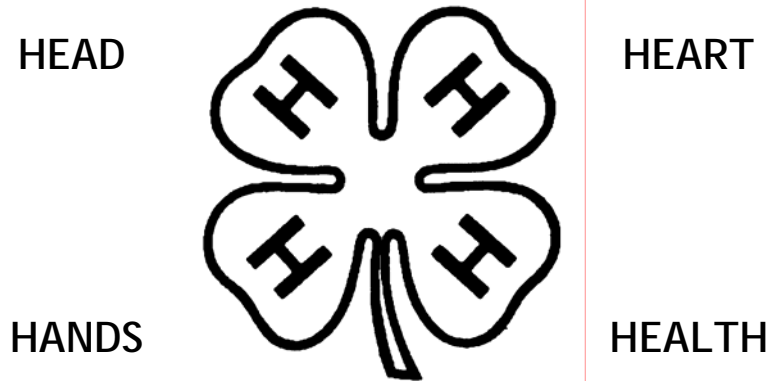


Berrien County 4-H Youth Program



**The vision of Berrien County 4-H is:
To make a positive difference in
the lives of Berrien County youth.**

The 4-H Pledge

I pledge
My **Head** to Clear Thinking, My **Heart** to greater Loyalty
My **Hands** to Larger Service, And My **Health** to Better Living
For My Club, My Community, My Country, and My World

The combined efforts of parents, leaders, resource personnel, and the Michigan State University Extension staff provide opportunities for the youth of Berrien County to learn, grow, and have fun! Berrien County 4-H averages 1,000 members, 45 clubs, and is supported by over 400 adult volunteers.

4-H in Berrien County is an important segment of a much larger Youth

Development Program administered by the Berrien County Extension of Michigan State University's College of Agriculture & Natural Resources. The efforts at youth development include the traditional club-centered 4-H program plus a variety of in school, after-school, and collaborative programs through community partners.

Organizational Structure

Berrien County 4-H achieves success from five major units. The first is the 4-H Club. Members can belong to one or more clubs that are organized by an adult Club Coordinator. The second major units are the County Committees and Associations. These groups set the standards for projects, livestock, and a wide variety of activities. The next unit is the 4-H Leaders Council. This elected body consists of both adults and teens and serves as the governing body for 4-H. Working closely with the Leaders Council is the Berrien County 4-H Foundation, Inc. This is a group of citizens and 4-H Leaders who oversee investments that provide the majority of the 4-H Youth Program funding. Lastly, the Michigan State University Extension Office provides for the logistical coordination of the 4-H Youth Program and takes care of the day-to-day operations. For additional information, contact:

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A Note of Appreciation

The 4-H Youth Program in Berrien County would not be possible without the dedication of countless adult and teen volunteer Leaders. These Leaders share their time and talent at no cost to the 4-H Youth Program. Please take the time to find the Leaders – and tell them how much they mean to you.

Why Join Berrien County 4-H?

4-H in Berrien County offers a wide range of personal development experiences. Members range from age 5 through 19. 5-8 year old programming is activity-based, cooperative, fun and experiential. It allows youth members a variety of learning opportunities with a non-competitive focus. Based on age-appropriateness, members can also be involved in:

- ◆ Exhibit projects at the Orchards Mall each spring as part of 4-H Spring Achievement
- ◆ Take tours of many places around the county and state
- ◆ Choose to compete in local, state and national events that allow you to travel and meet 4-H'ers from our state, our country, and our world
- ◆ Make everlasting friends
- ◆ Develop skills to last a lifetime
- ◆ Attend Citizenship Washington Focus as a 15-19 year old to spend a week visiting the nation's capital
- ◆ Exploration Days places 12-19 year olds on the Michigan State University campus for 3 days of classes and activities
- ◆ Livestock Camp helps 10-19 year olds improve their skills in work with a species of their choice
- ◆ Help make a difference in our community
- ◆ Live the 4-H Motto: "Learning By Doing"

