

## **CLARK COUNTY 4-H MEMBERSHIP**

1. The 4-H year begins on September 1 and ends on August 31. Enrollment is open to 4-H members throughout the period. Members must be re-enrolled by December 15 and new members enrolled by April 1 to exhibit at the Clark County 4-H Fair.
2. Any person, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, or disability may participate in 4-H programs. Youth who are 8 years of age and have not reached their nineteenth birthday on or before September 1 of the current 4-H year may enroll in a 4-H club.
3. A \$20 4-H program fee will be applied to members who participate in the 4-H program. Fee waivers are provided to first year members, siblings, and any youth who would be unable to participate due to financial reasons. No child will be denied the opportunity to participate in 4-H due to his/her inability to pay the program fee.
4. A youth may enroll and/or participate in programs in multiple 4-H clubs and groups within a county. Youth should be enrolled in 4-H in the county sponsoring the 4-H club/group, even though they may live outside the county. It is preferred that youth enroll in 4-H in their county of residence but if they join a club in another county, they must have prior approval from staff in the county that sponsors the club to join.
5. 4-H membership may not be terminated during the 4-H year without that member's knowledge and due process. A youth must attend at least one meeting or activity and be enrolled in a project to be called a 4-H member.

### **INDEPENDENT STUDY MEMBER POLICY**

In order to participate in the 4-H Fair exhibition:

1. An Independent Study 4-H member must complete the Clark County Independent Study Agreement at the time of enrollment and turn it into the office by the re-enrollment deadline.
2. Each Independent Study member shall have a minimum of six [6] contacts with a designated mentor. Mentor may be a club leader or an Extension Staff member. Contacts may be in person, through written correspondence, telephone conversations or e-mail and must be monthly, beginning no later than January of the program year. Contacts must include information on 4-H project work planned or accomplished.

## **CLOVERBUD MEMBERSHIP**

1. Youth ages 5 – 7 (as of September 1 of the program year) are eligible to enroll in the Illinois 4-H Cloverbud program.
2. A \$20 4-H program fee will be applied to members who participate in the 4-H Cloverbud program. Scholarships are provided to first year members, siblings, and any youth who would be unable to participate due to financial reasons. No child will be denied the opportunity to participate in 4-H due to his/her inability to pay the program fee.
3. The 4-H Cloverbud program is activity-based. "Activity-based" means a variety of short experiences for youth that create an eclectic, cooperative, and fun approach to learning through an immediate, positive feedback response to youth's involvement in the activity.
4. It is not the intent or the objective of the Illinois 4-H Cloverbud program to duplicate the 8 – 19 year old Illinois program experience, nor to create a mini-4-H concept. While many Cloverbuds will continue to be involved in other 4-H experiences, the Cloverbud program is designed with specific educational objectives focused on the ages 5 – 7.
5. Cloverbuds will be encouraged to exhibit one project at the county 4-H fair from a specified list of Cloverbud projects. Cloverbud clubs may complete this as a club activity. These projects will NOT be judged because 4-H Cloverbuds must be non-competitive exhibits and no premium funds will be paid. Livestock exhibits are not permissible.

## **GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT**

Clark County 4-H members are asked to remember that they are representing the youth of Clark County and their actions will reflect how others feel about our 4-H programs. Members are expected to comply with the following member code of conduct:

1. Be courteous and respect others.
2. Obey all rules established by the University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development program and those of the local club as well as local and state laws.
3. Treat all people fairly and animals humanely.
4. Respect the property of others.
5. Respect the authority of adult or youth volunteers, paid Extension staff, and others in leadership roles.
6. Use appropriate language and wear acceptable clothing at 4-H activities and events.
7. Show kindness to others and give assistance when needed.
8. Be honest and honor commitments.
9. Strive for personal best and keep trying to improve.
10. Accept responsibility for personal choices.

The following conduct will not be allowed by any youth participating in 4-H activities or events and is subject to disciplinary action:

1. Possession, use or distribution of alcohol and other controlled substances, including tobacco products. Information about prescription drugs should be provided to the club leader or coordinator of the 4-H activity.
2. Theft or destruction of public or private property.
3. Involvement in sexual misconduct or harassment.
4. Unauthorized possession or use of weapons or dangerous materials, including fireworks.
5. Fighting or other acts of violence.

