



MINNESOTA 4-H

Cloverbuds at the County Fair

Cloverbud programs emphasize cooperative rather than competitive experiences. Children are encouraged to develop social skills through cooperative experiences with their peers. They are also allowed the freedom of not having undue emphasis placed on the product of their efforts. This is a time to experiment with new skills and experiences, not to strive for perfection. Children in K-2 grades and the age range have only begun to deal with the concept of being less than the best. Therefore, it is not appropriate for children in K-2 to participate in competitive situations. However, it is very appropriate for a child to participate in non-competitive 4-H activities and to be recognized for their participation.

STATE 4-H RULES FOR CLOVERBUD PARTICIPATION

For the safety of K-2 participants, the following rules apply to cloverbud experiences.

Parents/guardians/mentors are responsible for ensuring their “cloverbud” understands and follows the rules. Extension 4-H staff members and designated volunteer(s) are positioned to intervene when rules are not followed and/or if safety becomes a concern for another reason. Definitions used in outlining the rules are noted at the end of the document.

- A. When using equipment that is potentially dangerous, a responsible person¹ will be with the cloverbud at all times² guiding and monitoring their involvement. Examples of potentially dangerous equipment include sewing machines and power tools.
- B. Cloverbuds may only participate in wildlife educational opportunities of the 4-H Shooting Sports/Wildlife program. Cloverbuds may not handle any equipment, including fire arms and archery equipment.
- C. Cloverbuds must wear appropriate safety helmets when riding horses or bicycles.
- D. When cloverbuds and animals (including beef, cats, dairy, dogs, goats, horse, llama, pets, poultry, rabbit, swine and sheep) are together at a 4-H program or participating at the county fair as a 4-H member, the following rules apply:
 - a. A responsible person¹ must be with the cloverbud to guide and monitor their involvement at all times², including but not limited to movement within and to and from the trailers, barns, wash racks, and show arena.
 - b. Families may choose one of two acceptable ways to guide and monitor involvement in non-mounted activities:
 - 1. The responsible person¹ is in control³ of the animal with the cloverbud at their side.

2. The cloverbud is in control³ of the animal with the responsible person¹ at their side to assist or take control of the animal when needed or as directed by staff, volunteers or show managers.
- c. When a cloverbud is mounted on a horse, the horse must always have a lead line and be under the control of the responsible person¹.
- d. Cloverbuds may safely interact with their animal through participation in a limited number of non-competitive classes at 4-H sponsored practice sessions/clinics, fun shows and county fairs. The purpose is to provide youth an opportunity to experience being in the ring with a judge present and to feel the pride that comes with this experience.

Appropriate participation includes:

- Cloverbuds may participate with beef, dairy, dog, goats, pets, poultry, rabbits, and swine in a Cloverbud Showmanship Class.
- Cloverbuds may participate with a sheep in two classes: Cloverbud Showmanship or Cloverbud Lamb Lead.
- Cloverbuds may participate with a llama - alpaca in two classes: Cloverbud Costume or Cloverbud Showmanship.
- Cloverbuds may participate with a horse in three classes: Cloverbud Halter/Showmanship, Cloverbud Western Pleasure or Cloverbud Barrels. If the horse is used in a riding setting, the Cloverbud may sit on the back of the horse with a responsible person¹ in control³ of the horse at all times². Helmets are required for the Cloverbud in any riding setting.

Definitions used in outlining the rules

¹ A “responsible person” is defined as a screened adult volunteer, youth leader 6th grade and older, parent, or other adult who may appropriately assist with the group.

² “At all times” includes but is not limited to the following: during all portions of project workshops, club events, club meetings, public showcases, which include county fairs, demonstrations, or a community event where youth are representing 4-H with an animal.

³ “Control” means assuming responsibility for handling and/or leading the animal. It is the responsibility of the parent/responsible adult to control the animal at all times.

PENNINGTON COUNTY 4-H POLICIES FOR CLOVERBUD PARTICIPATION

In addition to the state policies outlined above, the Pennington County 4-H has established the following policies regarding Cloverbud participation:

- The Cloverbud program serves as an introduction to the 4-H program. It is non-competitive and experience-driven.
- Premiums and ribbons are awarded to Cloverbuds for their successful participation in the fair. Traditional ribbon colors do not apply to Cloverbuds. A premium of \$1 shall be awarded for each successful exhibition.

