

# *4-H Member & Project Quick Facts*

## Commonly asked questions and answers about 4-H in Johnson County

- **What is 4-H?**

4-H is a program for youth with an interest in *leadership development and learning life skills* such as communication, teamwork and responsibility. 4-H is supported by Iowa State University Extension and hundreds of local volunteers who serve as leaders, superintendents, and as members of various committees.

- **Who is eligible to be a 4-H member and when can I join?**

Any youth in grades **4 through 12** is eligible to join a club in Johnson County. You do not have to live in the county. 4-H is available to all Youth, there is a **myth** that you must live on a farm, which is not true. In Johnson County 45% of the members live on an acreage or in one of the local communities. Sixty percent of the membership is female. A Youth may join at any time during the year; however, to exhibit at this summer's county fair you must join before May 15 of this year.

- **How does a Youth get to show at the county fair?**

The county fair is open to any youth who is a member of a Johnson County 4-H or FFA Club on or before May 15 for this summer's fair. Contact the Extension Office or your club leader for information about project requirements.

- **Is there a monetary cost associated with being a member or going to the fair?**

*There is a program fee of \$20 per youth per year. This fee is raised in part through county fundraising efforts. The actual amount collected each year from the 4-H family is determined each fall after fundraising programs are completed. Each club has the option on how or who will provide for the program fee. Some clubs work together to pay this fee for its members.*

Projects created or maintained by a member may require cash expenditures; these projects are the member's choice. Educational project literature is available for a nominal fee. **The county fair is free**; there are **no entry fees** for projects. The Fair Board pays premium money to the Youth for each project exhibited. Parking and admission to the fairgrounds is **free** for the entire public.

- **How do I join a 4-H club?**

You can join any one of over 20 clubs located throughout the county by calling the Extension Office at 337-2145, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The staff will provide you with written material about 4-H, suggest clubs in your area, & take you through the enrollment process.

- **Can I belong to more than one club?**

*No, a member may join and be an official member of only one club.* The member can transfer their membership to another club if they so desire by contacting their club leader and the Extension Office. The member may visit or attend the functions and meetings of other clubs whenever they wish; it is always polite to call ahead. Some club activities are open only to members of that club.

- **Are there any special project clubs?**

No, however several 4-H clubs offer a particular interest in livestock projects, horse projects or food/nutrition for example. No matter what the clubs central areas of interest are, all project areas are available to any and all members wanting to participate in them, unless there is an age requirement. You **do not** have to be a member of a particular club to participate in a given project area.

- **Does every 4-H member have to give an educational presentation?**

Yes, all 4-H members are encouraged to participate in the educational presentation process. Members grow and learn by this participation.

- **If I nominate my animal/livestock projects by May 15 or at a weigh-in, are there any other requirements that I need to fulfill before the county fair to be eligible to exhibit?**

Yes, the **class entry card** must be completed and turned in by July 1. The member uses this card to list **all the animal project classes** that they intend to exhibit in during the fair. This card is used to generate the show orders and is a necessary part of the fair management process. A member must also be **enrolled in that project** area. Cats and Dogs must have rabies certificates. Remember to turn the animal/livestock nomination forms into the Extension Office by May 15.

- **Are there any animal/livestock projects that are not nominated or identified by May 15?**

Yes, members do not nominate animals in the **Pet, Poultry or Rabbit** Departments. All other animals (Breeding/Market Beef, Ponies/Horses, Dog Obedience, Swine, Sheep, Goats, Dairy, Bucket Calves) **must have a nomination form** turned in by May 15.

- **Can a member enroll in additional project areas after they turn in their member enrollment form?**

Yes, a member may add additional project areas **at any time** by calling the Extension Office or contacting their club leader. These areas **must be added by May 15** to be eligible to exhibit a project in that area at this summer's fair.

- **How do I exhibit entries in Montgomery Hall?**

You can exhibit by enrolling in a project area by May 15 for those projects housed in Montgomery Hall. There is no other nomination process. Members use an Entry Sheet to list projects and bring that form to Montgomery Hall on the day of judging. Clubs may require an Achievement Show/conference judging experience for some projects. Please contact you club leader about your Achievement Show.

- **What is an Achievement Show?**

An Achievement Show is an event held prior to the fair sponsored by a club for club members to give them experience in conference judging and receive suggestions on how to improve their projects. Educational presentation winners advancing to the county level are selected at that time; members are highly encouraged to participate since it will help them prepare for the county fair.

