

# GREEN 4-H Projects!

Low-cost ideas for your 4-H projects!

**Consider these ideas to use your time, energy, money and materials wisely!**

**Select projects that...**

- **help your family or environment**
- **are inexpensive**
- **meet your goals!**

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## **CITIZENSHIP**

- Make baskets filled with garden flowers or produce for a nursing home or older neighbor.
- Write a thank you note to your 4-H leaders. Develop a club award for leaders.

## **CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

- Teach a small child how to ride a bike or play a new game.

## **CLOTHING**

- Do the \$15 Challenge by finding an outfit at a garage sale or second-hand store!
- Make a tote bag from remnants or old blue jeans.
- Consider recycling a clothing garment to make a different or more updated one.
- Tell about a project you organized at your home or in your community. For example: a Pattern Library, a used clothing sale, or a poster to inform others of the most inexpensive ways to do laundry.
- Teach another member of your family or 4-H club to sew on a button or hem a pair of pants.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

- Select a neutral mat for your photo. Use the mat for more than one year.
- Make a calendar using your own photos.

## **CAMPING**

- Plan the meals for a summer family camping trip. Be sure to think about how you'll pack the food to keep it safe!

## **HORTICULTURE**

- Plant a tree, seedling or flowers. Demonstrate how what you planted will help conserve the soil, attract wildlife, conserve energy, or help your family.

## **WOODWORKING**

- Use scraps of wood to make a project: check the 4-H project materials for plans for bird houses, tool boxes, books ends, book racks, key holders and other items.

## **HOME IMPROVEMENT**

- Use a table linen that you already have. Select pictures from magazines of tableware (flatware or dinnerware) that you would be used to create a pleasing table.

- Clean a furnishing found in your home. Explain and show photos of what you did.
- Organize your closet or the coat closet in a hallway.
- Through photos, video or written summary, explain a project that you can't bring to the fair. For example: weather stripping, putting plastic on windows, installing washers in dripping faucets, installing a shower head that uses less water, developing a home plan to use less energy, etc.
- Finish or refinish small pieces such as a wooden salad bowl, picture frames, a stool, or candle holders
- Check your 4-H Project Materials for ways to make pillows, curtains, place mats, tablecloths, etc. to accessorize your home.
- Consider preserving a family historic furnishing: a crocheted doily, a family tree prepared for display, a picture collage of family members, diplomas, etc.
- Rearrange your room and draw a map explaining the changes and reasons for them.

## **SAFETY**

- Design a fire escape plan for your family. Check smoke detectors and have a fire drill. Time how long it takes your family to escape to safety.
- Make a list, take pictures or video of the personal property in your home to be used in the event of a disaster.
- Check your family's first aid kits to make sure they have needed supplies. Check the medicine cabinet and throw away outdated medications.

## **FOOD & NUTRITION**

- Make plans for packing a safe school lunch.
- Make a poster detailing how to keep foods safe at picnics in the hot summer.
- Plan a picnic menu for less than \$10.
- Investigate the "in season" fruits or vegetables during spring and summer. Make lists for other members in your club. Try some recipes for a fruit or vegetable that you haven't ever tried before.
- Make a recipe calendar for a gift. Include a recipe for each month.
- Plan the recipes for a theme party. Choose a theme and find recipes that all fit the theme and go well with each other.

***More ideas on back!...***

## LIVESTOCK

- Make a health care schedule for your chosen animal.
- Use home-raised stock for your 4-H project.
- Create a display about grooming your pet or livestock and cleaning their cage or pen.
- Learn the body parts of an animal you are interested in and make a poster to teach others.
- Learn about the different breeds of animals and what their strengths and weaknesses are. Develop your decision-making skills by doing an exhibit about which breed would be the best choice for you and why.
- Explore vaccinations needed to prevent reproductive diseases, the cost of these and what might happen if you don't give them. Analyze the cost and benefits and share in an exhibit.
- Learn more about a disease that affects your animal. What are the symptoms, how can you prevent it, does it affect humans? Share your knowledge with others through a presentation or exhibit.
- Work with another 4-Her or farmer to track a market animal from starting on feed to finish. Record health treatments and problems, weather effects on performance, cost of production, and carcass merit. Share with other 4-Hers.

## HORSE

- Learn about the parts of a horse's hoof, how to care for them, and why hoof care is important. Share your problem solving skills with others through an exhibit on the importance of hoof care.

## BEEF

- Explore the advantages and disadvantages of using a beef implant (or feed additives). Share your findings with others. Do an exhibit showing how you made a decision about whether to use or not use implants on your calves.

## SWINE

- Research the withdrawal times for feed additives and medications you might use on your pigs. Communicate the importance of following withdrawal times with others through a poster. You might share your poster with a local veterinarian or feed dealer.

## SHEEP

- Build a lambing (or calving) time tool kit. Research what is needed and how you use them. Make an instruction sheet of how to make these kits and share with other 4-Hers or producers.

## DOG

- Learn about how to care for newborn puppies, when they open their eyes, when to wean, what vaccinations they need, how to feed the mother, and how to start the puppies on solid food. Decide if you are ready to raise a litter of puppies. Help other dog project members determine if they are ready to raise puppies.

## RABBIT

- Learn the basic colors and markings of rabbits. Teach other rabbit project members how to identify color patterns and markings so they can identify different breeds and colors. Develop a kit for other leaders to use in teaching about rabbit colors and markings.

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## Project in a Project!

Remember that you may have a project developed without even realizing it! Anytime you find a way to save money, materials or time, you've done an extra project! Write a summary or create a display that demonstrates what and how you saved to share with others.

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*Information adapted from "4-H Projects on a Shoestring" and "4-H Livestock Projects"*

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