Participants may be removed from 4-H programs or activities for misconduct. The following conduct is not allowed while participating in any 4-H activity or event including overnight events and is subject to disciplinary action:

1. Willfully breaking curfew
2. Unauthorized use of vehicles
3. Leaving the site of the event without permission
4. Participating in gambling
5. Absence from the planned program
6. Intentionally interfering with or disrupting the event
7. Use of profane or abusive language
8. Disregard for public or personal property
9. Public displays of affection or inappropriate actions
10. Failure to comply with direction of Extension personnel, including designated adults acting within their duties and guidelines.

## **CLARK COUNTY 4-H SHOW POLICIES**

1. 4-H members must participate in one or more club meetings or club activities, (either virtual or face-to-face) before July 1 of the current year to be eligible to take part in 4-H shows/exhibitions, 4-H Auction, receive 4-H premiums, or other 4-H awards or recognitions (College students must also attend at least one of the above.) However, members are strongly encouraged to attend at least 2/3 of the meetings.
2. 4-H'ers must be enrolled in the project areas they wish to show in by April 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
3. All projects exhibited at the 4-H show must be made and shown by the exhibitor within the current 4-H year. Any project not made by the exhibitor or not made during the current 4-H year will be disqualified.
4. **YQCA - For members enrolled in beef, dairy, goats, sheep, and swine.** The **YQCA** is a new livestock quality assurance program that is replacing PQA which no longer exists. All 4-H exhibitors of these animals will be required to certify in the YQCA program each year before starting the show season. Attend either a face to face class or certify on-line via the website [yqca.org](http://yqca.org) The YQCA program is for youth ages 8-21. The online version is broken into age divisions as follows: juniors 8-11, intermediate 12-14, senior 15-18, and young adults 19-21.

This certification is needed each year with test out options of 1-3 years. The estimated cost for the face-to-face training will be \$3 and \$12 for the online version.

5. **QAEC - For members enrolled in horses, rabbits, poultry, dogs, and cats:** The **Quality Assurance and Ethics training** is required for youth in horses, rabbits, poultry, dogs and cats. You only need to take it once in your lifetime. Those who don't complete the training will be removed from the animal science project and will not be eligible to exhibit at county fairs. The website is open year round @ [web.extension.illinois.edu/gaec/](http://web.extension.illinois.edu/gaec/). NOTE: Youth must be logged on to a computer for this program, either a desktop or laptop; not an iPad or iPhone.
6. A 4-H'er who will be unable to show their own project must complete the Excused Absence Form and return to the Extension Office one week prior to show date. Excused absences will be given to those members who notify the office by the deadline and will be unable to attend the show due to illness, death, vacation, or inability of the member to be given time off from their job. Any 4-H'er not present for judging will be ineligible to be selected as a State Fair delegate unless they are attending another 4-H event.
7. If a 4-H member needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in the Clark County 4-H shows, please contact the University of Illinois Extension Office at 826-5422 two weeks prior to exhibition.
8. 4-H Fair Entries will be completed online at [faireentry.com](http://faireentry.com). Fair entry will open on May 15 and close on June 15. No exceptions will be made.
9. All projects must be of A rating quality before being eligible for a champion or State Fair competition.
10. Failure to read and comply with the 4-H show rules may result in disqualification of the project.
11. Extension staff and superintendents reserves the final and absolute right to interpret all 4-H show rules, policy and regulations. A 4-H policy committee will be present during the 4-H show in the event that any immediate decision is necessary regarding a show rule or policy.
12. Camping at the Martinsville fairgrounds during 4-H show events in 2021 are not the responsibility of Clark County 4-H or the University of Illinois Extension.
13. The University of Illinois Extension is not responsible for damage, loss or injury to any project during the show or at release time.

## **4-H PREMIUMS**

1. Clark County 4-H premiums will be determined using an "X factor." Although complicated, this system enables the county to use all the premium money allocated for local 4-H premiums. The total amount of premium money available will be divided by the total number of "Xs" awarded at the county show to determine the final value of "X."
2. "The Department of Agriculture shall use its best efforts to secure sufficient appropriations to fund premiums. In any year for which the General Assembly of the State of Illinois fails to make an appropriation sufficient to pay such premiums, premium amounts may not be accurately reflected in this Premium Book."
3. **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.

