



Family and Consumer Science

# 4-H Consumer Management

## North Dakota 4-H Project Sheet

**Use the consumer management project to get more bang for your buck! Find out how to use your money to get the things you want.**

- Practice life skills, including the wise use of resources, goal setting and sharing with others.
- Learn to make sound decisions related to spending and saving your money.
- Identify needs and wants, and how you spend your money on each.
- Become a skilled consumer.
- Make informed consumer decisions to reach your goals and solve problems.
- Know your rights as a shopper.



**Pass it on!**  
Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

### Communication

- Design a poster comparing similar products.
- Do a presentation about advertising techniques.
- Talk to a group about different Internet shopping sites and the value or concerns with them.

### Citizenship

- Give a portion of your money to a cause in which you believe.
- Volunteer to help manage money at a fundraiser.
- Go to a senior center and teach adults about safe online shopping.

### Leadership

- Help your family identify needs and wants.
- Serve as the treasurer of a group.
- Organize a fundraiser for a cause in which you believe.

### Entrepreneurship

- Provide shopping services for friends and family members.

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## Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic/Level 1	Learning More Intermediate/Level 2	Expanding Horizons Advanced/Level 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set a budget, make a list and go shopping.</li> <li>• Make a list of your needs and wants, and write down how you spend your money on each.</li> <li>• Compare costs of similar products: different stores, generic/name-brand, homemade/purchased, new/used.</li> <li>• Develop a savings plan to save for an item you want to buy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn advantages and disadvantages to shopping online and consumer Internet safety.</li> <li>• Set goals to spend your money wisely.</li> <li>• Learn why you decide to buy what you do: advertising, peers, needs, priorities and interests.</li> <li>• Identify the benefits of different savings account options.</li> <li>• Identify and make ethical decisions in earning and spending your money.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare return policies of different vendors in stores and online.</li> <li>• Set saving, spending and sharing goals for your money.</li> <li>• Identify the true cost of different kinds of credit.</li> <li>• Develop a plan for the future: college, car, independent living.</li> <li>• Learn about consumer rights and how to use them effectively.</li> <li>• Compare warranty policies on different brands/stores for similar items.</li> </ul>

Learn more at [www.ndsu.edu/4h/](http://www.ndsu.edu/4h/) or contact your county NDSU Extension office.



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#### Opportunities to explore consumer management:

- Visit a local bank and learn about savings and credit opportunities.
- Help your club manage its resources by running for club treasurer.
- Organize a prom dress resale or exchange program in your community or school, or organize a food or clothing pantry to benefit local residents.
- Visit a local used clothing store and learn how it evaluates and prices its merchandise.
- Is it fair time? Consider taking an exhibit or a piece of your project learning to the local fair for judging and to show off what you have learned throughout the year. It might get selected to go to the North Dakota State Fair.
- Attend the Extension Youth Conference and participate in workshops, motivational speakers and a community service project, bringing ideas back to your community.
- Interested in a college education in the area of business or agricultural business? Schedule a visit with North Dakota State University ([www.ndsu.edu](http://www.ndsu.edu)).

#### Exhibit Ideas

- Compare the price of similar pieces of clothing (jeans, for example) at a variety of places.
- Track your spending for a month and see where your money goes.
- Track your spending related to a 4-H project (livestock, photography, clothing, pets).
- Track how you spend another of your resources: time.
- Explore advertised products targeting various audiences on television (children's programs, prime time, sporting events).
- Describe the cost of fraud (shoplifting, bad checks, etc.).
- Describe potential problems related to privacy issues (Social Security numbers, credit cards, Internet shopping etc.).
- Identify agencies that assist in resolving consumer complaints.
- Investigate where products are manufactured.
- Compare TV, radio and Internet ads to print ads.
- Prepare a product complaint letter.
- Describe decision making when purchasing an expensive product.

#### 4-H Resources

##### [National 4-H Curriculum](#)

- My Financial Future
  - [Beginner Notebook \(CC131\)](#)
  - [Advanced Notebook \(CC122\)](#)
  - [My Financial Future Facilitator Guide \(CC231\)](#)

#### Other Resources

- [NDSU Extension Personal and Family Finance](#)
- [eXtension Personal Finance Resources](#)
- [Federal Trade Commission](#)
- [Better Business Bureau](#)

#### Recordkeeping

- [Planning for My Project Adventure \(PA093\)](#)
- [ND 4-H Project Plan \(PA095\)](#)
- [ND 4-H Plan of Action \(PA096\)](#)
- [ND 4-H Participation Summary for 11- to 19-year-olds \(PA098\)](#)

#### Contests

- [Consumer Decision Making Contest](#)

