WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Clinton County 4-H



Whether you've been in 4-H one month, one year, or 5 years…
sometimes it's good to be reminded what 4-H is all about! Here's a quick summary of things you will want to keep in mind throughout the 4-H year, and a checklist for your convenience.

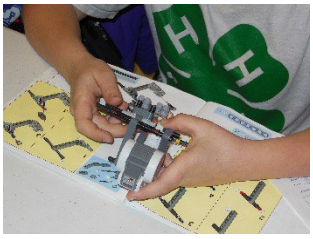
ENROLLMENT & 4-H PROJECTS

You will need to enroll (instructions found here) online. It's best for re-enrollment to be final no later than October 31. 4-H members pick project topics they are interested in. A project guide is available to help you choose projects you would like to explore in 4-H. These selections are due by December 1. Be sure to request these project guides via the online link provided to you upon enrollment. To learn more about projects, be sure and browse our spark sheets. Thanks to the Clinton County Extension Foundation enrollment fees are 50% paid, which means it is now $10 a child for families to pay.

PROJECT MANUALS

A short while after you've enrolled, you will receive your project manuals. The manuals have lots of helpful information about your project, so it's important to read them.

SHOW TIME



Part of project success is exhibiting your project(s) during the shows. Our shows are typically held in late June and July. Members will have the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned about their project. It is a time to display your work for others and be judged for your accomplishments. You will be spending a lot of time learning about your project, so 4-H rewards you for all you've learned by giving you a grade, ribbon and premium money based on how well you complete your project.

By May 15 projects must be entered into the Clinton County Shows via the Fair Entry website. Watch your newsletter for links to these websites.

Every enrolled 4-H member must attend a *minimum* of four 4-H sponsored meetings, activities, or events during the current 4-H year (September 1 - show day) in order to be eligible for 4-H exhibition, premiums, or other 4-H awards and recognition.

4-H MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES



It's important to attend the club meetings so you know what is going on in your club, the county, or even the state! You will also get the chance to make a lot of new friends. There will be adult leaders who can help answer questions and make sure things go smoothly. But really, the club should be run by you and your friends. Each club will elect officers and works at running smooth meetings with the use of parliamentary procedure.

Also consider attending an event outside of your own club! 4-H offers workshops to support project areas at the County and Unit level. All members are encouraged to attend these workshops to learn a new skill. There are also several State Conferences that members may attend that will offer you incredible opportunities. The more you attend the more you grow!

NEWSLETTERS/E-BLASTS/FACEBOOK

Stay up to date by following us on Facebook –Clinton County IL 4-H, read e-blasts, and newsletters. It's a busy world and we communicate in various ways, so our families and members are prepared for all aspects of the 4-H experience. Our websites are also a great source of information: https://extension.illinois.edu/bcjmw/clinton-county-4-h and https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/.

4-H TALKS AND DEMONSTRATIONS



"Talks" and "demonstrations" are just fancy ways of saying you have to share your knowledge with others. 4-H is a fun and safe place to practice public speaking. After all, it's just your friends and family who will be listening to you, so you don't have to worry. You will need to give one of these in front of your club prior to show day. Simply put: a **TALK** or **SPEECH** is "**TELLING ABOUT** something" and a **DEMONSTRATION** is "**SHOWING HOW** something is done".

- Pick one idea about your 4-H project to give your presentation on. For example, it would be hard to write a speech if your topic was "COWS", but if you narrow it down to "HOW TO EAR TAG A COW", your speech becomes very clear and will be easier to write.
- Speeches should have:
    - a start (something that will catch the member's attention and give a clue to what your presentation is about)
    - a middle (all of the neat stuff you know about your topic. Don't tell us everything…pick 3-5 main points)
    - an end (leave us with a "wow" ending so that we will remember your presentation)
- Practice, practice, PRACTICE!
- Look at the audience and try not to fidget. Relax and breathe!

RECORDS & ACHIEVEMENT



We believe in the importance of recognizing our members for all their accomplishments throughout the year. Clinton County hosts a fall Achievement Night for this reason. It is important to keep a record of what you've done: meetings and workshops you attended, service opportunities you participate in, leadership experiences as well as your project work. You will find it helpful to have a complete record of your 4-H activities and accomplishments for future use with college applications and job resumes. An award application will be sent out through eblast and newsletters that members can apply for awards that will be presented during achievement night. We can't wait to celebrate all that you've done this year!

MEMBER CHECKLIST

Every enrolled 4-H member must attend a *minimum* of four 4-H sponsored meetings, activities, or events during the current 4-H year (September 1 - show day) in order to be eligible for 4-H exhibition, premiums, or other 4-H awards and recognition.

Fall

	Choose a 4-H Club
	Re-enrollment – due October 31
	Open Enrollment for new members – available all year long
	Achievement Night- November 9
	Project Selection – due December 1
	Request project manuals
	Read monthly eblasts
	Like our Facebook page
	Attend any offered new member activities and participate in National 4-H Week Activities (October)
	Begin tracking the activities you participate in

Winter

	Give a talk/demonstration
	Consider serving on a club or county committee to gain some leadership skills
	Sign up for upcoming workshops and spin clubs

Spring

	Animal and Livestock members – complete your online QAEC training (once per career)
	Livestock members (beef, dairy, goat, swine, sheep) – complete your YQCA training annually
	Access and read the show handbook
	Watch for instructions regarding project entry into the fair – due May 15

Summer

	Exhibit your project at a culminating event and/or fair
	Submit county member records and award applications – due August 31

Find this document and access to all included hyperlinks in one convenient location at extension.illinois.edu/bcjmw/clinton-county-4-h.

A paper version of all the above-mentioned documents are available from the Extension Office upon request.

1163 N 4th St. Breese, IL 62230 (618) 526-4551 web.extension.illinois.edu/bcjmw

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