Projects

4-H Members acquire skills and knowledge through Projects. It is one of the most popular aspects about 4-H - "Learning By Doing." The following is a list of the most popular projects offered through Berrien County 4-H (2004 counts of participants):

Foods & Nutrition (161)	Arts & Crafts (634)
Rabbits/Cavies (213)	Horse & Pony (291)
Clothing & Textiles (336)	Leisure Education (92)
Veterinary Science (114)	Birds & Poultry (93)
Community Service (65)	Swine (68)
Plants (196)	Photography (92)
Goats (98)	Dogs (86)
Sheep (33)	Gardening (60)
Woodworking (85)	Outdoor Rec. (56)

Berrien County 4-H Clubs

Clubs are the core of the Berrien County 4-H Youth Program. Relationships with caring adults, enhancing skills, and spending positive time with peers in a safe environment are the strengths of the 4-H club program. Some focus on the young people in a given community while others focus on a particular subject area - and involve young people from all across Berrien County. The following is a list of the active 4-H Clubs in Berrien County and some of the projects that they offer.

Bainbridge **Cribbs** - Arts & Crafts, Baskets, Bowling

Baroda **Bop N Bunnies** - Rabbits, Animal Science Notebooks

Boots N Saddles - Horse & Pony, Arts & Crafts, Goats Personalization, Sewing, Animal Science Notebook, Flower Arranging, Woodworking, Outdoor Rec.

Fuzzy Friends - Llamas Rabbits, Poultry, Art & Crafts Animal Science Notebooks

Benton Harbor **Twin Harbors Puppy** - Dogs (summer)

Berrien Springs **Rabbit Habbit** – Rabbits

Shamrock Puppy - Dogs (summer)

Bridgman **South Lakers** - Arts & Crafts, Computer Technology, Crocheting, Dairy, Flower Arranging, Foods & Nutrition, Horse & Pony, Sewing, Woodworking, Weaving, Photography, Home Design, Quilting, Personalization

Buchanan **Al-Bar** - Horse & Pony

Happy Landings - Horse & Pony

Rainbow Tracks - Animals, Birds & poultry, Beef Goats, Rabbits/Cavies, Llamas & Alpacas, Sheep Animal Science Notebooks, Sewing, Flower Arranging

Redbud Country Goat - Goat, Rabbits, Birds & Poultry, Food & Nutrition, Quilting, Personalization, Home Design



Coloma **Countrysiders** - Arts & Crafts, Bowling, Cats, Sewing, Ceramics, Flower Arranging, Rabbits, Horticulture, Leisure Education, Photography, Woodworking, Animal Science Notebooks, Foods & Nutrition

Eau Claire **Country Kids** - Horse & Pony

Great Expectations - Horse & Pony

Hearts and Hands Llama - Birds & Poultry, Rabbits, Horse & Pony, Llamas, Animal Science Notebooks

Pipestone Beavers - Arts & Crafts, Goats, Swine Cultural Education, Leisure Education, Sewing, Rabbits Knitting & Crochet, Woodworking, Flower Arranging

Galien **Galien Chanters** - Beef, Clothing, Dairy, Electric, Flower Gardening, Foods & Nutrition, Goats, Sheep, Leisure Education, Photography, Poultry, Rabbits, Swine, Woodworking, Ceramics, Cats, Llamas, Needlework / Needlepunch, Tin Punch, Quilting, Environmental, Science, Vegetable Gardening, Flower Arranging, Small Engines, Leathercraft, Home Design, Country Line Dancing, Crocheting, Knitting, Computers, Cake Decorating, Bowling, Personalization,

Niles **Country Clovers** - Arts & Crafts & Dogs

Fairland - Computer Technology, Flower Gardening, Foods & Nutrition, Personalization, Sewing

Happy Three - Arts & Crafts & Foods & Nutrition, Cake Decorating

Sawyer **Just Horsin' Around** - Horse & Pony

Sodus **Town & Country-Paws & Pals** - Dogs (year round)

Stevensville **Derbyshire** - Horse & Pony, Animal Science Notebooks

Hollywood Boosters - Crafts, Baskets, Bowling, Ceramics, Flower Arranging, Ornamental Horticulture, Photography, Quilting, Woodworking, Rabbits, Sewing, Pocket Pets, Cross-Stitch, and Community Service

