

New to 4-H: Family Packet



JOIN  THE
REVOLUTION
OF RESPONSIBILITY

JOIN PAWNEE
COUNTY 4-H



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to live on a farm to join 4-H?

No! Although 4-H began as a program for rural children, today 4-H is available for all children whether they live on a farm, or in the city.

How old do you have to be to join a 4-H club?

Children and youth can join a 4-H club at the age of 5 and they can stay involved until they graduate from high school. Please note special grade requirements to join a livestock or horse club.

How do I enroll in 4-H?

Enrolling in a club is easy. Complete the 4-H enrollment and join a 4-H Club or become an independent member. Pawnee County 4-H has continuous enrollment, but youth may start enrolling for the new 4-H year in October.

What does it cost to join a 4-H club?

Pawnee County 4-H is FREE to join and youth may sign up for as many projects as they wish. Some clubs may assess “dues” for each member to cover the cost of the project supplies. In addition, workshops often have a minimal cost associated with them.

Can my children join more than one club?

Yes. This can occur when a child wants to explore a project area that is not offered through his or her primary club, but is offered through another club. Being a club member is an important responsibility for both members and their parents. Give careful consideration to the time your family can commit to support more than one club.

What is a Clover Kid?

Children ages 5 to 7 are known as “Clover Kids. These children are full 4-H members and can participate in a wide range of programs and activities. However, because research has shown that competition at this age should not be the focus, Clover Kids members are only participate in non-competitive events. These members do participate in many camps, events and the county fair. Their work just isn't “judged” and compared to other children's work. They receive participation ribbons for fair entries. In addition, Clover Kids are not allowed to participate in horse projects.

Does 4-H provide insurance for my child?

As part of your child's club enrollment, they are covered by a small accident insurance policy. The policy provides coverage only for official 4-H functions. In the event your child gets injured at a 4-H event, notify your leader and the local 4-H office as soon as possible.

Learning about 4-H

4-H serves youth in rural, urban, and suburban communities in every state across the nation. Youth participate through 4-H out-of-school programming, in-school enrichment programs, clubs and camps. 4-H is the largest youth organization in the world and reaches 1 in 3 Nebraska youth ages 5-19.

Many people think of 4-H as an independent organization, but that isn't quite accurate. As part of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension System of state land-grant universities and colleges, the 4-H Youth Development Program is built on the nation's best research, education and practice.

This means that your Extension staff members are supported with resources from land-grant universities across the nation. Just take a look at our research-based curriculum and you can feel complete confidence in 4-H as a sound, educational organization. And, we have been around for over a century!

There is an Extension office in each county throughout the nation, which will be the local headquarters for 4-H. The 4-H program is administered at the county level by the County 4-H Extension Educator, with support and leadership from the State 4-H Office.

Overview

- The four leaf clover is the symbol used to express the spirit of 4-H work. Each leaf of the clover represents one of the four H's: Head, Heart, Hands and Health.
- Green and white are the 4-H colors. Green represents nature's most common color and symbolized youth and life. While white represents purity and high ideals.
- Pledge

I pledge
My head to clearer thinking
My heart to greater loyalty
My hands to larger service
My health to better living
for my club, my community
my country and my world

- Motto – "To Make the Best Better"
- Slogan – "Learn by Doing"

Program Basics

- The 4-H year begins on October 1 and continues through the following September
- Age Divisions

- Clover Kids: ages 5-7, non-competitive
- Junior: ages 8-10 or ages 8-13 (if no intermediate division)
- Intermediate: ages 11-13
- Senior: ages 14 and older

“4-H Age” is determined by the age of the 4-Her after January 1st. IMPORTANT: If a youth turns 8 on January 1st, their “4-H Age” for the year is 7.

- Ways to Participate
 - Join a club, attend a day camp or complete projects independently

4-H Governing Body

Federal and State 4-H offices will set policies and guidelines for 4-H County programs to follow. In Pawnee County, our 4-H program is run by the Pawnee County 4-H Foundation with the assistance of the Pawnee County UNL Extension Office.

- The Pawnee County 4-H Foundation sets interprets Federal and State 4-H policies, sets their own local policies, provides resources for 4-Hers, and hosts the County Fair, contests and the annual Achievement Celebration.
- The Pawnee County UNL Extension Office offers support to 4-H Club leaders and individual members, hosts workshops based on 4-H projects, and runs the County Fair.

