



# DeKalb County 4-H Flashes

## 4-H Foundation 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Outing

Friday, June 19 | Shotgun Start at 1 PM

Team of 4: \$240

Hole Sponsor: \$200

Hole Sponsor & Team: \$360

Includes golf carts & prizes!

Register at: [go.illinois.edu/4-HGolfOuting](http://go.illinois.edu/4-HGolfOuting)

Questions?

Contact: Christian Thurwanger

815/762-8078 or

[christianthurwanger@yahoo.com](mailto:christianthurwanger@yahoo.com)

## 4-H General Project Show

July 9 | DeKalb County Farm Bureau

4-H General Project Show

## DeKalb County 4-H

### Livestock Fair

July 31 - Aug 2 | Sandwich Fairgrounds



## 4-H Fairbook Online!

Find the fairbook along with the auction form at,  
<https://extension.illinois.edu/bdo/4-h-dekalb-county>

All entries need to be done online ... If you have trouble finding the Fairbook on our website, completing entries or do not have access to the internet give the Extension office or your 4-H leader a call.





## 4-H Summer Event Timeline

### JUNE

- June 2 Federation Meeting @ Farm Bureau 7 PM
- June 6 Poultry Testing @ Farm Bureau 9-noon
- June 8 Fair Entries/ YQCA Deadline
- June 8 Required Livestock Auction Meeting @ Farm Bureau 7 PM
- June 19 Golf Outing Fundraiser @ Sycamore Golf Club 1:00 PM
- June 19 Extension Office Closed
- June 23 Multi-County Dog Show @ Boone County Fair Grounds 5:30 PM

### JULY

- July 3 Extension Office Closed
- July 7 Federation Meeting @ Farm Bureau 7 PM
- July 9 General Project Show @ Farm Bureau
- July 10 Projects on Exhibit- Open To Public!  
@ Farm Bureau 8-4:30 PM
- July 13 Pick Up Projects @ Farm Bureau 8-4:30 PM
- July 22 Cloverbud Ice Cream Social and Graduation @ Farm Bureau 6:30 PM
- July 30 Multi-County Horse Show @ Ogle County Fair 7:30 PM
- July 31 - Aug 2 Livestock Fair @ Sandwich Fairgrounds

### AUGUST

- August 4 Federation Meeting @ Farm Bureau 7 PM
- August 14 DeKalb County Day @ Illinois State Fair



# Important Information



## "Choice Award" for 4-H Awards!

Continuing this year we will recognize the achievements of our 4-H members showing at the General Project Show and/or Livestock Fair with the Choice Award. This best of show winners and grand champion and champion award winners will receive a certificate at the show/fair. Then, at the end of August, they'll have the opportunity to select their award from a variety of exciting options, such as a custom plaque, 4-H branded clothing, belt buckle and other unique items. This new process allows award winners to choose an award that truly reflects their personality and the hard work they've put into their projects.

A special thanks to our generous sponsors and the DeKalb County 4-H Foundation for making these awards possible. Stay tuned for more details as we approach the award selection period this summer.

## 4-H Fair Food Stand

### Friday, July 31

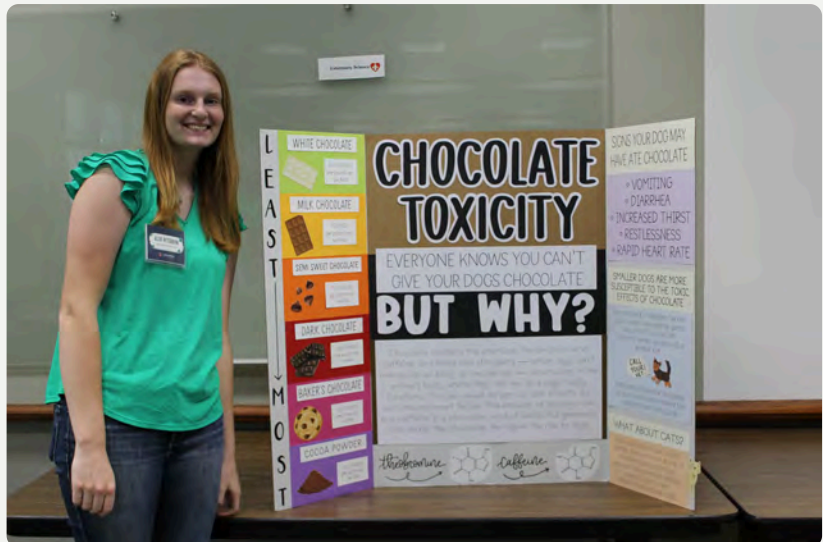
- Noon - 3 PM- Shabbona Pioneers
- 3 - 6 PM- Kingston Juniors
- 6 - 9 PM (clean up) - DeKalb Choreboys & Choregirls