## **STATE FAIR POLICIES**

All State Fair exhibitors must be 8 years old by September 1 of the current 4-H year, including livestock exhibitors.

1. Each ISF Jr. livestock entry must have an Extension Staff signature. Exhibitors making entries to the ISF are responsible for mailing Extension Staff signed entries, fees and necessary paperwork to the IL State Fair Entry Office, Springfield, IL. State Fair Livestock entries can be made by any 4-H'er enrolled

in a livestock project. Entry forms are due to Springfield by June 1 for horse entries and July 1 for all other livestock entries.

2. A 4-H member may enter **one general project exhibit class** at the State Fair. General 4-H exhibitors also wishing to show in the Jr. Livestock classes should realize that judging conflicts may exist and the member will need to make a decision on their priorities.

## CLUB POLICIES

1. A club will consist of at least 5 members and one adult volunteer leader.
2. Club membership is based on the number of members enrolled as of April 1. New members added after April 1 should be included in the following year enrollment, and they may be allowed to participate in all 4-H programs EXCEPT county and state competitive events.
3. The club will hold at least 6 regular meetings, record of which is kept in the Secretary book.
4. Types of 4-H Club Leaders:  
**Organizational Leader** – guides the overall organization of the club to make certain that meetings are scheduled and members are aware of opportunities and requirements.  
**Project Leader** – works with members in specific projects and teaches the subject matter required.  
**Junior Leader** – is an older 4-H club member who assumes leadership, responsibility, generally assisting in one of the areas listed above.

## PARENTS

1. Parents should become familiar with what 4-H has to offer and the responsibilities of its members. They should assist their children in selecting projects and provide materials and encouragement while the 4-H'er carries out the work. They are responsible for providing transportation for their youngster to club meetings and other 4-H events. Car pools and sharing of responsibilities are encouraged. Parent's support to the club by providing transportation, refreshments, or hosting a meeting is most important to the success of a 4-H club. Parents are welcome at club meetings and other 4-H events.
2. Volunteers are continuously sought for club and county activities and committees. Parents may serve in these capacities and are encouraged to volunteer to do so.
3. Call the 4-H leader or the Extension Office when you have questions or suggestions. Your support is essential to the success of 4-H in helping young people.

## ADULT VOLUNTEER BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

1. Treat others in a courteous, respectful manner demonstrating behaviors appropriate to a positive role model for youth.
2. Obey the laws of the locality, state, and nation.
3. Make all reasonable effort to assure that 4-H youth programs are accessible to youth without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability.
4. Recognize that verbal and/or physical abuse and/or neglect of youth is unacceptable in 4-H youth programs and report suspected abuse to the authorities.
5. Do not participate in or condone neglect or abuse which happens outside the program to 4-H youth programs and report suspected abuse to the authorities.
6. Treat animals humanely and teach 4-H youth to provide appropriate animal care.
7. Operate motor vehicles (including machines or equipment) in a safe and reliable manner when working with 4-H youth, and only with a valid operator's license and the legally required insurance coverage.
8. Do not possess, consume or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances while responsible for youth in 4-H activities, nor allow 4-H youth participants under supervision to do so. All 4-H activities and events are to be alcohol and drug free.
9. Tobacco use during 4-H sponsored events is discouraged and should only be done in designated areas and not in the view of youth participants.

Failure to comply with any of these guidelines may be reason for termination of a volunteer. Complete volunteer policies are available at the Extension Office.

