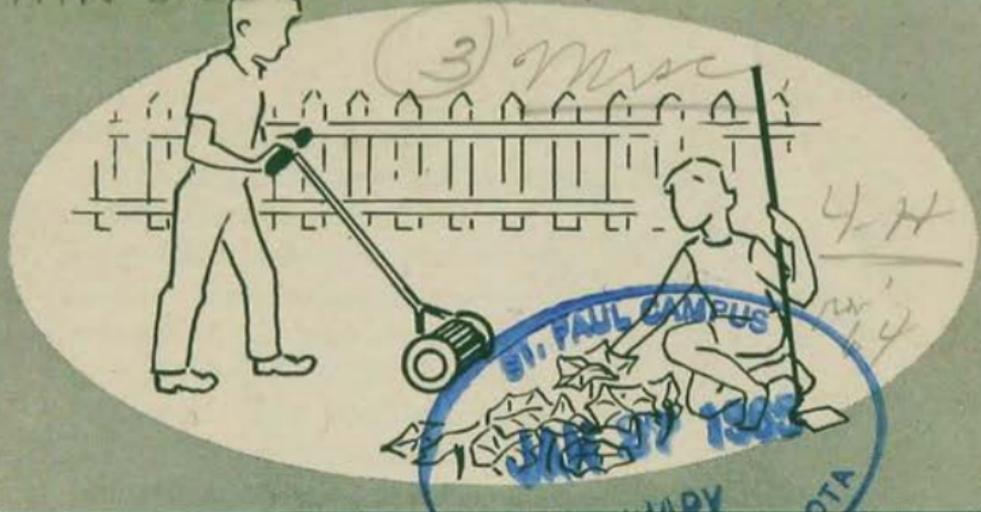


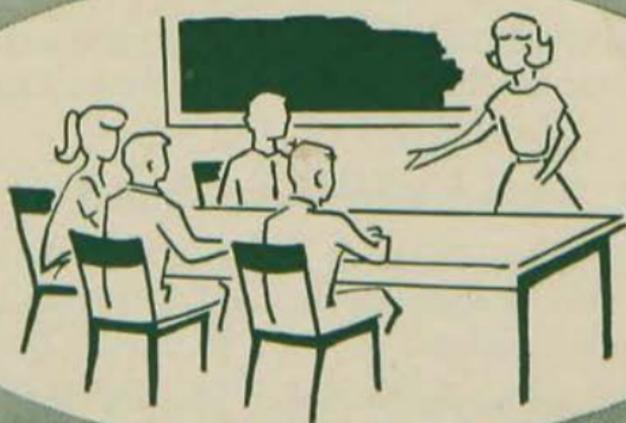
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4-H



# PROJECT SELECTION GUIDE



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
*Agricultural Extension Service*  
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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The 4-H Club program gives you practical experience to prepare you for day to day life. 4-H Club projects are the base of this educational program. Studying and carrying out a project will help you "learn to do by doing."

The 4-H program is conducted by the Cooperative Extension Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the University of Minnesota, and your own county. County extension agents give direct supervision.

You may join a 4-H Club if you are at least 9 but under 19 years old on January 1 of the year in which you enroll. As a 4-H Club member, you must select and complete the requirements for one project each year. You should also keep a record of your project work. Project work is done at home, under the guidance of your parents and local 4-H leaders.

## Learning About Your Projects

4-H meetings and activities make club work interesting. You'll learn and have fun in 4-H if you:

- ◆ Take part in regular 4-H Club meetings.
- ◆ Attend special project training or study meetings.
- ◆ Give talks and demonstrations.
- ◆ Exhibit your projects at special events and the county fair.
- ◆ Practice judging to learn good standards and to choose wisely.
- ◆ Read 4-H bulletins and other materials to discover the "how" and "why" of the best methods.

## Basis for Selecting Projects

Select projects that fit your: (1) needs and interests, (2) home situation, and (3) club's major projects.

**Needs and interests**—Select projects that interest you. Avoid those you don't like. Before choosing, decide if you:

Already have some experience with the project?  
Would like to learn something about the project?  
Want to earn or save money?

Want to do your project in the winter or in the summer; work indoors or outside?

Have a personal reason such as improving your posture or increasing your wardrobe?

Want to help your family by redecorating a room, improving the lawn, etc.?

Think the project might help your future career?

Think the project interests you as a personal or family hobby?

Answer yes to at least one, maybe several, of these questions before selecting any project.

**Home situation**—Because project work will be done at home, discuss possible choices with your parents. Consider these questions:

Where do you live—town, country, or farm?

