

# YOU and 4-H Club Work



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# YOU AND 4-H CLUB WORK

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## Introduction

With a change in the over-all system of education in Oklahoma, many boys and girls who ordinarily would be attending rural schools now are enrolled in town and city schools.

This means that thousands of youths, both rural and urban, now are looking to town and city schools for that type of training afforded by 4-H Clubs.

It means that training in leadership, in agriculture and home life, and in the all-important business of citizenship, will become a part of the lives of these young people while their minds are still plastic; give them guidance when they need it most; inspire them in agriculture and home life, and give them a vision of its possibilities as a life work.

It means early training in the appreciation of rural life and a deeper understanding of those people engaged in the nation's number one industry—agriculture.

It emphasizes strong leadership, greater self-reliance, and higher ambition. It fosters individual ownership, a love of nature and the open country. Above all, it develops the highest type of manhood, womanhood and American citizenship.

## What Club Work Is

Four-H Club work is that part of the A. & M. College Agricultural Extension Service which deals primarily with young people. It is a nation-wide program, educational in nature, rating second only to the public school system of our country.

It is the world's largest farm youth organization, and has as its goal the teaching of boys and girls the latest and best agricultural and home economics practices, and the finer and more significant things in rural and urban life.

## How Clubs Are Organized

Local clubs are organized under the direction and supervision of the county agent and home demonstration agent or their assistants. These clubs become an integral part of the school system and of the community, and local leaders or club coaches play an important role in their successful progress.

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The 4-H Club year begins officially on November 1, and closes the following year on October 31. It is recommended that 4-H Clubs be organized as soon as possible after the opening of the school year. However, interested boys and girls may be enrolled until June 1, at which time all 4-H Club enrollments for participation in club events during the remainder of the calendar year will close.

## **Who Can Become a Member**

All interested boys and girls between the ages of nine (9) and twenty-one (21) years of age may join the 4-H Club. They must have passed their 9th birthday by March 1, and must not have passed their 21st birthday on that same date.

## **What Is a Standard Club**

A total of 10 boys and girls are required to form a standard 4-H Club.

## **Getting a Charter**

A charter is available to regularly organized 4-H Clubs in the state that meet the requirements as outlined in the 4-H Secretary's Book. Requests for charters should be made to the county and home demonstration agents who in turn certify the club to the state 4-H Club office. The charter is then granted jointly by the Oklahoma Extension Service and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Charters will be granted only when membership in the club totals 10 or more boys and girls.

## **Holding the Meetings**

The 4-H Club should hold eight (8) or more meetings during the year.

A definite time and place for holding 4-H Club meetings should be arranged with local authorities when the club is organized.

## **Local Club Leaders**

At least one adult person should be available to serve as local 4-H Club leader. Two leaders, a man and a woman, would be still better. The local 4-H Club leader is perhaps the most important cog in the wheel of 4-H progress. The effectiveness of

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4-H Club work in the school and community depends in a large measure on the initiative and enthusiasm of the local leader.

In addition to local 4-H Club leaders, it is recommended that each club select men and women of the community to serve as project advisers.

## **Club Projects Available**

At the very first meeting project requirements should be discussed and club members given an opportunity to ask questions relating to this work. County extension agents will determine whether club members enroll in project work at the first meeting or wait until the following meeting after they have consulted with their parents regarding the projects in which they will enroll.

The following projects are available:

### **Beekeeping**

Beekeeping is a profitable and interesting project that any boy or girl living on a farm, small acreage, or near the outskirts of the city can enroll. Each member of this project must have at least one hive of bees in a standard removable frame hive.

### **Better Buying**

The better buying project is designed to help girls and boys buy more wisely by giving them practical information on points to look for in purchasing food and clothing.

### **Better Grooming**

The bulletins on grooming are written for 4-H members who wish to make the most of their personal appearance. Included in the bulletins are daily grooming practices necessary for a well groomed person, along with general suggestions on selection and care of clothing.

### **Craft Project**

For boys and girls who are skilled in the use of their hands, the craft project includes the making of inexpensive craft articles out of wood, metal, felt, and includes weaving such articles as table mats, place mats, purses, and rugs.

### **4-H Dairy Club Work**

For 4-H boys and girls, the owning of a dairy heifer, either registered or high grade is the first step. They feed and manage this heifer and exhibit it at the county, district and state shows. Another activity is judging and training schools which prepare them to compete in judging contests. Cream and Milk Quality demonstrations are important phases of this work. For girls, the dairy foods contest which is a county, state and national competition and for boys the dairy production contest is a state and national competition.

