
NDSU

EXTENSION



Renville County 4-H Focus



August 2026

Dear 4-H Families:

Welcome to the start of the new 4-H year! School started recently and I am sure everyone is adjusting to their busy schedules. We're excited to see what the next year of Renville County 4-H brings for our new and returning members and Cloverbuds.

4-H Online enrollment for the new year will be open on **September 10th**. If you were in 4-H last year, you can log in to the account you used last year and simply update last year's information in a few minutes. Call or email Bethany with any questions about online registration. The deadline for registrations in 4-H Online is now **December 1**.

Now is a great time to start thinking about the projects that you want to learn about during this 4-H year. As a reminder, a 4-H Project is a long-term area of study and learning that is done over months and even years. Younger members often try out different project areas while older members have usually "honed in" on their favorite few areas and work on more advanced learning and skills within those areas.

You can find the 4-H Project Guide, which describes all the program areas that 4-H has to offer, online at www.ag.ndsu.edu/4h/. If you would like to see the individual project books, we have a copy of all the project books here in the office. You are more than welcome to stop by to check them out.

For last year's 4-H'ers: 4-H Project Story awards application information is included with this letter. 4-H awards are the chance to get recognition for all the hard work that you put into your projects and to reflect on what you learned in the past year. I would encourage each member to apply in at least one project area. Keep in mind that you can apply for your 4-H awards in any project area that you have completed (brought an exhibit to the fair). Awards applications are due in the Extension Office by **Friday, October 9th**. I know that a lot of work goes into your 4-H projects, and now is a chance to be recognized for that hard work.

Welcome to a new 4-H year!

Sincerely,



Bethany Gates
Renville County Extension Agent
701-756-6392
Bethany.gates@ndsu.edu



Fall for 4-H

4-H Fall Calendar of Events

September

10th 4-H Online Enrollment Opens

October

4-10th National 4-H Week

9th 4-H Awards Applications Due to the
Extension Office

25th Renville County 4-H Kick-Off &
Awards Night
-MLS Multi-purpose area

December

1st 4-H Online Enrollment Deadline

Celebrate 4-H Week!

National 4-H Week is October 4-10th, and this year we have a few fun ways you can celebrate with us:

- Wear Green or your favorite 4-H gear on Monday October 5th.
- Send a thank you note to your club leaders or officers to let them know you appreciate everything they do.
- Plan a service-learning project in your community with your Club.



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New Members

When new members join a Renville County 4-H Club, it is helpful to the new family and our county office if leaders or others can send their contact information to Bethany at the Extension Office.

Even if new potential members are not quite ready to officially join but want more information about Renville County 4-H, you can send their contact information (email and mailing address) on to the Extension Office so that we can make sure that they receive newsletters and any important information that we may send out.

The newsletter will also be posted online in the Renville County 4-H Drive, which can be found online at : <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/renvillecountyextension/4h>

Ribbon Premiums are Ready Soon!

The 4-H Council has set the ribbon premiums for county fair at the same amounts as last year. Once we have a total for State Fair premiums we will send checks to your club leaders and the club treasurer will write out checks to each member.

This year some of you may notice a bump in your ribbon premium amounts. Thanks to generous sponsors, Showmanship Grand and Reserve Champions in all species of animal shows are receiving an additional premium as a way of encouraging 4-H'ers as they put lots of time into learning about and working with the species they are showing.



The plan is to include these extra Showmanship ribbon premiums again next year, as well as some additional awards for static exhibits highlighting interviews and knowledge of the project. Exhibits at the fair are about more than just the final product/animal—they're about the learning done along the way and building communication skills.



4-H Kick-Off and Awards Night

The 4-H Awards Day and Family Fun Night is scheduled for **Sunday, October 25th** at the MLS Multi-purpose area. Be sure to add it to your calendars.

We will once again play a few games including dodgeball and corn hole. The day's schedule is as follows:

- 3:00 4-H Club Meetings (check with your leaders)
- 4:00 Games – Corn hole, Dodgeball, and other games.
- 5:00 Awards Program
- 5:30 Potluck Supper

Bring Gym Shoes!

Every family is asked to bring an item for the potluck supper. The office will provide cups, plates, utensils, and a beverage.

The Awards Program honors achievements and work from this past year, but all new families are encouraged to attend see what 4-H is all about and get ideas for potential projects. **Please extend an invitation to any potential new families to join us for Awards Night on the 25th.**

Project Awards Applications

Enclosed are copies of the Awards Applications for your 4-H Project Story. Please complete the 4-H Story in the project area that you are applying for an award in. You must have completed this project and exhibited at the County Fair. You may apply for an award in any project area that you have completed. This is limited to one application per project area – but you can complete awards applications in as many different project areas as you would like!

