

2019-2020 4-H Handbook

University of Illinois Extension
DuPage County



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Extension

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



DuPage County 4-H Family Handbook

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This book belongs to the _____ family.

We are members of the _____ 4-H club.

Our club leader is _____ and to reach our leader call _____ or email _____.

Greetings families!

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.

In 4-H, you get to decide what topics and projects interest you most. You make 4-H what **you** want it to be. Work on multiple projects or focus on one or two. Choose what events sound fun to you, and do them. 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'll figure out what's needed most in your neighborhood and find ways to help. As a parent 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.

This handbook is to help you learn more about 4-H and how to help your child have a positive experience in 4-H. Use this booklet as a tool to familiarize yourself with the 4-H youth development program.

As your family goes through the 4-H year, you may find you have questions about specific activities or events, or expectations of your family. Please be sure to keep the lines of communication open with your 4-H club/group volunteer leader(s) and/or contact the DuPage County Extension Office at (630) 955-1123.

Section 1: What is 4-H?

In 4-H, kids complete hands-on projects in areas like health, science, agriculture and civic engagement in a positive environment where they receive guidance from trained adult mentors and are encouraged to take on leadership roles within their 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 venue to complete demonstrations or illustrated talks about their project work.

In addition to community 4-H clubs, youth may opt to participate in 4-H special interest groups that focus on one specific topic over a set time period.

Who can join 4-H?

4-H is a program for youth (of any gender) who are ages 5 – 18. Youth ages 5 to 7 participate in Cloverbuds programming, which is designed especially for their needs and abilities. Youth ages 8 to 18 participate in regular community clubs. 4-H is open to everyone regardless of race, religion, color, gender, marital status, familial status, national origin, disability, or political belief. 4-H is the largest out of school program for youth. Built on a solid reputation, 4-H programs continue to lead the way in youth development.

What are the costs associated with 4-H?

In DuPage County there is a yearly 4-H participation fee of \$20 per member, regardless of the type of club a member joins. Thirteen dollars of this funding remains at the local office to cover program administration and seven dollars is forwarded to the State 4-H office for statewide 4-H programming efforts. There is a maximum yearly participation fee per family of \$60 (fees are

waived for additional youth once this amount is reached). Individual clubs may have additional fees and that information can be found on the county club list. Checks for the program & project fees should be made out to: University of Illinois Extension; or paid with a credit card online at the time of enrollment.

In addition to the enrollment fee, members are responsible for costs associated with their individual project work. This includes purchasing the project manuals, as well as buying any materials or supplies needed for the project. Please keep these costs in mind when selecting projects with your child. Financial assistance is available from the DuPage County 4-H Foundation based on need. 4-H families who are interested in receiving assistance should contact Andrea Farrier, Program Coordinator. No individual will be denied participation in 4-H due to the inability to pay.

What can you do in 4-H?

In 4-H you decide what events, topics and projects interest you most! Below is a list of a variety of opportunities available to 4-H members. Many additional opportunities are available throughout the year. See our weekly e-mail updates for the latest information.

Club Meetings

By attending monthly club meetings, members develop their team building, communication, leadership, and decision-making skills in a group setting. They also make new friends. Club meetings are where youth learn parliamentary procedure, gain information from the county or state office about programming and deadlines, and learn to prioritize their time! Meetings also include recreation and educational activities. Within a club, youth can take on leadership roles by running for club officer positions, which may include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and more.

Project Work

Project work is the crux of the 4-H year. Members work through a self-paced project book, gaining knowledge and learning skills directly associated with the topic. This allows members to gain confidence, problem solving, responsibility, and decision-making skills. Youth can work on projects independently, with a parent or mentor, or with a project leader. Working alongside their parent or mentor allows for growth in communication skills.

4-H Fair

The county fair is where you exhibit your project work. This is the culmination of the year for many of our members! During this event, members participate in conference judging, and then have their work displayed. This allows the public to learn about what the members have been working on all year long. See section 5 of this manual for more information on this experience.

