



# CLOVER KIDS PROJECT FOCUS

## POLK COUNTY 4-H PROJECT OVERVIEW

**Clover Kids is the officially recognized program in Nebraska for children under the age of 8. The program is designed to provide 5 to 7 year-olds a variety of educational and recreational experiences in a noncompetitive environment. Clover Kids provide an excellent opportunity for youth to achieve his/her highest potential because early life experiences affect future development.**



The primary goal is to promote the child's stages of development - intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally. Develop Self-Esteem Decision-Making Skills (making positive choices) Comprehensive Skills (learning how to learn; positive attitudes toward learning) Mastering Physical Skills (enjoying constructive and creative play) Social-Interaction Skills (getting along with others) Diversity Skills (acceptance of others; exploring family and community relationships)

### Why is Clover Kids non-competitive?

Children 5 to 7 years old develop and learn in ways different from younger children (2-4 years old) and older youth (8-18 years old). Knowing these differences, projects, and activities are designed to provide a foundation for Clover Kids to develop effectively. Studies prove non-competitive environments are more likely to develop confidence, creativity, and competence in children. The Clover Kids program corresponds with the child's stages of physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development.

### Can Clover Kids exhibit at the county fair?

Yes, Clover Kids are encouraged to exhibit something at the county fair. Clover Kid exhibits are non-competitive and for exhibition only, they do receive participation ribbons. A Clover Kids "show-n-tell" is an example of how youth can feel part of the fair without being competitive. Members are provided a place and time to talk about their exhibit and show what they have learned.



### Why can't Clover Kids show large animals, such as horses, cattle, sheep, or swine?

For safety, liability, and competitive reasons often associated with livestock shows, some restrictions are necessary to maintain Clover Kids program objectives. According to the 4-H Policy and Procedures Handbook, Clover Kids should not participate in animal events when the animal is great than 350 pounds or more than six months of age at the time of the show. Children eight and under often lack the mental and physical skills for controlling and understanding the strength of large animals. Please check with your our office for more specific information.

## What can Clover Kids Do?

- Investigate Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- Explore literacy through fun and engaging ways to read and write
- Learn the importance of being healthy and physically active
- Practice communication skills and learn to work as a team
- Play fun cooperative games and make new friends
- Attend clover kids specific camps and workshops
- Participate in developmentally appropriate opportunities at county fair
- And much, much more!!

## Resources

### Nebraska 4-H Resources

Nebraska Clover Kids Curriculum list can be found here: [UNL Clover Kids Curriculum](#)

National Clover Kids and Clover Buds curriculum can be found here for purchase: [Clover Kids Curriculum](#)

Nebraska online 4-H Clover Kid resource are found here by category: [Clover Kids Resources](#)

### Other 4-H Resources

UNL Early Childhood Development Clover Kid Resources with other educational opportunities: [Clover Kid Resources](#)

[2020 Polk County Fairbook](#) - Click on Clover Kids section for:

- Rules and regulations
- In person and static exhibits for fair.
- Definition of displays and exhibits for Clover Kids.

[Ohio State Clover Bud Resources](#)

### Outside Resources

Polk County Pinterest Page contains links to age appropriate activities and free clover kid publication from other states:

[Polk County Pinterest Page](#)

[Polk County YouTube Channel](#)

Craft supply stores, online or in person are great places to buy supplies and get ideas. Clover Kids is open to about any craft that is age appropriate for your youth.