



Kearney County 4-H Welcomes You!

We are excited to have you join the 4-H family in Kearney County! We hope the information you find in this welcome packet will assist you as you start your 4-H journey.



Did you know:

- 4-H is the largest out-of-school youth organization with over seven million youth members!
- 4-H has been around over 100 years!

We look forward to getting to know you and your family. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

CONTACT US 308-832-0645

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4-H Frequently Asked Questions

What is 4-H age? "4-H Age" is determined by a youth's age as of January 1st of the current year. To be a Clover Kid, youth must be 4-H age 5-7 on January 1st. To be a 4-H member, youth must be age 8 on January 1st.

What do the four "H's" stand for on the 4-H clover emblem? The "H's" stand for: head, heart, hands, and health.

What is 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.



What is the 4-H motto? "To Make the Best Better"

How did 4-H begin? 4-H began in the early 1900's as Corn Clubs for boys and Canning Clubs for girls. Although the program has changed a lot through the years, it has always been a program designed to help children become productive members of their communities. The national 4-H program celebrated its 100th birthday in 2002.

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.

What is a Clover Kid? Children ages five to seven are known in 4-H as "Clover Kids". These children are full 4-H members and can participate in a wide range of programs and activities, including the fair. However, because research has shown that competition at this age is detrimental, Clover Kid members are not allowed to participate in competitive events. These members do participate in many contests and receive participation ribbons. Their work is not "judged" and compared to other children's work.

What does it cost to join 4-H in Kearney County? There is no fee to enroll and participate in the Kearney County 4-H program.

Dear Prospective 4-H Family,

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

This welcome packet will give you an overview of the opportunities and resources available to help your family have an incredible experience in 4-H. Keep in mind that this is only an overview. Your best way to stay informed is to read the Kearney County 4-H Newsletter. Your family will start receiving this publication once we receive your 4-H enrollment data.

The 4-H program is so large and the opportunities so vast that it can sometimes seem a little overwhelming when you are new. Just keep in mind that your family's 4-H experience can be tailor-made to fit your goals, schedule and interests. That is one reason 4-H is such a great program for Nebraska families. You can be involved as a whole family, learning and growing together.

When describing 4-H to someone new, we often use the analogy of a "super department store". 4-H is like a "store" full of wonderful, fun, positive, educational programs. We have pretty much every type of workshop, project, contest, trip, conference, camp, or activity you could possibly want. Your family will choose what fits into your schedule. Club leaders and extension staff members are like the "greeters" at the front of the store to help you find what you need. We are here to answer your questions, so please don't hesitate to call.

The Nebraska Extension-Kearney County office is where the 4-H program is administered. It is located in the Kearney County Courthouse at 424 N Colorado, Minden NE 68959. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30-5:00p.m. (Closed from 12:00-1:00p.m.)

Again, welcome to the wonderful world of 4-H!

Sincerely,

Rhonda Herrick,
Extension Educator

Your first steps to join 4-H

4-H Club or Independent Member—What works best for you?

4-H Club:

A 4-H Club is an organized group of youth, led by an adult, that provides a progressing series of educational experiences. 4-H Clubs may meet in any location, typically have elected officers, and a set of rules approved by the membership to govern the club. The purpose of a 4-H club is to provide positive youth development opportunities to meet the needs of young people to experience belonging, mastery, independence and generosity. These essential elements foster those educational opportunities that are tied to the Land Grant University knowledge base.

Independent Members:

Families/youth may choose to participate in 4-H as Independents, operating independently of a formal group setting, such as a club. This may be an individual or family learning effort. For many youth, their exposure to 4-H experiences and learning materials comes through activities conducted either within their family or an independent membership. While 4-H encourages participation in club settings to promote friendships and interaction with other youth and adults, for some youth, this is not always possible. Families and independent members are welcome to participate as part of the 4-H experience.

We are always welcoming new clubs. 4-H clubs must have at least three families enrolled with five kids. If you would like to start your own 4-H club, please contact the Kearney County Extension Office at 308-832-0645 or check online for further details at

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

4-H Clubs can vary by interest area, age group and activities. If you would like a current 4-H club to contact you with further information about their club, please contact the Kearney County Extension Office.