### Saturday, August 1

- 7 - 10 AM- Somonauk Haymakers
- 10 - 1 PM - Green Meadows
- 1 - 4 PM- Parke Victory
- 4 - 7 PM - Hinckley Harvesters
- 7 - 9 PM (clean up) - Sandwich 4 Leafers

### Sunday, August 2

- 8:30 - 11:30 AM- Genoa Prairie Gems
- 11:30 -2:30 PM (clean up) - Malta Mustangs






# Summer 2026





# Cloverbuds

**4-H Cloverbud Summer Camp**  
May 30 | 9-Noon  
Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve  
4490 Preserve Rd, Shabbona  
Cost \$10/person  
Bring a Friend!  
Register by May 22 at:  
[go.illinois.edu/CloverbudFunDay](http://go.illinois.edu/CloverbudFunDay)



**Cloverbud Ice Cream Social & Graduation**  
July 22 | 6:30 PM  
Farm Bureau Building  
1350 West Prairie Dr. Sycamore  
All Cloverbud families are welcome to attend.



## Cloverbuds Can Show Too!

Did you know that Cloverbuds have the chance to participate in the upcoming 4-H General Project Show? We're excited to offer this opportunity for our youngest 4-H members to share what they've learned and created during this year in Cloverbuds.

Cloverbud judging is a fun and interactive experience, but it's not a competitive event like those for older 4-H members. Instead, it's a conference-style interaction where Cloverbud clubs meet with a judge and talk about their experiences in Cloverbuds. They'll have the chance to share what they did this year, what they learned, and their favorite activities.

Cloverbud clubs can create a group display or bring individual items they've made throughout the year. It doesn't have to be the same thing for everyone—each child can bring their own item. After the club meets with the judge, each Cloverbud will receive a green Cloverbud ribbon to celebrate their accomplishments.

To sign up, you don't need to register individually. Instead, your Cloverbud leader will sign-up the club for a time to meet with the judge. The General Project Show will be held on Thursday, July 9, from 8-4 PM at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau building.



**Illinois Extension**  
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## 4-H General Project Show Schedule

**Location: Farm Bureau Building  
1350 West Prairie Drive, Sycamore**

### Thursday, July 9, 2026

**Conference Judging of Exhibits.....8:00 a.m. to Noon**  
Visual arts, creating with building blocks, animal science, veterinary science, entomology, beekeeping, computer science, robotics, drones, aerospace, esports, maker, woodworking, electricity, small engines, tractors, welding & shooting sports.

**Conference Judging of Exhibits.....Noon to 4 p.m.**  
Food & nutrition, health, horticulture, floriculture, plants & soil sciences, agronomy, clothing & textiles, civic engagement, service learning, family heritage, intercultural, exploratory: collectibles, exploratory: welcome to 4-H, babysitting, ready4life, consumer education, career development, leadership, communications, creative writing, theatre arts, interior design, photography, video/filmmaking, natural resources, geology, forestry & weather

### Friday, July 10, 2026

**Projects on Display & Open to the Public.....8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

### Monday, July 13, 2026

**Release of 4-H Project Exhibits.....8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**



### Attention: Visual Arts and Horticulture Exhibitors

Visual Arts Exhibitors: Drawing and paintings must be matted and framed, preferably under glass. (Oil and acrylic paintings do not require glass and are not required to be matted.) Water color, chalk, pen & ink, etc. do require glass, acrylic or some protective covering.

Horticulture Exhibitors: As you prepare your vegetables to exhibit, please stop by the Extension office for a copy of "Exhibiting Vegetables". This is a reference guide that explains how to prepare your vegetables for exhibit. It also gives desirable characteristics of vegetables and how to best transport your vegetable.





