

Ogle County 4-H



Family Guide



Adapted from Illinois 4-H New Family Handbook, September 2026



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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Illinois 4-H Information

Welcome!

We are pleased to welcome you into the world of 4-H! Since 4-H began in 1902, the program has been a place for youth and their families to gain the skills needed to be proactive forces in their communities and develop ideas for a more innovative world.

Illinois 4-H empowers youth to be Beyond Ready—ready for life, ready for work, ready to lead the way.

Membership Guidelines

Youth who are at least 8 years of age and have not reached their 19th birthday on September 1 of the program year may enroll as a member in 4-H clubs. Youth who are 5 to 7 years of age on the start date of the program year (September 1) may enroll as a 4-H Cloverbud.

All 4-H club members pay an annual \$20 program fee. Financial assistance is available for families who cannot afford this fee. Contact the Ogle County Extension Office for details.

To enroll in 4-H, go to 4h.zsuite.org

A youth who enrolls in a 4-H club must attend at least one meeting to be considered a 4-H member. 4-H members must be enrolled in at least one project.

A member may add projects up to April 15th. New members must be enrolled in the projects of their choice by April 15 of the current 4-H year if they intend to exhibit at the 4-H Fair. 4-H members must be enrolled in at least one project per year.

Who Joins 4-H?

Many people think 4-H is just for kids who live on farms, but that's not true! While 4-H started in rural areas, membership has evolved as families have changed. Last year, Illinois 4-H saw the biggest membership growth in urban and suburban areas, and we continue to grow stronger. While some 4-H members own animals, many choose projects like aerospace, visual arts, gardening, photography, or robotics.

We welcome all young people!

Any youth, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, or disability may enroll as a 4-H member.



Why Join 4-H?

In 4-H, you get to decide what topics and projects interest you most. You shape your own 4-H experience. Whether you want to work on multiple projects or focus on just one or two, the choice is yours. Pick the events that excite you and join in. In 4-H, you have an important role in making your community a better place to live, but you don't have to do it alone. As a club, you will figure out what is needed most in your neighborhood and find ways to help. As a family of a new 4-H member, it is important that you are actively involved in continuing the growth and learning of your child. Don't be afraid to become involved! It will empower your child and give them a sense of accomplishment.



What is 4-H?

In 4-H, you will complete hands-on projects in areas that interest you in a positive environment where you receive guidance from trained adult mentors and are encouraged to take on leadership roles within your club and community. University of Illinois Extension staff provide professional leadership for our adult volunteers and youth members. Young people experience 4-H through school and community clubs, in-school and after-school enrichment programs, and 4-H camps.

During club meetings, decisions are made about club-sponsored activities such as community service efforts, project opportunities, and fund-raising efforts. Clubs are encouraged to conduct at least one service project annually to benefit individuals or other groups within their community. Youth are encouraged to use their club meetings as a place to complete demonstrations or illustrated talks about their project work.

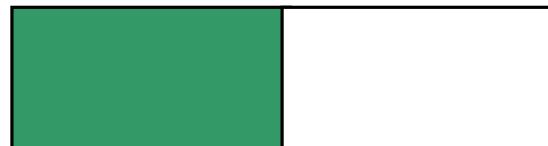
4-H Emblem

The national 4-H emblem is a four-leaf clover with the letter "H" on each leaf. The use of the name and emblem gives individual members a sense of belonging to an organization that reaches beyond their immediate areas. The emblem is federally protected and there are regulations governing its use. Check with your Extension Office for use guidelines.



The Colors

Green and White are the 4-H colors. The white background of the flag symbolizes purity. The green 4-H emblem is nature's most common color in the great outdoors. Green is also the color of springtime, life, and youth.



4-H Pledge

4-H members should learn the 4-H pledge, which is typically recited at club meetings and 4-H events. It is as follows:

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.

The Four H's:

Head - Heart - Hands - Health

These principles are central to the 4-H program and help guide members in their growth and community contributions.

- **Head:** Encourages critical thinking, learning, and decision-making.
- **Heart:** Promotes compassion, kindness, and strong relationships.
- **Hands:** Focuses on service, skill development, and practical help.
- **Health:** Emphasizes overall well-being and healthy living.

These values help 4-H members develop into well-rounded individuals who contribute positively to their communities.



4-H Creed

- I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.
- I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, plan, and to reason.
- I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to be kind, sympathetic, and true.
- I believe in the training of my HANDS for the ability it will give me to be helpful, skillful, and useful.
- I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, to resist disease, and to work efficiently.
- I believe in my country, my state, and my community and in my responsibility for their development.
- In all these things I believe and am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.

**TO MAKE
THE BEST
BETTER**



Illinois 4-H Mission

- Providing positive youth development experiences that foster belonging, independence, generosity, and mastery.
- Creating opportunities for youth to use their skills to influence and impact others.
- Equipping youth with skills and experiences for success.
- Offering targeted youth education programs to address Illinois' issues.