Local Events

International Night - Learn about different cultures and countries from all over the world at this fun club event. Clubs choose a country to study and prepare a booth display. Guests explore the booths, get their passport stamped and learn new things.

Clover Kick Off - Come to our Kick Off event each year during National 4-H Week to learn more about our program. Kick Off is an opportunity to play games, find a club, and learn about various regional and state opportunities. It's also a chance to meet members, volunteers and staff.

STEM Contests - Our local area hosts several STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) focused contests each year, including a Bridge Bust competition and a Robotics Challenge. Check the weekly update for information.

Contest and Competition Opportunities

County Judging Teams (Livestock and Horse) - Members will learn to evaluate live animals on structure, muscle, quality, soundness/movement, breed characteristics and more. Participants improve their decision-making and presentation skills through placing classes and defending their placing with verbal reasons. Members make new friends and see new places. The best part is that you don't have to have any prior experience with animals to participate.

Hippology Team - Hippology is the study of horses. Member do not need a horse to participate, just a love of learning! The team meets to study on a regular basis beginning in the fall. Youth participate in a regional contest in the spring, where they demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of equine science and its practical use in the industry through a variety of written tests. The top winners can advance to state and national competitions.

Horse Bowl - The horse bowl contest operates like scholastic quiz bowls, but with a focus on horses. Members answer horse-related questions on breed identification, management, health, and nutrition. Members do not need a horse to participate. The team meets in the winter to practice for the spring regional contests. Top teams from that event advance to the state contest in April. The top state winners represent Illinois in national competition.

Public Speaking - Do you love public speaking? Or maybe you aren't a fan but understand that your skills in public speaking will take you far! This contest is for you! Learn to perfect and highlight your presentation abilities through oral interpretation, original works, formal speeches, and illustrated speeches.

Robotics State Challenge - Local robotics clubs can compete as a team to solve a set of tasks at the state robotics challenge. Teams are judged in three categories: robot design, teamwork, and task performance. This competition is held annually in the spring.

Shooting Sports Contests - Members learn the safe and responsible use of firearms as well as the principles of hunting, marksmanship, and archery. Each fall, state competitions are held to demonstrate the skills the members have gained over the year. While youth ages 8 and up can participate in Shooting Sports (though some disciplines have a minimum age of 10) this competition opportunity is currently available to members ages 14-18 by January 1 of the upcoming year.

Events and Conferences

4-H Camp - 4-H Camp allows members to make new friends and learn proficiencies during a weeklong camp stay. Youth participate in hands-on learning, hiking, rock climbing, swimming, and more!

4-H Conferences - Illinois offers a variety of conferences including Illini Summer Academies, Junior Leadership Conference, Youth Livestock Conference and Teen Leadership Conference. These opportunities let youth build leadership skills and increase their knowledge on a variety of topics. See the weekly updates for registration and event information.

4-H Citizenship Washington Focus - The national Citizenship Washington Focus event allows members to learn more about our governmental process while staying at the National 4-H Center. This week in the nation's Capitol is a great opportunity to try new experiences and see the sites! This opportunity is available to members ages 14-18 prior to the year of the trip.

International Opportunities - There are abundant international opportunities with 4-H! A member can travel to a country for three to four weeks or host a young person from a participating country. Share your culture and traditions with others through these great experiences!

Leadership Opportunities

State 4-H Youth Leadership Team - This group of teens (ages 16-21), selected by an application and interview process, plan and coordinate Junior Leadership Conference and Speaking for Illinois 4-H trainings, provide support at various state events, and express their voices regarding state issues or topics related to Illinois 4-H. This position is a term of two years.

4-H Science Ambassadors - Excited about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)? We are too! Join us by being a DKK Science Ambassador! Come share your excitement at back-to-school events, science fests, and other events where you will present using provided tools and curriculum. Gain valuable leadership skills and community service time by sharing your passion for science, while also familiarizing yourself with some of today's latest technology.

