

# 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 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 last year. 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](http://www.facebook.com/lafayette4h) in the next few weeks, by September 1<sup>st</sup>.
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 4<sup>th</sup> graders must select the "Discovering the World of 4-H" project.
5. All 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2022

Lafayette Office  
1010 Lafayette St., Ste. 325  
Lafayette, LA 70501  
Phone: (337) 291-7090  
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[www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com)

### Points of interest:

- 4-H is for EVERYONE!
- Yearly Educational Focus
- Bash on the Bayou
- 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 teamwork and the skills necessary to work together. Through a series of lessons, you will be introduced to topics exploring communication, public speaking, cooperation, and working together. All lessons will be interactive and designed to reinforce soft skills which are essential to building a successful team!



## Bash on the Bayou

Football season is right around the corner, and we are ready to cheer on our Tigers as they play Mississippi State on September 17<sup>th</sup>! We are excited to announce that we will be collaborating with the College of Agriculture and FFA for a great tailgate event. There will be a \$5 admission fee to the Bash on the Bayou Tailgate that will go towards a scholarship fund that will benefit 4-H and FFA Members. A link and agenda for the Tailgate events will be sent out within the next week after the schedule has been finalized. Group tickets to the game are \$38 each and may be purchased at [LSU v. MS STATE tickets](#)



## National 4-H Week

National 4-H Week is October 3<sup>rd</sup> through October 9<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://www.4-h.org).



## Challenge Camp

2022 Southwest Region Challenge Camp will be held on November 15-16, 2022 at the Acadian Baptist Center in Eunice, La. All Members currently enrolled in 4-H and in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades may apply to attend. Applications are due to our 4-H Office by September 15<sup>th</sup> so that we can review and notify those accepted in early October. Please contact Mrs. Nicole at [ngerard@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:ngerard@agcenter.lsu.edu) if you need an application or have questions.



## State Record Book Contest

This year, 19 Record Books were selected to compete in the State 4-H Record Book Contest. These will be judged the last week in August and we will have results after.

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



## Junior Leader Club: Calling All 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders

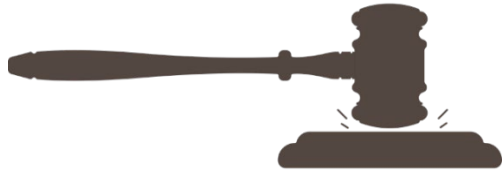
Lafayette's Junior Leader 4-H Club is made up of 4-H'ers from across Lafayette Parish who are in grades 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Would you like to be involved in the community in a leadership role, but just not sure how to go about it?

The first Junior Leader meeting of the school year will be Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. All 4-H'ers in grades 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> are invited to attend. Contact Mrs. Nicole at [ngerard@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto: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; the following 4-H'ers are our state board Members: **Isabella Couvillion** (Food and Fitness Board), **Laila Horton** (Citizenship Board), **Finley McGill** (Shooting Sports), **Victoria Couvillion** (Exec. Board- SW Region Rep), and **Shaohannah Martin** (Livestock Ambassador).

Congratulations to these exemplary members!



# Louisiana Service-Learning Focus

The Louisiana 4-H community service focus for the year is mental health. 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 various mental health issues. 4-H'ers are also encouraged to perform community service activities relating to the state focus.

Mental health is defined as a person's condition with regards to their psychological and emotional wellbeing; it is wellness of the mind. Mental health affects everything from the way we act and react to how we feel and think. It determines how we cope with stress and different struggles daily life throws our way. There are several different reasons why our mental health can be affected negatively, making our minds sick, including biological factors, life experiences, and family history. Mental health can decline at any age, and it is important that you not only take care of your physical body, but also your psychological and emotional self. When your mental health declines in different directions, it is called mental illness.

# 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 Mr. Paul 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 1<sup>st</sup> Year Exhibitor meeting for livestock is scheduled for Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (beef, dairy, sheep, goat, swine & poultry). The 1<sup>st</sup> Year Exhibitor meeting for horse will be held in March.

Contact Mr. Paul at

[pbongarzone@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:pbongarzone@agcenter.lsu.edu) for further details.

# 2023 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 in order 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 7<sup>th</sup>:** Beef and dairy commercial heifers, market lambs, commercial ewes, market goats, and commercial does

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>:** 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 2022

- 1 First Day of Club Meetings
- 5 Labor Day Holiday, *Office Closed*
- 15 FIRST CALL – 4-H Enrollment Due in 4-H Online
- 15 Challenge Camp Applications Due, 4-H Office
- 21 Junior Leader Meeting, 4-H Office (Reg. required)
- 26 1<sup>st</sup> Year Livestock Exhibitor Meeting, 4-H Office

## October 2022

- 2-8 National 4-H Week
- 3 First Day of Club Meetings
- 6 Livestock Advisory Meeting, 4-H Office
- 14 FINAL CALL – 4-H Enrollment Due in 4-H Online
- 19 Junior Leader Meeting, 4-H Office
- 25 Office Training Workshop, Lafayette Middle School
- 27-11/13 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](https://www.facebook.com/lafayette4h)



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

Sincerely,

*Paul Bongarzone*

Paul Bongarzone  
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.