Stewart - Sewing, Woodworking (for ages 10 and up), Crocheting, (and whatever interests)

Sunset Horse Masters - Horse & Pony

St. Joseph **Four Paws** - Dogs

Tryon 4-H Saddle Club - Horse & Pony, Animal Science Notebooks

Three Oaks **River Valley Wranglers** - Arts & Crafts, Photography, Horse & Pony, Horse Judging, Sewing, Poultry, Beef, Rabbits, Community Service, Goats, Sheep, Swine, Woodworking

Watervliet **Four Flags** -, Goats, Horse & Pony, Leathercraft, Personalization

Tumbleweeds - Horses

Countywide Clubs

Best Friends - Dogs for disabled youth

Project F.I.S.H. - Fishing and Outdoor Stewardship

Straight Shooters - Shooting Sports: Archery, Shotgun, Trap shooting
.22 Rifle, Air Rifle, B.B. Gun, Muzzle Loading

Teen/Service - Community Service

We Can Ride - Horse riding for disabled youth

4-H Spring Achievement

Spring Achievement in Berrien County is the only ALL 4-H exhibition where 4-H'ers show their project achievements over the last year. It is usually held at The Orchards Mall, in Benton Harbor, during the late winter or early spring. The objectives of the event include:

- ⇒ Provide 4-H members an opportunity to display their accomplishments to the community
- ⇒ Provide 4-H members a supportive evaluation for each of their projects
- ⇒ Provide the community an opportunity to see the quality and quantity of work being done by 4-Her's
- ⇒ Attract new members and leaders to the Berrien County 4-H Youth Program
- ⇒ Provide 4-H members an opportunity to compete for special recognition of their projects
- ⇒ Provide 4-H members, leaders, and parents an opportunity to meet other 4-H families
- ⇒ Provide an opportunity to demonstrate 4-H TEAMWORK in the efficient set-up, take-down, and operation of the event

Berrien County Youth Fair

The annual fair in Berrien County is not restricted to 4-H participants, therefore it is a youth fair, not a 4-H fair. On the other hand, Berrien County 4-H members are active participants in the Youth Fair. With this in mind, most of the 4-H projects offered in Berrien County make use of the criteria which is used at the Youth Fair. In addition, many of the Teen and Adult 4-H Leaders can be found during Fair week, contributing their talents to the success of the event. Although 4-H is officially independent of the Berrien County Youth Fair, a close, cooperative partnership is maintained to benefit the youth of Berrien County.



Sportsmanship

The 4-H Youth Program in Berrien County provides many opportunities for young people to compete with others for special recognition. If handled properly, competition can improve the skills and knowledge of the participants - and 4-H is better because of it. On the other hand, competition without Good Sportsmanship can quickly become something that is a negative experience for all involved. It only takes a tiny amount of Poor Sportsmanship to overshadow the Best Sportsmanship of everyone else. We can develop Good Sportsmanship in 4-H by understanding behavior expectations and offering gentle reminders to each other when our standards start to slip.

General

Good Sportsmanship begins with learning and understanding the rules of competition. Secondly, the purpose of the competition is to provide a POSITIVE growth experience for EVERYONE. Those who do not receive special recognition learn from the experience so their next efforts are even better.

Youth Participants

Show respect for other competitors as well as those who are conducting the competition. Congratulate those who win and try to learn from their example. Accept success with grace and be considerate of those who did not receive special recognition.

Parents, Supporters, Spectators

Be the standard for Good Sportsmanship. Don't heckle the competition or be over-zealous in promoting your favorites. Help the Youth Participants to view the event as a positive experience - regardless of the outcome. Make a special effort to thank the Judges and event organizers.

Judges and Evaluators

Straightforward fairness and integrity are essential. Where appropriate, Judges should explain their decisions in terms of the accepted criteria for the event. Their comments to those who do not receive special recognition should be made as a coach to prompt better performance the next time.