Recognitions and Awards

Illinois 4-H offers several recognition opportunities for local 4-Hers. These awards recognize excellence, but also build personal skills such as organizational skills and record-keeping. The awards also encourage youth to be more involved at the local, county, and state levels. In addition, the awards program helps youth to prioritize Information, develop their writing skills (*essays*) and practice their speaking skills (*interviews*). The information they prepare can help them when preparing college/scholarship applications, as well as resumes/job applications. Below you will see an outline of award opportunities for DuPage County 4-H Members.

County Level

Experience Award - This award offers recognition for members for experiences including participation in 4-H events, community service, leadership and project learning. There is always lots you can do as a 4-H member ranging from club activities to national events. To achieve this award, youth document their experiences throughout the 4-H year. Different levels of participation are recognized with different levels of awards. At the county level those include the Bronze Clover, Silver Clover and Gold Clover Awards. If youth meet the requirements for any given level in a year, they submit documentation and receive the corresponding award. There is no limit to the number of members who can achieve each level. See the weekly update or website for application materials, which are typically collected in late summer/early fall. Once 4-Hers have achieved an Experience Award level, they are encouraged to increase the breadth or depth of their participation to achieve subsequent levels.

State Level

Experience Awards - State level Experience Awards are similar to county awards but recognize a greater depth of experience. The state level Experience Awards include both the Diamond Clover and Emerald Clover Awards. To apply for these awards, youth document their 4-H participation throughout the year and complete an application once the criteria for the award have been met. State level awards are checked on a local and state level. Youth who meet the criteria are recognized. See the weekly update or website for application materials, which are typically collected in late summer/early fall.

State 4-H Award - This award covers five award areas: Communications, Community Service, Leadership, Personal Growth, and Project Mastery. Youth who have excelled in any of these areas are encouraged to apply. Youth must be between 15-18 years old as of September 1 of the year they are applying. To apply, youth complete an application which includes documentation of participation and two essays. Youth who are selected as semi-finalists based on their application then move on to an interview stage. Interview and application scores are totaled to determine one state winner per award area. Winners choose between a college scholarship, trip to National 4-H Congress, or a scholarship to cover expenses for a national 4-H event or conference. Members who have been selected as a State 4-H Award Winner are not eligible to apply for this award again.

Key Award - The 4-H Key Award recognizes youth who exhibit outstanding leadership, community service, and mentoring during their 4-H career. Members must be 16-18 years of age by September 1 of the year they are applying and can only receive this recognition once during their 4-H Career. Youth complete an award application and obtain

reference evaluations to apply. Up to 30 members can be recognized statewide with this award each year.

Leadership, Citizenship, Professionalism (LCP) Award – This award recognizes youth who excel in leadership, citizenship, and professionalism. Applicants must be 17-19 by December 1 of the current 4-H year. Members accepting this honor receive a plaque and an invitation to the 3-day Premier 20 Youth Leadership Conference in April and they are recognized at the state awards ceremony.

Project Specific Awards - The state also offers special sponsored awards in several project areas each year. Current offerings include vet science, dairy and electricity. If you are active in these project areas, see the state awards website to get more information on these opportunities.

Legacy of Leadership Scholarship - This \$1000 scholarship is available to currently enrolled 4-H members who are high school seniors or in an approved post-high school educational program (junior college, 4-year university, trade school, etc.). Members must have been enrolled in the 4-H program for a minimum of 5 years. The scholarship recognizes outstanding 4-H accomplishments, leadership, service, project mastery, and community impact. Youth complete an application form and obtain 2 recommendation letters to apply for this award.

Livestock Scholarship - This \$1000 scholarship is available to current 4-H members who are high school seniors or in an approved post-high school educational program (junior college, 4-year university, trade school, etc.). Applicants must have been enrolled in a Livestock Project a minimum of 3 years during their involvement in the 4-H program; must be pursuing a college degree related to the agriculture industry; AND plan to be actively involved in the agriculture industry after graduation (such as farming, teaching, large animal veterinarian, etc.) Applicants must be currently enrolled 4-H members. Youth complete an application form and obtain 2 recommendation letters to apply for this award.

Section 2: Emblems and Symbols

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 the office for use guidelines.