Motto

The national 4-H motto is: "To Make the Best Better." The motto embraces the idea of constant improvement and always striving to do one's best. Illinois 4-H members embrace the motto by stretching their abilities and capacities to greater achievement.

We believe in...

- Youth as leaders and decision makers.
- Learning by doing.
- Youth making a difference.
- Goal setting to achieve growth.



Slogan

"Learning By Doing" is a phrase that sums up the educational philosophy of the 4-H program. The term exemplifies the experiential nature of the learning experiences in 4-H. Young people learn best when they are involved in their learning. The intent is to do, reflect, and apply.



What SPARKS you?

After joining a 4-H club, one of the first things you will do is select at least one project to work on. 4-H members decide what they want to learn and do, allowing the project to be self-paced and giving skills in setting and working toward their goals. 4-H project work is the heart of 4-H.

There are over 100 different projects to pick. **The Illinois 4-H Project Guide** is a resource that will guide you through choosing a project.

Most projects also have manuals that members can order from go.illinois.edu/ShopIL4H to help guide the learning process. Some projects have multiple levels. As members master the work at a beginning level they are encouraged to advance to higher levels.

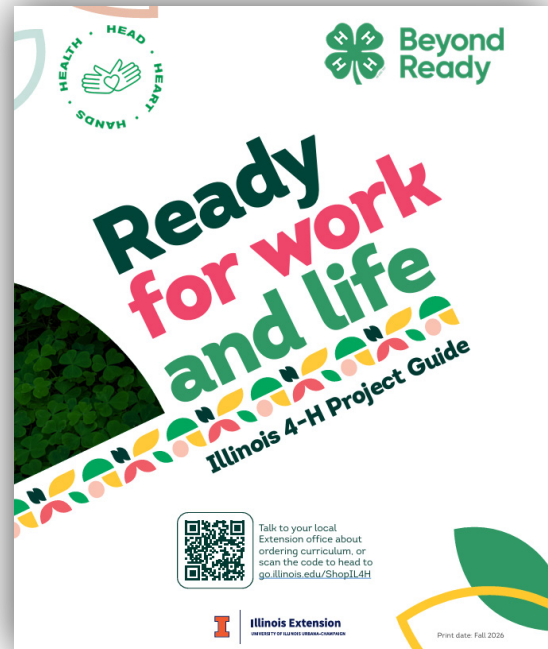
When choosing and enrolling in projects please keep the following in mind:

- Does the project meet your needs and interests?
- How much time do you have to work on the project?
- How much will the project cost?
- Do you have enough space and equipment at home?

Every year you have a chance to display your project and show off what you have learned at your county 4-H show. You are also encouraged to share what you have learned through talks and demonstrations with your club, family, friends.

When a project is entered into the show it is called an exhibit. Each exhibit has specific guidelines for the show.

Judging is done in a one-on-one conference format, which allows you to talk to a volunteer project judge about your project. Interviews take around 5 to 10 minutes.



Exhibiting 4-H Projects at the Illinois State Fair

Some 4-H members are selected at their county show to exhibit at the Illinois State Fair. To exhibit at the Illinois State Fair 4-H General Project Show, youth must be current 4-H members ages 8 to 18 who were selected in their local 4-H show.

4-H members may also participate in the junior livestock shows of the Illinois State Fair. To exhibit at the Illinois State Fair Junior Livestock Show, youth must be current 4-H members ages 8 to 18.

Find Your Project Here!

Animal Science

Beef • Cats • Dairy Cattle • Dairy Goats • Dogs • Horse • Llama/Alpaca • Meat Goats • Poultry • Rabbit • Sheep • Small Pets • Swine • Vet Science

Animal science projects include choices like caring for and training animals, and all things veterinary science.

read on for more projects.....



Career & Leadership

Communications • Career Development • Consumer Education • Leadership • Babysitting

Interested in serving as a leader, exploring career options, and improving your communication skills? A career or leadership development project is a great choice.

Civic Engagement

Civic Engagement • Service Learning • Family History • Intercultural

Learn about civic affairs, decision-making, community service and explore cultures from around the world!

Creative & Cultural Arts

Creative Writing • Interior Design • Photography • Theater Arts • Video • Visual Arts • Clothing and Textiles

The project options in the creative and cultural arts category are endless! Learn how to design a space, decorate a cake, create art out of many different materials, or show off your love of shopping.

Environmental Sciences

Entomology • Forestry • Geology • Natural Resources & Outdoor Living • Fishing & Wildlife • Weather

Environmental science projects are perfect for those who love the outdoors; insects, rocks, fishing, hiking and more!

Exploratory

Exploratory projects allow special projects to be shown at the county level only.

Gardening, Agriculture, & Food Access

Agronomy • Horticulture • Plant & Soils Science • Food Access

Projects that include gardening, crops, flower arranging and more can be found in the gardening, agriculture, and food access category.

