

# New 4-H Member Checklist

Choose a 4-H club and contact the leader

Complete the online enrollment process of [v2.4honline.com](http://v2.4honline.com) and pay the fee by June 15th, 2022

Choose 4-H projects to complete

Purchase 4-H manuals from Dodge County Extension office, if applicable

Attend 4-H meetings and events put on by your chosen club regularly

Become a parent volunteer for your club or within the Dodge County 4-H Program

Work on 4-H projects and take advantage of workshops and contests offered both locally and statewide

Read the 4-H Weekly Blast and look at the 4-H website often



# Welcome to 4-H!



## Dodge County

In 4-H, we believe in the power of young people. We see that every child has valuable strengths and real influences to improve the world around us. We are America's largest youth development organization—empowering nearly six million young people across the U.S. with the skills to lead for a lifetime.

### Table of Contents

Welcome to 4-H	2
About 4-H	3
First Step to 4-H	4
4-H Enrollment	5
Parent Roles	6
4-H Projects	7
County Fair	8
4-H Way	9
4-H FAQ	10

### Nebraska Extension - Dodge County

1206 West 23rd Street  
Fremont, NE 68025

Phone: 402.727.2775 | Fax: 402.727.2777

E-mail: [dodge-county@unl.edu](mailto:dodge-county@unl.edu)

Website: [dodge.unl.edu](http://dodge.unl.edu)

Lisa Poppe, Extension Educator

[lpoppe2@unl.edu](mailto:lpoppe2@unl.edu)

Shane Ahrens 4-H Support

[shane.ahrens@unl.edu](mailto:shane.ahrens@unl.edu)

Mary Spath, Office Manager

[mspath2@unl.edu](mailto:mspath2@unl.edu)

# Welcome to Dodge County 4-H

Dear Prospective 4-H Family,

Welcome to 4-H! You have just inquired about one of the largest youth development programs in the nation. 4-H is the largest out-of-school educational program in the country, with over 130,000 youth enrolled in the state of Nebraska.

The intent of the "4-H Welcome" booklet is to give you an overview of the opportunities and resources available to you to make your experience with the Dodge County 4-H program exceptional. Keep in mind that this just touches the surface of 4-H. Upon enrollment completion, your family will receive a weekly 4-H Blast on Friday to keep you informed.

At the beginning of your 4-H journey it may seem a little overwhelming to learn all about the opportunities and benefits of 4-H. Our staff is here to help you become involved. Keep in mind, your 4-H experience can be tailored to fit your family goals, interests and schedules. The options are endless whether it be summer workshops or volunteer activities, 4-H has a program to suit you and your family.

The Nebraska Extension-Dodge County Office is where the 4-H program is administered. It is located at 1206 West 23rd Street in Fremont. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., we are here to help so we invite you to stop by or call with any questions you may have.

Welcome to the world of 4-H!

Shane Ahrens  
4-H Support

Lisa Poppe  
Extension Educator



# 4-H Opportunities

Dodge County 4-H offers a variety of contests and events throughout the 4-H program year. A complete list of events can be found on the Dodge County website: <http://dodge.unl.edu>

## 4-H Public Speaking Contest

- Youth research, write and present an original speech and/or public service announcement.

## Fashion Revue

- Youth sew or purchase a garment and model it for judges. Judging is based on clothing construction, modeling, fit confidence, poise and the interview process.

## Culinary Challenge Contest

- Youth will design a menu and table theme. They prepare and serve one recipe from their menu to a judge.

## Livestock Judging Contest

- Youth and families learn to judge livestock in order to prepare for county and state competitions.

## Annual Achievement Applications

- Youth complete an application detailing their 4-H experiences for the program year. Applications are used as a selection process for county and state level awards.

## Summer Workshops/Camps

- Camps and workshops are offered throughout the year on a county and state level. Stay tuned for a list of opportunities.



## Scholarships

- A variety of college and camp scholarships are available throughout the year and can be found on the Dodge County 4-H website.

## 4-H FAQs

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

- No, although 4-H began as a program for rural youth, today 4-H has a program for all youth. 4-H offers STEM, Healthy Lifestyles and many other programs.

Can we join 4-H at any time during the year?

- Yes, although all youth must be enrolled by June 15th to be eligible to exhibit in the Fremont 4-H Expo, Dodge County Fair and other competitive events.

What is the 4-H year timeline?

- The 4-H year begins in February with the Nebraska 4-H Month and continues through the following November. The 4-H year kicks off with a service-learning in the Spring. Youth work year round to complete projects to enter in the County Fair. The year wraps up with a county wide 4-H Achievement Celebration in the Fall.

What does it cost to Join 4-H?

- There is an annual \$10 county membership fee that is to be paid by the June 15th deadline. If you plan to exhibit livestock there is an additional fee for ear tags (\$3 each) and DNA samples (Nebraska State Fair or Aksarben Stock Show Only). Depending on the chosen projects, cost will vary based on needed supplies. 4-H clubs may also require families to pay club dues.

What is a Clover Kid?

- A Clover Kid is a child between the ages of 5 and 7 years of age as of January 1 of the current calendar year. Clover Kids are full 4-H members and can participate in many programs, including fair, however they participate at a non-competitive level.

## About 4-H

4-H is a national organization delivered by Cooperative Extension. The hands-on approach allows youth to learn by doing built around the concept of positive youth development. Youth partake in project areas such as health, science, agriculture and citizenship where they receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles.

Youth ages 5-18 participate in 4-H through:

- Clubs
- Camps & Workshops
- School Enrichment
- Afterschool Programs
- Community Engagement
- Leadership Opportunities

Nebraska 4-H prepares youth for successful futures. Educational programs place an emphasis on life skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, social skills, communication, responsibility, citizenship and leadership.