The Four H’s:

The four H’s stand for **Head, Heart, Hands, and Health**. These four H’s represent the four-fold training and development in which members participate. The meaning of the four H’s is clearly given in the pledge below.

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 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.

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.

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.

Illinois 4-H Mission:

- Providing positive youth development contexts 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

Section 3: 4-H Projects

A 4-H project is what a 4-H'er learns or does (i.e.: learns to grow a vegetable garden, learns to sew, or learns about caring for dogs). Project areas vary from aerospace to woodworking, from dogs to rabbits, and from clothing to small engines. 4-H project work is the heart of 4-H. This is how 4-H members learn life skills. Project work is done in one of three ways in DuPage County. Sometimes a club will work on a project at their monthly meeting; sometimes they meet in groups outside of the monthly meeting; and sometimes youth complete project work in an independent study form (this last option is generally the most popular).

Illinois 4-H Project Guide

The [Project Guide](#) is a printed resource that is distributed to each 4-H family. It is also available to download from the State 4-H website. This publication identifies:

- What projects are available
- What age group a particular project unit targets
- A brief list of possible things to do in each project
- Additional activities that may be available for some projects
- Resources available on the Illinois 4-H website
- A list of events, conferences, and leadership opportunities

Enrollment Tips

The 4-H year begins on September 1st and ends August 31st. Between those dates 4-H'ers have the opportunity to sign up for projects, work through the activities in the corresponding project manuals, create project exhibits for the fair, and complete records telling what they learned. 4-H projects are intended to be long-term studies. That's why members are given a full year to complete them!

Choose projects thoughtfully. 4-H'ers should sign up only for the projects they're sure they'll have time to finish. Remember, members are expected to exhibit products for every project they enroll in. Here are a few points to guide the selection process:

- Does the project meet the needs and interests of your child?
- How much time does your child have and how much time does the project require?
- How much will the project cost?
- Is adequate space and equipment available at home (i.e. animals will need a place to live or do you have enough space for a 50-piece rock collection)?
- If you are not comfortable with mentoring your child in a particular project area, does your club have a volunteer(s) to help with the project? Are you willing to become a project volunteer if necessary for other members?

Within each 4-H project area, projects are generally designed to be taken in order (i.e. member completes Photography level 1 before moving on to Photography level 2). Many 4-H project levels (and their associated manuals or project books) are designed to take about three years to complete. Youth may enroll in the next project level when they feel they have mastered the content in the previous level. We encourage you to call the

Extension office to talk to staff or to talk to your leader if you are thinking of skipping a project level.

The project manual is only one tool 4-H'ers will use to complete corresponding projects. Project manuals help direct learning. In order to complete them, however, members may need to visit the library or talk to experts. They may need to attend workshops and take tours. Members can take different avenues to prepare them for creating a project exhibit for the fair and expand their knowledge. Being in 4-H is all about figuring out how and where to get the information needed to accomplish the things one sets out to do.

Section 4: Membership Guidelines, Information, and Expectations

Membership Guidelines

Youth who are at least 8 years of age and have not reached their 19th birthday on September 1 of the current year may enroll as a member in 4-H clubs or participate as an independent member. Youth who are 5 to 7 years of age on September 1 of the current year may enroll as a 4-H Cloverbud. Cloverbud members enroll in the Cloverbud project and are not permitted to enroll in any additional projects. All 4-H club members pay an annual \$20 program fee. Financial assistance is available for families who cannot afford this fee.

Enrollment Deadlines

A youth who enrolls in a 4-H club must attend at least one meeting to be called a 4-H member. 4-H members must be enrolled in at least one project. A member may add or delete projects at any time during the 4-H year. Youth may join 4-H at any time of the year, but must be enrolled in the projects of their choice by April 1 of the current 4-H year if they intend to exhibit at the 4-H General Project Show and/or Fair. This deadline applies to ALL project areas. We ask that everyone that is re-enrolling in 4-H complete that process by November 1. **Youth should not be regularly attending 4-H meetings until they are re-enrolled.** New members are welcome to attend a club meeting to see if the club and program will be a good fit before they enroll.

