GOAL SETTING
Writing Project Area Goals

The skill of goal setting and working to achieve their goals is what 4-H strives to have 4-H youth practice in all parts of the educational experience — from project work to club work. As a 4-H member develops their skills in a project area, goals should become more challenging to further their learning.

WHAT IS A GOAL?

A GOAL is….. deciding what you want to achieve and learn in a 4-H project.
A GOAL is….. having a road map. It helps you decide how to get to where you want to go.

Set goals that are specific and meet your personal needs and interests. Goals should provide you an opportunity to feel a sense of achievement when you meet them. Remember to set goals that can be accomplished in a reasonable amount of time and with the resources that are available to you. If you've been in this project area more than one year, your new goals should show progress over what you've learned and achieved in previous years.

HOW TO WRITE A 4-H GOAL

A goal has 3 parts, action, results, and timetable. The "action" is how you're going to do it, the "result" is what you will do, and the "timetable" is when you plan to have it done. Here are some examples.

ACTION	RESULT	TIMETABLE
I want to make	a poster about smoothies	by the February club meeting
I want to train	my 4-H beef heifer to lead	before county fair time
I want to photograph	the flags at the cemetery	on Memorial Day

CONTROL TEST

Do your goals pass the control test? That is, do you have control over all parts of what happens? If you can answer "yes", you are ready for the next step!

WHAT'S NEXT?

1. Record your goals in the record keeping system you plan to use this year. Think about including what you would like to learn as a part of your goal.
2. Write at least one goal for each project in which you are enrolled.
3. Use a 4-H Goal Calendar (4H 5001 https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/16174) to help you develop a plan to work on your goals during the entire year. It is okay to make changes and to add or delete goals during the year.
4. Use the same process to write goals for your exhibits. See the next page for more information.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

GOAL SETTING
Writing Exhibit Goals

If you are planning to exhibit at the county fair, start with your project area goals and think through some exhibits that could help you demonstrate what you learned while working to reach those goals. You can check out the project area guides (https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/15266) for exhibit ideas by project area.

The following are examples of project area and exhibit goals. You can see that many different exhibit goals may come from one project area goal. You can also demonstrate your project area learning in ways other than fair exhibits. Remember, the more time you have been in a project area the more challenging your goals should be and the more learning you should be able to demonstrate.

EXAMPLE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT GOALS

Project Area Goal:

I want to learn more about how to recycle aluminum cans and plastic jugs in my community by the end of the school year.

Exhibit Goals:

I want to create a poster to exhibit at the county fair that teaches how to recycle in my community and the impact of recycling in my community.

I will give a presentation at my county communication event about recycling in my community.

I will make a display for the county fair showing products made from recycled materials.

EXAMPLE VISUAL ARTS GOALS

Project Area Goal:

I want to learn more about the steps it takes to become a professional weaver by July 1.

Exhibit goals:

I want to create a wall hanging demonstrating techniques I have learned about weaving and enter as a static exhibit at our county fair.

I will make a poster showing basic steps of weaving to exhibit at the county fair.

NOW IT IS YOUR TURN

Practice writing project area and exhibit goals that include the action, result, and timetable.

Project Area Goal:

_____

Exhibit Goals:

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Project Area Goal:

_____

Exhibit Goals:

_____

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