Have you the necessary tools, equipment, or land?

How much money is needed for the project?

Can your parents or friends help you with the project?

Will your brothers or sisters take the same project?

4-H projects are interesting to the whole family. If you select those that fit into your home situation, you can have fun together.

**Club's major projects**—You will learn more about your projects if they are emphasized by your club. Discuss project plans at 4-H Club meetings early in the year. Then talk over these questions with your friends and leaders:

What projects are other members taking?

Is the club featuring some projects that fit in with community or club goals?

Can leaders give extra help on some projects?

Are certain projects stressed in your county?

## Making Your Final Choice

Balance your own interest with your home situation and your club's major projects.

Discuss tentative plans with your friends, parents, and leaders.

Compare possible choices with what you want to get out of 4-H projects.

To get off to a good start, base your final selection on a careful sorting and weighing of all the facts. Put your plans into action! Start with one or two projects, try a variety, expand to two or three.

# 4-H PROJECTS

Many projects are divided into beginner, junior, and advanced phases. Take the one most suited to your ability and experience. Each year choose a project that will challenge you "To Make The Best Better."



## Livestock Projects

### BEEF

Own, manage, and keep a feed record for at least 6 months on one or more grade or purebred beef animals.

**Beef Steer**—It is recommended that steers be born after March 1 and before August 31 of the previous year.

**Beef Heifer**—Heifers must fall into one of the following age categories if exhibited after August 1:

	<u>Age of Animal</u>	<u>Born Between</u>
Calf	7-11 Months	Sept. 1 to Dec. 28
Summer Yearling	11-15 Months	May 1 to Aug. 31
Junior Yearling	15-19 Months	Jan. 1 to April 30
Senior Yearling	19-23 Months	Sept. 1 to Dec. 31
Two-Year-Old	23-27 Months	May 1 to Aug. 31

### DAIRY AND DUAL PURPOSE

**Dairy Heifer Calf**—Own, manage, and keep a feed record on one or more grade or purebred dairy or dual purpose calves dropped between July 1 of the previous year and January 1 of the current year. Start on or before April 1.

**Yearling Dairy Heifer**—With same grade or purebred animal(s), continue to own, manage, and keep a feed record. For a substitute yearling keep a feed record beginning not later than February 1. Junior

yearling must be between 12 and 18 months old on July 1 of the current year. Senior yearling must be between 18 and 24 months old on July 1 of the current year.

**Two-Year-Old Dairy Heifer**—With the same grade or purebred animal(s) or substituting 2-year-old(s), continue to own, manage, and keep a production and feed record. After freshening, start an advanced dairy production record book.

**ADVANCED:** Using the same grade or purebred animals, continue to own, manage, and keep breed, feed, and production records in the dairy production record book.

**Herd Management**—Study and analyze your herd with your parents' help. Analyze such things as production, feeding, breeding, and veterinary costs.

## SWINE

**BEGINNER:** Own, raise, and keep a feed record for at least 3 months on one or more grade or purebred gilts or barrows. They must be farrowed between February 1 and May 31 of the current year.

**ADVANCED:** Own and raise one or more litters of pigs. Keep a record of feed and rate of gain. Spring litters must be farrowed between February 1 and May 31; fall litters between August 15 and October 15.

## SHEEP

**BEGINNER:** Own, raise, and keep a feed record for at least 3 months on one or more grade or purebred ewes or wether lambs born after January 1 of the current year.

**ADVANCED: Trio of Lambs**—Own, raise, and keep a feed record for at least 3 months on three grade or purebred wether lambs born after January 1 of the current year.

**Ten Ewe**—Own, raise, and keep a 135-day record on 10 ewe. Mate them to a purebred ram. Keep a record for each ewe of lambing dates and wool clipped.

**Western Lambs**—Purchase, fatten, and market 15 or more western feeder lambs. Keep a feed and cost record.

## POULTRY

**Market Poultry**—Considering your experience, select one of the following:

◆ Own, raise, and keep a feed record for at least 3 months on 25 or more chicks or on 20 or more turkey poults, goslings, or ducklings.

◆ Assume responsibility for raising all or part of family turkey flock. Make partnership arrangement for sharing work, expenses, and returns.

**Egg Production (for older club members)**—Considering your experience, select one of the following:

◆ Own, manage, and keep a yearly feed and production record on at least 50 pullets.

◆ Manage and keep yearly records on the family flock of 100 or more pullets. Make partnership arrangement for sharing responsibilities, expenses, and income.