Cost of 4-H

4-H has a \$20 program fee for all 4-H Cloverbud, Community Club, and Special Interest 4-H members. This fee will be collected annually during registration. Checks for these fees should be written to: University of Illinois Extension or paid with a credit card online at the time of enrollment. Youth may also need to purchase project books and materials, or pay additional club or activity fees to help cover costs.

Talks & Demonstrations

Each year all 4-H members should strive to give a talk or demonstration about at least one of their projects. Demonstrations typically take place at club meetings but can also be done in other settings. Public speaking not only builds confidence and skills for the members, but it provides knowledge and may peak interest in project areas for other members!

Community Service

Community service is an important part of the 4-H program. Each 4-H club is encouraged to complete at least one club community service activity throughout the year. Youth who are unable to complete a club service activity are encouraged to do their own service activity, no matter how small!

Youth Behavior Guidelines

All youth participants in events and/or activities planned, conducted, and supervised by University of Illinois Extension and/or 4-H, are responsible for their conduct to Extension personnel and/or volunteers supervising the events. This responsibility is necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the participants, and will be rigidly adhered to and uniformly enforced.

The following conduct is not allowed while participating in any 4-H event or activity and is subject to disciplinary action:

Category 1

- Possession, use, or distribution of alcohol and other drugs (including tobacco products such as cigarettes, cigars, e-pens, e-pipes, e-hookah, e-cigars, JUULS, vapes, vape pens, or other electronic nicotine delivery systems).
- Theft or destruction of public or private property.
- Involvement in sexual misconduct or harassment.
- Possession or use of dangerous weapons or materials (including fireworks).
- Fighting or other acts of violence, actual or implied, that endanger the safety of the participant or others.

Category 2

- Willfully breaking curfew.
- Unauthorized use of vehicles.
- Leaving the site of the event.
- Participation in gambling.
- Absence from the planned program.
- Intentionally interfering with or disrupting the event.
- Use of profane or abusive language.
- Disregard for public or personal property.
- Public display of affection or other inappropriate actions.
- Failure to comply with direction of Extension personnel, including designated adults acting within their duties and guidelines.

Consequences:

University of Illinois Extension reserves the right to restrict participation in future activities for those individuals who have been removed from an activity for behavior as outlined in Category 1 or Category 2. In all cases, the participant will be responsible for restitution of any damages incurred by his/her actions.

Category 1

- When notified of any of the actions listed under Category 1, the adult in charge, will ascertain the relevant facts, and with concurrence from Extension staff, will notify the affected participant of the action and any supporting evidence. The participant will be allowed an opportunity to answer the allegations and, if necessary, law enforcement officials will be notified. While facts are being verified, the participant will be removed from the 4-H activity/event and be under direct supervision of an adult chaperone.
- The parent or guardian will also be notified of the actions of the participants, and upon finding the allegations to be true, must immediately remove the participant from the activity at the parent's or guardian's expense.
- Documentation must be completed on an "Incident Report Form."

Category 2

- When notified of any of the actions listed under Category 2, the adult in charge will ascertain the relevant facts, and with concurrence from Extension staff, will notify the affected participant of the action and any supporting evidence. The participant will be allowed an opportunity to answer the allegations. While the facts are being verified, the participant will be removed from the 4-H activity/event and be under direct supervision of an adult chaperone.
- The parent or guardian of a participant who violates curfew, uses vehicles without authorization, or leaves the site of the event, will be notified of the actions of the participant, and must immediately remove the participant from the activity, at the parent's or guardian's expense. Participants who willfully disobey conduct as described in any other Category 2 action, will receive a verbal & written warning (initialed by the adult and the participant). Upon receiving a second warning, the parent or guardian will be notified of the behavior and must make arrangements for removal of the participant from the activity, at the parent's or guardian's expense.

Additional Requirements

There are additional requirements in place for 4-H members involved in a variety of projects that are related to participation in fairs and shows. Many of these apply to members in animal projects. Please see section 5 of this handbook for complete information on these requirements.

