This department was created for 4-H member’s younger siblings who participated in club projects and wished to show that project at the fair. However, these young children are not ready for the pressure of competition, or even “constructive” criticism. So, the noncompetitive “Young Clovers” department was created. Participation ribbons are awarded at the fair for each project shown. Because “Young Clovers” are not ready for fair pressure and competition, they are limited on the number of projects they may present at the fair. This limitation is in accordance with age, if a 5 year old participates, they may bring five (5) projects to the fair, if an 8 year old participates, they may bring eight (8) projects to the fair.

There are many sections and classes under which Young Clovers may participate, including some “any other” classes. The Young Clovers classes are designed to mirror regular 4-H classes. Therefore, follow the basic 4-H guidelines for the project, as much as is practical for this age group.

The Young Clover should enjoy their 4-H experience and be rewarded for trying. They should also be encouraged to complete a project before starting another. Each child should work at their own pace and at their own ability. What is appropriate for one child may not be suitable for another child the same age.

The Young Clovers may do similar projects as the older 4-H’ers, but at a simplified level. Remember, at this age, children like hands on learning and will try many new things with the help of leader and parents.

Remember: Non-competitive, absence of rivalry, rewarded for trying.

There is special project material available for this age group, including "Snacking Health", “Just Outside the Door” and several others. The Cooperative Extension Service Office has copies, stop by to see what is available to order. If you have any question, you may contact the 4-H Youth Agent.