## **Resolution regarding exhibitor/participant and spectator conduct at 4-H events in Clark County**

University of Illinois Extension in Clark County strives to provide all 4-H members with an atmosphere that promotes a high-quality educational experience as well as honesty, integrity and good sportsmanship. With University of Illinois Extension's educational mission in mind, we, the County Extension Unit Council, enact the following policy regarding adult and youth conduct at all 4-H events in Clark County, effective immediately:

- Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair or livestock show management, exhibitors, Extension staff or show officials before, during or after any event sponsored by 4-H is prohibited.
- In furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock show management, Extension staff, volunteers and show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect at all times, and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct, including abusive or threatening language toward them.
- Any judging-related disputes or other issues will be handled in a sportsmanlike manner, and in accordance with the grievance procedures outlined in the Clark County 4-H Handbook.
- If a spectator or participant becomes abusive or interferes with the conduct of a particular show or event, that spectator or participant will be given a verbal warning by the show superintendent or person in charge of the event. If abusive behavior or interference continues, or if the individual is involved in a second incident at the same event, the spectator or exhibitor will be escorted from the show grounds or other facility and barred from attending or participating in any public 4-H event held in Clark County for a period of 13 months from the date of the incident.
- Extension staff shall be notified immediately of any verbal warnings that are given or spectators/exhibitors who are removed from the premises. If at all possible, at least one Extension staff member shall be asked to serve as a witness when a verbal warning is issued or a person is escorted from the premises. All such incidents should be documented in writing, and the documentation will be retained by the Extension Office.
- Spectators or participants who receive a verbal warning for abusive behavior or interference at a 4-H event will be expected to conduct themselves in a cordial and sportsmanlike manner at all subsequent 4-H events. Any spectator or participant who receives another verbal warning within six months of the first verbal warning will be escorted from the premises and barred from attending or participating in any public 4-H event held in Clark County for a period of 13 months from the second verbal warning.
- Show/event management shall have the authority to eject spectators or participants whose behavior they deem disruptive or unsportsmanlike, and who have been issued a verbal warning.
- Any 4-H exhibitor who is disqualified from competition due to unacceptable behavior will forfeit premiums, awards and/or auction proceeds resulting from their participation in the competition.

Adopted from the International Association of Fairs and Expositions Code of Show Ring Ethics

## **COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS**

**FEDERATION** - Federation meets each month, September through May and is an organization to provide the older youth of Clark County with added opportunities to make new friendships, to develop leadership, to improve citizenship, to increase interest in 4-H, to plan programs to meet their needs and interest, and to exchange ideas to carry out to the local club program. All 4-H members eighth grade and older become members of the Federation upon joining a local club.

**LEADERS CLUB** - The Leaders Club meets on the third Monday of March, June, August, and October. All organizational leaders are encouraged to attend. Leaders assist in planning upcoming events, and organize the annual 4-H BBQ. Training sessions are often held to make their leadership and responsibilities easier and of a higher quality.

**PROJECT COMMITTEES** - Project committees consist of adults and youth who have been organized to plan workshops and clinics and to plan, prepare, and assist at the county 4-H fair. Committees are divided into Livestock, Horse and General Projects.

**4-H FOUNDATION** - The 4-H Foundation's sole purpose is to raise funds in support of 4-H programs and activities and run the business of the Clark County 4-H Food and Livestock Auction during the 4-H Fair. They inform sponsors of the importance and the value to young people of the education and leadership training they receive in 4-H activities. This board is made up of nine or more adults, with representation across the county.

## **COUNTY EVENTS**

**ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT** - Annual awards ceremony conducted by the Youth Committee and Federation Officers. 4-H'ers receive recognition for their past 4-H year's participation. Engage, Experience & Excel awards, county awards and all special awards are presented. The event is held in the county each November.

**BARBECUE** - The Clark County 4-H Barbecue is an annual event held on the first Saturday after Labor Day in September at Martinsville's Linn Park. Sponsored by the county's leader organization, the barbecue is the major fund-raising activity of the year for 4-H'ers. This event is a major undertaking and requires the assistance of each 4-H family.

**CARNIVAL** - An annual event held in late January or early February, the Carnival provides an opportunity for clubs to design a booth and raise funds for the county Federation. The event is held at the Casey Roosevelt Jr High and Community Center.

**4-H FAIR** – The 4-H Fair provides an opportunity for members to have their project work evaluated and placed on display for public viewing. The Clark County 4-H Fair is held at the Martinsville Fairgrounds.

**DOG OBEDIENCE** - A series of ten classes are held to teach basic Dog Obedience skills. Classes are held weekly in early spring. Classes may not be offered on an annual basis.