Healthy Living

Food • Health

Healthy living projects focus on learning opportunities that help kids make healthy choices in what they eat, how they exercise, and how they stay safe.

Shooting Sports

Rifle • Air Rifle • Archery • Shotgun

Youth enrolled in a shooting sports club or project can highlight their skills in archery, air rifle and pistol, or shotgun.

STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology, & Mathematics)

Aerospace • Building Bricks • Computer Science • Electricity • Robotics • Small Engines • Technologies • Tractor

Between robotics, drones, welding, and woodworking, the STEM category has something for everyone!





What is a 4-H Club?

A 4-H Club is a group of at least five members that meets a minimum of six times a year. Each club is guided by adult volunteer leaders who help members on their 4-H journey.

During meetings, members learn valuable skills such as public speaking, teamwork, and decision-making, and they contribute to their communities. Members lead activities and practice skills that will benefit them in school and future careers.

What are some of the things you will do in a Club?

That's up to you, the members! Members vote on the things they do as a 4-H Club. You may choose to plant flowers at a local park, visit your local police headquarters, have a robotics demonstration, tour a historic museum, or build rockets and launch them. Many clubs also go on social outings with the friends in their clubs. There is no way to list all the things you can do in your 4-H club because there is no limit to your imagination!

Here are a few of the different 4-H club programs you can JOIN....

Multi-Project Clubs

You will learn how business meetings run as you build leadership skills. Club members elect officers who serve in special leadership roles to guide their club and help members make decisions. Members work on their projects independently outside of club meeting time.

Because they work on projects individually, you can choose from nearly 50 project categories. These clubs are open to any youth who is at least 8 years old but not yet 19 on September 1.

Special Interest Clubs (SPIN)

The focus of the club meetings is on **one** specific project which members share a common interest in, and most of the meeting is spent developing new skills that help you become exceptionally good in that **one** project area.

In special interest clubs, you work on your project as a group as you improve your team-building and problem-solving skills. There are lots of opportunities for teens to mentor younger youth and share what they know.

Some popular special interest clubs study robotics, cooking, shooting sports, and dozens of other topics. These clubs meet a minimum of six times and are open to any youth who is at least 8 years old but not yet 19 on September 1.

Cloverbud Clubs

Membership is reserved for youth who are 5 to 7 years of age on September 1. The focus of Cloverbud meetings is to introduce kids to all that 4-H has to offer. Cloverbuds work together on age-appropriate projects, though some elements of the 4-H program are not suitable for this age group.

Cloverbud members may exhibit at the Ogle County 4-H Fair in the "Cloverbud" division. All exhibits receive special Cloverbud ribbons, but not eligible for premium monies.

Cloverbud members are not expected to give talks and demonstrations like their older 4-H counterparts.

Where do clubs meet?

4-H clubs meet in a variety of places including members' homes, schools, community centers, businesses, military bases, libraries, and other areas in the community where you live.



What happens at a 4-H club meeting?

A typical 4-H club meeting is structured into three main parts: business, education, and recreation, and usually lasts one to two hours.

This structure ensures a balanced mix of productivity, learning, and fun!

Business (15-30 minutes)

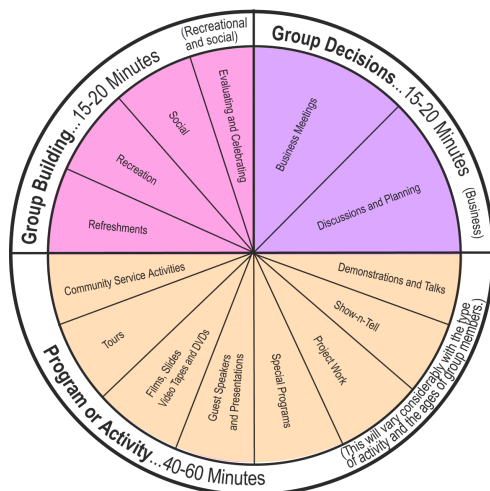
This part involves discussing club matters, making decisions, and planning upcoming events. It's a great opportunity for members to practice leadership and organizational skills.

Education (30-60 minutes)

This section is dedicated to learning. It could include guest speakers, demonstrations, or hands-on activities related to various 4-H projects like agriculture, science, or arts.

Recreation (15-30 minutes)

The meeting wraps up with fun activities or games, allowing members to socialize and build camaraderie.



Parliamentary Procedure

Parliamentary procedure is a set of rules that helps groups conduct meetings in an orderly and efficient manner. It ensures everyone has a chance to participate, decisions are made fairly, and the group's actions are clear and organized.

There are different levels of parliamentary procedure, from simple and informal to more formal and structured, depending on the group's needs and members' familiarity with the process.

Club officers and members should learn the proper procedures to ensure smooth and effective meetings. This helps in making clear and democratic decisions.