## RABBITS

Own two or more does of a medium or heavy breed. Raise at least three litters in a year from each. Or, own a buck and two or more Angora rabbits. Shear them three times a year.

## HORSES

Own, alone or in partnership, one or more fillies, geldings, or stallions. Feed, care for, and train the animal for 6 months, beginning not later than February 1.

## DOG CARE AND TRAINING

Own, care for, and train a dog. Study related topics such as breeds of dogs, parts of the animal, and how to show the animal.



## Mechanical Projects

### AUTOMOTIVE CARE AND SAFETY

This project is for older 4-H members who are driving or will soon drive.

**BEGINNER: The Car and the Highway**—Study

traffic safety, automobile owner's manual, car upkeep, and cost records.

**JUNIOR: Maintenance and Operation**—Study car maintenance, costs, and operation.

**ADVANCED: Operating the Car Efficiently**—Study automobile selection and operation, community safety, and career opportunities.

## ELECTRIC

**BEGINNER:** Learn to understand how electricity works, how it is used, and simple electrical devices.

**JUNIOR:** Study home electric entrance box, meters, and equipment. Make simple electrical repairs and construct simple equipment.

**ADVANCED:** Study electric circuits and lighting in the home and outside equipment. Use, care for, and construct electrical equipment.

## SHOP

**BEGINNER:** Make a simple article of wood.

**JUNIOR:** Make simple articles from wood and learn about knots. Repair screens, furniture, or fences.

**ADVANCED:** Make articles from wood, metal, concrete, or rope for the shop, home yard, or farm. Do repair and maintenance work.

## TRACTOR

**BEGINNER:** Study tractor operator's manual. Keep an expense record and practice safe operations. If you have only a driver's permit, not a license, work under supervision.

**JUNIOR:** Study tractor operator's manual. Operate the tractor for 2 months or at least 120 hours. Keep a record of cost and servicing.

**ADVANCED:** Study operator's manual for tractor and machinery. Make annual checkups and inventories of tractors and machinery and figure costs.



## Outdoor Projects

## AGRONOMY

**BEGINNER:** Carry out two practices or units related to crop production such as these: learn to know

seeds and plants, build a plant press, collect plants, or attend a crop production field demonstration meeting.

**JUNIOR:** Grow at least 1 acre of a basic crop such as: corn, soybeans, small grain, or forage. Do one unit of work and study concerning fertilizer trials on crops, variety comparisons, or weed control.

**ADVANCED:** Grow 5 acres of a basic crop. Study about and do one unit of work concerning rate of seeding, time and method of harvesting forages, or certified seed production.

## **POTATOES**

Grow  $\frac{1}{8}$  acre or more potatoes.

## **GARDEN**

**BEGINNERS:** Learn basic facts concerning plant growth. Learn basic information on soils, fertilizers, insects, diseases, and climate related to growing vegetables. Grow three or more vegetables.

**JUNIOR:** Grow a garden containing six or more kinds of vegetables. Study plants, make collections.

**ADVANCED:** Continue to grow a family garden of six or more vegetables or specialize in growing and marketing one or two vegetables. Do additional work or study projects of your own choosing.

## **FRUIT**

Draw present and future plans for home fruit planting. Grow at least one of seven suggested units of small or tree fruits.

## **CONSERVATION**

**BEGINNER:** Learn to recognize different insects, birds, trees, shrubs, plants, animals, and soils. After you have the background experience, you may want to take soil conservation, forestry, and entomology.

## **SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION**

Perform soil conservation activities such as testing soil, liming, fertilizing, building waterways, making contour strips, draining, building terraces, and developing crop rotations.

## ENTOMOLOGY

Identify and study insects and their relationships to plants, animals, and the world.

**BEGINNER:** Collect and mount at least 25 different adult insects. Make or buy collecting net, box, and killing bottle.

**JUNIOR:** Collect, mount, label, and identify at least 50 insects from eight orders. Make or buy collecting equipment. Learn the life histories of five insects.

**ADVANCED:** Collect, mount, and exhibit at least 100 insects from eight orders. Learn scientific and common names, life histories, and controls of five different insects. Rear one insect through life cycle and detect and report the presence of injurious insects.

## FORESTRY

**BEGINNER:** Complete at least two phases of work in forest appreciation, tree and nursery planting, forest protection, or harvesting forest products.