**HORSE BOWL AND HIPPOLOGY TEAM** - A Clark County 4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology team practices throughout the fall and winter to compete in the Regional Horse Bowl and Hippology Contests. Any 4-H'er is welcome to participate.

**LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM** - A Clark County 4-H Livestock Judging Team practices throughout the fall and winter to compete in multiple contests. Any 4-H'er is welcome to participate.

**OFFICER TRAINING** - Held each November to provide club officers the training necessary to carry out their duties. Individual training sessions are held for each office.

**PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEMONSTRATIONS** - 4-H'ers are required to give a talk or demonstration at their local clubs. A county contest is also offered each April. Several categories are included and listed under the Public Presentation project requirements.

## **REGIONAL & MULTI-COUNTY EVENTS**

**4-H CAMP** – No summer 4-H Camp will be held in 2021, **ONLY Family Camp**. See the weekly eBlast for **more details!** 4-H Camp is held in June and early July at 4-H Memorial Camp at Allerton Park in Monticello, IL. Cost of the camp is approximately \$250. The five-day camping experience is designed for youth ages 8-15. Campers participate in lots of hands-on projects, such as rocketry, conservation, cooking, performing arts, sports, and crafts. It also wouldn't be camp without hikes, campfires, rock climbing, boating, fishing or swimming! Registration opens in early FEBRUARY and usually fills within a few days.

**SPACE CAMP** - 4-H'ers travel to Huntsville, Alabama for the 4-H Missions in Space at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. Participants experience hands-on training through various astronaut simulators. The three-day trip is usually held over a long weekend in October. This opportunity may or may not be offered each year.

## **STATE EVENTS**

**ILLINI SUMMER ACADEMIES** - Teens from across Illinois gather to explore college curriculum, meet new friends, and get a taste of college life during 4-H Illini Summer Academies. Delegates spend four days with University of Illinois professors and graduate students while they try out college majors and learn about potential careers. Illini Summer Academies is open to youth who will be at least 14 years of age and not yet 19 by September 1, current 4-H year and have completed eighth grade by the time of the conference. Registration opens in March with the academies held in June.

**ILLINOIS JUNIOR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE** - The Junior Leadership Conference is for 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade 4-H members. This event is organized and conducted by the State 4-H Youth Leadership Team. Workshops help participants develop leadership skills, learn about 4-H opportunities, and explore 4-H project areas. Details are available from the Extension Office in late November. The conference is generally held in late February.

**STATE JUDGING CONTESTS** - In mid-June, the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana hosts judging contests in livestock, dairy, poultry, and horses as well as skill competitions in forestry, horticulture and rocket launching. Winners of these events become candidates to compete in Invitational Judging Contests held at the Illinois State Fair in August as well as in national competitions. All 4-H members are eligible to participate in these competitions.

**STATE FAIR** - Members selected as having the top exhibit in their general project represent Clark County at the State Fair. State Fair begins the second Friday in August. State Fair exhibitors must be 8 years old by September 1 of the current 4-H year, including livestock exhibitors. For more information, see "State Fair Policies" section.

## **NATIONAL EVENTS**

**CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS** - Travel to Washington, D.C. for one summer week filled with new experiences, sightseeing and learning about our nation's capital and the governmental process. Delegates stay at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Citizenship Washington Focus is open to teens ages 14-18 years of age as of May 1 in travel year. Apply for this trip in the fall. Cost is about \$1,300 with the possibility of an available scholarship. Contact the Extension Office for scholarship availability.

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**4-H Event Assistance** - Clark County may provide financial assistance for members who attend county, regional, state and national 4-H events, as funds are available. All event assistance opportunities are announced in the weekly eBlast.

## **Records, Honors & Recognition Guide**

Record keeping is an important part of 4-H. We value the hard work of our 4-H members and provide several ways to recognize the outstanding accomplishments in all phases of a 4-H member's career. Some awards are given locally for participating in the 4-H program and for making progress toward your individual goals. Other

awards are competitive. Record keeping is not mandatory, but by completing your records, you can set goals and we can recognize you for your accomplishments.

Records are available on-line, at the Clark County Extension Office or on our website – [extension.illinois.edu/cce/](http://extension.illinois.edu/cce/) or from your 4-H Leader.

