

Franklin County

4-H



Family Guide

Dear 4-H Members and Parents,

Thanks for your interest in the Franklin County 4-H program. This book is designed with **YOU** in mind to help you learn more about 4-H, what and who we deal with, and how you might become a successful 4-H member here in Franklin County. Regardless of what interests you, whether you live on a farm or in town, are in elementary school or high school, **4-H has something to offer you.**

- The mission of Indiana 4-H is to help youth and volunteers in their development through hands-on educational programs using the knowledge and educational base of Purdue University, other land grant universities and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Franklin County Extension Office is located in the North Courthouse Annex, 483 Main Street in Brookville, IN. In addition to serving the 4-H program, we offer informal, educational opportunities in agriculture, community development, consumer & family science, and youth development. We work to provide you with the latest scientific information in production of animals, management of farms, helping families make life more livable by extending family resources, and developing individual talents through leadership training. Our office is open from 8:30 AM – 4 PM.

Should you need further information, please feel free to contact us at our office. Our telephone number is (765) 647-3511 and our FAX number is (765) 647-3340. Our web site address is: www.ces.purdue.edu/franklin/. We welcome the opportunity to make your participation in our program an enjoyable one.

Sincerely,



Angie Riffle
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development

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What is 4-H?

- **4-H** is a “learn by doing”, volunteer-led, family-oriented program.
- **4-H** is for boys and girls grades 3 to 12. Mini 4-H is for boys and girls in 1st and 2nd grade.
- **4-H** is all for all youth, from cities and towns, rural areas and farms.
- **4-H** helps young people to develop life skills. A life skill is an ability that one can use in everyday life.

4-H FACTS

The 4-H Motto: "To make the best better"

The 4-H Slogan: “Learning by doing.”

The 4-H emblem: A four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf.
The H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health.



The 4-H colors: Green and White. Green symbolizes nature's most common color and represents life, springtime, and youth. White symbolizes purity.

The 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 Members: More than 7 million boy and girls are 4-H members throughout the United States. In Indiana, there are over 300,000 4-H members!

The 4-H Club Year: Starts January 1 of each year and ends December 31 of that same year.

The 4-H Enrollment Deadline: For Franklin County it is March 1 of each year.

Who's Who in 4-H

At the Local Club Level:

- **4-H Member**: Any child in grades 3 to 12 during the current year, who fills out a 4-H enrollment form and meets their project requirements.
- **Club Leader**: An adult volunteer who is responsible for the club and coordinating enrollment, meetings and special activities.
- **Project Leader**: A volunteer who helps to teach youth about a project. This may be a parent or another person from the local community.
- **Junior Leader**: A 4-H member who is in the 7th grade or older, enrolled in the Junior Leadership project and helps younger 4-H members.
- **Parents**: They are very important to the success of a 4-H member. Parents are often ENCOURAGED to attend monthly meetings and project meetings as well as county-wide events with their children.

At the County Level:

- **4-H Association**: The Franklin County 4-H Association, Inc. is the local governing body of the 4-H program. Twelve people sit on this board, with three being elected each year at the 4-H Recognition Banquet in the fall. They usually meet monthly and set the policy for the 4-H program in Franklin County. This group also serves as the Fairboard for the Franklin County 4-H Fair.
- **Franklin County Extension Board**: Oversees the total Extension program. Responsible for program direction, evaluation and oversees implementation of all educational programming.
- **Extension Educators**: These are professionals who help to carry out the 4-H objectives. They link Purdue to the county program. They are responsible to the people of Franklin County through the direction of the Franklin County Extension Board. Our county has three educators - Consumer & Family Sciences, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and a 4-H Youth Development Educator. Together they work with the 4-H and Extension programs.

At the State Level:

- **Purdue University**: Purdue is the land grant college that has the responsibility for taking education to the people of the state and the 4-H program is part of that University directive.
- **State 4-H Leader**: The State 4-H Leader is the head of the 4-H Department and has the responsibility for programming at the State Level.
- **State Specialists**: State specialists have responsibility for the 4-H program on a statewide basis. Each one has a specific part of the total 4-H program and are based at Purdue under the direction of the State 4-H Program Leader and the head of the Department of Youth Development and Agricultural Education.
- **Indiana 4-H Foundation**: This nonprofit organization works to provide additional resources for the 4-H program. They sponsor scholarships, and provide funding for various programs on the state level.

4-H Projects

What is a 4-H project?

A 4-H project is a learning experience for the 4-H member. Each member must take at least one project and complete the requirements for that project. The projects are judged and exhibited at the Franklin County 4-H Fair.

