4-H is Youth Development

The 4-H mission is to assist youth in developing knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society. 4-H depends on collaboration among youth, adult leaders, communities, land-grant universities, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Projects focus on developing life skills in each young person through a learn-by-doing approach. In 4-H Livestock Clubs, knowledge and skills are developed during the process of learning to select, feed, care for, and exhibit an animal.

The climax of a 4-H member’s livestock project is the county and/or state show where the youth demonstrate the skills they have learned in record-keeping, herdsmanship, showmanship, judging, and marketing of their animal. County shows are held throughout the year; the state show is held in the summer in conjunction with the Hawai‘i State Farm Fair.

Community Partnerships

4-H members participate in community activities such as park and road-side clean-ups, visits to hospitals and the elderly, the Adopt-a-Teacher program, and educational demonstrations.

4-H youth participate in the local economy and learn business skills when they purchase animals, feed and supplies, borrow needed funds, and market their animals. 4-H livestock are marketed at auctions following county and state livestock shows. The purpose of the auction is to help 4-H members to recover the cost outlay of animal projects.

Cooperative support from local businesses and the community is needed to reward the successful completion of 4-H projects. Your purchase of a 4-H animal at a county or state show can be critical to young people who might not otherwise be able to participate in livestock projects. Through your purchase you are helping youth to reach their goals of being responsible and productive individuals.

4-H Livestock Show and Sale

Raising a 4-H animal represents a significant investment in both time and finances on the part of each 4-H member. Each 4-H animal is sold by auction to the highest bidder. Winning bidders receive the dairy heifer or, for other livestock, the fair market value of the carcass. The amount bid in excess of fair market value is a charitable contribution. To make the entire bid a charitable donation, the value of the animal can be donated to a charity. Your contribution will be gratefully and publicly acknowledged.

If you are interested in supporting youth development by bidding on a 4-H animal, please phone 808-453-6050 to request a buyer’s packet containing more detailed sale information.
Supporting 4-H

You can support 4-H youth development in Hawai‘i by making a donation to the Hawai‘i State 4-H Livestock Council. All donations are tax-deductible charitable contributions. Donations will

- Provide trophies and incentives, an Awards Brunch, and materials for educational displays during the Hawai‘i State 4-H Show and Sale.
- Support the 4-H Livestock Council scholarship program.
- Assist the state judging team with travel expenses to a national 4-H competition on the mainland.
- Provide educational materials and support program activities, workshops and Livestock Council work throughout the year.

The UH-CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperate in presenting to the people of Hawai‘i programs and services without regard to race, sex, age, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, arrest and court record, sexual orientation, or veteran status. The university is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.