1. Fill out the “**Clark County 4-H Member Portfolio**”. This will serve as a permanent record throughout the 4-Her’s career, showing ALL of your involvement in 4-H and community activities. *This record REALLY helps when you are older and filling out college applications and scholarships!*  
*\*\*For 4-H’ers who already have a Member Portfolio, continue using it and add/replace the back page with the one provided to your club leader with “Clark County 4-H Experience Checklist” as your last page.*
2. Fill out the “**Clark County 4-H Experience Checklist**”. All of this information you will have after completing your Member Portfolio. It’s that EASY!
3. Fill out **Livestock Records** on the animals you have shown. A certificate will be awarded for the most **Outstanding Livestock Record** at 4-H Achievement Night in November.
4. Fill out **Crops Records** on the crops you have shown. A certificate will be awarded for the most **Outstanding Crops Record** at 4-H Achievement Night in November.
5. Complete a **Clark County 4-H Award Application** for each project area in which you want to compete for a chance to win a **Clark County Metal or Green Award**. Members are encouraged to apply in at least one of your strongest project areas. **OUTSTANDING COUNTY AWARDS** are presented in each of the below five areas and presented at 4-H Achievement Night. Reference books are presented as the awards.

Below are a list of areas to apply -

- **Community Service** – Focus of your 4-H work in service to/for others.
- **Communications** – Focus of your 4-H work in the art of communicating with others, including but not limited to public presentations, presentations to elected officials, television/radio interviews, etc.
- **Leadership** – Focus on the development of your leadership skills, including offices held, committees served on, programs lead, and public presentations on behalf of 4-H.
- **Personal Growth** – Focus on your own personal growth through participating in the 4-H program. This could include growth in skills, demonstrated initiative, self-confidence, interpersonal interactions, poise, etc.
- **Project Mastery** – Focus on your 4-H work in your primary project (i.e. Woodworking, Photography, Beef). Only one project should be included in the application and members should not submit an application in more than one “Project Mastery” area. For award purposes, “project” is defined as those areas of enrollment as listed in the Illinois 4-H Clover or as a county-offered project (i.e. Do Your Own Thing, Models).

Submit the above records to your 4-H Leader in August. Records and applications must be signed by the 4-H’er, parent/guardian, and 4-H Leader before being turned into the Extension Office.

### **Other Awards & Recognitions**

**Secretary, Treasurer and Scrapbook Award** - Clark County sponsors an award for the Outstanding club Secretary and Treasurer’s books, and scrapbook. Scoring of the book is based on: completeness, accuracy, and neatness of each section.

**Inspire Award** – Older 4-H’ers are selected because of the difference they have made in their club, county and community by demonstrating leadership qualities and participating in community service activities. Four 4-H’ers are selected each year and may only receive this award one time.



**Outstanding 4-H Member Award** – This award is given to an older 4-H'ers who has dedicated their 4-H career through their dedication, leadership and hard work at the club and county level. This award is selected each year and may only be received one time.

**10 & 11 Year 4-H Member Award** – This award is given to honor all 10 and 11 year 4-H members to recognize their dedication and achievement throughout their 4-H career. Awards are presented at club meetings in the fall.

**Completion Member Award** - A special 4-H is given to each completion member during 4-H Achievement Night. These members are also recognized at the 4-H Fair. All 4-H members who are aging out of the 4-H program are eligible.

**Barbeque Top Sales Award** - The top 4-H'ers selling the most tickets for the BBQ will be honored with a cash prize.

**Alumni Award** - Awards are given up to two past 4-H members whose contributions to society exemplify effective citizenship and leadership, success in their chosen careers, and a sustaining interest in 4-H and similar worthy community endeavors.

**ADULT LEADERS AWARD** - The 4-H Award of the Clover is the official recognition for volunteer 4-H adult leaders. The Clover awards are made at five-year intervals with a special recognition certificate given yearly.

**Friend of 4-H Award** - Awards are presented up to two individuals in the community who have been strong supporters of the Clark County 4-H program throughout the years.

**4-H Foundation scholarship** - 4-H'ers currently in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade or above can apply for one of the five \$750 scholarship provided by the Clark County 4-H Foundation. Members must have been in 4-H for the past five years and exhibited at the most current 4-H Fair. Application are due by October 1.