4-H CLUBS IN KEARNEY COUNTY

Axtell Star Producers, Robbie Nickel (308)832-2332

Clever Clovers, Joelle Knott (402)984-1788

Husker Producers, Bryan Smith (308)830-3801

K.C. Kids, Sherry Reichstein (308)832-7071

Keene Kids, Tricia Danburg (308)293-6998 & Kendall Lammers (308)743-2145

One Way Winners, Misty Casper (308)440-6092 & Lyndsay Robinson (402)239-2694

Rockin' Riders, Matt Talbert (308)830-1433

4-H Projects

What is a Project? Each 4-H member will have an opportunity to select one or more projects to learn about during the year. A project is simply a topic, or subject, the member wants to explore. The member will focus on increasing their knowledge and skills on this topic during the year. Projects are completely self-paced. A member may focus on a project over the whole year, or only spend a few months on a specific project. Similarly, a member may choose to explore the same topic for many years, gaining a real, in-depth knowledge of the project.

Members may prefer to explore a wide variety of projects during his/her 4-H years. In most cases, the member will end up with one or more finished exhibits to enter in the fair from each project he/she selects. With nearly 150 projects available, there is something to interest every child. There is not a limit to the number of projects a member can select; however parents and leaders should help guide members in setting realistic, but challenging goals. It is always better to complete fewer projects that reflect quality workmanship than to do a “rush job” and complete a lot of poorer quality projects.

How do we select a project? Club members, leaders or 4-H families may choose a project they want to complete during the year. Club members will work on that project together at club meetings or independently. A club leader, parent volunteer, community resource person, or perhaps an older 4-H member may teach the club’s project lesson. Additionally, projects can be selected by 4-H members to work on independently. They may seek guidance from their parents, leaders, community organizations, or other experts in the field to assist them in acquiring these new skills.

What is a 4-H project manual? To help guide your learning experience, 4-H offers project manuals. These written manuals provide age-appropriate, hands-on lessons to help youth acquire new skills and knowledge. There are youth manuals and adult helper manuals. Typically the manuals are developed in a series with three or four levels. These manuals are researched-based through Universities nationwide.

Please 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. Also do not feel like you have to complete every learning activity listed in the project manual. Think of the project manual as a very useful resource for you, rather than a “to do” list that must be completed.

How do we find out what 4-H project manuals are available? A current list of 4-H project manuals is available at **Our office offers manuals free of charge to Kearney County 4-H Members.** Stop in or call the office to see which manuals we have on hand.

4-H Projects & Career Clusters

Throughout the Pick-a-Project, each of the eight curriculum areas highlights careers that are related to those particular 4-H projects. These eight curriculum areas provide projects related to the Career Clusters that are linked to Nebraska School Standards.

Animal Science—Youth interested in these 4-H projects may be interested in the following careers: Agribusiness, animal nutrition, business financial management, far/ranch management or travel and tourism.

Communication & Expressive Arts—Youth interested in these 4-H projects may be interested in the following careers: Account Planning and Management, Advertising, Marketing, Interactive Media, Performing Arts or Public Relations.

Consumer & Family Science— Youth interested in these 4-H projects may be interested in the following careers: Banking and Related Services, Business Financial Management, Family and Community Services, Foods Product Development, Professional Sales and Marketing or Training Coordinator.

Environmental Education & Earth Sciences—Youth interested in these 4-H projects may be interested in the following careers: Biologist, Natural Resources Systems, Plan Systems, Seed, Fertilizer or Chemical Sales, State and Federal Regulatory Agencies or Travel and Tourism.

Healthy Lifestyles Education—Youth interested in these 4-H projects may be interested in the following careers: Counseling and Mental Health Services, Family and Community Services, Food Chemist, Food Safety Inspector, Restaurant and Food/Beverage Services or Therapeutic Services.

Leadership & Citizenship—Youth interested in these 4-H projects may be interested in the following careers: Early Childhood Development, Family and Community Services, Foreign Service, Professional Support Services, Public Management and Administration or Teaching/Training.

Plant Science—Youth interested in these 4-H projects may be interested in the following careers: Crop Management Consultant, Elevator and Co-op Management, Governmental Service Agencies, Natural Resource Managements, Plant and Soil Analysis, or Soil and Water Conservation.