Section 5: Fair Information and Requirements

One of the highlights of the year for 4-H members is being able to exhibit their completed projects at the DuPage County Fair and then hopefully to have their exhibits selected to compete at the Illinois State Fair! It is important to note that the DuPage County Fair itself is not a 4-H run event. The fair is run by the DuPage County Fair Board. 4-H works with the Fair Board to set rules and policies for the 4-H exhibit portions of the event. The Fair Board sets fair policies, handles the junior livestock sale and runs the open exhibit classes. Please consult the 4-H Fair Book, released each summer, for in-depth 4-H Fair rules. Visit the DuPage County Fair website for general exhibit and fair information. A few areas, such as dog, public presentations, intercultural, and horse hold their culminating contests or shows before the fair. See the weekly update for details.

When is the fair?

The DuPage County Fair is typically held the last full week of July each year at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton. As part of the fair, members have an opportunity to compete in livestock shows, as well as enter completed exhibits in other project areas.

Who can enter the fair?

Any DuPage 4-H member who is enrolled by April 1 of the current 4-H year is eligible to participate in fair. Cloverbud age (5-7) members can only enter in the Cloverbud class, which is non-competitive (youth get a participation ribbon and get practice interviewing).

Animal projects have additional requirements for fair participation, which are outlined below.

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 4-H newsletter and the 4-H Fair Book and are available in the Extension office.

Beef Weigh-In

All 4-H'ers who are enrolled in beef efficiency and anyone planning on exhibiting a steer at the Illinois State Fair must have their animals weighed and 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.

Rabbit Tattooing

All 4-H'ers who are enrolled in and exhibiting rabbits at the county fair must have their rabbits tattooed by the county appointed official. Rabbit project members will be notified of the process once determined. Tattooing should be completed by June 15. Tattoos should be healed by fair and no evidence of fresh tattooing will be accepted.

Quality Assurance & Ethics Certification (QAEC)

The Quality Assurance and Ethics Certification training is required for all youth that enroll in horses, dogs, cats, poultry, rabbits, and animal science poster/display projects. This includes members who don't own a live animal and plan on exhibiting in the Animal Science display classes at fair. This training needs to be taken one time in a 4-H'ers career, and it is advised that they complete this as soon as they are enrolled in the project area. Failure to complete QAEC will result in the member's related project enrollment being cancelled

and they will be ineligible to exhibit that project at county fairs or at 4-H horse, dog or cat shows. This website is open year-round at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/qaec>. This training must be taken on a computer or laptop (not on a tablet or phone).

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

The YQCA is a new livestock quality assurance program. It replaces the Quality Assurance & Ethics Certification (QAEC) program for youth in the following species: dairy cattle, beef cattle, swine, sheep, and goats. It also replaces Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) and Beef Quality Assurance (BQA). All 4-H exhibitors of these animals will be required to verify in the YQCA program yearly starting for the 2020 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 for 1-3 years. Youth exhibiting swine at the Illinois State Fair and 4-H fairs are no longer required to be PQA plus certified. The estimated cost for the face to face training will be \$3 and \$12 for the online version. Horse, dog, cat, rabbits and poultry exhibitors will still take the QAEC program online since the new YQCA does not cover those species. If you are enrolled in animal science and expect to do a display project on any of the identified species above or small pets, QAEC is required.

Horse Agreements

4-H'ers who intend to participate in any 4-H county horse show or the State Fair must complete ownership or lease agreements for each horse they plan to exhibit. Due to facility limitations, any DuPage County 4-H Horse Show will be held outside of the DuPage County Fair. New agreement forms must be completed each year. Blank agreement forms can be requested from the Extension office during late winter and must be returned to the Extension office by the deadline provided.

What projects can we enter in the fair?

DuPage County 4-H will produce and distribute the 4-H fair book in late spring. This book lists all the 4-H classes that can be entered. Generally, classes do not change a lot from year to year, so you can look at previous fair books to get ideas for projects to enter in the fair. It's important to read the current year's fair book to read general fair rules, as well as rules for each project area and exhibit class. Projects that do not abide by exhibit rules will receive participation ribbons. We use the same exhibit rules at the Illinois State Fair, which can be found online at <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/illinois-state-fair-4-h-project-show>.