Sample Meeting Agenda

1. Call to order
2. U.S. Pledge of Allegiance
3. 4-H pledge
4. Roll call
5. Reading minute
6. Approving minutes
7. Treasurer's report
8. Committee reports
9. Unfinished business
10. New business
11. Announcements
12. Adjourn
13. Program



One of the basics of parliamentary procedure is how to make a motion.

Guide to making a motion:

1. **Motion** – A motion is a request that something be done or that something is the opinion or wish of the group. Only one motion should be placed before the group at one time. It is debatable and amendable. To make a motion, a member should rise and wait to be recognized by the President, then say, “I move that...”

2. **Second** – Someone from the group must “second” the motion or agree to moving the motion to be discussed. “I second that motion.”

3. **Discussion** – The motion “on the floor” is discussed by all members, addressing the pros and cons, etc.

4. **Re-State the Motion** – The President re-states the motion before the group votes.

5. **Vote** – The group votes by voice (aye/no), by show of hands, by standing, by secret ballot, or by roll call vote.



TRY IT OUT!

Sample motion

President: The next item on our agenda is to participate in a community service project. Does anyone have a motion to propose?

Member: I move that our 4-H club participate in a community service project to clean up the local park on the first Saturday of next month.

President: Thank you. Is there a second to this motion?

Another Member: I second the motion.

President: The motion has been moved and seconded that our 4-H club participate in a community service project to clean up the local park on the first Saturday of next month. We will now open the floor for discussion.

Member: I think this is a great idea because it will help improve our community and give us a chance to work together.

Another Member: I agree, but we should also consider the time commitment and make sure everyone is available on that date.

President: Are there any other comments or concerns? If there are no further comments, I will re-state the motion. The motion on the floor is that our 4-H club participate in a community service project to clean up the local park on the first Saturday of next month. All those in favor, please say 'aye.'

Members: Aye.

President: All those opposed, please say 'no.'

Members: (Silence)

President: The motion carries. Our 4-H club will participate in the community service project to clean up the local park on the first Saturday of next month. Thank you, everyone.



Officer Roles:

President - Runs monthly meeting, prepares the meeting agenda, communicate with leaders and other officers.

Vice President - Step in during President's absence, chair of service committee, plan programs, and sit on all committees.

Secretary - Keep official records of club meetings, tracks attendance, takes meeting minutes, and submits end of year report.

Treasurer - Maintains official financial records, manages the checkbook with adult assistance, and submits end-of-year fiscal report.

Reporter - Reports club news to Extension, newspaper, social media outlets.

Recreation Chair - plans monthly meeting recreation and special events.

Note: Officer positions may vary by club including additional positions not listed.



What can you do in 4-H?

4-H Club experiences are just one part of the 4-H journey. In 4-H, you can travel to new places, meet people from various locations, and learn in ways you never imagined. Check out these events and program opportunities, and don't forget to ask your local Extension staff about county experiences waiting for you!

Community Service

Every day, 4-H'ers across the nation pledge their hands to larger service. They roll up their sleeves and put their pledge into action, leading positive change that empowers their peers and communities. Service to others allows young people to develop a sense of pride and ownership in their community, learning the value of giving back.

Service projects enable youth and adults to work together while helping others. Community service projects provide opportunities for young people to build discipline, foster respect for others, promote civic responsibility, and gain real-world career-related experiences. Through service in 4-H, members learn about the real needs in their community and how they can help, while building partnerships with community members, leaders, agencies, and organizations.

Conferences, Camps, & Project Mastery

Illinois 4-H offers a variety of conferences such as Illini Summer Academies, 4-H Teen Leadership Camp, Junior Leadership Conference, 4-H Camp, 4-H Green Communities Tree Program, 4-H Hooks Us Together Fishing Tournament and more. These opportunities allow youth to build leadership skills and increase their knowledge on various topics.

State Exhibitions

Illinois 4-H provides youth the chance to demonstrate project mastery among peers from across the state at events like the Illinois State Fair, State Shoots, Dog Show, Public Speaking Contest, Food Challenge, and Robotics Competition. These events help youth practice speaking, build confidence, highlight their abilities, and reflect on their skills and knowledge. Describing the skills they master will also help them express their abilities to potential employers in the future. 4-H shows are the culmination of many weeks, months, or even a year's worth of learning, creating, and discovering through 4-H experiences.



Public Speaking & Civic Engagement

Illinois 4-H offers youth opportunities to practice public speaking and engage in civic activities at events like Speaking for Illinois 4-H training and Illinois 4-H Legislative Connection.

4-H Civic Engagement programs empower youth to be well-informed citizens who are actively engaged in their communities and the world. These events help youth build decision-making skills and develop confidence in relating and connecting to others.