Pawnee County 4-H Foundation

The Pawnee County 4-H Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit established in 2013 and was formerly the Pawnee County 4-H Council. As stated previously, the 4-H Foundation is the local governing body of the Pawnee County 4-H program. There are 16 members, an adult and a youth from each club, the FFA, and individual members along with two adult community members. Members are elected to serve a two year term by their clubs.

The 4-H Foundation sponsors an annual fruit sales fundraiser in February and all 4-Hers are encouraged to participate. The money raised goes back into the 4-H program through supporting county fair and non-fair shows/ contests, funding 4-Hers awards and scholarships, hosting the Achievement Celebration, etc.

Your club leader (or Extension Office if you are individual member) will pass out the information and collect the money at the end of the sale period. Fruit will be delivered in early March, it is mandatory for all families who sold fruit attend the fruit delivery event to pick up their fruit.

To reward youth for participating in the fundraiser, for every \$50 sold by a 4-Her they will receive \$5 in “bonus bucks”. Bonus bucks may be used to help pay for 4-H workshops/camps or purchase items from the 4-H Mall (4-H’s official merchandise store). *Please refer to the most updated Bonus Bucks policy located in Pawnee County 4-H Policy Manual.*

Parent & Guardian Roles

4-H is a family program where youth and adults can learn and grow together. Parents are invited to participate in 4-H Club activities and Pawnee County Extension hosted events. We recognized every family's schedule is different, but there are many ways to be involved with 4-H within our county. Some possible helping roles include providing refreshments, supplies, or other resources for a club meeting, assisting with a project day camp, serving as an officer with the 4-H club or 4-H Foundation, organizing a 4-H service project, or coordinating the club's end-of-the year recognition program.

To have a successful experience with 4-H, parents are often required to:

- Provide transportation for your child to and from 4-H events
- Attend 4-H club functions whenever possible
- Guide your child as he or she selects a 4-H project and help develop goals that are challenging, but also realistic
- If your child serves in a leadership role within the club, help him or her fulfill the duties of the office
- Read the Pawnee County 4-H Express Newsletter so you will know the details of upcoming events
- Visit the Pawnee County 4-H Website for the latest information and resources at: pawnee.unl.edu
- Like the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Pawnee County Facebook page for an easy way to stay informed
- Sign up for the Pawnee County 4-H email or text messaging system for up to the minute information on what is happening, important deadlines, etc
- Attend your club's end-of-the-year celebration with your child and attend 4-H Achievement Celebration (the county-wide awards program)

Clubs

4-H Clubs have been at the heart of 4-H for the last 100 years and continue to be an essential component. Youth and families are encouraged to join a club and may even join more than one club. Clubs may focus on one project area or may plan activities which cover multiple project areas.

Clubs are organized by volunteer leaders. If your family is interested in starting their own club, please speak with the Pawnee County Extension Office.

Families should expect 4-H Club Leaders to...

- Be able to find answers to 4-H related questions
- Distribute necessary 4-H paperwork in a timely manner
- Be prepared for, and help, 4-H Club Officers run an orderly meeting
- Encourage all 4-H'ers to do their best

Families should NOT expect 4-H Club Leaders to...

- Be babysitters for their children
- Do the work for the members
- Track down 4-H members to deliver needed information
- Be perfect (4-H leaders are VOLUNTEERS who are humans too...we all make mistakes)

Projects

The 4-H project is the "gateway" to the rest of the 4-H program. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that the project is the "gateway" to the 4-Her. Projects provide the basis of the 4-H program by offering various educational experiences. Carrying out a project will help the member "learn by doing" as well as learn "why" things happen the way they do.

Why projects?

- The project is a teaching tool that can be used to develop many desirable traits in addition to the more evident project skills

What are projects?

- Projects are real life experiences that help 4-Hers learn to make sound decisions
- There are over 100 different projects and most of the projects have been planned with several phases so that a member may advance to more difficult and challenging activities within that project

How are projects conducted?

- Project meetings at club, county, district or state events
- Demonstrations and talks at club meetings, county or district contests
- Tours
- Family activities or work at home
- Exhibiting at the County Fair
- Recordkeeping
- Workshops or camps

Projects are selected early in the 4-H year when enrollment sheets are filled out, but can be changed until the Drop/Add Deadline in June.

What is a 4-H project manual?

