

2010 TIPPECANOE COUNTY 4-H



Commonly Asked Questions

Welcome to Tippecanoe County 4-H!

This publication is to help you and your family learn more about the Tippecanoe County 4-H program. We encourage your questions and look forward to receiving your **4-H club enrollment form by the February 1st deadline.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Club Leaders and Project Superintendents contact information is located in the 4-H Handbook.

Tippecanoe Extension Office
3150 Sagamore Parkway South
Lafayette, IN 47905
765-474-0793

Located on US 52, just past the mall on the west side of the road.
Our hours are from 8-4:30 M-F.

The 4-H Youth Educators are Roberta Crabtree (rcrabtree@purdue.edu) and Jeff Nagle (jnagle@purdue.edu) and Extension Program Assistant is Sara Sturtevant (sturtevant@purdue.edu). Roberta's extension for after hours is 307, Jeff's is 314 and Sara's is 309.

The **Tippecanoe County Extension web page** is <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/tippecanoe>. The Handbook with project information, many record sheets, forms and the Tabloid are available on this site.

What is 4-H?

4-H is the largest youth serving organization in the country. It is a volunteer-led organization that reaches youth through a variety of programs in both rural and urban settings. 4-H provides fun, educational opportunities at the local, state, national, and international levels. 4-H programs are hands-on, age-appropriate, and university-based. 4-H helps youth improve their self-confidence; learn subject matter; and develop important skills including leadership, citizenship, communication, and decision-making that can be applied over a lifetime. For adults, 4-H offers opportunities for volunteering knowledge and skills in a variety of areas.

4-H Motto

"To make the best better"

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 & Emblem

4-H colors are green and white. The four-leaf clover is the 4-H emblem. The clover is green and has the white "H" in each leaf.

Commonly asked questions & answers about 4-H in Tippecanoe County

- 👉 **Who is eligible to be a 4-H member and when can I join?** Any youth in grades 3 through 12 is eligible to join. A member may continue membership for a maximum of ten years or until completion of 12th grade. We have a special program for those in second grade called Mini 4-H. All 4-H is based on the grade you are in on January 1st. **Enrollment deadline is February 1st.** You must re-enroll each year. Enrollment forms are available by December 1st. There are 28 clubs in the county.
- 👉 **How do I enroll in 4-H?** Complete the enrollment form and return to your 4-H club leader or the Tippecanoe County Extension Office by February 1st. Enrollment forms are available from the Extension Office, 4-H club leaders and on the Tippecanoe County Extension Website <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/tippecanoe>
- 👉 **What is a 4-H Club?** One of the lines on the enrollment form is the name of your club. As a new 4-H'er you may not know a club yet. Each club sets their meeting dates and places. There are clubs located in all areas of the county. Most members choose a club in their area or based on where their friends attend. You might want to find out which club your friends are in or invite a friend to join 4-H with you. It is your choice which club to join, feel free to call the club leaders or the Extension Office to help you decide.

- 👉 **What is the cost to be a 4-H member?** There is no cost to enroll in 4-H. Some clubs may have dues in order to cover operating costs. Project costs can vary. **Most projects have a manual which can be purchased at the Extension Office.** There is a huge range of cost in projects from something as low as a poster for a few dollars to a couple of thousand for a steer.
- 👉 **Can a member enroll in additional projects after they turn in their enrollment form?** Yes, a member may add projects at any time prior to May 1 by filling out a drop/add form. Two projects that cannot be added after the projects start (which is usually at the end of March), are Shooting Sports and Dogs. Drop/add forms are available on the website and at the Extension Office and are due by May 1st.
- 👉 **Why should I go to club meetings and workshops?** Meetings and workshops serve as the information link for members. Club meetings and project workshops usually begin in April and continue till fair time. Members receive help on projects, manuals and programs. Members also become involved in service projects, make friends and learn about life skills. Each club will choose officers to help run the meetings. It is important to attend so you get to know other kids in your club and have a leader to ask questions about the program. **All members** are highly encouraged to attend meetings and workshops on a regular basis. **Parents** are also encouraged to attend meetings to keep informed. Beginning in 2007 the Tippecanoe County 4-H Exhibit Association implemented a rule that requires 4-H members to attend 3 Tippecanoe County approved meetings and/or workshops prior to July 1 in order to be eligible for champions and reserve champions. **You may still exhibit and be eligible for all other ribbons if you have not completed the 3 meetings.** This is not required for mini 4-H members.
- 👉 **What is a 4-H Project?** There are over 60 projects to choose from in Tippecanoe County 4-H. We recommend only taking 1-3 projects the first year. 4-H members should choose projects that interest them. Actual project work is done by the 4-H member, usually at home. Project requirements are specific for each level – the guidelines and rules are listed in the Tippecanoe 4-H Handbook. Be sure to read them before starting your project. Parents should provide encouragement and advice. For most, but not all projects, there will be workshops to help you learn about the project. Most workshops begin in April, but there are some earlier.
- 👉 **Does a member have to take a project to the county fair?** All members are not required but highly encouraged to take projects to the fair. If something happens that keeps you from doing this, but you have completed the project, you can still get credit for completing by showing your project to your leader. The fair is the culmination of preparation and