Animal & Livestock Opportunities

Illinois 4-H offers animal and livestock opportunities, including Youth Livestock Conference, Judging Contests, Speaking Events, and Quiz Bowl Contests for various livestock and animal species. These events teach youth about livestock production and exhibition, decision-making, and defending their decisions by explaining their reasoning. They also provide opportunities to demonstrate their animal science knowledge.

National Opportunities

4-H offers numerous national opportunities designed to empower youth and foster leadership skills through national engagement. These experiences build essential skills, create lasting connections, and inspire positive change within communities. National opportunities might include Ignite by 4-H, National 4-H Congress, National 4-H Conference, True Leaders in Equity Institute, or Citizenship Washington Focus.

Awards & Scholarships

Illinois 4-H offers a wide range of recognition opportunities for every type of 4-H involvement. Club Award and Experience Award applications must be submitted from your local Extension office, so check with your office for their deadline!

Illinois 4-H Experience Award for Individuals

The Experience Award offers recognition for members who participate in activities and events. Complete the application listing your experiences during one year in these 4 areas:

- Participation
- Community Service
- Leadership
- Project Learning

Illinois 4-H State Award Scholarships

This award recognizes youth who have demonstrated and maintained a high standard of 4-H excellence and mastery during their membership tenure.

Categories include:

- Animal Science
- Civic Engagement/Global Living
- Creating Performing Arts & Communication
- Gardening, Agriculture & Food Access
- Healthy Living/Nutrition
- Leadership
- Natural Resources & Environmental Science
- Personal Growth
- STEM/Robotics



Leadership

Illinois 4-H members have numerous opportunities to cultivate and showcase their leadership skills. As members grow and gain more experience, they can get involved in various ways at the county, unit, state, and national levels.

Illinois 4-H offers state-level leadership opportunities that help youth further develop their leadership skills and share their knowledge with other 4-H members.

Teen Leadership Roles

Six leadership roles have been identified as our primary focus for Illinois 4-H teens to develop and nurture their leadership skills:

Which of these describes YOU?

PLANNING: I will help improve 4-H in my county or state by working with staff to carry out shows, camps, contests, service opportunities, and events. I will have a voice in what happens in my county 4-H program.

- *IF THIS IS YOU, TRY: Federation, Youth Leadership Team, Planning Committees*

PROMOTING: I am passionate and knowledgeable about 4-H and willing to encourage others to get involved. In this role, I may be asked to give a speech, talk with a prospective member, or share my story with adults. Presenting a positive image of 4-H is my main responsibility.

- *IF THIS IS YOU, TRY: Ambassadors, Speaking for Illinois 4-H, Influencers*

TEACHING: Teaching is a powerful way to grow my skills in listening, decision-making, and communicating. I will be expected to plan and lead a progression of lessons for younger youth. This will help me develop as a confident educator.

- *IF THIS IS YOU, TRY: Teen Teacher, Workshop Presenter*

MENTORING: As a mentor to others, I will be teaching important life skills, providing opportunities to try new things, and having fun. By being a positive role model, I will increase my own levels of leadership and responsibility as I help others.

- *IF THIS IS YOU, TRY: Junior Leader, Cloverbud Leader, Camp Counselor*

ADVOCATING: I can have a voice in making positive change as a 4-H advocate. I will work with local leaders and government officials to improve my community, while I gain skills in research, analysis, critical thinking, communication, and teamwork, and bring youth voice to public issues.

- *IF THIS IS YOU, TRY: Change Advocate, Hunger Advocate*

ADVISING: I will work with other youth and adults as partners, serving as a youth voice to make recommendations for informed decisions. I may serve on a committee or council which helps guide the local or state 4-H program or serve as a 4-H representative on a fair board or community advisory council.

- *IF THIS IS YOU, TRY: Committees, Extension Council, Expansion & Review Committee*





How to Help Your Child Be Successful in 4-H

The 4-H program thrives on the involvement of parents and guardians, each bringing unique talents and experiences that benefit local 4-H clubs. Whether you can participate a lot or just a little, here are some tips to help your child succeed in 4-H:

Encourage Fun and Exploration: Motivate your child to have fun and try new things!

Praise and Support: Celebrate their achievements and offer encouragement when they face challenges.

Constructive Feedback: Provide helpful comments and suggestions to support your child's growth and their 4-H club.

Emphasize Character: Teach your child that character matters. Encourage fairness, honesty, respect, and trustworthiness.

Be a Resource: Help with fundraisers, community service projects, or educational programs.

Provide Supplies: Offer refreshments, supplies, or other resources for your child's 4-H club activities.

Learn Together: Help your child learn the 4-H Pledge and songs introduced at club meetings.

Choose the Right Project: Assist your child in selecting a 4-H project that matches their interests and ensure they complete it on time.

Stay Informed: Keep up with club and county requirements by reading communications from the 4-H club leader and county Extension office.

Supervise and Guide: Provide supervision and guidance, but let your child do their own work.

Encourage Attendance: Promote regular attendance at 4-H club meetings.



