



Dear Parent:

4-H is a youth organization open to everyone in K-12th grade. The 4-H program involves members, their families, and other interested adults serving as leaders. Professional leadership is given by the West Pottawattamie County Agricultural Extension District, Iowa State University, and the USDA. 4-H is young people sharing, doing, and learning together in all kinds of projects, events, and activities. 4-H teaches young people about citizenship, leadership, communication, and sportsmanship. 4-H clubs usually meet once a month for meetings, club outings, and community service. Please read on for information and some frequently asked questions about 4-H.

Some FAQ's about 4-H:



1. I don't have livestock – can I be in 4-H?

Answer: **ABSOLUTELY!** 4-H'ers do not have to have animals. Members can learn about photography, computers, food & nutrition, dogs, clothing, and so much more. With over 100 project areas, 4-H can provide youth with exactly what they need.

2. How much time do you have to commit to the program?

Answer: You do get out of 4-H what you put in...however...most clubs only meet once a month on a certain day/evening (that makes it easy to plan your family calendar). The great thing is that many of the 4-H activities allow for the whole family to get involved and have a great time.

3. What are the benefits of 4-H?

Answer: **The benefits are ENDLESS!** Many of our high school seniors have received college scholarships from 4-H to attend school. Most youth must be lucky to be outstanding in sports or academics to receive scholarships - the West Pott. 4-H program averages 15 scholarships per year awarding the scholarships to many of their graduating seniors! Other benefits include: travel on the state, national, and international level, building communication skills, and volunteering for community service (something that many schools require for graduation).

4. Am I too young/old for 4-H? How do I join?

Answer: If you are in grades K-12, you can be a 4-H member. The West Pottawattamie Extension Office has lots of information on how to get in contact with a club leader to join 4-H. Their number is 366-7070. You can also contact Jennifer Vincent, 4-H County Youth Coordinator, at jenvin@iastate.edu. There is also a website at

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/westpottawattamie/kidsteens.htm>.

