

Lafayette 4-H Hotline

4-H is for EVERYONE!

4-H is fun! 4-H is learning! 4-H offers a whole new world of opportunities for youth to learn new things, go new places, and meet new friends. After all, 4-H is the largest youth organization in the United States!

Who can join 4-H?

Any 4th-12th grader who attends school in Lafayette Parish and is willing to follow the 4-H ideals and standards is eligible to join. Those who attend school outside of Lafayette Parish, but live in Lafayette Parish are also eligible through our Member-at-large program.

(Re-)Enrollment will be done electronically through 4-H Online. We successfully transitioned to this enrollment, program management, and event management platform 2 years ago. Whether a member is logging in to manage their record, a Volunteer Leader is completing their training or screening requirements, or a parent is viewing the 4-H program's online event calendar, 4-H Online will bring the Louisiana 4-H community together and keep everyone involved. 4-H Online is fully encrypted; Member and Volunteer information is safe, backed up continuously, and fully secured.

How do I join 4-H?

1. More information will be shared, including on www.facebook.com/lafayette4h in the next few weeks, by September 1st.
2. All Members previously enrolled through 4-H Online last year will receive detailed instructions on re-enrollment.
3. Choose **one** project. If you choose an animal project, you may choose more than one book.
4. All 4th graders must select the "Discovering the World of 4-H" project.
5. All 5th graders must select the "Exploring the World of 4-H" project.
6. Pay your dues. Check with your school club Leader for dues amount and due date.
7. If there is a 4-H Club at your school, you must be a member of that club.
8. **If you plan to participate in livestock or shooting sports, please complete enrollment in 4-H Online as soon as possible; if you are new, please call the Lafayette Parish 4-H Office for program details.**

This newsletter, the 4-H Hotline, will be distributed each month from September to May. These will be posted virtually in school clubs and on our website. If you have any questions concerning our Lafayette Parish 4-H program, call us at (337) 291-7090.

September 2023

Lafayette Office

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Points of interest:

- 4-H is for EVERYONE!
- Yearly Educational Focus
- National 4-H Week
- Challenge Camp
- State Record Book Contest
- Junior Leader Club
- State Boards
- Service-Learning Focus
- Livestock Exhibitors
- Livestock Validation
- Become a 4-H Volunteer



Yearly Educational Focus

This year we will be exploring life skills through a series of lessons focusing on getting a job, consumer skills, budgeting, writing skills, home maintenance and vehicle care. All lessons will be interactive and designed to reinforce soft skills which are essential to building a well-rounded individual!



Challenge Camp

2023 Southwest Region Challenge Camp will be held on November 16-17, 2023, at Camp Grant Walker in Pollock, La. All members currently enrolled in 4-H and in 7th and 8th grades may apply to attend. Applications are due to the Lafayette 4-H Office by September 15th so that they can be reviewed, and notices sent out to those accepted in early October. Please contact Mrs. Nicole at ngerard@agcenter.lsu.edu if you need an application or have questions.



State Record Book Contest

This year, 25 Record Books were selected to compete in the State 4-H Record Book Contest. These were judged at the beginning of August and results after have been posted to our parish social media pages.

Congratulations to all who participated, we are very proud of your hard work and dedication!



National 4-H Week

National 4-H Week is October 1st through October 7th. Each year, we encourage clubs to get involved with National 4-H Week through volunteerism, service-learning, and kindness to all! For more information, along with promotional materials, visit www.4-h.org.



Junior Leader Club: Calling All 8th-12th Graders

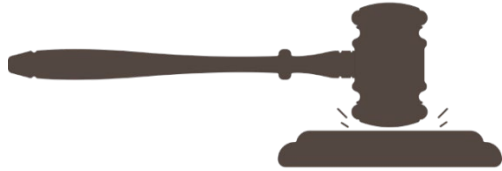
Lafayette's Junior Leader 4-H Club is made up of older 4-H'ers from across Lafayette Parish who are in grades 8th-12th. Do you have teens that would like to be involved in the community in a leadership role, but just not sure how to go about it?

Junior Leader kick off the new year with a "Party in the Park on Saturday, September 23rd from 11:00am-2:00pm at Girard Park. All 4-H'ers in grades 8th to 12th are invited to attend. They will need to contact Nicole Gerard at ngerard@agcenter.lsu.edu to register.

Lafayette 4-H'ers on State Boards

Each year, at 4-H University, 4-H members from around the state of Louisiana compete to be a part of state leadership boards. Lafayette Parish 4-H is well-represented this year; our state board members are as follows: **Victoria Couvillion** (Food and Fitness Board) **Jon Patrick Couvillion** (Food and Fitness Board) **Finley McGill** (Shooting Sports).

Congratulations to these exemplary members!