## Important Information General Project Show

### Can't attend the General Project Show?

We know summer schedules can sometimes be quite difficult and just because a 4-H'er can't make it to the General Project Show in person doesn't mean they can't exhibit their 4-H project. Certainly we do hope that 4-H'ers will make every effort to attend, as they benefit the most from the experience if they are there in person. 4-H members unable to attend the 4-H General Project Show in person, but would still like to have their exhibit judged should follow the guidelines listed below:

- 4-H members unable to attend should make arrangements to have another 4-H member, a parent, or 4-H leader bring their exhibit to the conference judging.
- A written report found on the website, should accompany the exhibit.
- 4-H members failing to include a written report may receive a lower ribbon rating.
- 4-H members not attending in person do decrease their chances of being selected for special awards or for State Fair participation.

Anyone having additional questions pertaining to the 4-H General Project Show should feel free to call the Extension office at 815/758-8194.



### Project Conference Judging

Judging is a learning experience. From which, you can learn what you did well and how you could improve in the future. An exhibit does not measure all that you have learned, but it is an example of what you have done.

- During conference judging, the judge will encourage you to talk about your project exhibit.
- You will be asked some questions about your exhibit, so you should be prepared to tell what you were trying to do in your project (goals and objectives) and be able to describe the methods and processes used to produce the exhibit.
- Read and follow the rules and requirements for your project carefully.
- Learn good sportsmanship.
- Listen carefully to the judge so that you can accept constructive criticism, and learn from it.
- Remember, judging comments can be helpful, but they are only one person's evaluation.
- Realize that people sometimes make mistakes.





## Important Information General Project Show

### A Message to Leaders and Parents

Each child is an individual of utmost importance. Keeping this in mind, the leader should try to make 4-H a positive learning experience. Part of this experience is the 4-H exhibit.

The 4-H exhibit is not an end in itself nor does it measure all the learning that takes place in the 4-H project. The exhibit is only one measure of success. Self-recognition, self-satisfaction and the learning from completing the project are important rewards.

- Discuss the purpose of judging with 4-H members: To evaluate the exhibit which is an example of the child's work and to help each member see the process that he/she has made and put judging in perspective.
- Help the child set realistic goals for himself/herself according to his/her own age and experience.
- Be sure that your goals are in line with the child's age and experience.
- Recognize good work. Give constructive criticism.
- Be familiar with the requirements or criteria of the 4-H project that is to be judged.
- Be familiar with several methods of accomplishing the desired result.

Regardless of who does the judging there are some basic points to keep in mind:

- The development of young people is our first consideration in 4-H work.
- We are really concerned more about what the 4-H'er learns than with the exhibit.
- Projects are a means to an end – not an end in themselves.
- No exhibit is so poorly done that it is not worthy of an encouraging comment.
- No exhibit is so well done that some improvement may not be made.

Judging is done according to quality standards. It is not a matter of personal whim or tastes. The standards are:

- High, but attainable
- Appropriate to different age levels.
- Known by the 4-H members.

Projects are evaluated, not members. All completed projects meeting show requirements will receive a Blue, Red or White rating. Projects are evaluated independently, not compared.

Blue: meets requirements

Red: needs improvement

White: needs much improvement

- Stress that judging comments can be helpful, but that they are only one person's evaluation.
- In competition, avoid overemphasis of the winner. Help the child accept the results of the competition and realize that through his/her own accomplishments everyone is a winner.





# Important Information

## Livestock



### 4-H LIVESTOCK AUCTION RULES

All 4-H members wishing to participate in the auction must meet the following requirements:

- 1. Attend at least 6 of their 4-H club's meetings.**
- 2. Do a presentation/demonstration at a club meeting.**
- 3. Develop project goals and discuss it with their 4-H club leader.**

The auction committee will be working with 4-H club leaders to make sure that these requirements have been fulfilled prior to the 4-H member's participation in the auction. Auction forms are due to the Extension office on Monday, June 8 the same day as 4-H Show and Fair entries. Youth will need to meet all three of these requirements by this time in order to participate in the 4-H Livestock Auction.

### Beef, Dairy & Swine

Again this year, individual identification of each animal shall be by a USDA official animal identification number ear tag ("840" tag). The tag must be able to be read both visually and electronically.