- 4-H offers project manuals to help guide members' learning experiences
- These written manuals provide age-appropriate, hands-on lessons to help youth acquire new skills and knowledge
- Keep in mind that you are not required to utilize a project manual to guide your child's 4-H project, but you will find it very helpful
- Think of the project manual as a useful resource for you, rather than a "to do" list of activities that must be completed

PROJECT LIST

Aerospace	Dog	Physical Fitness
ATV—4-Wheelin’	Electricity	Physics
Baby Sitting	Entomology	Poultry
Beef	Entrepreneurship	Presentations
Career Exploration	Fiber Arts	Rabbits
Cat	Food & Nutrition	Range
Citizenship	Forestry	Robotics
Clothing	Goat	Safety
Communications	Health	Sheep
Companion Animal	Heritage	Shooting Sports
Computers	Home Environment	Small Engines
Conservation	Horse	Swine
Consumer Management	Horticulture	Theatre
Crop Production	Human Development	Veterinary Science
Cycling	Leadership	Welding
Dairy Cattle	Lifetime Sports	Wildlife
Digital Video	Photography	Wind Energy
		Woodworking

County Fair & State Fair

For most 4-Hers the county fair is a time to demonstrate what they have learned that year in their projects they have signed up for. Youth may choose to enter completed static exhibits (art, photography, woodworking, etc.) or show animal exhibits (poultry, sheep, horse, etc.).

4-Hers must identify to the Extension Office which projects they might enter into the fair by the Drop/Add deadline in mid-June. In addition, livestock projects have additional forms and deadlines. Please review these dates with the Extension Staff by contacting the Office. County fair project rules can be found in the fair book. Fair books are printed and can also be found online: <http://www.pawnee.unl.edu/countyfair>.

County Fair Book

The fair book contains information about age requirements, ribbon premiums (money 4-Her are awarded along with their ribbons), tagging/identification, etc. As a new parent is can be helpful to scan the fair book and speak with the Extension Staff with any questions.

GENERAL RULES

The following rules apply to all departments of the 4-H Section of the County Fair. Rules which apply specifically to a particular department will be listed under rules for that department. In case the general rules conflict with the department rules the department rules govern.

A. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXHIBITORS

1. An exhibitor must be a 4-H member enrolled in the project he/she is exhibiting. Exhibitors must be enrolled by **June 15** in the project in which they wish to exhibit. There will be no discrimination because of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin, religion, age, handicapped, marital status or sexual orientation.
2. A 4-H member must be 8 to 18 years of age inclusive on January 1 of the current year. The last year of eligibility is the calendar year the member becomes 19.

POULTRY

DEPARTMENT G – DIVISION 70 – 78 – POULTRY DIVISION

Division 70	Classes 910 – 930	Pay Category 3
Division 71-72, 74-76	Classes 910 – 940	Pay Category 6
Division 73	Classes 910	Pay Category 6
Division 77	Classes 910 – 920	Pay Category 6
Division 78	Classes 910 – 930	Pay Category 6

Refer to pay chart in front of fair book for ribbon premiums for each category.

MIDDLE UNIT KNITTING (Level 2)

SF) CLASS 005 Knitted Clothing or Home Environment Item - Knitted items using pattern stitches such as diamond, block, twist or seed/moss stitches.

C) CLASS 910 Knit One/Add One - Knitted garment made using Level 2 stitches (see above) combined with a sewn or purchased garment to make a complete wearable outfit.

SF) = State Fair Eligible Class C) = County Only Class

State Fair

There's no place like the Nebraska State Fair! It's the premier showcase for 4-H'ers to share what they've learned and worked on in 4-H throughout the year. Youth may choose to exhibit a static project and/or livestock project. The State Fairbook can be found online:

<http://4h.unl.edu/nebraskastatefairbook>.

4-H projects are picked by the judges to move on to the State Fair during County Fair judging. There is no entry fees associated with exhibiting a static project, youth must just identify they are taking their project to the State Fair and have it into the Extension Office by the deadline. The Pawnee County Extension staff will transport qualifying static projects of reasonable size to and from the State Fair.

4-Her's enrolled in a livestock project may choose to exhibit their animal at the State Fair. There is no need to qualify at a County level in order to participate, an exhibitor must just meet the age requirements and pay the entry fees. Currently, State Fair livestock exhibitors must complete their entries online. For assistance or questions about the online system, please contact the Extension Office.

Non-Fair Shows and Contests

There is more to 4-H than County and State Fair; such as pre-fair and post-fair shows and contests. These activities give 4-Hers an additional opportunity to demonstrate their growth outside of fair. Below are just a few of the yearly shows and contests Pawnee County 4-H can hold.