- **What is an Educational Presentation and how is it different from a Working Presentation?**  
An educational presentation is a presentation by a member(s) on a topic of their choice. Topics should be age appropriate. The presentation format may take any form (speech, demonstration, role play, etc.). The presentation should last 5-15 minutes. A Working Exhibit will involve members of the audience. The audience will actually be involved in the construction of an item or in the educational activity. Working Exhibits are judged at the County Fair. Educational presentations must compete and advance from the local club to compete at the county level.
- **Of what importance are club meetings and who should attend?**  
Club meetings serve as the information link for members. Members receive help on projects, application forms, and programs. Members also get involved in service projects, make friends and learn about life skills. **All members** are highly encouraged to attend meetings on a regular basis. **Parents** also are encouraged to attend to stay informed on 4-H news and events. Meetings are usually held once a month.
- **What is a project meeting?**  
A project meeting is different than a club meeting. A project meeting will involve all *youth enrolled or interested in a specific project area* such as photography, dog obedience, poultry, etc. Members learn various aspects of the project care and preparation from volunteers who are experts on the subject matter.
- **What is a Record Book and do I have to complete one?**  
Record keeping is a valuable life long skill. The Record Book is a permanent summary of your activities, projects and participation throughout the year. County Awards are given to members based on their record book, interviews, video tapes or cassette tapes. These records can serve as a financial record for planning. All forms necessary to complete a record book are available from the Extension Office.
- **Does a member have to take a project to the county fair?**  
All members are highly encouraged to take at least one project to the county fair. The fair is the culmination of preparation and learning. Friendly competition and fellowship are valuable part of learning. Members *may enroll in as many project areas as they desire, but are not required to complete a project in each area for which they enroll.*
- **What are the DUE DATES for various project and 4-H requirements?**
  1. Most **member enrollments** are due to club leaders by mid-November. Leaders turn these enrollments into the Extension Office by mid-November. Members *may enroll* after that date, however, educational literature and project meeting notices may not be sent to the member on a timely basis. To enroll in project areas use the Pick-A-Project Newspaper. The newspaper lists all project areas and a brief description of each area.
  2. **The member places project area enrollments on the membership enrollment form**, however, additional projects may be added by contacting the Extension Office on or before May 15.

3. **Livestock weigh-ins** are as follows: **(at the 4-H Fairgrounds)**

<b>Market Beef</b>	<b>Friday, December 31, 2004 9 AM-Noon</b>
	<b>Saturday, January 8, 2005 9 AM-Noon</b>
	<b>(Calves going to Ak-Sar-Ben can be nose printed at the weigh-in)</b>
<b>Derby Swine</b>	<b>Saturday, March 19, 2005, 10:00 AM to Noon</b>
<b>Production Lamb</b>	<b>Thursday, May 5, 2005, 7:00-8:00 PM</b>
  
4. **Nomination/Identification Report Forms** are due to the Extension Office on or before May 15, 2003. (Rabbits, Poultry and Pets are excluded from this process.)
  
5. **Class Entry Cards** are due to the Extension Office on or before July 1. *This includes ALL animal/livestock projects.*
  
6. **Rabies Certificates** for Dogs as Pets or for Dogs enrolled in Dog Obedience must be turned in by May 15, 2003, or at the first Dog Obedience workshop that the Dog attends if the workshop occurs before May 15. Cats as Pets must also have a Rabies Certificate.
  
7. **For All Non-Animal Projects** (photos, woodworking, clothing, food, etc.) you must enroll in the project area by **May 15** (refer to No. 2 listed above). Please talk to your club leader about Achievement Show requirements. These projects are brought to Montgomery Hall on the day of judging along with the **Project Entry Sheet** provided by the Extension Office Staff. Please contact your club leader with questions or call the Extension Office.
  
8. Important dates: **All dates are for 2005**
  - Judging of Non-Animal Exhibits, Saturday, July 23**
  - Johnson County 4-H/FFA Fair, July 25-28**
  - County Fair Livestock Auction, July 29, 9 a.m.-completion**
  - Clothing Event, July 12**
  - Educational Presentations & Extemporaneous Speaking July 12-13**
  - Pullorum Typhoid Testing for Poultry, July 21, 7-8 p.m.**
  - Share The Fun July 26**
  - Working Exhibits July 26-27**

This summary is designed to cover basic common questions that members and families may have. It does not answer all questions in detail but is to serve as a general guide. For more information about 4-H and project areas/requirements, please contact your club leader or the Extension Office at 337-2145.

