition and enjoy an educational/social environment with their peers. With the privilege of exhibition also comes the responsibility for abiding by all of the terms and conditions pertaining to the respective 4-H project. Not following the established terms and conditions of the projects will be grounds for exclusion from the competition/exhibition or the project itself.

**Completion:** The completion of a 4-H project must not be misinterpreted as exhibition of said project at a local county or state fair. 4-H members are considered complete in their project work for that year when they have (1) completed an "official" 4-H member enrollment form prior to April 1 (2) turned in a completed 4-H project record sheet prior to the County Fair and (3) had an officially recognized 4-H leader/extension educator verify existence of the completed project. Though exhibiting in local/county and state exhibits/fairs is not required for project completion, as it does not necessarily directly relate to learning received in development of a 4-H project, project exhibition should be encouraged as a continuation of the educational experience.



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## Guidelines for Animal Exhibits:

Each 4-H member shall own his/her own 4-H exhibit. Ownership must be in effect on or before the county and state enrollment deadlines and continuously until after the show date.

- For 4-H breeding animals, family corporations and/or partnerships of 4-H members with one or more parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles or a legal guardian are acceptable.
- For 4-H dairy cattle, family corporations and/or partnerships of the 4-H member with unrelated persons or dairy operations are also acceptable.
- Horses, ponies and llamas may be leased, subject to approval of both the county 4-H horse and pony/llama committee and the Steuben County Extension Educator.
- 4-H animals purchased, sold or offered for sale after the animal enrollment deadline and prior to the Indiana State Fair, shall not be eligible to be shown in the 4-H show at the Indiana State Fair.

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The Steuben County Extension Service is committed to providing our youth and adults with the education and life skills necessary to build more responsible and caring citizens within the greater community.



It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service Director, that all persons shall have equal opportunity and access to its programs and facilities without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

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- 4-H animals shown under different ownership (than they are listed on the 4-H enrollment form) after the 4-H animal enrollment deadline, shall not be eligible to be shown in the 4-H show at the Indiana State Fair.
- For 4-H animals that are eligible to be co-enrolled by brothers and/or sisters (horses, ponies, sheep and swine), ownership is established the first time the animal is shown after May 15. The ownership of the animal cannot change from the first time the animal is shown after May 15 until the conclusion of the 4-H show at the Indiana State Fair.
- 4-H animals are expected to be in the personal possession and regular care of the 4-H member who owns/ leases them from the animal enrollment deadline until the conclusion of the county and/or State Fair.

## Grievance Guidelines for County 4-H Program Issues:

(Activities, Programs, Projects)

There is a procedure if a 4-H member feels the need to file a grievance regarding a project or activity. The process starts with a small unbiased subcommittee conducting an investigation. The burden of proof shall reside with the party filing the grievance. The person filing the grievance may appeal the decision to the 4-H Fair Board. The facts are reviewed and a decision is rendered. This decision may be appealed to the County Extension Board for their decision, the final level in the appeal process.

