

**University of Illinois Extension, Crawford County**

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[go.illinois.edu/crawford4H](http://go.illinois.edu/crawford4H)

# Welcome to 4-H !!

**Dear 4-H'er,**

We're excited you have joined 4-H with other youth in Crawford County who are learning life skills, learning more about themselves, and learning more about others through the 4-H program.

As first-year and re-enrolling members, even some 4-H'ers are reluctant to join in many county events. Don't wait for an individual invitation - just come! Also, be sure to read the weekly emailed eBlasts that are sent out on Friday mornings. If you are not receiving this eBlast – please email April at [knoblett@illinois.edu](mailto:knoblett@illinois.edu) and request to be added. The eBlast will keep you up-to-date on all 4-H activities!

We're sure you'll find 4-H to be a very rewarding experience. The important thing to remember is that you gain out of 4-H what you put into it. If you have any questions about the 4-H program, please email April at [knoblett@illinois.edu](mailto:knoblett@illinois.edu) or leave a message at the Crawford County Extension office at 618-546-1549. We are located at 216 South Cross Street in Robinson, Illinois.

**All participants, adults and youth are asked to wear a mask and follow COVID guidelines for social distancing.**

Sincerely,

April Knoblett, 4-H Program Coordinator  
Crawford County

## **IMPORTANT 4-H DATES**

**May 1 – Last date to add or drop a project.**

**May 14 - June 15 – 4-H Fair Entries due online.**

**4-H Shows – Be watching for show dates in the weekly eBlast. Livestock shows July 23-29 at Crawford County Fairgrounds.**

**General projects show dates will be posted at a later date.**



## I'VE JOINED 4-H - NOW WHAT???



**So, you've joined a local 4-H Club!** How much time will be involved? What responsibilities do you have as a member? Are your parents expected to participate in the program? The answers to these questions will vary greatly from club to club. It will depend on how many activities your club decides to participate in and how much you personally want to gain from 4-H. This year may look a little different, and that is completely ok 😊

Here are some goals we ask you to strive for to get the most out of your 4-H experience!

- 1. ATTEND CLUB MEETINGS AFTER ENROLLING (virtual or face-to-face).** This is important to keep abreast of what's happening in 4-H and it's also necessary so your club can function at its full potential. Your club will need your input and help! **Each member must attend at least one meeting to exhibit a project at the 4-H show.**
- 2. COMPLETE ONE PROJECT.** It's easy for members to complete a project and take it to the fair. Just follow the instructions in the 4-H Handbook. The activities in your project book are great learning activities, but you are not required to complete all of the activities in the book.
- 3. GIVE A PROJECT TALK OR DEMONSTRATION.** Sounds scary at first, doesn't it? After a year or so, you'll feel like a pro at it! This is probably one of the most important benefits you can gain from 4-H. It also lets everyone in your club learn about a variety of topics. It's best to give a talk or demo on one of your 4-H projects and your manual should give you some good ideas.
- 4. EXHIBIT A PROJECT AT THE COUNTY 4-H SHOW.** This allows you to get personal comments on a project you've made this year. You will receive an A, B, or C ribbon and a premium for your efforts. Our 4-H Shows will be extended this year due to Illinois 4-H guidelines for COVID. Most animal shows will be held at the Crawford Fairgrounds July 23-29, with general project being shown on evenings July 19-22. These dates are tentative and will be posted at a later date.
  - *Keep up-to-date by reading the weekly eBlast each Friday to your email from "Illinois Extension" (let the Extension Office know if you are not receiving those).*
  - *Read the 4-H Handbook that will be posted on our webpage and links from the eBlast.*
  - *Read your 4-H project manuals for your project areas.*
  - *Read the 4-H mail that comes to your house and share the information with your parents.*
  - *Help plan and support 4-H club activities.*
  - *Eventually serve as an officer of your club or on a committee when asked.*

# WELCOME PARENTS!

Although 4-H is a youth organization, it offers many ways for the whole family to participate. 4-H families can work on 4-H projects at home and attend 4-H events together. **As with any activity; your child will need your help and encouragement to get the most out of 4-H. Many of our 4-H clubs have large enrollments, and while our leaders and staff try to do their best to personally work with your child, parental support is imperative to their success.** Here are a few ways you can help your child:

- ✓ **Read the 4-H mail (and emails) that comes to your house.** The 4-H weekly eBlast IS YOUR KEY TO SUCCESS WITH THE 4-H PROGRAM! Weekly **EBlasts** are emailed to our families **each Friday** with reminders as well as registration opportunities for programs and activities. This will help you stay up-to-date on what's happening in Clark County. PLEASE call the Extension Office at 618-546-1549 if you do not receive these! This can also be seen on our Crawford County IL 4-H Facebook page.
- ✓ **Attend your child's 4-H meeting (virtually or face to face).** This will be the biggest factor in you knowing what is going on with your club and the 4-H program. 4-H is truly a family affair, come as a family!
- ✓ Tell the 4-H Leader what you might **be willing to do as a parent** – provide refreshments, serve on a committee, etc. Our leaders sometimes struggle to find volunteers who might be willing to help out.
- ✓ **Read the 4-H project book your child receives.** You will find ways you can help your child with the project.
- ✓ **Serve as a "helper" to your child with their projects.** This means you don't do the work for the child (although sometimes it seems easier!) but guide and assist. If you need additional information to complete their project, give our office a call and we can suggest volunteers to help.
- ✓ Be sure that members get their enrollments done online at <https://v2.4honline.com/> enrollment papers and 4-H fair entry forms to the office by the county deadline.

