

# 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 3 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](https://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 2025

Lafayette Office

1010 Lafayette St., Ste. 325

Lafayette, LA 70501

Phone: (337) 291-7090

Fax: (337) 291-7099

[www.lsuagcenter.com](http://www.lsuagcenter.com)

### 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 communication, kindness, making wise choices, consumer education, healthy eating and physical activity. All lessons will be interactive and designed to reinforce soft skills which are essential to building a well-rounded individual!



## Challenge Camp

2025 Southwest Region Challenge Camp will be held on November 18-19, 2025, 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 the Lafayette 4-H Office by September 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:ngerard@agcenter.lsu.edu) if you need an application or have questions.



## State Record Book Contest

This year, 34 Record Books were selected to compete in the State 4-H Record Book Contest. These were judged at the beginning of August and results have been posted to our parish social media pages.

- **Emmy Habetz**, 4-H Ignite (2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate)

- **Mia Arceneaux**, 4-H Ignite (3<sup>rd</sup> Alternate)
- **Grace Martin**, 4-H Ignite (5<sup>th</sup> Alternate)
- **Austin Guillot**, 4-H Congress (Citizenship)
- **Abigail Puckett**, 4-H Congress (Citizenship)
- **Blakely Habetz**, 4-H Congress (SET- Livestock)
- **Carlie Simon**, \$300 Cash Award
- **Loni Pearl Callender**, \$200 Cash Award
- **Cole Berken**, \$200 Cash Award
- **Payne Smith**, \$200 Cash Award
- **David Landry**, \$150 Cash Award
- **Eva Landry**, \$150 Cash Award
- **Emily Simon**, \$100 Cash Award
- **Ellie Colee**, \$100 Cash Award
- **Loni Pearl Callender**- Livestock Superintendent's Award

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 5<sup>th</sup> through October 11<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).



## 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 older 4-H'ers from across Lafayette Parish who are in grades 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. 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?

The first meeting of the year will be on Thursday, September 18, 2025, beginning at 5:30 PM at the Lafayette 4-H Office (1010 Lafayette St. Suite 325, Lafayette, LA 70501). All 4-H'ers in grades 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> are invited to attend. They will need to contact Nicole Gerard 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; our state board members are as follows: **Braden Benoit** (Citizenship Board) **Ali Mejia** (Citizenship Board) **Marleigh Auzenne** (STEM Board) **Lexi Savoy** (Livestock Ambassador) **Ella Robin** (Equine Ambassador).

Congratulations to these exemplary members!



## Louisiana Service-Learning Focus

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

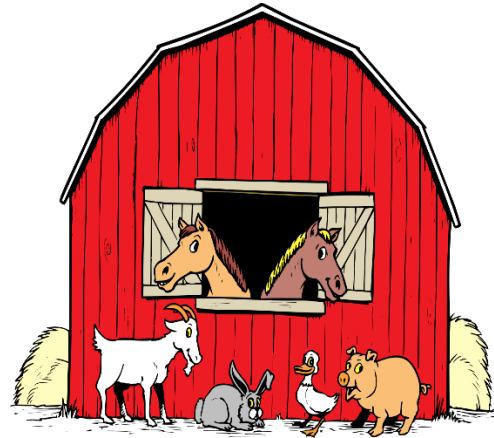
## Livestock Exhibitors

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 Mr. Camden 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 29<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. Camden at [coglesby@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:coglesby@agcenter.lsu.edu) for further details.



## 2026 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 10<sup>th</sup>:** Beef and dairy commercial heifers, market lambs, commercial ewes, market goats, and commercial does

**December 1<sup>st</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 2025

- 1 Labor Day Holiday, 4-H Office Closed
- 2 First Day of Club Meetings
- 4 Junior Leader Officer Meeting, 4-H Office
- 12 4-H Challenge Camp Applications Due, 4-H Office
- 15 FIRST CALL-4-H Enrollment Due
- 18 Junior Leader Meeting, 4-H Office (Reg. Required)
- 29 1<sup>st</sup> Year Livestock Exhibitor Meeting, 4-H Office



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

## October 2025

- 1 First Day of Club Meetings
- 2 Junior Leader Officer Meeting, 4-H Office
- 5-11 National 4-H Week
- 15 FINAL CALL – Enrollment Due in Online System
- 16 Junior Leader Meeting, 4-H Office
- 23 Officer Training Workshop, Lafayette Elementary
- 28-11/16 Louisiana State Fair, Shreveport

Sincerely,

*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

*Charlene Martin*

Charlene Martin

4-H Program Assistant  
Lafayette Parish

*Camden Oglesby*

Camden Oglesby

Assistant Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development  
Lafayette Parish

## 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.



*The LSU AgCenter is an equal opportunity provider and employer. . If you have a disability which requires special assistance or your participation in any aforementioned activity, please contact Lafayette 4-H office at (337) 291-7090.*