UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION

Changes for 2027 are highlighted in yellow!

2026 Washington County Fair 4-H Information Book!

Building Memories Since 1871

4-H FAMILIES

We are so excited to be a part of the 155th Washington County Fair! We can't wait to see all of you and celebrate the achievements of our youth at the Washington County Fair, July 29 - August 2!

The Washington County Fair - where lifelong memories are made!



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WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR 4-H EVENT SCHEDULE

2026 4-H County Fair Schedule

4-H Building is open from 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 29 - August 2

BLUE DESIGNATES A CHANGE FOR 2026

SATURDAY, JULY 25

8:00 am - Check in Dog judging (West Pavilion)
10:00 am - 4:00 pm Judging of all GENERAL exhibits (4-H Building on fairgrounds) Judges lunch break 12:30 - 1:00 pm.
10:00 pm - 2:00 pm Pet Judging (Cloverbuds included) under the old Bingo shelter

SUNDAY, JULY 26

8:00 am (check in) Dog Agility (location TBD)

TUESDAY, July 28

9:00 am Horse Pleasure Show (Main Horse Arena)
Time TBD Trail Classes
State Horse Show Pleasure Meeting follows Pleasure Show
1:00 - 9:00 pm Rabbits/Poultry Exhibits Accepted (Poultry/Rabbit Barn)
Mandatory Rabbit/Poultry Knowledge Quiz given during check in

WEDNESDAY, July 29

9:00 am Horse Game Show (Main Horse Arena)
State Horse Show Game Meeting follows Game Show
8-9:30 am Poultry Exhibits accepted (Poultry Barn)
Poultry Exhibitors take Mandatory Knowledge Quiz @ check in
9:00 am Rabbit Judging (Judging Tent) beginning with Cloverbud Showmanship
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Demonstration Judging (4-H building)
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Arts-In Show (Park Pavilion)
4:00 pm All Livestock in place (except dairy cattle & goats)
4:00 pm Sheep & Swine Exhibitors take Mandatory Knowledge Quiz (Ring between Swine & Goat Barn)
4:30 pm Beef Exhibitors take Mandatory Knowledge Quiz (Ring between Swine & Goat Barn)
6:00 pm Opening Day Parade
7:00 pm Arts-In Show (Park Pavilion)

THURSDAY, JULY 30

8:00 am Swine Judging (Outside Swine barn)
10:30 am Poultry Judging (Judging Tent)
11:00 am Dairy Cattle & Goats in place
12:00 pm Goat ID check in (goat barn)
1:30 pm Dairy, Dairy Goat, Market Goat Exhibitors take Mandatory Knowledge Quiz (Judging Arena)
3:00 pm Market Goat Judging (Between Swine and Goat Barns)
*****5:00 pm Lamb Lead (Sheep/Swine Show ring)**
*****5:30 pm Sheep Judging (Sheep/Swine Show ring)**
6:00 pm Arts-In Show (Park Pavilion)
7:00 pm Arts-In Show (Park Pavilion)

FRIDAY, JULY 31

8:00 am	Dairy Goat Showmanship/Show (Judging Arena)
9:00 am	Beef Judging (Judging Arena)
10:00 am	Rabbit Agility Show (Tent outside Poultry/Rabbit Barn)
12:00 pm	Auction acceptance deadline!
1:00-3:00 pm	4-H Family Fun Day (4-H Building)
2:00 pm	Washington County 4-H Mini Meats Contest (outside of Judging Arena)
6:00 pm	Mandatory meeting for all youth selected for Market Livestock Auction (Judging Arena)
6:00 pm	Arts-In Show (Park Pavilion)
7:00 pm	Arts-In Show (Park Pavilion)
7:00 pm	All General State Fair 'trips' must be confirmed and packets picked up at the 4-H office on fairgrounds. Trips will go to the next individual in line if not confirmed by the 7:00 pm deadline! Turn in General Project State Fair packets as you complete them prior to the deadline on Saturday @ 1:00 pm!
7:00 pm	Deadline to return completed State Horse Show packets to 4-H office on fairgrounds.
7:00 pm	Deadline to return completed State Dog Show packets to 4-H office on fairgrounds.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