Science, Engineering & Technology—Youth interested in these 4-H projects may be interested in the following careers: Environmental Consulting, Government Agencies, Information Support and services, Printing Technology, Programming and Software Development, Security and Protective Services, or Telecommunications.

The County Fair

One of the highlights of the year for 4-H members is being able to exhibit their completed projects at the Kearney County Fair, and possibly even have their exhibits selected for the Nebraska State Fair!

When is the fair? In 2019, the Kearney County Fair will be held during the month of August. As part of the fair, members have an opportunity to compete in a variety of small and large animals shows, miscellaneous contests as well as entering static exhibits.

Who can enter the fair? Any enrolled 4-H member can participate in the fair. The Kearney County Extension Office will make available the premium book in May, which lists all the 4-H classes that can be entered. For the most part, the classes do not change a great deal from year to year, so you can look at previous year's premium books to get ideas for projects to enter in the fair

How do we enter exhibits in the fair?

Static Exhibits: The process for entering a static exhibit in the fair is simple. In June, each 4-H member will receive pre-entry instructions. Entries are made online, but we are happy to give you a paper form if you prefer. 4-Hers will pre-enter all exhibits they are planning to enter in the fair. Entry tags are printed for you and may be picked up at entry check-in. Entry date and times will be listed on the fair schedule and newsletter. It is the responsibility of the 4-Her to bring their exhibits to the fairgrounds on entry day at the designated time.

Livestock Exhibits: The Kearney County Extension Office will announce the dates to have project animals tagged/identified. It is your responsibility to properly ID your animals by the deadline. Please watch for information in the Kearney County 4-H Newsletter and watch your email. All livestock is pre-entered for exhibition at county fair.

How are exhibits judged?

Static Exhibits: All static exhibits are judged earning a purple, blue, red or white ribbon. Clover Kid entries are non-competitive and are not judged; each entry receives a Clover Kid ribbon. Youth receive a fair premium based upon the color of ribbon earned that is paid once record books are completed and turned in.

Livestock Exhibits: All livestock exhibits are judged earning a purple, blue, red or white ribbon. Additional trophies may be presented at the time of the livestock show. Premium money is paid once record books are completed and turned in.

Additional Opportunities for 4-H Members

Kearney County 4-H offers many different contests each year. Our staff will conduct the county contest as similar to the state contest as possible, utilizing the same rules, time allowances, and judge's score sheets.

- **4-H Public Speaking Contest**—Youth research, write, and present an original speech or Public Service Announcement (PSA). The speech or PSA should relate directly to the participant's 4-H experience. Youth are not allowed to use visual aids for their speech or PSA.
- **Presentations Contest**—Individual or a team of two. Youth research, write and present a presentation on any topic of interest to them. Generally the member will select a topic related to the project they are exploring. Since it is a presentation contest, members will use posters, power point, and other visual aids to "show" the steps to their audience
- **4-H Fashion Show**—Youth sew a garment or purchase a garment and model it for the judges. Judging includes clothing construction, modeling, fit, confidence and poise; and how well they respond in an interview process. All participants model their garments for the audience during the 4-H Public Fashion Show.
- **4-H Talent Show**—Individual or team. Youth perform a talent of their choice. Contest is held immediately following the 4-H Public Fashion Show.
- **Livestock Judging Contest**—Youth learn to judge livestock and at the state contest give oral reasons for their placement.
- **Career Portfolios**—Youth prepare a portfolio summarizing their 4-H experiences using the standardized 4-H Career Portfolio forms. The portfolio forms are available on-line. Competition is held for each curriculum area.
- **Diamond Clover Program**—The program consists of six levels that require a 4-H member to plan and report a broad range of age-appropriate accomplishments. The program's overall goal is to provide 4-H members a rich and diverse learning experience.
- **4-H Camps**—4-H Camps are offered throughout the summer with a wide variety of topics and activities available. Nebraska has two 4-H camp locations; Nebraska State 4-H Camp at Halsey and Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center, between Lincoln and Omaha.
- **4-H Clover Kid Camp**—A day camp held for youth ages 5-7.
- **Kidz Kollege**—A week's worth of exciting, hands-on projects typically held in late May/June. Members choose the sessions they wish to take part in. All projects made in Kidz Kollege sessions are eligible to exhibit at the Kearney County Fair.
- **College Scholarships**—College scholarships are available on the state and local levels.