

Cass County 4-H Policy Statement

MEO/JH/SMO/BI/SW 07-88; Revised 3-90, 3-93, 4-94, 10-95, 10-96, 11-97, 11-99, 11-00, 12-06, 11-07, 10-10, 3-11, 5-13, 6-15, 5-16, 3-17, 9-19

Membership Qualifications

1. A member must be in the K through 12th grade during the program year. 4-H participants are eligible to take part in 4-H youth events and activities if specific eligibility guidelines are met. There may be registration deadlines and grade limitations for participation in some activities and events. (Source: Iowa 4-H Youth Development Participation policy. 4H 14)
2. Youth may enroll in the 4-H program at any time during the year by completing on-line enrollment. Enrollment must be completed by May 15 of the current year for members to be eligible to participate in the Cass County Fair.
3. A youth may continue participation in the 4-H program as long as the individual finds it to be a meaningful experience. However, there are grade limitations on some activities/events.
4. A member may hold membership in only one county or state at a time. There may be special circumstances beyond a youth's control that necessitate multiple county or state memberships.
5. A member may join any club in the county to best meet their personal and project needs.
6. Each year, a member is **expected** to:
 - a. Attend all 4-H meetings.
 - b. Give one educational presentation. (Clover Kids- show and tell presentation)
 - c. Complete at least one project according to goal established. (Grades 4-12)
 - d. Complete 4-H Record Book by designated deadline. (Grades 4-12)
 - e. Wear 4-H uniform to official 4-H events: Official 4-H uniform should include:
 - i. Plain blue or plain black jeans, blue denim skirt, black skirt, or 4-H green skirt
 - ii. Official 4-H club or Cass County 4-H t-shirt (white, green or black shirts, no individual names allowed on t-shirt), Short/long sleeved, white shirt/blouse with chevron on left, or 4-H green necktie or black necktie
7. 4-H classification is determined by current grade in school.
Clover Kids – Kindergarten – 3rd grade
Junior - 4th - 6th grade
Intermediate – 7th & 8th grade
Senior – 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th grade

Independent 4-H Membership

1. Youth may enroll in the Independent 4-H program at any time during the year by completing on-line enrollment. Enrollment must be completed by May 15 of the current year for members to be eligible to participate in the Cass County Fair.
2. Youth should identify an adult mentor (not a parent) to guide and support them in their 4-H project work.
3. Youth should complete one or more community service learning project during the year.
4. Youth should demonstrate their learning by giving a presentation or demonstration before a group.
5. Youth should submit a year-end report of 4-H experiences to the mentor (Record Book)
6. Youth should share with their designated mentor six or more times through the year progress on goals and celebrate achievements.
7. Youth must abide by all county, state, and national 4-H policies and recognize the authority of Extension staff to establish and enforce rules and policies.

8. Youth should contribute to the larger 4-H program by participating in county and state programs and activities.
9. Independent members should refer to publications 4H 15a and 4H 15c for additional requirements.

4-H Clover Kids

(Source: Iowa 4-H Youth Development Participation Policy. 4H 14)

1. Offer hands-on activities uniquely suited for the K-3 developmental age.
2. Create settings where children experience the joy of learning in a supportive, creative, challenging, and fun environment.
3. Provide cooperative opportunities to foster self-understanding and self-confidence.
4. Help youth build friendships and skills.
5. Integrate active, hands-on learning opportunities designed to develop children's physical, mental, and social skills.
6. Provide opportunities for positive social interaction with other children and caring adults.

4-H Clubs

1. Where by-laws or a constitution exist, the following statement will be included in all charters of 4-H clubs: "All youth of 4-H age who are willing to actively participate in a Cass County 4-H club, shall have equal access to the benefits of 4-H youth programs, regardless of their race, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. veteran."
2. Clubs may not vote on a youth's eligibility to be a member of their club.
3. Clubs must have a minimum of 5 members from 2 or more families.
4. Clubs are required to identify at least one adult to serve as organizational club leader and primary contact with Extension office. See information below on leader definitions
5. Clubs may make their own decision to combine.
6. All clubs are encouraged to have monthly business meetings each year. In addition, project leaders are encouraged to hold a minimum of one workshop for small groups enrolled in any particular project.
7. Club dues may be collected on annual basis and used to help pay for special club activities. Amounts may vary within each club, but should be voted on by total membership.
8. The 4-H year runs September 15 to September 14.

Project Qualifications

1. Member should check requirements in Pick Your Adventure, 4-H-200 for specific project descriptions.
2. Member should check requirements in Iowa 4-H Livestock show requirements: Animal Identification, Weighing and Exhibiting Requirements for county, state and interstate shows. 4H 202.
3. Members with breeding heifers/cows, horses, dairy cows, and dogs must file a livestock identification report in the Cass County Extension Office by May 15. Feeder calf identification reports are due June 15. Market beef, swine, sheep and goat identification reports are completed at respective weigh-ins.
4. Members are responsible to meet additional project requirements.