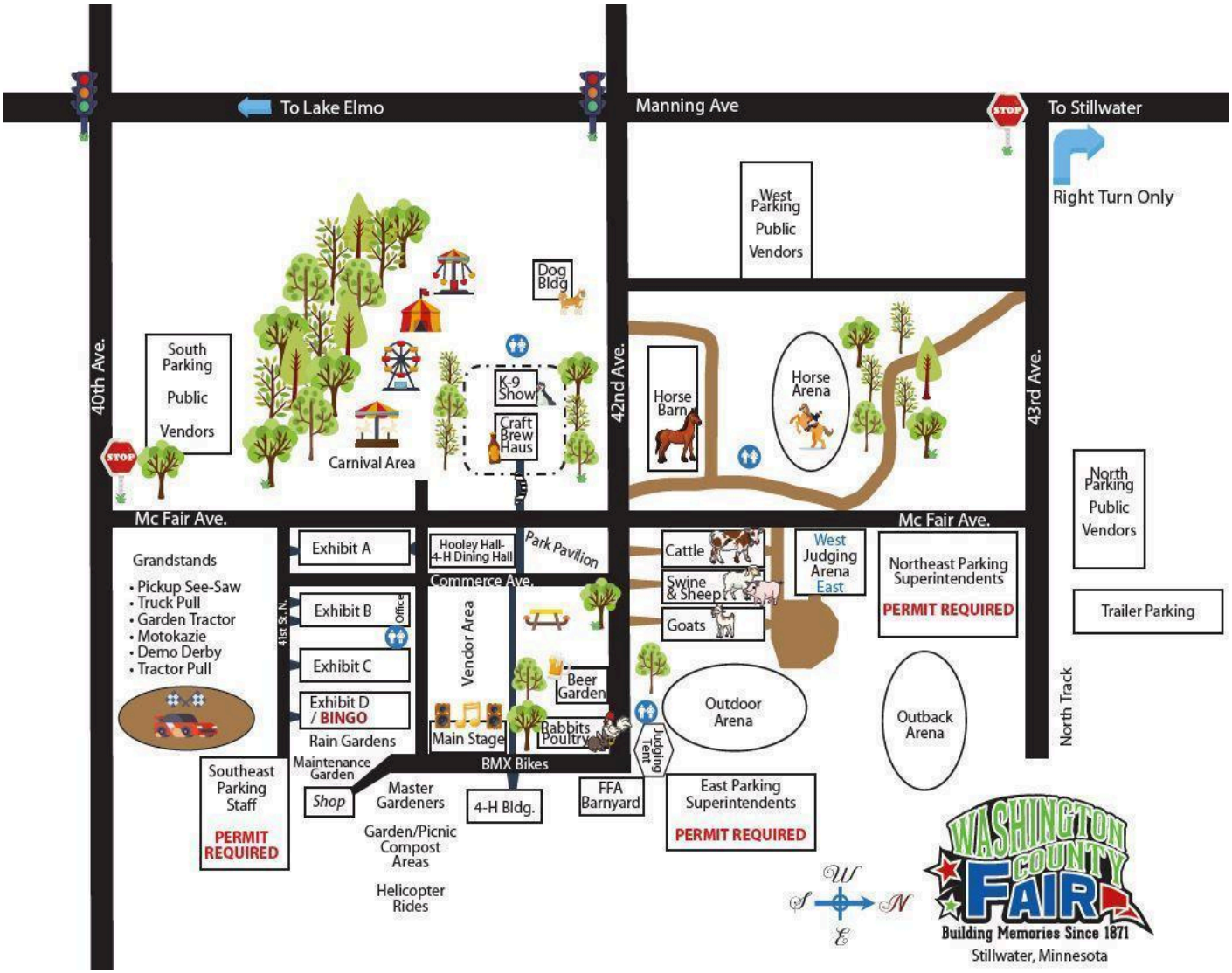
10:00 am	Dairy Cattle Judging (Judging Arena)
10:30 am	Dog Agility Demonstration (West pavilion)
11:00 am	State Fair Meeting (OPTIONAL - intended for those who have never attended State Fair) – Livestock & General combined @ 4-H building)
1:00 pm	Deadline to returned ALL completed State Fair General packets to 4-H building on the fairgrounds.
1:30 pm	Arts-In Show (Park Pavilion)
2:30 pm	Arts-In Show (Park Pavilion)
5:30 pm	Market Livestock Auction (Judging Arena)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

9:00 am	Llama/Alpaca Judging (Judging Arena)
10:00 am/1:00 pm	**Horse Drill Team Exhibition (Main Horse Arena)**
12:00 pm	ALL STATE FAIR livestock trips must be confirmed and completed packets turned into the 4-H office on the fairgrounds.
12:00 pm	Premier Showmanship Contest (outside swine barn)
1:30 pm	Arts-In Show (Park Pavilion)
2:00 pm	Share the Fun & Performing Arts Winners (Park Pavilion)
2:00 pm	State Fair Trip Livestock Specie meetings in respective barns
2:30 pm	Arts-In Show (Park Pavilion)
6:30 pm	4-H Recognition Program (tent across from 4-H building)
7:00 pm	Livestock released (except poultry & rabbits)
8:00 pm	General exhibits released, poultry & rabbits

MONDAY, AUGUST 3 State Horse Show participants will have a photo taken at 5:30 pm at the fairgrounds prior to clean up.

MAP OF FAIRGROUNDS



REGISTERING FOR THE COUNTY FAIR - JULY 1 DEADLINE!

All 4-H exhibits coming to the county fair must be pre-registered into FairEntry no later than Wednesday, July 1 by 11:59 p.m. You can register at FairEntry after May 15. Directions on how to enter your projects can be found: FairEntry Instructions

If you are unable to enter the registration information on FairEntry, please email a description of your entries to: mnext-washington@umn.edu no later than 11:59 pm on July 1.