### **Good Manners**

The project on good manners emphasizes the responsibility of the member in properly conducting himself before his government, his neighbors and his home and family. Members can keep reports, and discuss good manners through timely topics and demonstrations.

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## **Electrification**

The purpose of the 4-H electric project is to give basic training in planning for better use of electricity on the farm and in the home. Emphasis will also be placed on the selection, use, care and simple repair of electrical equipment and appliances.

## **Care of Farm Machinery**

This project is designed to give club members training in the care and servicing of farm machinery. Particular emphasis will be given to the development of good habits in the use of machinery, such as cleaning, lubrication, adjustments, housing, and in the use of operator's manuals in servicing and operation.

## **4-H Fire and Safety**

The 4-H safety and fire prevention project is designed for city and farm youth. It requires not only study of hazards but action in removing them. The hope is to make safety and fire caution an action project as well as a part of everyday living.

## **Forestry 4-H Project**

The forestry project is planned for city and farm youth. Individuals may enroll in projects in: postlots, windbreaks, woodland management, wildlife forestry, erosion control, and Christmas tree production. Groups may enroll in any of the individual projects as well as others such as seed collection, cooperative harvest, forest fire control, and others.

## **Flower Arrangement**

Flower arrangement is an outlet for artistic desires. General selection of containers, combination of plant materials, care of cut flowers, and special uses will be covered. Most of the materials needed for the project can be found in the flower garden, garage, and kitchen of every club member.

## **Fruit Growing**

This project is best suited for members where their parents are interested in improving their orchards or where an orchard is being established. Activities in this project deal with factors that should result in the production of more and better tree fruit.

## **Home Demonstration**

4-H home demonstration project includes six phases of work. They are clothing, home improvement, canning, food preparation, home grounds beautification, and gardening. 4-H girls may select three out of the six phases of work each year. The home demonstration projects are designed to give practical information and useful experience in home making. Each year's work is intended to fit the age, experience and ability of the different aged groups.

Home Demonstration 1—For 9 year old girls

Home Demonstration 2—For 10 or 11 year old girls

Home Demonstration 3—For 11 or 12 year old girls

Home Demonstration 4—For 12 or 13 year old girls

Home Demonstration 5—For 13 or 14 year old girls

Home Demonstration 6—For 14 or 15 year old girls

Home Demonstration 7—For 15 or 16 year old girls

Home Demonstration 8—For 16 or 17 year old girls

Advanced Home Demonstration—For 17 to 21 year old girls

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## **Home Grounds Beautification**

A more useful and attractive home grounds surroundings should be the goal of every boy and girl. In this project, 4-H Club members are encouraged to work with their families in developing a home grounds improvement plan.

### **House Plants**

In this project, 4-H Club members will have the opportunity to better understand soils, watering, identification, general care, and the starting of new plants inside the home.

### **4-H Hunting and Fishing**

A project for members interested in outdoor recreation. It teaches sportsmanship, safety, and regard for property of others, and a need for wildlife conservation and management.

### **Household Insect Control**

Most homes have a few insect pest problems. This is a project in which all 4-H boys and girls can enroll. The 4-H members will be shown how to control these pests with the latest chemicals and methods. The outlay for equipment and chemicals will not be great.

### **Insect Study**

Insects occur everywhere. The 4-H boys and girls enrolled in this project may live either in town or country. In this project, collecting, identifying, and labeling injurious and beneficial insects will be covered. Many control practices will be discussed.

### **4-H Junior Leadership**

The junior leadership project is to help boys and girls gain an understanding of the major qualities to develop, in order to become a leader and have practical experience in leadership activities. 4-H Club members, who enroll in this project, should be at least 14 years old and have had 3 years of 4-H Club work.

### **Lawns and Their Care**

The lawn, like an artist's canvas, provides the base for a landscape view. Lawn grasses, seeding and sodding, lawn soil improvement, lawn care, and the lawn as a part of the home grounds will be covered.

### **Legumes**

The 4-H legume project includes a study of legumes for soil improvement, forage and seed production. The club member may grow one or more acres of alfalfa, sweet clover, vetch, winter peas, lespedeza, cowpeas, soybeans or red clover.

