

4-H CROP PRODUCTION PROJECT



Step It Up!

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

Communication

- Show your group the difference between a healthy plant and a sick one, and tell how that happens
- Do a presentation on sampling soil
- Develop a journal with the details of the fields you scout

Citizenship

- Help teach others about farm safety
- Join and participate in a farm commodity association
- Organize and lead an appreciation event for farmers during harvest

Leadership

- Create farm safety rules for your family and share with others
- Plan a tour of a seed corn plant for your group
- Develop a "harvest loss frame" and use it to help other farmers calculate their harvest losses

4-H
GROWING TOGETHER

Are You Into It?

Get your hands dirty in Crop Production! Find out how soils, bugs, beetles and more affect your crops. Whether it's corn, soybeans, wheat, hay or silage, 4-H crop production is for you!

- Learn how soil, seeds, weather, pests, and fertilizer affect field crops
- Learn the value and uses of field crops
- Learn how new technology can change the way field crops are grown
- Keep records of crop production

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic / Level 1

- Plant something and watch it grow
- Find differences when you: plant seeds in different soils, use different fertilizers and control weeds & pests
- Identify what helps plants grow, and what's harmful to them
- Go through the interactive CD "Soybean and Corn" available through Extension Distribution

Learning More Intermediate / Level 2

- Take a soil sample
- Calculate growing degree days
- Scout fields for growing conditions
- Discover products that are made from field crops
- Protecting your plants from pests
- Decide what varieties of crops to plant and at what time
- Learn soil and nutrient requirements

Expanding Horizons Advanced / Level 3

- Manage your own crops based on Integrated Crop Management principles
- Explore career opportunities related to crop production
- Calculate harvest losses and their causes
- Calculate expenses and incomes to determine the profitability of field crops
- Identify how new technology impacts crop production



Take Crop Production further!

Here are other opportunities to explore Crop Production:

- Job-shadow at a local business in a career that interests you
- Attend adult Pesticide Applicator Training or Crop Advantage workshops at your county Iowa State University Extension office
- Organize a fundraiser that plants and markets a crop, donating proceeds to a worthy cause
- Attend Iowa 4-H Youth Conference and participate in CSI: Crops and other workshops, motivational speakers and a community service project, bringing ideas back to your community
- 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
- Meet others interested in crop production. Check out camps at the Iowa 4-H Center.
- Interested in a college education in the area of crop production? Schedule a visit with Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to explore majors. www.iastate.edu

Exhibit Ideas

- Create a booklet of all the uses of corn and soybeans
- Make a poster with a diagram of cut-off corn stalks and show the growing point
- Keep a journal of your plants, recording rainfall and other weather data, fertilizer and pesticide application, hybrid variety selection and other factors that influence the growth and development of your crop
- Produce a video about the role of legumes in fixing nitrogen in the soil
- Create a display showing potential safety hazards on a farm. Educate others on ways to prevent these hazards
- Design a poster to teach others about the information provided on seed labels
- Develop a field map showing the locations you checked for stand counts, and explain possible reasons for differences
- Create a photo journal of actual crop fields with or without a lot of weed competition
- Give an educational presentation on resources that are available to help in conservation planning
- Create a display or educational presentation comparing the financial risk associated with different types of financial agreements

Resources

4-H Resources

- Iowa 4-H Crop Production www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/cropproduction
- Seedy Business with CD Level 1 (4H 381A)
- Green and Growing Level 2(4H 381B)
- Be'an All You Can Be Level 3 (4H 381C)

Other Resources

- United Soybean Board www.unitedsoybean.org
- Iowa Soybean Association www.iasoybeans.com
- National Corn Growers www.ncga.com
- Iowa Corn Growers www.iowacorn.org
- Iowa Grain Quality Initiative <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Grain/>
- ISU Agronomy www.agron.iastate.edu
- USDA Web Soil Survey <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

Record Keeping

- Crop Scouting Form (4H 382A)
- Crop and Weather Report (4H 382B)
- Crop Air and Soil Temperature Record (4H 382C)
- Corn and Soybean Project Balance Sheet (4H 382D)
- Crop Production Project Worksheet (4H 382WS)

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