

Maryland 4-H Animal Science Program Guidebook

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION
Solutions in your community



4-H Clovers Participation in 4-H Animal Science Projects

One of the common questions we receive about the Maryland 4-H Clovers program relates to their participation in 4-H Animal Science Projects and who may provide leadership to Clovers groups. This is a reasonable question since we know that young people are certainly attracted to animals and are curious and interested in working with and learning about animals.

There are several resources available on the Maryland 4-H website about the Maryland 4-H Clovers program. We have pulled specific language from some of those resources which helps guide us on 4-H Clovers participation in Animal Science projects, events and activities and they are included below.

To summarize the language below:

- Clovers should not be enrolled in an ongoing 4-H project – this would include animal projects. Thus, Clovers would not enroll in specific Animal Projects such as the Horse Project or Beef Project.
- This does not mean that they cannot learn about horses or beef through various activities that are appropriate for the age group. Note: The Ohio CloverBud Program Manuals 1 and 2 are available for leaders to help them offer hundreds of short-term, fun, cooperative, noncompetitive activities. See <http://estore.osu-extension.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=2762>).
- Clovers should not handle animals or ride horses as part of their 4-H experience. We realize that many families (or barns) allow their small children to work with animals or ride horseback and as a family; that is their decision – but from an overall 4-H program perspective – Maryland 4-H does not allow this.
- Clovers may participate in fairs. However, their participation must be in accordance with the guidelines below and similar policy documents.
- Clovers should not participate as competitive exhibitors with animals or in other competitive classes.
- Adults who work with 4-H Clover clubs and members, other than their own children must be UME Volunteers.

Resource: Kindergarten-3rd Grade Programs in 4-H - National 4-H Fact Sheet -
<http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/library/fs-cloverbuds-02-08.pdf>

“The primary difference between a 4-H Cloverbuds activity and a 4-H project is that a Cloverbuds member engages in varied activities which focus on developing a specific skill or concept utilized in completing the activity rather than focusing on a long-term

planned course of study in a specific project (subject) area. As a result, 4-H Cloverbuds members should not have ongoing projects, of any kind – including animal projects – nor should they participate as competitive exhibitors with animals – large or small, because within the 4-H program, exhibits are intended to showcase the culmination of a long-term project.”

“In general, the handling of animals (large or small) requires discipline and motor skills that have yet to be fully developed in most children in the K-3 age range and when coupled with the unpredictable behavior of animals, does not provide the optimal safe educational environment.”

“4-H Cloverbuds members that have engaged in a group activity may exhibit or showcase in a noncompetitive event, or can feature other items from their group activities. However, 4-H Cloverbuds members are not eligible to receive premium funds as a result of exhibition. 4-H Cloverbuds members may receive participatory ribbons but may not receive regular competitive purple, blue, red or white 4-H ribbons”

4-H Clover Program: Volunteer Guide -

<http://www.maryland4h.org/4HFiles/CloverGuide09.pdf>

“Volunteers - involve family members and older youth to help with activities during club meetings and/or at home. Junior leaders can serve as Clover leaders under adult supervision. Parents may be involved as long as they work with their own child. Adults who work with Clover club members, other than their own children must be UME Volunteers.”

“Enrollment: Leaders will complete a 4-H member enrollment form for the 4-H Clovers. On the form the club name and number should be that of their 4-H club (e.g., Trail Blazers 4-H Clovers, Busy Bee 4-H Clovers). The only project listed on the form for these members should be 4-H Clovers.”

“Fairs and Shows: One of the biggest questions about Clovers regards their participation in the county fair. If Clovers exhibit at the county fair, a separate division for Clovers should be developed. Again, all exhibitors should receive a participation ribbon and should not be competitively evaluated. Interview judging is encouraged. Junior leaders can be used to conduct the interviews. Clover members do not participate in animal shows, fitting and showing contests, or other competitive events at the fair. Clovers may study animals as a part of their learning experience, but should only bring photos of the animal, a notebook, story, photo story or some other display of their learning experiences. No live animals are to be exhibited.”

Maryland Policy Information for a Clover Program -

<http://www.maryland4h.org/4HFiles/Maryland%20Policy%20Information%20for%20a%20Clover%20Program.pdf>

Has similar content to items above but may be useful to you.

Publication / Project Resource List -

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/Extension/4H/Join%204-H/4-H%20Projects/index.cfm>

This resource includes the recommended Curricula to use with 4-H Clovers in Maryland:

CLOVER**Animal Sciences - 5020**

PROJECT NUMBER	PUBLICATION / PROJECT	ORDER NUMBER	RESOURCE / PRICE
5012	Animal Science Series Exploring Farm Animals	06350	(\$3.95)

Plant Pals - 8845

PROJECT NUMBER	PUBLICATION / PROJECT	ORDER NUMBER	RESOURCE / PRICE
8845	Plant Pals	PLP-1	(\$4.99)

Cloverbud - 0100

PROJECT NUMBER	PUBLICATION / PROJECT	ORDER NUMBER	RESOURCE / PRICE
0101	Cloverbud Program Unit 1 K-2	4H 710	Ohio State University (\$19.95)
0102	Cloverbud Program Unit 2	4H 711	Ohio State University (\$28.00)