### Members Showing Animals: Have you completed YQCA online?

In order to be eligible to exhibit and sell your beef, goat, sheep or swine project at the 4-H fair and livestock auction, all youth must be certified for the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA). If you are not currently certified please complete the online training at: <https://yqcaprogram.org/> The online program cost is \$12. Be sure to keep a copy of the certificate for your records. Certification must be completed by June 8, 2026 which is when fair entries are due. If you have any questions please call the Extension Office.

### Illinois Health Regulations

**Poultry Show:** All entries (except waterfowl) in a show or exhibit shall have originated from a U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean or equivalent hatchery or flock OR have a negative Pullorum-typhoid test within 90 day prior to exhibition.

Testing can be done for FREE on Saturday, June 6 from 9-noon at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau.

**Beef Show:** IL calves under 6 months of age are not required to have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. ALL OTHER CATTLE WILL NEED A CVI. THIS INCLUDES STEERS.

### Required Livestock Auction Meeting

Youth planning to sell animals in the 4-H Livestock Auction at the 4-H Fair will be **required** to attend a 4-H Livestock Auction meeting on June 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Farm Bureau Building theater.

"Auction Participation Forms" may be turned in on that evening, or before. These forms must be signed by the youth's 4-H club leader prior to being turned into the Extension office. It is not the responsibility of the Extension office or the Auction Committee to get the appropriate 4-H Club Leader's signature.





## Important Information Livestock

### LIVESTOCK RULES

- All animals exhibited at the 4-H Fair must be owned by the 4-H member.
- Professional fitters will not be allowed to assist in the 4-H Fair.
- 4-H'ers may be assisted by a family member (mother, father, brother, sister, grandparents, or legal guardians) or by another member from DeKalb County.



### Breeding Stock in Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction

4-H'ers exhibiting only breeding stock animals in beef, goats, and sheep are eligible to sell in the auction. These animals can only be in one of the following classes:

- Beef - yearling classes 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 31, 36, 37, 38, & 39
- Dairy Goat classes 100 & 101
- Meat Goat classes 107 & 108
- Sheep classes 85, 86, 90 & 91

These animals can only be sold one time in their 4-H experience.

### Pen & Stall Sponsors Needed

4-H clubs with animal exhibitors are asked to please make note that pen and stall assignments for beef, sheep, swine and goats will be made by the Fair Superintendents at the 4-H Fair. Cooperation from the clubs and its members would be greatly appreciated in helping to make things run smoothly.

Just a reminder to 4-H clubs with swine, beef, sheep, goats exhibitors not to forget about the Pen & Stall awards. The top three 4-H clubs will be selected for having neat & clean pen and stall areas within the livestock barns. The plan is to award monetary prizes. However in order to do this we will need sponsors. It cost \$100 to sponsor a barn. Please let Nicole know ASAP if you or any business you know is interested in being a sponsor.





## 4-H Animal Welfare

During fair season, 4-H members have an opportunity to showcase our practice of ethical and humane treatment of animals and demonstrate our commitment to safe food production practices. While showing livestock, we are under the watchful eye of the public. Many people attending a local fair may have no idea how livestock is raised. Practicing these guidelines may prevent public misconceptions about livestock production.

1. Provide fresh, clean water to animals at all times. Feed animals on schedule.
2. Keep your pens clean and dry with good bedding at all times.
3. Take extra care on days of extreme weather or activity.
4. Sort and load animals safely and with concern for them.
5. Train animals to lead or be handled at a young age long before the fair.
6. Arrange for veterinary care in case of an animal emergency.
7. Handle animals in a very humane way.
8. Adhere to all antibiotic, drug, and feed additive withdrawal times.
9. Avoid stressing the animal.
10. Keep animals clean; a clean animal is viewed as a healthy animal.
11. Use show sticks, whips, and canes for showing only and never forcefully hit an animal.
12. Review your 4-H project manual and follow the care recommendations.
13. Have a plan of action should a problem arise, and know which fair official or 4-H leader to contact to help solve it or answer questions.
14. Some words, such as "slaughter" or "killed," may cause a negative reaction from people unfamiliar with food production. IF ASKED what happens to your market animal after the fair, consider using words such as "harvested" or "sold to packing company."
15. If questioned or challenged by a stranger or group:
  - Remain calm, be polite, and answer any question the best you can. If you do not know an answer, tell them you will find an adult to explain more.
  - Do not argue or confront an individual or group who may have a different view about livestock production. Individuals may try to initiate a confrontation and use video of the incident on social media. If confronted, walk away, find an adult in authority, or call 911 if you feel threatened.
  - It is natural to think that giving people information will change their minds, but in some extreme cases, people may not want to learn; they want to confront to gain media attention. It is best to walk away without engaging in these situations.