Why Volunteer with Illinois 4-H?

As a 4-H volunteer, you can share your skills and experience to shape a new generation of confident leaders. This is your chance to make a real difference and inspire young people. Do you have a passion, skill, or talent to share? By volunteering, you can teach valuable, lifelong skills.

Illinois 4-H volunteers empower youth to succeed. 4-H members serve their communities, develop sought-after skills, grow and distribute food, steward natural resources, address important issues, and promote healthy living. None of this is possible without our dedicated volunteers.

Ready to Volunteer with Illinois 4-H?

Start by calling the Ogle County Extension Office to schedule a meeting with the 4-H Program Coordinator. Let's get started on this exciting journey together!



Glossary

4-H Ambassador: Teen leaders who promote 4-H programs and encourage others to get involved.

4-H Club: A group of young people led by volunteers who participate in 4-H learning experience, educational activities, and events

4-H Show, Exhibition, Fair: Events where 4-H members demonstrate their mastery through project exhibits, shows, or competitions. Judges with expertise in the project area evaluate the projects, and ribbons and other awards are presented.

4-H Volunteer: An adult or older youth who provides support and leadership to a 4-H club or county events and activities.

Cloverbud Member: Youth who are between the ages of 4 and 7 by September 1 of the current 4-H year.

Club Leader: A screened volunteer who is the main contact for the 4-H club.

Code of Conduct: The Illinois 4-H Code of Conduct outlines the expectations for all participants, including youth, families, volunteers, and staff, to ensure a positive and respectful environment.

Community Service: A project planned by 4-H members to meet a community need.

Exhibit: A completed project, trained animal, or presentation prepared for evaluation or display at the fair, contest, or competition.

Extension 4-H Educator: An Extension staff member with expertise in youth development. They play a vital role in creating and leading educational programs that address the needs of youth in their community. They oversee the 4-H program.

Extension 4-H Program Coordinator: 4-H Extension Program Coordinator supports the promotion, expansion, and implementation of 4-H Youth Development Programs including volunteer management.

Extension Unit: One or more counties that work together to provide Extension programming to local citizens and youth.

Fairbook: document that provides specifics for an exhibit.

Federation: 4-H youth in the 8th grade or above may join a Federation Club, which is a group of youth from different clubs banding together.

Foundation: Raises funds to provide financial support for state and county 4-H programs.

Illinois State Fair: An event where 4-H members are selected to exhibit their outstanding 4-H projects.

Junior Leader: Older youth with experience in any project area who may serve as a junior leader for the club in that area.

Livestock Superintendent: A screened adult who provides support and leadership in a specific livestock animal area.

Member Records: Documents to keep track of projects, meetings, and community service each year.

National 4-H Week: Held every October, this week recognizes 4-H youth and leaders and promotes new 4-H opportunities in local communities.

Ogle County 4-H Fair Committee: Volunteers who work together to plan, conduct, and evaluate 4-H department shows.

Ogle County Fair Association: a volunteer board that cooperates with the local Extension staff and the 4-H Fair Committee to conduct the annual county fair and manages the Ogle County fairgrounds.

Project Selection Guide: A book that shares all the projects available to explore in Illinois 4-H.

Screened Volunteer: A 4-H screened volunteer is someone who has gone through a thorough screening process to ensure the safety and well-being of the youth involved in the program.

continued on next page...



Glossary continued...

Shop4-H.org: Official 4-H store, offering a wide range of supplies and educational materials to support 4-H members and their activities.

SPIN (SPecial INterest) Club: youth with a common interest or hobby join a SPIN club to explore the topic, for example, robotics, horse shooting sports.

Talking Demo or Demonstration: A presentation where 4-H members show and explain how to do something or inform an audience on a topic.

Teen Teacher: 4-H Teen Teachers develop their own leadership and teaching skills as they plan and implement hands-on learning experiences for younger youth.

QAEC (Quality Assurance and Ethics Certification): A certification program available in ZSuite Clover Academy for 4-H members enrolled in dogs, cats, poultry, rabbits, horses, and animal science/vet science exhibits for the first time. This certification only needs to be completed once during your 4-H career.

YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals): An annual quality assurance certification required for all youth aged 8-18 enrolled in dairy, beef cattle, swine, sheep, and goats. All registrations and payments are handled through the YQCA website, not the Extension office.

SECTION 2

Ogle Co. 4-H Information

TIP: Find the entire Calendar on the Ogle County 4-H website* and in ZSuite. Sync the online calendar to your phone for easy reminders! *(go.illinois.edu/Ogle4-H)

Activities & Events

4-H Camp: A five day resident camp program for youth (ages 8-15) conducted at Rock River Christian Camp, Polo, IL, with Extension staff, 4-H counselors, Camp staff, and the Camp Director.

4-H Club of the Year Competition: Sponsored by 4-H Federation, this contest awards points to 4-H clubs for participation in a variety of activities which occur throughout the 4-H year; rules are provided to club leaders when available; awards are provided to the top three clubs at the county Achievement Program each fall.

