

Why 4-H Record?

- 4-H record books are part of the 4-H project curriculum
- They are designed to teach youth to keep accurate records of their projects.
- Records are a tool to make the total project a learning experience – a record allows us to look at the project in its entirety.
- Records help the member to do a self-evaluation.
- Records help leaders to know how their members are progressing.
- Records are one of the tools used in the awards selection process.
- Learn skills to prepare them for adult life

4-Hers Keep Records To:

- Measure Progress in their project(s)
- Identify expenses and financial gains or losses of their project
- Document all 4-H activities and experiences year by year
- Evaluate project growth over the years
- Refer to when filling out applications for out-of-county educational events
- Serve as a guide when applying for local 4-H awards and scholarships
- Assist in completing employment and/or college application forms
- Help when writing resumes for college and/or employment

By Keeping Records 4-Hers Learn To:

- Plan and organize their work
- Evaluate economic growth
- Budget their project and other financial needs
- Improve their written communication skills
- Pay attention to detail, follow instructions, and meet deadlines.
- Make decisions
- Set priorities
- Appreciate the life skills they are developing
- Understand the value of keeping records

Your 4-H Story

A good story helps the judge get to know the 4-H Member!
It shows growth over the 4-H career.

This is not just a repeat of the report form.

The 4-H Story may be no longer than three pages.

The 4-H Story is a personal narrative of your growth in 4-H, the goals you've set and reached, what these experiences have meant to you, or how 4-H has impacted your life.

Tell how your 4-H experience has affected your family, community and others. You may wish to use a theme to tie all the activities together.

Be creative; make the story sound as if you were telling a friend about 4-H, your goals and dreams, how you overcame defeat or handled success. Add touches of humor or quotes from people who have encouraged you.

Writing Your Story

- Part I- Introduce yourself- remember, people are reading your story that do not know you. Include your age, interests, parents, brothers and sisters, where you live, where you go to school, grade, etc. You can always include an attention getting paragraph before your introduction- one suggestion is to use a funny 4-H incident.
- Part II- Tell about the projects in which you are enrolled. Why did you choose these projects? What have you learned in the projects? How did you finance your projects? What was your favorite activity in 4-H?
- Part III- Explain how 4-H helped you become a better citizen and leader. Include offices held, committees served on, and what you have learned working with other 4-H members.
- Part IV- Describe how 4-H has influenced you. Tell about school, goals, careers, and future plans.
- Conclusion- Don't forget to end your story!

Story Tips

Avoid a year-by-year listing of what you did.

Show the human interest side of 4-H- how has it changed you, your family, your community?

Tell about the skills learned and changes in attitudes and habits.

PROOFREAD!! After you have proofed, have someone else proofread as well. Look for the following:

Did you begin each sentence with a capital letter?

Did you use end marks correctly?

Did you spell each word correctly?

Did you write each idea in a complete sentence?

Did you use commas correctly?

Did you begin each proper name with a capital letter?

Did you indent each paragraph?

Your 4-H Photos

Begin taking photos early! The photos that you use are a very important part of your record book.

They should reflect growth, development, and involvement in your 4-H career.

Use photos that show you doing things, learning and teaching others, and especially having FUN in 4-H.

Use photos that show your main project, other projects, leadership, community service and other 4-H related activities.

Photos depicting family activities, livestock auctions, sports events, other school events (non-4-H related photos) are discouraged.

Waiting until the last minute and having to pose or create false photos is sometimes noticeable in your book.

So start taking pictures now!