learning. Friendly competition and fellowship are valuable parts of learning.

- 👍 **My animal died, or something happens to my project, how can I complete my project?** Unfortunately this does happen. The project can be completed in any animal area by completing a poster which can be entered in the fair or by turning in the project manual to the club leader.
- 👍 **What are premiums?** A premium is money given to those who have blue, red or white ribbons or place in the top 3 in livestock. For non-livestock projects premium money may be picked up at the Fair at the end of the fair week on Friday evening and Saturday morning. Look for times to be posted or in the 4-H Handbook. **After the fair they are available at the Extension Office until September 1st. They must be claimed by September 1st or they are forfeited.** Champions and Reserve Champions receive premium checks which are mailed to the 4-H members usually in September.
- 👍 **When livestock auction checks delivered?** 4-H Livestock Auction checks are released after all auction payments have been collected. This may be as late as October.
- 👍 **What ribbon system is used?** We use two different ribbon systems at the fair. Non-animal projects and some animal projects use the Danish system. This means that more than one blue ribbon may be awarded in a class. Each division will have a champion and reserve champion designated. Livestock projects use placing ribbons, 1st – 10th place.
- 👍 **What goes to the Indiana State Fair?** For livestock and other animals they have a special entry form that is sent by the exhibitor directly to the State Fair Entry Department with a fee. All properly enrolled livestock and other animals may go to the State Fair. There are varying dates, but the first due is for beef, sheep and swine and that date is June 1st. Forms are available in the office or on the State Fair website: www.in.gov/statefair. Non-animal projects are limited on the numbers that are eligible for the State Fair. The ones eligible will receive a letter that gives the dates they need to be taken down to the State Fairgrounds. The Extension Office will take projects that are brought in by the designated time down to the fairgrounds if they are not too large or fragile.
- 👍 **How often will my child and I have to go to the fair?**
If you take livestock projects, you will need to go every day to take care of your animals. Exceptions to this are dogs, cats, pocket pets and vivariums, which are brought to the fair only on their day of judging and taken home after the show. Non-livestock projects are brought to the fairgrounds before the fair starts and are picked up on the last Saturday of the fair.
- 👍 **What other activities does 4-H offer?** In addition to activities that your local club may choose to do, the county offers the following:

- Project workshops – offered to help 4-H'ers with their projects
- 4-H Has Talent Contest (formally Share the Fun) – individuals and clubs share their talents through skits, musical acts, etc at an area program
- Fashion Revue – model garments made or bought by the 4-H'er
- 4-H Camp – a 3 day, 2 night camp for members in grades 3-6
- State 4-H Band and Chorus – auditions required
- Round-Up – 3 day Purdue conference for 7th and 8th grade members
- State Fair Youth School – a leadership/citizenship building program held at the Indiana State Fair
- State Junior Leader Conference – a leadership program for 7th – 12th grade
- Science Workshops at Purdue – includes workshops on animals, electric, computers, aerospace, engineering, food science and plant science
- Indiana State 4-H Congress – a one day leadership program
- Scholarships – available for 10th grade and above 4-H members
- Annual Watermelon Race – held on Thursday of the fair. Each barn/building selects a team to participate in this fun filled event

👉 **What are Junior Leaders?**

Junior Leaders are 4-H members who are enrolled in the Junior Leader project and are in 7th grade to twelve. They assist the 4-H Leaders in organizing activities and help younger 4-H members with their projects. They also participate in many community service projects and help with all aspects of the county fair.

👉 **As a 4-H Parent, how can I help my child?**

Assist your child in the selection of 4-H projects that are interesting and work with your home situation and family lifestyle. Show your interest and enthusiasm. Read over the handbook and project manual with your child to help them understand what to do. Assist your son or daughter, but do not do the project for them. Your responsibility is to teach, not to govern; to guide, not to control.