

# 4-H CONSUMER MANAGEMENT



## Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

### Communication

- Design a poster comparing similar products
- Do a presentation about advertising techniques
- Talk to a group about different internet shopping sites and the value or concerns with those

## Are You Into It?

Use the Consumer Management project to get more bang for your buck! Find out how to use your money to get the things you want.

- Identify needs and wants, and how you spend your money on each.
- Make informed consumer decisions to reach your goals and to solve problems.
- Know your rights as a shopper.

## Here's what you can do all year!

### Citizenship

- Give a portion of your money to a cause that you believe in
- Volunteer to help manage money at a fundraiser
- Go to a senior center and teach adults about safe online shopping

### Leadership

- Help your family identify needs and wants
- Serve as the treasurer of a group
- Organize a fundraiser for a cause you believe in

### Starting Out Basic / Level 1

- Set a budget, make a list, and go shopping
- Make a list of your needs and your wants, and write down how you spend your money on each
- Compare costs of similar products: different stores, or generic/name-brand, or homemade/purchased, new/used
- Develop a savings plan to save for an item that you want to buy

### Learning More Intermediate / Level 2

- Set goals to spend your money wisely
- Learn why you decide to buy what you do - advertising, peers, needs, priorities, and interests
- Identify the benefits of different savings account options
- Identify and make ethical decisions in earning and spending your money
- Compare return policies of different vendors—stores and on-line.

### Expanding Horizons Advanced / Level 3

- Set saving, spending, and sharing goals for your money
- Identify the true cost of different kinds of credit.
- Develop a plan for the future – college, car, independent living
- Learn about consumer rights and how to use them effectively
- Compare warranty policies on different brands/stores for similar items

**4-H**  
GROWING TOGETHER



# Take Consumer Management further!

Here are other opportunities to explore Consumer Management:

- Job-shadow at a local business in a career that interests you
- Visit a local bank and learn about savings & credit opportunities
- Help your club manage their resources by running for Club Treasurer
- Organize a prom dress re-sale or exchange program in your community or school; or organize a food or clothing pantry to benefit local residents.
- Visit a local used clothing store and learn how they evaluate and price their merchandise.
- Is it fair time? Consider taking an exhibit, a piece of your project learning to the fair for judging and to show off what you have learned throughout the year. It might get selected to go to the Iowa State Fair.
- Contact your county ISU Extension Office for other local workshops, activities, and events.
- Attend Iowa 4-H Youth Conference and participate in workshops, motivational speakers and a community service project, bringing ideas back to your community
- Interested in a college education in the area of business or agricultural business? Schedule a visit with Iowa State University. [www.iastate.edu](http://www.iastate.edu).

## Exhibit Ideas

- Compare the price of similar pieces of clothing (jeans for example) at a variety of places
- What happens to clothes donated to Goodwill if they don't sell
- Track your spending for a month and see where your money goes
- Track your spending related to a 4-H project (livestock, photography, clothing, pets)
- Track how you spend another of your resources, TIME
- Compare colleges, trade schools etc.
- Explore advertised products with various target audiences (examples include children's programs, prime time, sporting events)
- Describe the cost of fraud (shoplifting, bad check, etc.)
- Describe potential problems related to privacy issues (social security numbers, credit cards, internet shopping etc.)
- Identify agencies that assist in resolving consumer complaints
- Investigate where products are manufactured
- Compare a product in name brand, generic brand and homemade brand (if possible). Is name brand worth the cost?
- Prepare a product complaint letter
- Decision making when purchasing an expensive product

## Resources

4-H Resources	Other Resources	Record Keeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iowa 4-H Consumer Management <a href="http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/consumermanagement">www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/consumermanagement</a></li> <li>• Financial Champions - Money FUN-damentals, Level 2 (4H 356A)</li> <li>• Financial Champions - Money Moves Level 3 (4H 356B)</li> <li>• This is the Way I Spend My Money (4H 353)</li> <li>• The Consumer In Me Level 1 (4H 357A)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FTC <a href="http://www.ftc.gov/">www.ftc.gov/</a></li> <li>• Tracking Your Spending <a href="http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1918.pdf">www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1918.pdf</a></li> <li>• Family Finances <a href="http://www.extension.iastate.edu/financial">www.extension.iastate.edu/financial</a></li> <li>• Consumer Financial Protection Bureau <a href="http://www.consumerfinance.gov/">http://www.consumerfinance.gov/</a></li> <li>• PBS: Don't Buy It <a href="http://pbskids.org/dontbuyit/">http://pbskids.org/dontbuyit/</a></li> <li>• Teach Younger Kids Money Skills <a href="http://www.creditunion.coop/pre_k/index.html">www.creditunion.coop/pre_k/index.html</a></li> <li>• Better Business Bureau <a href="http://www.bbb.org">http://www.bbb.org</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-H Yearly Summary (4H 0096)</li> <li>• Basic 4-H Project Record (4H 0096A)</li> <li>• Experienced 4-H Project Record (4H 0096B)</li> <li>• Advanced 4-H Project Record (4H 0096C)</li> <li>• Recordkeeping Self-Evaluation (4H 98, PDF)</li> </ul>