

Examples of 4-H Project Goals (what, how, when)



Setting goals for 4-H projects is simply deciding what you want to learn and do. It is like a road map - helping you plan how to get where you want to go. Keep track of your goals and what you do and learn for each project in your 4-H record book on Basic, Experienced or Advanced Project Records.

Goals should have three parts - the action (how you are going to do it), the result (what you are going to do), and timetable (when you plan to have it done.)

You should have control over your goals. That is why the goal of "get a purple ribbon on my exhibit" is not a good goal (the judge has this control not the exhibitor.) Below are examples of possible project goals. Set new, more challenging goals each year in a project. 4-H project guides are an excellent source for goal and exhibit ideas.

Aerospace:

Learn the principles of rocket propulsion by experimenting with bottle rockets by July 1.

Build a level 2 model rocket and have it ready for launch by June 15.

Learn safety rules for model rocketry and practice them at my launches in June and July.



Beef:

Read about the different breeds of beef before buying my market animals in December.

Learn how to break to lead (or fit and groom) a beef animal from an older 4-H'er before county fair.

Study the different beef by-products (or wholesale or retail cuts) and do a poster for county fair.

Cat:

Learn about preparing my cat for showing in order to enter the 4-H cat show at county fair.

Recognize the most common cat breeds and attend a professional cat show in March to see the breeds.

Read about cat diseases and keep my cat healthy by taking him to the veterinarian yearly.



Citizenship:

Do a citizenship activity with my family and club in December such as ringing bells for Salvation Army.

Be a better citizen by picking up litter, recycling, and following traffic laws every day.

Learn more about my county (or Iowa or US) by visiting several county parks over the next year.

Clothing:

Learn to sew on a button and teach my club at the October meeting. Do a clothing inventory before school shopping.

Purchase an outfit for special summer occasions during spring break and model it for clothing selection.

Begin to do my own laundry and learn how to sort and pre-treat stains by vacation in June.



Communication:

Do a club educational presentation related to my _____ project on the month assigned.

Design a 4-H recruitment poster for National 4-H Week in October and put it up in a local bank.

Write an article about our 4-H club community service project for the local newspaper in May.

Dog

Make a poster on the correct names of parts of a dog for my club presentation in the spring.

Volunteer at the Humane Society four times over the next year and take donations of food for the dogs.

Work with my dog 10 minutes each day on the lessons from dog obedience classes.

Food and Nutrition:

Practice making my favorite cookie recipe several times before fair and then take as an exhibit.

Help my mother with cutting coupons, grocery shopping, and putting groceries away weekly.

Learn common cooking terms from Grandma and from cook books and do a report for fair.

Learn to measure ingredients by making three muffin recipes by May when I host our club meeting.



Gardening (Horticulture):

Draw a plan for my vegetable garden in March. Start seeds for cabbage plants by April 1.

(Continued over)

Read garden catalogs to learn about different varieties available to plant by April.
Control insects in my garden by means other than chemicals from planting until harvest.



Home Improvement:

Clean my room and help with dusting and vacuuming in rest of our house weekly.
Select new curtains and bedspread for my room by my birthday in April.
Learn how to sand wood and how to select the correct grit of sandpaper by May 1.

Horse:

Learn the types of bits and hackamores and give a presentation at club meeting in May.
Learn the terminology for parts of a horse (colors, breeds, health) before horse judging contest in June
Record a video on hoof care to show to my club and as a fair exhibit by July 1.



Leadership:

Fulfill my responsibilities as a club officer, be on time, and attend all club meetings this year.
Organize a hobby night for my club as a junior leader activity in February.
For fair I plan to lead committee to decorate club booth and set up a schedule of foodstand workers.

Outdoor Adventures:

Take day hikes in Iowa by June and write a report on what I carried in my pack as a fair exhibit.
To practice cooking over a campfire, I will look for new recipes on the Internet and try by July 4.
Organize family camping trips by writing a list of what to take and pack items in storage bins by June.



Photography:

To improve the composition of my photos, I will learn how to use digital editing tools by June.
To learn more about lighting, I will take a photo of a tree in our yard different times of the day and seasons.
To practice taking action shots, I will volunteer to photograph a 4-H horse show in June.

Rabbit:

Learn about the care, feed, diseases of a doe and babies by June for a production pen.
Study rabbit feed (housing, parts, or health) to give a presentation at county rabbit project meeting.
Practice recommended showmanship techniques and help with the clinic before show day at fair.



Sheep:

Learn about scrapies and steps to eradicate it including flock identification for a Power Point exhibit.
Study sheep by-products (or breeds, parts, retail cuts) and give a presentation to my club in January.
Interview a sheep shearer and learn about the sale of and uses of wool by June.

Swine:

Learn how to read ear notches and what to feed for best gain by the time I purchase pigs in March.
Give an educational presentation in January on how to vaccinate pigs.
Learn about swine diseases and Biosecurity to prevent the spread of diseases by fair time.



Visual Art:

Create a portfolio of colored pencil sketches for fair by doing a sketch every 2 weeks.
Make holiday decorations from nature materials for each season of the year.
Lead a club workshop in June on the elements of design using ideas from the project guide.

Woodworking

To learn how to use non-electric tools, I will work with by Dad in his shop until I start my own project.
Select a simple woodworking pattern, purchase materials, and begin construction during spring break.
Learn how to fill holes and paint or finish my woodworking project by June 1.