Louisiana Service-Learning Focus

The Louisiana 4-H community service focus for the year is hunger and poverty. Clubs are encouraged to include the state service focus in their club activities. An example of this would be to have monthly club programs which educate 4-H Members on hunger and poverty issues. 4-H'ers are also encouraged to perform community service activities relating to the state focus.

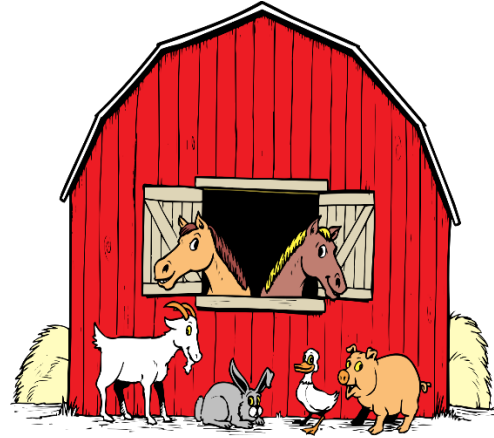
Livestock Exhibitors

As our 4-H year begins, some Members make plans to raise and show livestock projects. If you are one of these, there are several things you must do:

1. When completing 4-H enrollment through 4-H Online, be sure to select the appropriate livestock project (beef, sheep, horse, etc.). This will put you on the livestock/horse communication list(s).
2. Parents of new Exhibitors must also contact Ms. Brandi at the 4-H Office (337-291-7090) to discuss the 4-H livestock program and must attend one of the meetings scheduled for new Exhibitors.

3. The 1st Year Exhibitor meeting for livestock is scheduled for Monday, September 25th at 6:00 p.m. (beef, dairy, sheep, goat, swine & poultry). The 1st Year Exhibitor meeting for horse will be held in March.

Contact Ms. Brandi at bfeller@agcenter.lsu.edu for further details.



2024 LSU AgCenter Livestock Show Validation Procedure

LSU livestock validation deadlines for most species will soon arrive. All market and commercial animals are required to be validated to be exhibited in the parish, district, and state LSU Livestock Shows. Animals will be tagged, DNA tested, and classified (preliminary for entries).

Validation kits are \$7.00 per animal, to be picked up at our office. Payment is due once DNA hair samples are collected and the kit is returned. Checks must be made payable to "Livestock Show Office."

If you need assistance validating and tagging your animal, please call 337-291-7090.

All animals must be tagged, and DNA samples collected and turned into our office prior to 4:30 p.m. on the validation deadline set by the state:

November 6th: Beef and dairy commercial heifers, market lambs, commercial ewes, market goats, and commercial does

December 4th: Market and commercial hogs

Any animal not validated by these deadlines will be ineligible to show at the LSU AgCenter Livestock Shows. If you have any questions, contact us at 337-291-7090.

Dates to Remember

September 2023

- 1 First Day of Club Meetings
- 4 Labor Day Holiday, 4-H Office Closed
- 6 Junior Leader Officer Meeting, 4-H Office
- 15 FIRST CALL – 4-H Enrollment Due
- 15 4-H Challenge Camp Applications Due, 4-H Office
- 20 Junior Leader Meeting, 4-H Office (Reg. Required)
- 25 1st Year Livestock Exhibitor Meeting, 4-H Office

October 2023

- 1-7 National 4-H Week
- 2 First Day of Club Meetings
- 4 Junior Leader Officer Meeting, 4-H Office
- 14 FINAL CALL – Enrollment Due in Online System
- 18 Junior Leader Meeting, 4-H Office
- 24 Officer Training Workshop, Lafayette Middle
- 26-11/12 Louisiana State Fair, Shreveport

Become a 4-H Volunteer!

Become a 4-H Volunteer and help create life-changing experiences for youth in our community! There are many ways for parents and volunteers to get more involved in the 4-H program. Adult Volunteers play an important role in the 4-H program. They mentor 4-H youth, serve as a leader, coordinate local community service projects, and help to plan and run events. Volunteer at your child's school or on the parish, regional, or state level.

All Volunteers will register through 4-H Online by creating a profile. To learn more about registration and opportunities, contact our office at 337-291-7090.



Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/lafayette4h



Follow us on Instagram: [@lafayette4h](https://www.instagram.com/lafayette4h)

Sincerely,

Brandi Feller

Brandi Feller
Assistant Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development
Lafayette Parish

Nicole Gerard

Nicole Gerard
Assistant Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development
Lafayette Parish

CHARLES HEBERT

Charles Hebert
County Agent, 4-H Youth Development
Lafayette Parish

It is the policy of the LSU AgCenter, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age or disability. If you have a disability which requires special assistance or your participation in any aforementioned activity, please contact the Lafayette 4-H office at (337) 291-7090.