### **Small Fruits**

Home or commercial small fruit producers will find this project dealing with useful and helpful practices needed to grow more and better fruit. Blackberries, grapes, and strawberries are the most dependable of this group. Any member with a little ground available can grow one or more of the small fruits.

### **Gardening**

This project furnishes 4-H Club members an opportunity to learn at first hand how to grow vegetables in individual or family gardens in Oklahoma: (1) Planning the garden; (2) Soil requirements; (3) Proper seed-bed preparation; (4) Commercial fertilizer; (5) Better varieties; (6) Planting seasons in Oklahoma; (7) Cultivation; and (8) Insect control.

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## **Truck Gardening**

A truck garden is  $\frac{1}{8}$  acre or more and is suited for 4-H Club members interested in growing vegetables for market. It deals with such factors as seed-bed preparation, fertilizers, method of planting, cultivation, insect and disease control, harvesting, and marketing.

## **Corn**

The 4-H corn project includes a study of seed-bed preparation, fertilization, cultivation and harvesting of corn. The club member is required to grow one or more acres of corn.

## **Cotton**

The 4-H cotton project is designed to teach club members improved methods in producing, harvesting and marketing cotton. In order to provide actual experience in cotton production, the club member will grow one or more acres of this crop.

## **Grain Sorghums**

The 4-H grain sorghum project includes a study of the adaptation, production, harvesting and utilization of grain sorghums. The club member is required to grow one or more acres of this crop.

## **Small Grain**

The 4-H small grain project provides the opportunity for club members to learn about seed-bed preparation, adapted varieties and other important factors relating to small grain production. The club member may grow five or more acres of wheat, oats, barley or rye.

## **Handicraft—Woodworking**

The purpose of this project is to give club members training in the selection, care, and use of woodworking tools commonly used on the farm and in the farm home. Club members will also be encouraged to use these tools in making articles and equipment that will be useful and beneficial in farm and home life.

## **The 4-H Health Project**

The 4-H health project includes individual and community health improvement. It is designed to help boys and girls develop desirable health habits and attitudes relative to proper food, clothing, exercise and care of the body.

## **4-H Livestock Project**

The livestock program for 4-H Club members offer training in judging and selection of farm animals. Training in feeding beef cattle, hogs, and sheep for both showing and on a practical commercial basis. Active livestock club members get an acquaintance in business methods and the principles of livestock production and marketing through association with instructors, breeders, and meat animal processors.

## **News Writing**

For 4-H Club members who like to express themselves in writing, there is probably no field more interesting or challenging than that of news writing. This project will give the essentials of successful news reporting, and will outline in simple, easy-to-understand terms how to prepare stories for papers and magazines.

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## **4-H Pasture Project**

Tells how to build a permanent pasture and the importance of supplementary pasture in lengthening the grazing season. Gives methods of improving pastures by use of seed of improved pasture plants.

## **Photography**

The 4-H Club photography project offers the club member an opportunity to become more familiar with cameras, their operation, picture composition, the use of pictures in telling in a few words, stories of 4-H and other activities, and in recording events.

## **Pecan Growing**

4-H members should give serious consideration to growing a few pecan trees, either in their yards or on their farms. This project deals with several phases of pecan growing, planting of the trees, planting of seeds, improving the native grove, and pecan propagation.

## **Poultry**

The 4-H Poultry Club program has been planned to help boys and girls develop a project that provides a weekly source of cash income, contribute to the family food supply and to help in the constructive development of the poultry industry of the state. Members are encouraged to start their projects with a minimum of 25 chicks.

## **Rabbits**

Rabbits are raised primarily for meat, however, some are used for fur and some are used for biological laboratory and other experimental purposes. 4-H members may start with either young or mature rabbits and one buck and two does are recommended for the beginner.

## **Trees and Shrubs for Home Beautification**

Trees and shrubs are so much a part of our every day life, we need to get better acquainted with them. In this 4-H Club project, an opportunity will be had to identify and know some of the habits and uses of trees, flowering shrubs, evergreens, and native plants for home grounds improvement.

## **4-H Soil and Water Conservation**

The 4-H soil and water conservation project has been created to give you information that will enable you to know and to apply soil conservation methods and practices on your own land; to learn how soil is made, how soil and water are lost and how to conserve the land.

## **4-H Wildlife Conservation**

This project is designed to teach wildlife conservation, by studying and learning about the habits, food, and cover requirements of farm wildlife. It is a continuing project from year to year.