# First Step to 4-H

When beginning your 4-H journey you will want to begin by selecting a 4-H Club in your area or that will best suit your needs.

Below you will find a list of Dodge County 4-H Clubs that are enrolling new members, please reach out to the leaders to inquire about joining their club.

Club Name	Leader	Contact	Area, Interest
4-H Expeditions	Christina Pitterson	402-672-4218	Homeschool/Fremont
Bluffs Friendly Stockman	Erika Raymond	402-719-8290	Rural Fremont, Livestock
Clover Clan	Joan Ruskamp	402-380-0987	Dodge
D.C. Clovers	Mandy Broeker	402-727-7663	Fremont
D.C. Shooting Stars	Leo Blaha	402-720-5370	Any Area, Shooting Sports
Hearts and Hooves	Jeff Hartman	402-721-6514	Any Area, Livestock
Hooper Hoppers	Faith Hemme	402-720-3308	Fremont
Logan Creek Leaders	Jill Francis	402-971-5625	Rural Fremont
Operation C.L.O.V.E.R.	Kelly Abrahams	402-720-7684	Hooper
Platte River Kids	Rhet Mehaffey	402-720-8275	North Bend
Rawhide Riders	Glenda Masteller	402-679-0601	Any Area, Horse Club
	Mindy Wiese	402-719-6978	
Sugar and Spice	Kristi Sendgraff	402-720-6791	Fremont
	Katie Hein	515-778-2022	
Team 4-H	Lisa Poppe	402-380-8463	Scribner/Hooper

Is the club model not for you? Youth can enroll as an independent 4-H member and still participate in all 4-H events as any member enrolled in a Club.

Interested in starting your own 4-H Club? Contact the Nebraska Extension-Dodge County Office at 402.727.2775.



# 4-H Ways

## 4-H Symbol



## 4-H Colors



## 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 Motto



## 4 H's



## County Fair

The county fair is often times the highlight of the 4-H year for youth. Members are able to exhibit their projects at the Dodge County Fair, hopefully having their projects selected for State Fair Competition.

### When is the fair?

- The 2022 Dodge County Fair is August 3 through August 7. Members have the opportunity to compete in a variety of animal shows, contests and enter static exhibits.

### Who can exhibit at County Fair?

- Any enrolled 4-H member can participate in the County Fair. In June, fairbooks will become available which list 4-H classes and instructions. Typically, you will not see much change from year to year, so feel free to look at previous books for great project ideas.

### How do we enter exhibits in the fair?

#### Static Exhibits:

- Each exhibit will need an entry card on it. Additionally, each member will need a Summary Card that reads all of their exhibits. Tags may be picked up at the Extension Office, or pre-entered projects will have tags printed. It is the members responsibility to bring exhibits on entry day.

#### Livestock Exhibits:

- Dates will be released when 4-H project animals need to be tagged/identified. It is your responsibility to properly ID your animal by the respective deadlines.

### When are exhibits released?

- Exhibits are not to be released until the fair closes at 6:30 pm on Sunday, August 7th.



## 4-H Enrollment

Youth ages 8 to 18 years old as of January 1 of the current calendar year are welcome to enroll in the 4-H program. Youth 5 to 7 as of January 1 of the current calendar year may enroll as a Clover Kid in the 4-H Program. In Dodge County there is a \$10 fee when enrolling for the program year.

Both youth members as well as adult volunteers will need to complete an annual online 4-H enrollment.

To enroll in the 4-H Program visit; [v2.4honline.com](https://v2.4honline.com). Here you will create an account where you can then sign-up each child, fill in your information and sign-up for the different project areas that interest you.

**4-H Enrollment  
Deadline:  
June 15th**

In order to participate in 4-H contests and events, you must be enrolled by the deadline.

Visit our 4-H website to access step-by-step instructions on the enrollment process.



## Parent & Guardian Roles

4-H is a family program - a place where both adults and youth can learn and grow together. In 4-H, you as the parent/guardian, are very important. The 4-H program requires participation from parents/guardians, volunteers and many more in order for youth to have a great learning experience.

We recognize that every family has a busy schedule and may not be able to attend every 4-H event. The goal of the 4-H program is for your child to engage in fun learning experiences and develop life-long skills, but that will require some involvement from you. Below you will find a list of ways that you as a parent or guardian can get involved:

- Help your child learn to recite the 4-H Pledge.
- Attend club events with your child when possible. Clover Kids (ages 5-7) should always have a parent attend meetings with them.
- Guide your child as they select 4-H projects and help them develop goals that are challenging, yet realistic.
- If your child holds a leadership role within the club, help them fulfill their duties.
- Read the Dodge County 4-H Blast to stay up to date with events and deadlines.



## 4-H Projects

- Project work is at the heart of 4-H. Projects allow youth to develop and increase knowledge, skills and interests. When youth are completing projects they are doing more than "just" learning new skills. In fact, project work encompasses all four "H's" that are in our 4-H roots: head, heart, hands and health.

What is a project?

- All 4-H members have the opportunity to select one or more projects to learn about during the 4-H program year. A project is a topic or area youth would like to explore. Youth often end up with one or more exhibits from each project area to enter into the county fair.
- There is no limit on the amount of projects youth can choose to select. However, we encourage parents/guardians and club leaders to help youth in setting realistic, but challenging goals.

How do we select a 4-H project?

- All 4-H members will have the chance to pick their own projects according to their interests and skills. Nebraska 4-H has an online project selection guide that can be used to explore projects and resources.
  - <https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/index>

What is a 4-H project manual?

- Project manuals aid in guiding the youth's learning experience. Project manuals are not required, but are found to be helpful. Feel free to look through our manuals in the office or online at [www.shop4-h.org](http://www.shop4-h.org).