### **State Award Opportunities –**

**Illinois 4-H Recognition** – (Applications available online or from the Clark County Extension Office)

The Illinois 4-H program offers many EXPERIENCES for its members. This area offers recognition for members who are involved in diverse **4-H experiences** in club, county, multi-county, state, national and international levels. Submit the **My Experience Award Application** listing experiences during one year in these 4-H areas:

- Participation, Community Service, Leadership, Project Learning

Recognition is based on the number of your experiences, achieve one of 5 levels:

- Bronze, Silver, Gold, Diamond, Emerald

**Illinois 4-H Award** - 4-H members who EXCEL in their work can compete for county and state honors in specific award areas. There are several different EXCEL Awards. For members who were 15-18 years of age on September 1 of the current 4-H year you may apply for the Illinois 4-H State Award. Submit the Illinois 4-H Award Application, due in early January to the county office. Award opportunities in one or more of the following areas:

- Communications, Community Service, Leadership, Personal Growth, Project Mastery.

State winners will receive either a \$1,000 college scholarship, OR a trip to National 4-H Congress, OR another national travel opportunity.

## **CLUB AWARDS**

**4-H CLOVER CLUB CHALLENGE** - This award is presented to clubs that complete challenges on the 4-H Clover Club Challenge checklist. This award is presented at 4-H Achievement Night in November.

**CLUB EXCEL AWARDS (County & State)** – Each club may submit a written summary to receive the county award or complete the Illinois 4-H Club Award Application to apply for a state award in the following categories: Community Service; Leadership; Project Mastery.

## **RECOGNITION PROVIDED AT THE COUNTY 4-H SHOWS**

**COUNTY PROJECT BANNERS** - Banners or plaques are donated by local businesses and individuals and the county leader's organization to be presented to 4-H'ers showing outstanding project work. In livestock projects

these banners are given to Grand and Reserve Champions. Plaques are presented to members whose projects are selected as top exhibit in several general project areas.

**FIRST & SECOND YEAR OUTSTANDING SEAMSTRESS AWARD** - One first year and one second year seamstress are selected to receive a sewing award. Seamstresses in each division are selected as having the top constructed garments.

**OUTSTANDING ELECTRICITY AWARD** - The Energy Education Council presents a plaque to the 4-H'er showing the most work in their electricity project during the current year.

**HERDSMAN'S AWARDS** – Superintendents in the area of beef/dairy, sheep, swine, horse, rabbits, goats and poultry will select one 4-H'er as the recipient of the Herdsman Award for their specie. The award will be based on a Neat Pen and Show Box or supplies, keeping animals presentable, helpful attitude, and general helpfulness in the barn and arena. The award will be presented before the Livestock Auction on Wednesday evening.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Weekly eBlast** - Each Friday the Extension Office will send an email (eblast) to every member that has supplied our office with an email address. This email will include information about upcoming 4-H events and deadlines for the next week, as well as Extension programming within our unit.

**4-H Handbook** - Each 4-H Family who has a member(s) enrolled in a livestock or general project(s) will receive a 4-H Handbook. This handbook contains important information about 4-H policies, events and activities and general and livestock project requirements. It is the 4-H'ers and their family's responsibility to read the handbook in order to understand the rules. It is also the responsibility of the 4-H'ers and their family to watch for updates in their current Handbook from year to year. The 4-H Handbook is also available online at [extension.illinois.edu/cce/](http://extension.illinois.edu/cce/)

**Project Manuals** - 4-H members will receive a project manual for projects in which they are enrolled, if requested when enrolling. These manuals are listed in the Illinois 4-H Project Guide. (Exception: there are no project manuals for county projects.)

**Newsletters** - The 4-H newsletter, will be published and mailed generally before the 4-H Fair. EBlasts and newsletters are the main form of communication from the Extension Office to 4-H families.

**Illinois 4-H Project Guide** - Each 4-H family will receive the Illinois 4-H Project Guide, which lists all the state projects that are available along with suggested activities relating to each project. It also lists suggested ages and the manuals for projects. (County projects are not listed in the Illinois 4-H Project Guide)