Companion Animal Show

The companion animal show consists of a small animal show and cat show. 4-Hers can show off their knowledge of rabbits, ferrets, chinchillas, guinea pigs, gerbils, hamsters, mice, rats, hedgehogs, birds, reptiles, fish or other pets by showing their animals or presenting a poster. The Companion Animal Show is open to youth enrolled in a companion animal project.

Communication Contest

4-Hers are able to practice their communication skills while giving a speech, public service announcement or presentation. The Communication Contest is open to any youth involved in 4-H.

Dog Show

The Dog Show allows youth to highlight their showmanship, obedience and agility skills. Dogs and youth of all skills are able to participate. The Dog Show is open to youth enrolled in a 4-H dog project.

Fashion Show

The Fashion Show is a time where 4-Hers can model their clothing projects and showcase their consumer science knowledge. Potential entries include sewn items made for the 4-Her or someone else, sewn items combined with a purchased item to create a wearable outfit and modeling an outfit purchased at a store. The Fashion Show is open to youth participating in any 4-H clothing project.

Favorite Foods Revue

The Favorite Foods Revue combines food preparation, menu planning and table setting skills. 4-Hers participating in the Favorite Foods Revue need to plan a menu suitable for an indoor or outdoor meal. The 4-Her should prepare one food item, which should be brought along to the Revue with the selected table service, centerpiece, menu card, recipe AND card table. All 4-Hers are eligible to participate.

Horticulture Contest

Youth will test their horticulture knowledge while they identify flowers, fruits, woody ornamentals and vegetables; judge a class of plants and complete a multiple choice test. The Horticulture Contest is open to all youth participating in 4-H.

Music Contest

4-Hers can participate as an individual or group in the Music Contest. Youth may choose to perform a dance, sing a song or play an instrument. The Music Contest is open to any youth enrolled in 4-H.

Theater Arts Contest

The Theater Arts Contest gives 4-Hers an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of stage performance, stage design and much more. Youth may participate individually or as a team in a clover kids show and tell, costumed presentation, dramatic reading or puppet play.

Wildlife Contest

The Wildlife Contest consists of identifying pictures and specimens of wildlife in seven different areas: birds, fish, insects & arachnids, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, trees and wildlife tracks. The Wildlife Contest is open to any youth enrolled in 4-H.

Record Books & Career Portfolio

Record Books

4-H records provide an index of a members achievements in 4-H activities. Carefully completed, they provide a history of the members learning experiences, both successes and failures. Currently, Broilers and Bucket Calves require the completion of a record book.

Carrying a 4-H project through completion, including finishing the chore of record keeping, helps a 4-H'er learn to take responsibility for carrying a project to conclusion. This lesson in responsibility carries over to everyday life and is one of the most important concepts a young person can gain from participation in 4-H.

A well-kept 4-H record is inherently a record of self-improvement. Records give youngsters a handy measuring stick of progress toward both long- and short-term goals. Completing 4-H records gives young people “hands-on” experience in an important “survival” task of modern life-filling out forms.

The 4-H record form is a means of achieving recognition. In the 4-H awards programs, evaluation on the local, state and national levels relies heavily on the picture the 4-H'er presents of themselves through 4-H records.

Career Portfolio

The 4-H Career Portfolio is the annual record-keeping system used by 4-H youth; it is a composite of all 4-H and non 4-H projects/activities throughout the individual's 4-H career.

The 4-H Career Portfolio is required for Nebraska 4-H youth to be eligible for state awards.

County Level Awards

- Youth may enter their 4-H Career Portfolio along with a personal statement when applying for scholarships for camps and workshops.
- The deadline for the completed 4-H Career Portfolio is in the fall. Please refer to Pawnee's 4-H Calendar for exact deadline.

State Level Awards

- The Pawnee County 4-H Awards Committee will select the portfolios to move on to the State Level.
- State finalists will receive a paid trip to the National 4-H Youth Congress. State runners up will receive an invitation to the National 4-H Youth Congress, but will have to fund the trip themselves.

The 4-H Career Portfolio includes a:

- cover
- pre-printed tab dividers
- application and curriculum Forms
- 4-H career portfolio
- 4-H curriculum story
- supporting material (4 photo pages, 2 non-photo pages)

The 4-H Career Portfolio is scored on the following items:

- Project Accomplishments
- 4-H Leadership, Community Service, Volunteer, Citizenship and Educational Experiences
- 4-H Career Story
- 4-H Support Materials
- Non 4-H Experiences
- General

Please see the Extension Office if your 4-Her is interested in starting a Career Portfolio and we will give you more information.