



**THE PRAIRIE COUNTY 4-H
AWARDS APPLICATION
Beginning Level
(9-10 year olds *)**

*(4-H age is determined as of October 1 of the previous year)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BEGINNER APPLICANTS

1. This application is for applying for 4-H awards. Applying for awards is optional, but you may decide you want to try to win an award. You should understand that you might not win.

4-H members can apply for awards in one or more of the following projects areas: 1) Animal Science, 2) Family & Consumer Science, 3) General Science, or 4) Leadership & Community Service. One award winner will be selected for each project area.

You should complete one Prairie County 4-H Award Application and one Award Project Area Page for each area you want to apply for.

1. Next, you will need to gather together your project and member journals to fill out this application.
2. Look at the top of the application form. Write your name on the first line. Use both your first and last name. After your name, fill in your 4-H age (the age you were on Oct. 1 last year) and your club name. Write clearly. You can use either a pen or pencil.
3. The next section asks you to tell us what special things you did this year. Did you give any talks? Demonstrations? What special events did you attend? Did you serve on any committees? Did you help others?
5. Next, sign your application. Be sure to ask a parent or your 4-H leader to sign and date your award application. Then turn the application into the Extension Office.
6. Next, fill out the Award Project Area page. Make sure you write your name and circle the project area you are interested in. If you want to apply for more than one area, fill out a separate page for each area.
7. In the first section you will tell us about your goals for the projects you took that relate to the area you selected. For example, if you are applying for a Family & Consumer Science award, you would write about what you hoped to learn in your foods and sewing projects. In the next section you will list the things you did in your projects. Then in the final section, you will list what you learned in these projects. For example, did you learn how to work with wood? What skills did you develop? Did you learn how to care for and feed an animal? Did you learn about animal breeds? Tell us all the exciting, new things you learned in this project. How are you better than when you enrolled in this project?
8. Finally, you can add pictures to your application if you want. Pictures show us what you've done. If you can, show us "before and after" pictures of your projects. What did it look like when you started? What did the finished project look like?

NOTE TO PARENTS AND LEADERS:

The purpose of this application is to help youngsters compete for county awards if they wish. Before filling out this application, please discuss the purpose of the application and the nature of peer competition with the 4-Her.

Remember: Applying for awards is optional for all 4-H members. This choice needs to be communicated very clearly to these young 4-H members. Competition between peers can provide a very high level of recognition for some young people. Many 4-Hers in this age group, however, may not be ready for this kind of competition. Under no circumstances should they ever be forced to complete an awards application if this is not their goal.

Before giving this application to a 4-H member, discuss the purpose of the application with him or her. It is important to discuss the possible consequences of involvement in recognition for peer competition (for example, they may not win and what that might mean to them). Parents should assist younger members with their decision as to whether or not they want to apply for county awards, but the final decision should always be the member's. Once the decision has been made to participate in the awards selection process, this age group of youngsters will need assistance from leaders and/or parents as they complete the application.

We are using the current application form for this age group so that their writing skills will not be the basis of selecting award winners. Rather, demonstrated excellence in the award area should be the basis of selection. We also believe that this application will make the transition to the next awards application easier as the 4-Her continues to progress in 4-H. The application asks the younger member three things: (1) what did you want to do at the beginning of your project? (2) what did you do? and (3) what did you learn? The purpose of these questions is to encourage members to set goals, reflect on those goals, and then verbalize what it was they did in the project. By using this format, we hope that a better learning environment is established and that younger members will enjoy their 4-H experiences.

Please do not add additional pages to the application. The purpose of the shortened form is to make the application process as easy as possible for the younger 4-H members. Members may add a before and after photo if they wish, but that is optional. Pictures may be either black-and-white or color and may be taken with any kind of camera. The purpose of the picture is to illustrate the changes that have occurred, not to demonstrate photographic composition or expertise.

The 4-H member can fill the application out using a pen or pencil – whichever they are using in school would be most appropriate. Please have them use their best penmanship and be as neat as possible. However, the style in which the application is filled out will not be judged. Applications will not be judged on neatness, spelling or other minor stylistic points. Only the contents on the application will be evaluated to determine award winners.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Beginning Level Montana 4-H Awards Application should be judged using the following broad criteria:

Project Goals (Appropriate to project, challenging for the age, realistic)	15 %
Accomplishments (Evidence of learning, knowledge gained)	50%
Other Activities (Evidence of going beyond the minimum)	35%
TOTAL	100%

Name: _____

Project Area: _____

9-10 Year Olds Criteria for Evaluation

	Possible Points	Actual Points
Project Goals (15 points) (Appropriate to project, challenging for the age, realistic)	15	_____
Accomplishments (50 points) Project learning (Evidence of learning, knowledge gained)	50	_____
Other Activities (35 points) Talks, demonstrations, etc. (Evidence of what was done in addition to work in the project, evidence of going beyond the minimum)	35	_____
TOTAL POINTS SCORED		_____/100