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WHAT OUR 4-H MEMBERS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH  
THEIR CLUB WORK

A radio talk by Clayton Fox, 4-H club member, Imbler, Oregon, delivered in the National 4H club radio program, December 5, 1936, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

By being a member of the 4-H clubs we are able to accomplish many things which otherwise we could not. The advantages for farm young people are great in 4-H work.

To be a member you must have a project varying from sewing and cooking for the girls to livestock and crops for the boys. This project must be the property of the boy or girl enrolled. Thus we have ownership which probably helps more in scoring a successful enterprise than any other one factor. Of course, we take more pains, have more interest, and spend more time on something that we can really call our own.

Many successful livestock projects have been started without financial aid of any kind. Any boy or girl desiring to enter the livestock work usually starts by obtaining a grade animal for market purposes. Any active farm boy can earn during the summer enough money or trade his work for grain to feed the animal. When the animal is sold for meat, the money which the boy will receive; really seems like clear profit. If they are still interested and wish to carry on this work they are encouraged to invest this money in a purebred animal. This animal quite often is the foundation of a purebred herd which in later years are proving themselves outstanding. In this manner we get good livestock, flocks, and herds started without much financial aid. Many members who started out in this manner now own livestock valued at hundreds and even thousands of dollars.

Having an animal does us no good if we do not feed and care for it. 4-H members must own and care for their animals; thus receiving experience in handling livestock that will be of value in later years. Many former club members are now employed as herdsman for some of the outstanding livestock farms in the United States. This is due largely to the fact that they have received actual experiences in handling their own enterprises.

An accurate record book and story of our work is required for all projects. Our record book is complete with inventories, feed records, weights, receipts and expenses. Upon completing a years work and your book, we have received much experience in general farm accounting. This knowledge of accurate record keeping will be of value; for any well conducted business has a well kept set of books.

Each member belongs to an organized club which consists of at least five members and a local leader, with the members electing club officers. The members conduct their own business meeting, receiving valuable training in conducting business matters, introducing guests, and giving short talks.

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Judging contests are one of the major items in a 4 H members activities. During the earlier part of the year, members receive instructions on judging livestock, given by the county agents and local leaders. By becoming a member of the winning teams we get trips to the county, State, and National judging contests. To take part in such contests a member must have really accomplished a great deal, for this judging experience is of untold value in buying, culling, and selecting individual animals for projects.

All club members are encouraged to exhibit their projects at the local fairs and expositions. Special classes where members compete among themselves, are provided by the Fair Association. Those who do not win, strive to better their projects and placings while those on top must keep working in order to maintain that place. Quite often a member who placed near the bottom of the line with his project in 1935 will improve his work so that in 1936, he is a winner of the blue ribbon. Members who raise their ratings and are really striving and working to accomplish these goals, are the ones who will succeed in their club work.

Besides receiving experiences, a financial profit is desirable and very helpful. From their sales, many younger members with smaller projects earn money to help in their schooling, and also get a little extra pocket money. From these smaller projects, which with time have increased in size, the older members are financing their way through college. Thus they are able to receive the benefits of a college education because of their 4-H club projects.

Ownership, Leadership, Judging Ability, Trips, Record Keeping, and a success Financially, are some of the important things that you can accomplish by being a 4-H member and conducting your projects as your own small business enterprise.

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