4-H Fair: An annual county level event at which 4-H'ers exhibit products of their project work, speak with judges about their learning experiences, and gather ideas for future project expansion; a celebration of member learning.

Achievement Day: A recognition ceremony held at the county level for clubs and 4-H'ers who submitted winning award applications and record books.

Bowling Tournament: Held each winter, this event allows 4-H member teams to bowl at locations throughout the county for individual and team recognition.

Conference Judging: A method of judging used to evaluate a majority of project exhibits; during a face-to-face visit, a conference judge speaks with 4-H'ers to learn about their project experiences, provide feedback about exhibits, answer project-related questions, and challenge them for future project expansion.

County Fundraiser: This annual money-maker is organized by 4-H Federation and allows members to earn money for their clubs while building county 4-H funds.

County Judging Teams: Youth teams that learn about and compete by evaluating show ring animals of various species at specially planned events; teams for non-live-animal areas (meats judging, etc.) are sometimes formed as well.



Activities & Events continued...

Day of Dabbling: An annual hands-on event featuring a variety of project-related workshops.

Drill Team: Youth team that rides in parades, participates in drill competitions, and other related activities.

Hippology Team: Hippology is the study of horses. Members do not need a horse to participate, just a love of learning. The team meets in the winter to compete at the Regional Contest in the spring, where they take a written test.

Horse Bowl: Horse Bowl is very similar to scholastic bowl, but with the questions being about horse knowledge. Members do not need a horse to participate, just a love of learning. The team meets in the winter to compete at the Regional Contest in the spring.

National 4-H Week: A week devoted to recognizing and promoting 4-H membership; usually the first full week in October.

Penny Carnival: Held each winter, this Federation-sponsored fun fair event features game booths created and run by clubs; monetary awards are offered for booths showing outstanding creativity, originality, etc.

4-H Members Achieving Leadership Positions

Albert Gore Jr. - Vice President of the United States

Florence Henderson - Actress

Jimmy Carter - President of the United States

Dolly Parton - Country Western Music

Orville Redenbacher - Founder of popcorn company

Jim Davis - Creator of *Garfield*

Anne Burrell - *Food Network* Chef



History of 4-H in Illinois & Ogle Co.

In 1899, W. B. Otwell, Secretary of the Macoupin County Illinois Farmer's Institute, furnished small packages of seed corn to 500 boys who were to grow corn and make an exhibit for the next gathering of the Farmer's Institute. This resulted in the organization of the first boys' corn club. In 1904, at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri, 8,000 Illinois farm boys contributed to the corn exhibit at the Palace of Agriculture under the direction of Mr. Otwell.

The first Illinois 4-H Club was the Union Pig Club organized by C. C. Coots in Macoupin County, in the spring of 1915. By 1917, over fifteen thousand members were enrolled in Illinois.

Ogle County 4-H began in the 1920's. Like their counterparts statewide, most early clubs followed a particular project theme: canning, corn, pigs, beef, or sewing. As one example, the Ogle County Dairy Calf Club, Oregon, was organized in May, 1929 exclusively for youth interested in expanding their knowledge about dairy. Additionally, the Lucky 4-H Club, Mt. Morris, was also established in 1929 with sewing as its sole project.

4-H has evolved over the years to match the changing needs of the children it serves. Today, community clubs offer youth opportunities to expand their knowledge in a multitude of project areas ranging from rabbits to rockets. Emphasis is placed on helping members develop communication, decision-making, community service, citizenship, and leadership skills while building friendships that will last a lifetime.

4-H had its national beginnings around the turn of the century, and Illinois was there from the start! The groundwork that led to 4-H, as we know it today, was laid by pioneers in educational work and leaders of farm organizations who realized the value of leisure-time group activities for young people.



Ogle County 4-H Expectations & Deadlines

Fair Exhibition: Ogle County 4-H members who wish to exhibit at the annual Ogle County 4-H Fair must have:

- 1.) Attended a minimum of 50% of the club meetings held since joining OR fulfilled those obligations established and agreed upon in a properly signed and filed 4-H Contract.
- 2.) Complete a talk and/or a demonstration (see "Talks & Demonstrations" to the right).

Ownership Deadlines: All 4-H'ers who intend to exhibit animals at the annual 4-H Fair must abide by specific animal ownership deadlines. These ownership deadlines vary by animal species and type. They are listed in the annual 4-H Fair Book and are available in the Extension office.

Beef Weigh-In: To be eligible for show at the 4-H Fair, all beef market animals (heifers, steers, or carcass animals) must be weighed & tattooed at the county 4-H Beef Weigh-in held each year during late winter. Beef project members will be notified of the exact date, time, and location by mail.