There are about 50 projects members can choose from, 4-Hers are expected to complete the projects they enroll in. Projects provide the basis of 4-H by offering various educational experiences. Carrying out a project helps the member "LEARN BY DOING". The 4-H project is a teaching tool that can be used to develop many life skills in addition to the more evident project skills. Projects are real-life experiences that help 4-H'ers learn to make sound decisions. Projects put the hands and minds to work.

How to select a project

Parents and the member should know and fully understand what is expected of the 4-H'er before they enroll in a project. Projects are selected in the spring when enrollment forms are filled out. Usually, younger members should limit their selection to just a couple of projects. Older youth may be able to do several different projects. When helping a child select a project, parents (and leaders) should consider, the following:

- Does the project meet the needs and interests of the member? It's important to remember that in many cases a child doesn't really know if he would like a particular project without first giving it a try.
- Does the project keep with grade and ability of the member, yet provide a challenge? The amount of time a member has to work on the project and the amount of time required by the project.
- Does the project fit into the family needs and situations?
- How much will the project cost?
- Is there adequate space and equipment available?
- Is there opportunity for ownership and management responsibilities?
- Are club leaders willing to help with the project in the 4-H club, and likewise, are parents willing to help?

Franklin County 4-H Projects

The following page has a listing of the projects which you may take if you enroll in a 4-H club in Franklin County. For additional information, contact one of the local club leaders or the Franklin County Extension Office. Please note that the descriptions listed below are general descriptions of the beginning division and are not intended to serve as an overall description of the entire project.

Livestock and other animals projects have various enrollment deadlines and other special requirements, and if interested in these types of projects, please check with your club leader or the Extension Office for more details.

Franklin County 4-H Projects

- Aerospace: Learn to build a model rocket.
- Alfalfa/Hay: Learn to grow the alfalfa and hay crops.
- Arts and Crafts: Make something relating to fine arts, needle arts or basic crafts (beading, ceramics, etc).
- Basketry: Learn to weave a basket from reed or other materials.
- Beef: Raise a heifer or steer, and care for one or more animals.
- Cake Decorating: Learn the correct way to decorate a simple cake.
- Child Development: Learn about things that relate to early childhood development.
- Consumer Clothing: Learn how to economically buy clothing and build your wardrobe.
- Corn: Learn how to raise corn.
- Collections: Build up your own collection.
- Computer Arts: Learn computer skills and how to be creative to develop artistic projects on the computer.
- Computers: An interactive project with use of CD and internet learning computer and technology skills.
- Dairy: Learn how to feed and care for your dairy herd.
- Dogs: Learn to feed, train and care for your dog or family dog.
- Electric: Learn how to make a circuit board, conduct hazard hunts, determine poles of a magnet.
- Entomology: Learn to identify insects.
- Flowers: Learn how to plant and raise flowers from seedlings.
- Foods: Learn how to make cookies.
- Food Preservation: Learn how to make and freeze cookies.
- Forestry: Learn to identify and collect leaves.
- Gardening: Learn to raise vegetables.
- Genealogy: Start tracing your family history.
- Geology: Learn to identify different kinds of rocks.
- Gift Wrapping: Learn the secrets of making a neat package including the box, paper and bow.
- Goats: Learn how to feed, care for and show a dairy or Boer goat.
- Home Environment: Learn how to decorate and organize your room.
- Horse and Pony: Learn about riding, breeding and management.
- Lawn & Garden Tractor: Learn how to safely operate a riding lawn mower or garden tractor.
- Microwave Foods: Learn to cook using a microwave oven.
- Personality: Learn about yourself.
- Photography: Learn how to use a camera and to take black and white, color or digital pictures.
- Poultry: Learn how to take care of chickens and ducks.
- Rabbits: Learn how to select, feed and manage your rabbits.
- Sewing and Sewing for Fun: Learn how to sew and read patterns.
- Sheep: Learn to feed and care for your lambs.
- Shooting Sports: Learn about firearms, firearms safety and hunter education.
- Small Engines: Learn about engine parts, tools of the trade, safety issues and what makes small engines work.
- Soil & Water Conservation: Learn about different problems relating to soil and water conservation.
- Soybeans: Learn to grow soybeans.
- Starter Calf: Raise a purebred dairy, dairy/beef cross, beef crossbred or purebred beef steer calf.
- Swine: Learn how to select, feed and take care of pigs.
- Tobacco: Learn how to grow tobacco plants.
- Tractor: Learn to safely operate a tractor.
- Veterinary Science: Learn about animals, animal diseases and problems.
- Weather: Learn about weather tools and how weather is predicted.
- Weeds: Learn to identify and collect weeds.
- Wheat: Learn to grow wheat.
- Wildlife: Learn to identify different types of wildlife and what they eat and where they live.
- Woodworking: Learn how to use tools at home and make wood crafts.

