

NEW KIDS IN THE CLOVER



Dear 4-H member,

Projects are the best things about 4-H! They can be fun because you learn by doing. You don't just read how to do something in a book.

Projects also give you the chance to make money, and you may even find a career! In the last letter, we discussed choosing a project. Now you're ready to get to work!

Sincerely,

Amy Sollock, 4-H Agent

SETTING YOUR PROJECT GOALS

Now that you have decided on a project, it's time to set some goals. What do you want to do and learn in this project? Make your goals challenging, but don't make them so hard you cannot reach them. Ask yourself these questions.

- What do I want to do?
- What can I learn?
- Who will help me?
- When am I going to do it?
- Where do I want this project to take me in one, two, or three years?



Your 4-H leader will help you get organized. Fill out a 4-H "project goals" form. Use the form to plan your projects. Answer the questions you asked yourself before. Ask your 4-H leader, a parent, or another adult you know and trust to help you. These forms are very important. They can help you to organize your ideas and goals.

Here's an example of what you should be trying to do. Pretend you are enrolled in Foods & Nutrition, Level 1. One of your goals is to learn how to make cookies by May 1. You have your goal and target date. Now what if your 4-H leader or parents are not able to teach you how to make cookies? Who will teach you then? There may be several people in your community who could help you. First, tell your 4-H leader what you need to learn to meet your goal in your project. Ask for suggestions. Maybe you could ask a friend, a relative, a neighbor, or an Extension staff member. It's important that you've planned ahead and thought of a problem that might come up. If you think things through ahead of time, you'll probably meet your goal!

WHERE CAN I GO FOR HELP?



Many people in your community can help you with your 4-H project. K-State Research and Extension and your local Extension office can give you lots of 4-H project information. Sometimes, the State Department of Agriculture can help. For example, they could help you find the name and number of national trade and breed associations. Perhaps you are looking for information about a career. Try asking people who are already involved in that profession. They may be able to give good advice about goals you should try to meet on the way to your career goal. It's always a good idea to visit career fairs to learn about opportunities. Don't forget your library whenever you're searching for information. Be sure to check out the Kansas 4-H web site at <http://www.kansas4-h.org>

WHAT ABOUT A WORKSHOP?

"Hands-on" workshops are a wonderful way to learn about your project. Your 4-H club or local Extension office may already provide different workshops on projects during the year. You'll find out about them at 4-H club meetings or by reading the 4-H newsletter. If a workshop is not being offered in your project area, maybe you can plan one yourself! Ask your parents, 4-H leaders, and the local Extension staff member to help you plan a special session for your project area. They may have ideas about who could teach the workshop, where you could hold it, and how to advertise it. Planning a workshop is good for you. You'll learn more about your project, and you'll develop leadership skills you can use in other activities.