Horse Agreements: To be eligible for show at the 4-H Fair, all horses must have current Coggins results & a complete ownership or lease agreement on file at the Ogle County Extension Office. New agreement forms must be completed each year. Blank agreement forms are mailed to horse project members during late winter and must be returned to the Extension Office by May 1st.

Record Book Completion: All 4-H'ers are expected to complete project records (for each project they enroll in) annually. Members receive record forms when they enroll. Records should be kept up-to-date throughout the 4-H year. They are reviewed by club leaders each fall. See "Ogle County 4-H Record Books" on page 19.

What if I can't attend monthly meetings?

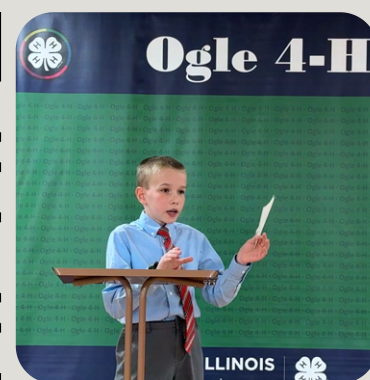
4-H Contracts: 4-H Contracts are available on the Ogle County 4-H Website. They should be used by members who cannot make at least 50% of their club meetings during the year, but who wish to exhibit at the fair. Contracts allow members and leaders to work together to identify things that members can do to make up for missed meetings.

Independent 4-H Member: 4-H'ers who are attending college may enroll as independent members of Ogle County 4-H. Participation in this capacity makes it possible for long-term 4-H'ers to complete their 4-H careers and qualify for fair exhibition through county involvement during school breaks and summer months, rather than by attending meetings. Independent members contract with Extension staff to complete 12 hours of service.

Talks & Demonstrations



All 4-H members (8-18) are required to give at least one talk or demonstration each 4-H year. These are a great opportunity to show off your project knowledge and practice your speaking skills. Visit the link below for topic ideas and a helpful guideline to giving an amazing Talk/Demo!



go.illinois.edu/talkdemoideas



Ogle County 4-H Record Books

All 4-H members are encouraged to keep on-going records of their project work and 4-H club activities. 4-H record forms are provided to members annually in conjunction with project manual distribution at the local club.

4-H record keeping provides members with a unique opportunity to set goals and monitor their learning and growth as their 4-H careers progress. Ultimately, the resulting record books can provide a basis for completing college scholarship applications and developing job resumes. Additionally, they are a wonderful source of childhood memories.



Types of Record Forms:

County Project Honor Form: All 4-H'ers complete one activity record form annually. This form provides places for members to list their participation and leadership in local, county, multi-county, state, national and international events and activities.

Attachment A for Ogle County Project Honor Award Records: All 4-H'ers receive one project record for every project they enroll in annually. Project records provide places for members to set learning goals, track project-related learning experiences, list the things they learn, and identify project achievements. It is critical that members date these forms for easy reference.

Animal Records: 4-H'ers who produce, raise, or care for animals are encouraged to complete additional record forms which are appropriate for their species. Animal records provide youth with places to document income and expenses, summarize breeding data, keep inventory of equipment, and determine overall project profit or loss.

Record Keeping Recognition: Annual club level recognition is provided to members who keep and submit completed record forms. By setting and achieving learning goals in at least one project annually, 4-H'ers qualify for the 4-H "Progress Award." 4-H'ers who complete their activity record and at least one project record each year may qualify for club recognition as well. See "Award Areas Available in 4-H" for more details. Additional record keeping recognition is available through competition for county awards. Members may submit their completed record books, along with specific award applications in order to qualify for project medals, certificates, cash awards, and state level competition or trips. County award applications and information are emailed directly to 4-H families each summer. They are also available from club leaders.





University of Illinois Extension, Ogle County Office

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Email: jbmgrtnr@illinois.edu

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Social Media:

Like us on Facebook at: @Ogle4H
Follow us on X: @Ogle4H
Follow us on Instagram: @ogle4h
Follow us on Snapchat: @ogle4h

Where do I find...?

Enrollment

ZSuite

4h.zsuite.org

Email: _____

Password: _____

PIN: _____

Project Books

To purchase project books:

go.illinois.edu/ShopIL4H

Forms & Records

Ogle County 4-H website:

go.illinois.edu/Ogle4-H

Animal Ethics Training

YQCA (Beef, Dairy, Goats, Sheep, Swine)

yqcaprogram.org

Username: _____

Password: _____

QAEC (Cats, Dogs, Horses, Llama/Alpaca,
Poultry, Rabbits)

4h.zsuite.org/clover-academy

Username: _____

Password: _____

Announcements & Reminders

All important information is sent via email.

The newsletter is emailed and posted
online every month.

My 4-H Information

Member Name: _____

Club Name: _____

Meeting Day/Time: _____

Leader Name: _____

Leader Contact: _____

Co-Leader Name: _____

Co-Leader Contact: _____

County 4-H Program Coordinator Name/Contact: _____