



# Scott County 4-H

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## County Recognition and Awards for 4-H Members, Clubs and Volunteers

### Philosophy of Recognition and Awards

Recognition is an educational tool used in the 4-H program to help young people develop life skills. Recognition motivates young people, increases their interest and helps them learn more. The 4-H program involves a wide variety of youth in a number of learning experiences, consequently, there is not one type of recognition that will work in all situations.

Recognition is a basic human need and necessary for positive self-esteem and personal growth. It is more meaningful to the young person if recognition occurs soon after the learning or achievement is accomplished. Recognition is more meaningful when it is presented in front of significant others (peers, family, friends).

Research about recognition identifies four different types of recognition. Each type provides motivation and recognizes excellence in a unique way. Only when all types are used do we have a complete 4-H recognition program.

These four types include:

- recognition for **participation** in educational experiences;
- recognition for individual **progress** toward goals;
- recognition for achievement of **standards** of excellence;
- recognition of results from peer **competition**.

In addition, youth can be recognized for **cooperation** which helps them learn and work cooperatively preparing to live in today's interdependent, global society.

Appropriate recognition takes many forms. Materials awards and "things" are not always the most relevant recognition for some youth. For example, recognition may be when members receive verbal praise or thanks, represent your club at another event, are introduced at a meeting, or have a photo in the local newspaper.

Following are the guidelines used for recognizing 4-H members, 4-H clubs and 4-H volunteers in Scott County on the county level. Individual clubs are encouraged to provide additional recognition for achievements of members on the local level.

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**4-H MEMBER AWARDS**

The following awards are available to all members who **participate** in a community club program:

Membership Certificate and seals

First year members - membership certificate with a seal

Second - ninth year members - a seal to add to the membership certificate

Eighth year members - Pewter 4-H Keychain.

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**PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS**

Recognition for progress toward goals happens at the club level. Leaders are encouraged to recognize members throughout the year as they make progress toward the individual learning goals they have set. The following time line is suggested:

**September/October**

Members choose projects they would like to explore.

Leaders or 4-H families can pick up project books, goal setting forms and record keeping forms to give to members.

**November/December/January**

Members work with project leaders individually (or in small groups) to set individual learning goals for each project. Goals should be realistic and reachable in a set time period. Goals should be determined by the 4-Her with only advice from the project leader. 4-Her's growth should be measured against his/her plan – not in comparison to other members.

**February/March/April/May**

Project leaders consult with each member as to the progress he/she is making toward his/her project goals. Members are recognized at club meetings for the progress they are making (not for reaching goals). Clubs may use items of recognition. (i.e. gift certificates, buttons or 4-H pencils, or other treats).

**June/July**

Members complete work on the goals they have set.

**August/September**

Members evaluate what they have learned and begin to plan for next year.

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**STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE**

The following awards are available to all members who achieve standards of excellence in their 4-H work.

All 4-H members may prepare an **exhibit** to represent something learned in each 4-H project area in which they are enrolled. Exhibits are judged against a standard and given a ribbon to represent one of the following ratings:

- ◆ Blue - fully meeting or exceeding standards
- ◆ Red - comes close to meeting standards, but does not meet all standards
- ◆ White - needs additional work to meet standards

In addition to ribbons, premium money is awarded for each project and/or activity exhibited. See the 4-H Supplement for the Mississippi Valley Fair book for the method of distributing premiums.



# Scott County 4-H

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Years in 4-H \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Completed \_\_\_\_\_

## Merit Award Requirements (must do all three):

\_\_\_\_\_ Follow local club rules for attendance (or had an excused absence)

Number of meetings held \_\_\_\_\_ Number of meetings attended \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Gave a talk, demonstration, or presentation at a local club meeting (circle one)

Title of talk/demonstration \_\_\_\_\_

Date of meeting \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Completed three or more projects and turned records in to leader

List projects completed \_\_\_\_\_

For the **Excellence Award**, I completed the requirements for the merit award (above) and completed the following: (Seniors must complete 4, Intermediate 3, and Juniors 2)

\_\_\_\_\_ Gave a county presentation, a county working exhibit or participated in Share-the-Fun (circle one)

Title/topic \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Attended a state activity. List state activity \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(This may include State Conference, State Livestock Judging, State Camps, and State Fair - only if you exhibited livestock or did a communications presentation. Does not include sending a project to State Fair or attending State Fair.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Received a county record award

\_\_\_\_\_ Held an office in my club. List office held \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Served on a club committee. List committee \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Served on County Council.

\_\_\_\_\_ Volunteered at a county activity List what you did \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Helped with a club fund raising project. List project \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Participated in a club community service project or participated in an individual citizenship project

List project and date \_\_\_\_\_

Member signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Leader signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

***Return to your 4-H leader – Do not send to Extension Office***

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Awards and recognition are available to 4-Hers through Record Keeping. Books and award applications must be turned in to the Scott County Extension Office by the last working day in September.

County project award areas

Members must carry a project for two consecutive years to be eligible to win a project award. Members may only win the project award once as a Junior, once as an Intermediate, and once as a Senior.

These awards are evaluated from information in the project records submitted by the member. A copy of the 4-H Project Award Evaluation Form and Explanation Sheet is available at the Extension Office.

Other competitive Scott County 4-H Awards

**Achievement** - recognizes overall achievement of a senior 4-H member in projects, personal growth and service to club and community. Award will be selected from record book submitted by the member. It is helpful to include a story or summary of what has been learned through involvement in 4-H and other highlights of 4-H experiences. (\$50 check awarded)

**I Dare You** - recognizes a senior 4-Her for personal growth through 4-H activities and challenges winners to achieve throughout their lives. In addition to the 4-H Record, there is a special application for this award and it can be won only once. (*I Dare You* book from the American Youth Foundation)

**UP - Utilizing your Potential** - given to an intermediate 4-Her to recognize achievements and to encourage pursuit of higher goals. In addition to 4-H Record, there is a special application for this award and it can be won only once. (\$100 donated by William & Marian Petersen - presented at Family Fun Night)

**Cattlemen Beef Award** - given to a junior, intermediate, and senior 4-Her who shows outstanding work on his/her beef project. (plaque awarded at Cattlemen's Annual Banquet)

**Eastern Iowa Dairy Producers Award** - given to a junior, intermediate, and senior 4-Her who shows outstanding work on his/her dairy project. Trophy is awarded at Family Fun Night.

**Pork Producers Award** - given to a junior, intermediate, and senior 4-Her who shows outstanding work in his/her swine project. (plaque awarded at Pork Producers Annual Banquet)

Application for the area and state competitive awards are usually due in February or March. Members are not required to win the county project awards to compete for the Area and State Awards. A personal interview is required as a part of the process for the Area and State Awards.

*State Project Awards* (50 savings bonds awarded statewide) Ninth -12<sup>th</sup> grade 4-Hers may submit up to 2 pages of support material (e.g. written, video tape, audio tape, etc.) for recognition of outstanding project work.

Area and State Competitive Awards