**ADVANCED:** After 2 years in the project, complete one additional phase.

## HOME YARD IMPROVEMENT

**BEGINNER:** Learn to know and grow different indoor plants or outdoor annuals, perennials, bulbs.

**JUNIOR:** Make and maintain a perennial planting; landscape the yard or part of it; propagate flowers, shrubs, and trees; or conduct a commercial project.

**ADVANCED:** Do a project in indoor gardening or outdoor gardening. Work might include ornamental planting, maintaining or renovating a lawn, or constructing landscape structures such as fences, trellis, and fireplace.



## Home Economics Projects

### FOODS

**BEGINNER:** **Snacks and Little Lunches**—Plan, prepare, and serve, alone or with help, eight simple lunches for family or friends.

**Picnics and Suppers**—Plan, prepare, and serve, alone or with help, eight picnics or suppers.

**JUNIOR: Creative Foods—Breads and Cereals**—Plan, prepare, and serve eight or more meals and assist with six others. Make yeast and quick breads. Understand nutritive values of cereals. If desired use some foods preserved at home.

**Quick Meals**—Plan, prepare, and serve, alone or with help, 14 quick meals and 2 breakfasts for your family. If desired use some foods preserved at home.

**ADVANCED: Family Meals**—Plan, prepare, and serve 15 meals for family or friends. If desired use foods preserved at home. Plan meals for a week.

**Outdoor Cooking for Fun**—Prepare 15 meals, 8 of which should be outdoor meals. Use a variety of outdoor cooking methods.

## CLOTHING

**BEGINNER:** Make an easy-to-sew garment, organize and equip a sewing box, and sew on buttons. If you have experience, select two new tools; make a jumper, blouse and skirt, or dress; sew on fasteners; and iron.

**JUNIOR:** Make a dress and one additional garment. Organize sewing equipment; make, buy, and learn to use pressing equipment; and repair eight garments. Plan wardrobe needs and keep account of money spent for 4 months.

**ADVANCED:** Plan a complete outfit including accessories. Make the main garment and two additional garments. Plan wardrobe needs at the beginning of each season and keep a record of money spent during the year.

## HOME IMPROVEMENT—FAMILY LIVING

You may choose from four units of work in any year of the project. The work done will depend on units selected.

1. In the room and around the house
2. Getting the most for my money
3. Babysitting
4. Modern laundry

**BEGINNER (Home Assistance):** Do simple home-making tasks such as washing dishes, setting the table, caring for your room, and taking care of little brothers and sisters. Help mother with the laundry by sorting, hanging, or folding clothes. Keep a record of what you do with money received for an allowance.

**JUNIOR:** Improve and care for a room by arranging furniture, storage, etc. Learn to use necessary equipment properly. Keep a record of money earned or received as an allowance for 5 weeks and make a month's spending plan. Take care of a younger child in your family or babysit. Do laundry work and learn to use the equipment properly.

**ADVANCED:** Plan and develop a center for play, study, or something similar. Learn about furniture, equipment, and floor coverings. Keep a record of money spent for 3 months. Care for a child and discover his special needs and interests. Do family laundry or ironing. Learn what to look for in selecting appliances for laundry and ironing.



## Special Projects

### HEALTH

Practice habits that improve personal health. Participate in activities to improve health conditions in your home and community.

### JUNIOR LEADERSHIP

Members should be 14 years old and have completed 1 year of 4-H work. Members should carry another project, except those having reached age 16 by January 1 of the current year.

Do leadership work in the following units: junior member leader, junior club activity leader, junior project leader, or junior club leader.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

**BEGINNER:** Learn how a camera operates and techniques for taking pictures. Take 25 or more pictures on a variety of subjects.

**JUNIOR:** Learn how to take pictures in either natural or flash lighting, judge photos, and complete a record of 15 photos and a sequence of pictures.

## SAFETY

**BEGINNER:** Study your home, living area, or farmstead to make it safer.

**JUNIOR and ADVANCED:** Study your home, living area, or farmstead. Juniors will do 10 things from two different units and advanced members 15 things.

## The 4-H Club Pledge

“I PLEDGE—

MY HEAD to clearer thinking,

MY HEART to greater loyalty,

MY HANDS to larger service,

MY HEALTH to better living,

for my Home, my Club, my Community, and my Country.”

## The 4-H Club Motto, Emblem, and Colors

“To Make The Best Better” is the motto. Use it as a guide in your projects and in daily living.

The national 4-H Club emblem is the four-leaf-clover with the letter “H” on each leaf. The colors are green and white. The white background of the 4-H flag symbolizes purity; the green of the 4-H emblem represents nature’s most common color, life, and growth.

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