- Cloverbuds are limited to entry in 5 projects. Entry into multiple classes, such as in the “Cloverbud Horse” project, counts as 1 project regardless of the number of classes entered within that project.
- Cloverbuds must abide by all other rules, guidelines, expectations, and qualifications listed in the Premium Book except as noted.

REGISTERING FOR THE FAIR

Registration for the Pennington County showcase will open May 28 and will close on June 12. During that time, all Cloverbuds who wish to exhibit at the fair must register through the website FairEntry. A detailed guide on how to use FairEntry and register exhibits has been included in the registration packet.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

You can find additional information on the Cloverbuds program by visiting this website:

<https://extension.umn.edu/ways-participate/4-h-cloverbuds>.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Contact the Pennington County Extension Office at (218) 683-7030 or email Abbey Linstad at linst031@umn.edu or Cindi at kile0017@umn.edu.

CLOVERBUDS SECTION OF THE 2025 PENNINGTON COUNTY 4-H PREMIUM BOOK

CLOVERBUDS

Cloverbud – General Exhibit
 Cloverbud – Dairy
 Cloverbud – Dairy Goat
 Cloverbud – Beef
 Cloverbud – Dog
 Cloverbud – Horse
 Cloverbud – Meat Goat
 Cloverbud – Poultry
 Cloverbud – Rabbit
 Cloverbud – Sheep
 Cloverbud – Swine
 Cloverbud – Demonstration (individual)
 Cloverbud - Demonstration (team)
 Cloverbud – Animal Science Exhibit
 Cloverbud - Constructed Clothing
 Cloverbud - Purchased Clothing
 Cloverbud – Upcycled Clothing
 Cloverbud - Fashion Revue Constructed Clothing
 Cloverbud - Fashion Revue Purchased Clothing
 Cloverbud – Fashion Revue Upcycled Clothing
 Cloverbud – Food Revue

Cloverbud - Quilting
Cloverbud – Sewn Non-Garment
Cloverbud – Performing Arts

Exhibit Suggestions:

- We encourage cloverbuds to review the project area requirements in the general project and animal science project areas to learn more about what would be required of their project when they reach 3rd grade. (e.g. Photography-pictures require a mat and cannot be framed, recipe card with food project)
 - General exhibits could include: 3 cut flowers in a vase, a potted plant, vegetable or fruit art, a nutritious food snack (include a recipe card), a simple item you made for your home like a pillow, placemat, decoration, etc., rock collection, paper bag puppet, 4 interesting objects of nature, tree leaf collection, display of insects, simple craft item, or anything else you can think of. (Think about how your exhibit will be displayed at the fair, review the general project requirements within the specific project area for ideas for displaying or hanging your exhibits, poster or display sizes, etc.)
 - Animal Science posters could include how you care for your animal, animal breeds, fun things your animal can do, what your animal eats, etc.

Requirement:

- Cloverbuds are youth who have completed grades K-2. Cloverbud programs emphasize cooperative rather than competitive experiences—in accordance with our guidelines all cloverbuds will receive a participation ribbon, rather than the blue, red, white or champion ribbon.
- Cloverbud general exhibits can be made at home, at a 4-H or non 4-H meeting or event.
- Cloverbud animal science areas include live animals or posters in the following Beef, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Dog, Horse, Llama-Alpaca, Meat Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep & Swine. Animal-related project areas must follow the [MN 4-H Cloverbud policy](https://z.umn.edu/4h-cloverbud-Info) (z.umn.edu/4h-cloverbud-Info) that requires a responsible person be with the Cloverbud members at all times during Cloverbud activities when in the presence of an animal. This includes pet and livestock projects.
- Review the [Cloverbud Information Sheet](https://z.umn.edu/4h-cloverbud-Info) (z.umn.edu/4h-cloverbud-Info) to ensure the exhibit is developmentally appropriate and follows 4-H cloverbud policies.

No State Fair trips in this division.

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