Following these recommendations will reflect a positive image of our livestock industry and the 4-H program, as well as demonstrate the solid animal stewardship practices that are our 4-H tradition.





## 4-H Fair Swine Rules

Listed below please read the rules and guidelines established for swine exhibits during this 4-H year.

- Each exhibitor/individual has to nominate their pigs by **June 1** of the present year. Nomination forms listing each hogs notches and diagrams or photos must be in the Extension office by **June 1**. If photos are used include two pictures, one of each side of the pig. For check-in purposes photos are preferred.
- Entries are limited to **4 market hogs** and **limited to 1 pen of hogs**.
- Each exhibitor/individual can nominate up to 15 pigs by ear notches. (No eartags will be accepted for nominations.)
- No exhibitor can show a pig at the 4-H Fair that is not listed on their nomination form.
- Pigs owned within an immediate family may be cross nominated. In other words siblings within a family may use the same hogs on their nomination forms. This can only be done within an immediate family (i.e. sisters & brothers).
- Any pigs that show evidence of fresh notches (i.e. scabs, small notches etc. will be disqualified).
- Exhibitors cannot load out pigs until the 4-H Swine Superintendent releases them after the auction.
- All pigs must be farrowed on or after January 1 of the current year.
- Livestock Premises Identification Numbers are required for all swine at the DeKalb County Fair.
- Nomination forms were mailed to 4-H members enrolled in swine.

**PLEASE NOTE:** ALL HOGS WILL BE PENNED IN THE SWINE BARN. NO HOGS WILL BE IN THE ANNEX BARN (the barn behind the photo backdrop, the side where the bleachers are).



## Camping at the Fair

The Sandwich Fairgrounds is charging \$25 a night/camper to spend the night at the fairgrounds. This can be paid ahead of time at the Extension office or at the fair on Friday. Checks should be made out to Sandwich Fair. The use of motorcycles/minibikes, utility vehicles, golf carts or any motorized vehicle by unlicensed drivers is strictly prohibited on the fairgrounds.





## 4-H Livestock Fair Schedule

Location: Sandwich Fairgrounds, Sandwich IL

### Friday, July 31, 2026

Swine Check-In.....	8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Swine Weigh-In.....	12:00 p.m.
Sheep & Goats Check-in.....	12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Silent Auction opens.....	1:00 p.m.
Beef Check-In & Weigh-Ins.....	4:00 pm. to 7:00 p.m.
Sheep Show – Sheep Barn.....	5:00 p.m.
Barn Yard Toss – Sheep Barn.....	after Sheep Show
Goat Show – Sheep Barn.....	7:00 p.m.

### Saturday, August 1, 2026

Swine Show - Main Show Arena.....	8:00 a.m.
Barn Yard Toss – Swine Arena.....	TBD
Dairy Animals Check-in.....	8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Rabbit Check-in – Sheep Barn.....	9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
Rabbit Show - Sheep Barn.....	10:00 a.m.
Beef Cattle Show - Beef Arena.....	12:00 p.m.
Bucket Calf Show – Beef Arena.....	12:00 p.m.
Poultry Check-in.....	2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Poultry Show – Swine Arena.....	3:30 p.m.
Dairy Cattle Show – Grass Area.....	4:00 p.m.
Ag Olympics – Swine Arena.....	6:00 p.m.
Bags Tournament – Swine Arena.....	after Ag Olympics

### Sunday, August 2, 2026

Showmanship Sweepstakes – Swine Arena.....	10:00 a.m.
Catered Lunch - Auction Committee.....	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Silent Auction closes.....	12:00 p.m.
4-H Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction - Beef Arena.....	1:00 p.m.
Release of Livestock Exhibits.....	At the completion of the auction





## Illinois State Fair Entries

The Illinois State Fair sponsors a junior livestock show which is open to 4-H and FFA members. Entries in all classes shall be made through the online fair entry system at the Illinois State Fair website. Payment must be made via credit card at the time of entry. No other type of entry will be accepted. Assistance with entries is available at the Competitive Events Office, Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All entries must be submitted online by 12 noon on July 13, 2026. Fees will not be refunded. Learn more online @ <http://www.illinois.gov/statefair> and click on COMPETITIONS.