How do we enter exhibits in the fair?

Entry information is sent to 4-H families in late spring. Entries are completed online using the FairEntry system at <https://faireentry.com/Fair/SignIn/2755>. Entries must be submitted in FairEntry by 11:59 pm on May 31 of the current 4-H year. No entries will be accepted after this date. If during the entry process you are unsure which class your project should be in, contact the office for guidance. There is no fee to enter the 4-H classes at the DuPage County Fair. All entered exhibits are to be brought to the fair for judging on designated days. See the fair book to get the check-in and judging dates and times for your project area(s).

How are exhibits judged?

Illinois 4-H has produced scoresheets for each project area that list the standards for that project. Some projects have more generalized scoresheets, while others are broken down into specific classes. Youth can

review the scoresheets online at <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/illinois-state-fair-4-h-project-show> to see the standards their project will be judged against.

Judging is done in a one-on-one conference format, which allows youth to talk to a volunteer project judge about their project. Interviews generally take around 5 to 10 minutes. Judges evaluate the project against the standards through observation and information collected in these interviews. Youth who are unable to participate in conference judging may submit a written supplement to their project to help provide judges with information they'd normally collect in the conferences. See the fair book for information.

All 4-H projects are judged on the Danish judging system with each entry earning a blue, red or white ribbon.

Blue: Exhibit meets all standards, or exceeds standards.

Red: Exhibit meets some standards well, but needs improvement on other standards.

White: Exhibit needs much improvement .

Within each project for non-animal projects, class champions are awarded to the best "blue ribbon" project in the class, if that project exceeds standards. Grand and Reserve Champion ribbons are selected from these class champions. A Grand Champion recognizes the top exhibit in an area, while a Reserve Champion recognizes the second-best exhibit. Consult the fair book for information on how champions are awarded in your project area. All champion ribbons are meant to recognize projects that exceed project standards and are awarded at the discretion of the judge. Sometimes judges choose not to award one or more of these champions.

Animal projects will be awarded using the same Danish judging system. Animals will be judged using the breed/industry standards. Showmanship will be based upon the showman's ability to showcase the animal, their knowledge, and a variety of other factors. Additional awards vary by species and are left to the judge's discretion.

If funds are allocated by the State of Illinois any given year, youth may receive small cash premiums based upon the color of ribbon earned. See the fair book for additional details.

When are exhibits released?

Non-animal projects exhibited in the 4-H building at the DuPage County Fair must remain on display all week until they are released at 6 pm on the Sunday of Fair. Families need to pick up projects and ribbons between 6 and 7 pm on this day. If a family cannot pick up a project during this window, they should talk to their club leader to arrange someone from their club to pick up the project(s) for them.

Is there a livestock sale?

The DuPage County Fair holds a junior livestock sale as part of the fair. 4-H animal projects that are given the opportunity to participate will be notified however, participation in the DuPage County Fair Jr Sale is not required. See their website for information on the sale.

How do I qualify for State Fair?

For non-animal projects, judges select the top blue ribbon entries in each project area as State Fair delegates. Generally, these exhibits will have also received a Grand, Reserve or Class champion ribbon. Judges also select State Fair alternates in each project area. The number of delegates and alternates for each project is determined by Illinois 4-H. During fair, delegates and alternates notify the 4-H office of their intent (delegates) or interest (alternates) in participating in State Fair. Interested alternates will be contacted to fill any available slots that were not filled by delegates. Youth take their own projects to the State Fair for judging.

Talk to your project leader or the 4-H office for any qualifying requirements for state animal shows. Many state contests, like the State Dog Show are not held during the Illinois State Fair.

Section 6: DuPage County 4-H Resources

County Resources

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The 4-H program is administrated by University of Illinois Extension. Extension provides practical education you can trust to help people, businesses, and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build a better future.



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