Leaders

4-H Club adult volunteers include leaders, Independent member mentors and Clover Kid group leaders will:

1. Complete enrollment on-line each year. Please refer to the leader definitions below.

2. Complete a volunteer application and background screening, as required to maintain leadership role.
3. Sign and follow the “Youth Safety and Well Being” agreement which should be on file at the Extension Office.
4. Promote positive youth development environments for youth that emphasize youth strengths
5. Complete the required volunteer training by July 15 each year for organizational, project, independent member mentors and Clover Kid leaders.
6. Provide appropriate supervision of activities/meetings/field trips.
7. Develop working relationships with parents, Extension staff and community partners.

Leader Definitions

Club Organizational Volunteer, Assistant Club Leader, Independent member mentor, Clover Kid group leaders:

- Provides overall leadership to club
- Includes those adults who are the main contacts with the County Extension Office as well as those adults who assist them.
- A caring adult whose work with youth results in establishment of a long-term relationship.
- Positive Youth Development and risk management training **required** each year.

Project Leader

- Meets with club members on a regular basis to assist youth in achieving success in communication, citizenship, leadership, personal life management, and/or project knowledge.
- A caring adult whose work with youth results in establishment of a long-term relationship.
- Positive Youth Development and risk management training **required** each year.
- Example: holds club workshops; works after each meeting with members on record books; works closely with members to help with a livestock project; etc.

Activity and/or Resource Leader (Episodic)

- Activity leaders help conduct club, county, area or state events involving 4-H members and/or adult volunteers.
- Resource leaders help assist or conduct a short term, single event or learning experience
- Volunteer effort is short term, usually a single club event or activity.
- Club organizational leader or project leader is present when working with youth.
- Trained staff or leader helps volunteer understand their role and any risk management issues associated with event or activity.
- Positive Youth Development and risk management training is encouraged but NOT required.
- Examples: coordinate club’s 4-H window display; helps organize club’s Mardi Gras Booth; lines up a speaker for a club meeting.

4-H County Fair Participation

1. During each program year, a member **must attend a minimum of six regular club meetings of their own club** which will include the business meeting, and give a prepared educational presentation to the club at a 4-H club meeting, before July 15, to be eligible to show at county

fair. Club officers and the organizational leader should determine a member's fair eligibility.

There will be no excused absences and no exceptions granted.

2. **New** 4-H members joining in March or later must attend a minimum of three club meetings and give a prepared educational presentation.
3. **New** 4-H members joining in May must attend a minimum of two club meetings and give a prepared educational presentation.
4. A member will become ineligible to exhibit at the county level at the end of the calendar year in which they graduate from high school.
5. All 4-H members are to receive premium checks which they have earned. Fair board may withhold premium money upon rule violation. If members wish, they may leave the money in the club treasury.

Clover Kids County Fair Participation

1. During each program year, a member **must attend a minimum of five regular club meetings of their own club** and give a show and tell presentation to the club at a 4-H club meeting, before July 15, to be eligible to show at county fair. The organizational leader should determine a member's fair eligibility. **There will be no excused absences and no exceptions granted.**
2. **New** 4-H members joining in March or later must attend a minimum of three club meetings and give a show and tell presentation.
3. **New** 4-H members joining in May must attend a minimum of two club meetings and give a show and tell presentation.
4. Clover kids are not eligible to receive premium checks.

Senior County 4-H Youth Council - YC

1. Council members **must** have these minimum qualifications:
 - a. Completed at least two years of club work.
 - b. Be in 9, 10, 11, or 12 grades.
 - c. Plan to remain actively involved with their local club.
 - d. Have a current and completed 4-H record book.
2. Candidates will be interviewed and selected by the Youth Action Committee and retiring Youth Council.
3. Council members may serve four, one-year terms.
4. Members are expected to attend monthly meetings, plus events planned throughout the year.
5. Group plans one major event per month and tries to host activities for all ages and families. (New member party, Share-the-Fun, educational presentation workshop, junior day camp, county convention.)
6. Council members are expected to behave in a responsible and mature manner. They shall represent themselves as good role models.
7. Issues of misconduct will be handled by Extension staff and/or the Youth Action Committee.

Intermediate 4-H Leadership Council – YC2

Open to 4-Her's in grades 7 and 8.

1. Members are expected to attend scheduled meetings and activities.
2. Group plans one event during the year for other Intermediates.
3. Council members are expected to behave in a responsible and mature manner. They shall represent themselves as good role models.
4. Issues of misconduct will be handled by Extension staff and/or the Youth Action Committee.