### DeKalb County Day at the State Fair:

Conference judging will be held at the Illinois State Fair. All of the judging for DeKalb County will be held on Friday, August 14, 2026. Members must drop off their projects any time from 8:00 to 9:00a.m. Judging is scheduled throughout the day. Projects must remain on display until 3:30 p.m. All Projects must be removed no later than 4:30 daily. Families should plan to pay for parking when they arrive. You are able to choose where you want to park (either at any of the private/non-profit sponsored lots to the right of the fairgrounds road or in public lots on the state fairgrounds). Families can purchase discounted entry tickets in advance at the Extension office. As always, livestock exhibitors must purchase their passes when they make their livestock exhibit entries.

### 4-H Auction Checks

This year the auction committee will be distributing the 4-H auction checks on September 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Farm Bureau auditorium. You MUST bring a stamped and addressed thank you card for your buyer in order to receive your check.

### Tax Implications

Tax Implications for Prizes, Gifts, or Awards Program Participants (including minors) will be required to provide their social security number or foreign national tax ID number prior to receiving a prize, gift, or award to ensure proper IRS reporting as required by law. This sensitive information is kept confidential and handled through security protected software (PEAR). Participants will not be eligible for prize, gift, or award if social security or foreign national tax ID information is not provided.



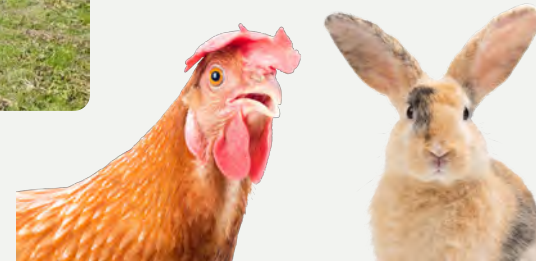


## 4-H Annual Financial Report

Summertime activities and fair seasons are almost here. Is your 4-H club's secretary and treasurer's record books up-to-date? All 4-H clubs with a checking or savings account must complete both pages of the 4-H Club Annual Financial Statement form at the end of each 4-H year (Sept. 1 – Aug. 31). Submit this statement along with other required forms and officer books to the DeKalb County Extension office by September 11. The financial statement includes a report of income and expenses for the 4-H club checking account (page 1) and/or savings account (page 2). The club treasurer and club leader must sign on page 2 of this form to verify that the information is correct. Also on page 2, the Fiscal Review Committee (a group of 2 or 3 youth and adults who do not have signatory rights on the club's bank account(s)) must review the financial records of the 4-H club for the past year and sign to indicate that they have found everything in good order. Contact the Extension office if you need a copy of this financial statement. This is a required step from IRS. Your club can not be re-enrolled for the new 4-H year until this is received in the Extension office.

## 4-H Club Reports

As a club reporter it is important that you write a brief article about your club meeting and special events. Those reports can be sent to the local newspapers as well as the Extension office. To be included on this page drop off the article to the Extension Office or email it to Nicole at: [groezing@illinois.edu](mailto:groezing@illinois.edu). Share what you are doing at your 4-H club meetings with the community and other 4-H'ers!

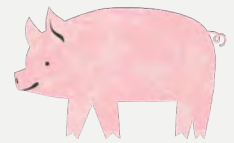
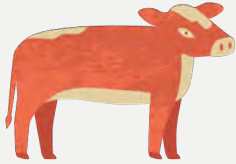




## 4-H Record Books

**Don't wait to the last minute to start filling out your record sheets.**

They can be found at: <https://extension.illinois.edu/bdo/4-h-dekalb-county>. There are events, activities and project work completed that you can start recording right now. Record books need to be completed and turned into your leader to sign before the deadline so they can turn them into the Extension Office on September 11. If you have any questions on how to complete record books contact either your leader or the Extension office and we would be happy to answer any questions. There is also a supplemental record book help video that can be found on the Extension website.



## 4-H Awards

4-H award applications can be found through the link below  
<https://extension.illinois.edu/bdo/4-h-dekalb-county>.