Your 4-H project story is a brief narrative about some of your accomplishments in your project. You can list what you have done and add any extra fun things that you have learned. It may be interesting, funny, or include problems that you encountered with your project. If you have any questions, would like to see an example of a Project Story, or would like additional application sheets, please contact our office at 756-6392 or email Bethany. 4-H Stories are due in the Extension Office by **Friday October 9th**. We will be judging the awards shortly after this deadline, so they must be in on time. The following is a list of requirements for your awards application:

1. The 4-H'er must have completed their 4-H year (county event, attended 6 club meetings, exhibited at county fair, etc.)
2. 4-H'er must write the application in their **own handwriting** and written in a dark pen (no light color gel pens) or a soft lead pencil written dark enough that it will make photo-copying possible. Please do not put your name anywhere on the form except on the back at the end where your signature is asked for. This allows us to

easily cover up the name for judging purposes.

3. 4-H'er must have been 8 years old as of September 1, 2025 (not a Cloverbud last year).
4. 4-Her and parent or guardian must **both** sign the award application.



Leader Nominations

Leaders are asked to select nominees from their club's membership, and submit a written recommendation for these awards. You are welcome to have parents help write these recommendations.

The selections will be made from the written recommendations. Please keep nominations to one page in length. The selection committee looks at the recommendations with the names hidden, so make sure to spend some time filling them out well. 4-H leaders, we would like your nominations from your club for the following awards:

- 4-H T-Shirt Award—One member from each club under 13

Each club can submit a nomination for the following awards, but only one is selected for the county:

- Outstanding 4-H'er 13 and over
- Outstanding 4-H'er under 13
- Key Club — This is awarded in recognition of significant accomplishments through 4-H work. Those receiving it should have passed their 16th birthday and have been in 4-H for at least four years. The award is presented to a 4-H'er one time.

- I Dare You — This award is presented to a member in their junior or senior year. Selection is based on excellence in character and personal development as well as leadership potential. This award is given to a 4-H'er only once

4-H Online Enrollment

As mentioned on the calendar, the 4-H Online enrollment will be up and running on September 10th. Please do not try to make any updates until after the 10th. Look for this log in on the North Dakota 4-H page – simply click and enroll. Use the "Sign in to 4-H Online" button at www.ag.ndsu.edu/4h.

If you have any troubles please contact

Bethany at the Extension



Office and she will help you with your enrollment. We will also be set up to help with enrollment questions on Awards Night.

The deadline to enroll thru 4-H Online has been moved up to **December 1** this year. The earlier deadline gives us at the Extension Office a better idea of our total number of members and helps us know who to keep on our mailing lists.

If you are a returning 4-Her you will just need to update last year's information in the account you set up before. Your login is your email address. If you have forgotten or do not know your password, please select "I forgot my password". A temporary password will be sent via email.

**NORTH DAKOTA 4-H VOLUNTEER
ORIENTATION MODULES**



Club Leaders & Parent Volunteers:

As in past years, club leaders and

parent volunteers (anyone else over 18 involved with 4-H activities) are asked to enroll as volunteers through 4-H Online for insurance and tracking purposes. The volunteer screenings and background-check that all volunteers complete every 3 years are integrated thru 4-H Online and will need to be completed before your enrollment is approved, so please reach out to the Extension Office if you have any issues or questions with the process. If you completed it last year you shouldn't be required to do it again until 2028.

Any member turning 18 during the year will also be required to do the background check after their birthday. Extension Office staff will be in touch at that time and the 4-H member will receive an email with the background check link through 4-H Online.

New Volunteer Orientation Online

The North Dakota state 4-H Office has developed new 4-H Volunteer Orientation modules that are available online at <https://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/extension/volunteer-orientation> . The 6 modules are self-paced, take about 1 to 1 ½ hours (total) to complete, and cover topics like Positive Youth Development in ND 4-H, ND 4-H Risk Management, and Resources for ND 4-H Volunteers, among others.

All club leaders should complete the modules and fill out the completion form at the end of each training so that it can be logged in 4-H Online.

These modules are a great way to get an overview of 4-H in North Dakota, so you don't need to be an enrolled or formal volunteer to take one or all of the modules—just ready to learn about 4-H.