## OTHER INFO TO KNOW!

- ✓ The **Crawford County 4-H Handbook**, can be found online at [go.illinois.edu/crawford4H](http://go.illinois.edu/crawford4H) in April. It has everything you need to know to prepare for the fair. Feel free to ask the office for a copy of the current handbook if you would like to know earlier than April what your exhibit for the fair will be. Updates will be included in the weekly eBlast.
- ✓ Several of our 4-H clubs are very large and meetings can be very hectic. Please feel free to **call your leader or April** at the Extension Office to answer your questions that you may not have time to ask at the meeting. No question is too silly!
- ✓ 4-H'ers DO NOT have to complete all portions of their **project manual**. They are a wonderful resource for them to learn about their project and we hope you will use them to the fullest, but it is not a requirement for them to be filled out. If you have not received project books a month or two after submitted, check with your leader or the office. Many of the manuals are available online and can be printed from there.

**Check out our WEBSITE for the latest Crawford County 4-H information – upcoming dates, copy of the most current newsletter, or exhibit requirements for the fair. Go to the U of I Extension webpage at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cce/> and click on Crawford County 4-H on the right hand side.**

**We also have a Crawford County 4-H Facebook page. Like our page at: <https://www.facebook.com/CrawfordCounty4H>.**



We are looking forward to the 2021 season! As Illinois 4-H staff plan for the 2021 show and event season, our top priority will continue to be the safety of all involved, combined with a commitment to creating positive youth development experiences for our 4-H members.

We are planning for in-person events for the 2021 4-H shows if conditions in Crawford County are conducive to in-person events and if we can meet the IDPH guidelines at that time. We are planning to keep the scheduled show days the same as in previous years for live animals, but are still working out the details on General Projects judging. The dates for the Crawford County show will be July 25-29th.

The 4-H Livestock shows will be held in a show-and-go format, meaning animals will only need to be at the fairgrounds for their scheduled show date and time. After each show, it will be announced the 4-H event is concluded and you may take your animals home. If you choose to participate in the County fair junior and open shows and wish to stay on the fairgrounds, that is at your discretion. Crawford County 4-H is not responsible or liable for you or your project at that time.

Face coverings will be required for all youth, spectators, volunteers, and staff when within the designated 4-H show areas (inside or outside), which will be marked during 4-H events.

We are so excited to get back to in-person events, and if we all work together we can make this a fun and successful experience for all. A detailed schedule will be available on or shortly after April 1 so you will have plenty of time to prepare for the 4-H shows in July.

## 4-H SHOW TIDBITS

The 4-H Show is the highlight of the year for many 4-H'ers. We work very hard to make the 4-H shows a positive experience for every 4-H'er. There are several things to keep in mind when preparing for the 4-H Fair.



1. Be sure to carefully read all requirements that apply in the Crawford County 4-H Handbook. Specific fair requirements are listed for each 4-H project. Handbooks are found online at the above Crawford County 4-H website. Many exhibits have more than one part, so make sure you include all of them at fair time.
2. Members may add or drop projects until the May 1 deadline.
3. Although you are already enrolled in your projects, it is still necessary to complete you must make your entries on FairEntry.com online. On-line entries are available to families in May 14 to June 15. It is very important to follow this deadline.

### **ALL Animal & Livestock Exhibitors, Animal posters too!**

#### **QUALITY ASSURANCE & ETHICS (QA&E):**

The Quality Assurance and Ethics training is required for all youth that enroll in horses, rabbits, poultry, dogs, and cats. Members must take the training whether they own a live animal or not. It is advised that they complete this one time as soon as they are enrolled in the project area. Counties will monitor completion of this. Failure to complete QA&E will result in the member's animal science project enrollment being cancelled and they will be ineligible to exhibit at county fairs. The website is open year round @

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/qaec/>

NOTE: Youth must be logged on to a computer for this program, either a desktop or laptop; not an iPad or iPhone. The program cannot capture the information for county staff to see when it is completed using iPads or iPhones.

#### **YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS (YQCA)**

The YQCA is a new livestock quality assurance program. All 4-H exhibitors of these animals will be required to certify in the YQCA program yearly starting for the 2021 show season.

Youth must either attend a face to face class or certify on-line via the website

<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 annual 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.