Where is project information found?

The Purdue Extension – Franklin County Office, located in the North Courthouse Annex, 483 Main Street, Brookville, has all project books available for review at any time during the year. All project books are available to 4-H members at a minimal cost. All 4-H projects are listed in the Franklin County 4-H Rule Book and in this guide. Current 4-H rule books are available each spring. Also, 4-H leaders can help to clarify information on project completion requirements, judging requirements and exhibit guidelines.

4-H Records

Achievement Records

White cards labeled “My Record of Achievement” should be filled out completely each year. These are available in the County Extension Office. It is important that these be filled out accurately in order to apply for trips, awards and scholarships that you might receive throughout the year as well as your 4-H career.

4-H Project Books and Record Sheets

At the beginning of the year members will receive the project books and record sheets for the projects they enrolled in. Some project books (beef, etc.) are used for 2-3 years before moving to a higher level. Members will receive project books from the club leader or they are welcome to pick them up at the Extension Office. Completed record books should be turned into club leaders. 4-H records should be filled out as completely and accurately as possible. Parents may oversee the child’s work, but it is in the best interest if a child does his own writing.

Ribbons and Awards

4-H uses the Danish system of ribbon awards for the non-animal projects. In this system, the ribbon placing is defined as follows:

- Purple = Outstanding
- Blue = Above average of the group
- Red = Average
- White = below the average of the group

Awards given at the 4-H fair include plaques, banners, ribbons, newspaper and radio recognition. Other awards are given at the 4-H Recognition Banquet held at the Franklin County High School Cafeteria during the fall of each year. Local clubs also may hold their own awards programs where the completion pins are awarded to members who completed all of their projects.

Activities and Events

Other activities and events that 4-H members can participate in include:

- Demonstrations
 - Hippology Contest (Horse Bowl)
 - Judging Contests:
 - Crops, Forestry & Entomology Judging
 - Horse and Pony Judging
 - Livestock and Dairy Judging
 - Public Speaking
 - Share-The-Fun Talent Contest
 - Tractor Driving Contests
- | |
|-------------------------|
| Livestock Skill-A-Thon |
| Meats and Dairy Judging |
| Soils Judging |

Trips

4-H members between grades 9 - 12 during the current calendar year are eligible to apply for trips taken during the summer. The following is a list of the trips or activities available to these members:

- Citizenship Washington Focus
- State Junior Leader Conference
- State Fair Youth Leadership School
- 4-H Science Workshops, including:
 - Aerospace Workshop
 - 4-H Ambassador Workshop
 - Computer Science Workshop
 - Electrical Workshop
 - Engineering Science Workshop
 - Food Science & Nutrition Workshop
 - Animal Science Workshops (Aquaculture, Beef, Companion Animals, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Horse, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep or Swine)
 - Plant Science Workshops (Agronomy, Ornamentals, and Fruits & Vegetables)
- State 4-H Band
- State 4-H Chorus
- Indiana 4-H Congress
- 4-H Teen Camp
- 4-H Camp counselor

4-H members who have completed grades 7, and 8 can apply for 4-H Round-Up. This is a career development trip to Purdue held during June of each year.

4-H members in grades 3-7 can attend 4-H camp in June.

Revised: January, 2005

Parent's 4-H Pledge:

I pledge my **HEAD** to give my child the information I can, to help him/her see things clearly and to make wise decisions.

I pledge my **HEART** to encourage and support my child, no matter whether he/she has successes or disappointments.

I pledge my **HANDS** to help my child's club; if I cannot be a leader, I can help in many equally important ways.

I pledge my **HEALTH** to keep my child strong and well for a better world through 4-H, for my child's club, our community, our country and our world.



Ten Commandments for Parents of Youngsters Showing Livestock

1. Thou shalt not feed, train or care for the animal for thou art trying to teach the child responsibility.
2. Thou shalt forgive a child for making mistakes in the show ring for thou hast made mistakes too!
3. Thou shalt not get mad when thy child forgets items in the show box for one day. Thou may forget the show box.
4. Thou shalt help the show managers for they are doing a job that thou would not want to do.
5. Thou shalt see that thy child is on time for all show activities for thou would not want to wait on another.
6. Thou shalt make sure thy child has animals entered and registration papers in order by the designated time.
7. Thou shalt teach the child that winning a blue ribbon is a desirable goal, but making friends along the way is a more worthy goal!
8. Thou shalt not complain about the judge, for it is his opinion that has been sought.
9. Thou shalt remember that livestock projects are teaching projects, not necessarily money-making ideas.
10. Thou shalt remember that the livestock project is a family project that shall be enjoyed and supported by the entire family.

Clyde D. Lane, Jr., Extension Specialist, Univ. of Tennessee