*****Late entries (received after 11:59 pm on July 1, 2026) will not be eligible for a championship placing, livestock auction participation, premiums, or any participation in a State Show beyond the county level (i.e. State Fair, State Dog Show, State Horse Show, etc.) Youth may still be eligible for championships in Knowledge Quiz and Showmanship. Members who enrolled in 4-H after May 15th of the current year may also exhibit at the County Fair for a blue, red or white placing, but no championship, premiums or state trip.**

If you plan to enter **Open Class exhibits** at the Washington County Fair (these are not 4-H projects), you will find registration information at: www.washingtoncountyfair.org

ADMISSION TO FAIRGROUNDS-PARKING

Everyone pays to get into the fairgrounds! Even when you come to volunteer in the Food Stand you will need to pay admission to the fairgrounds. **NO SEASON PASSES WILL BE SOLD AT THE GATES**.

TBD - The Ag Society is looking into offering paperless admission. This page will be updated when we can confirm if paper tickets will be sold.

Daily Admission
Ages 8 and over - $12
Age 7 and under – FREE
ATM is available at the gates.

Senior Citizen Day
Wednesday, July 29 ONLY Seniors (65 and older)
Admission - $5 from 7 am - 1 pm

2026 Special Discount: Veterans & Current Military Personnel
Admission - $5 from 7 am - 1 pm
Wednesday, July 29 ONLY

PARKING IS FREE

ADVANCED SALE TICKETS – purchase before July 29
Pack of 5 Admission Tickets, valid any day of the fair
Ages 8 and over - $30
Ages 7 and under – Free

4-H Families - Advanced Season tickets (pack of 5) will be available on Saturday, July 25th during General Project Judging in the 4-H Building on the fairgrounds. Please bring correct cash or a check (written to Washington County Ag Society)! Or you may purchase your pre-sale tickets in the Fair Office in Building "B" on Monday, July 27, 9am - 9pm; or Tuesday, July 28, 9 am - 9 pm.

No Pack of 5 Tickets will be sold once the fair begins.

Individuals must present ticket to receive a wristband for re-entry as they leave.

***NOTE Any vehicle *inside the fairgrounds* must have a hanging parking tag! Tags are mailed to 4-H families who are bringing animals to the fair.**

***NO campers are allowed on the fairgrounds until Monday of county fair week! Check out the Washington County Ag Society website for more information about camping! https://washingtoncountyfair.org/camping/**

DEMONSTRATION DAY - HOW TO REGISTER

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS – Registrations are due July 1st! * If you plan to do a demonstration, you must enter the demo into FairEnry. You will be emailed information after July 1 to sign up for a specific time.**

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What better way to improve your public speaking skills than to do a demonstration! **Public Presentations will be judged on Wednesday, July 29 in the 4-H building on the fairgrounds, usually between 1pm-5pm or later depending on the number that register.** All participants **must pre-register** to do a demonstration. A final schedule for judging day will be sent to those who register prior to the County Fair.

For detailed description on the various types of Public Presentation, see pages 16-17.

4-H gives you an opportunity to "demonstrate" a topic that interests you! For information on giving demonstrations, refer to the: Demonstration Handbook

4-H General Exhibit (NON-LIVESTOCK) Entry Day Schedule
SATURDAY, JULY 25

General project judging will be held on **Saturday, July 25!**

The following schedule is for **general exhibits** (non-animal and animal educational exhibits) at the county fair. Live animals are judged separately on different days.

General exhibits are judged in the Youth Activities Building on the Washington County Fairgrounds on Saturday, July 25 during the following times;

10:00 am - 12:30 pm	Conference Judging
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	Judges Lunch break
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Conference judging continued
4:00 pm	Conference Judging ends

ANIMAL EXHIBIT ARRIVAL TIMES

Non-animal exhibits are judged in the Youth Activities building (east side) of the Fairgrounds on Saturday, July 25 between 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.
Rabbit exhibits will be accepted on Tuesday, July 28, from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Poultry exhibits will be accepted on Tuesday, July 28, from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and on Wednesday, July 30, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Beef, sheep, swine exhibits will be accepted on Tuesday, July 28, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, July 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

All of the above listed livestock must be in place by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29. Stalling will be assigned. Weigh-in of beef, sheep and swine will begin at 4:00 p.m.(or before if families are ready) on Wednesday. See your specific superintendent for details.

Dairy cattle and Dairy/Meat goats must be in place by 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 30. Dairy cattle and Dairy Goats will be verified by species volunteers.
Meat Goat weigh in/Identification will take place on Thursday, July 30 @ 12:00 p.m. in the Goat Barn.
Horse exhibitors are strongly encouraged to stall their Horses in the Horse Barn through Friday of the Fair.
Dogs, and pets coming for Pet Judging arrive and depart on the day of judging.
Llama arrive Sunday morning, August 2, and depart on Sunday after the show.

If exhibits are not in place by their respective deadlines, but space is available and judging has not already been completed in the project area, the exhibit may be judged for ribbon placing (blue, red or white) only, but will not be eligible for a championship placing, livestock auction participation, premiums, any placing above a blue ribbon, or participation in any shows/competitions beyond the county level.

5. **Exhibit removal time:** Beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle and goats are released at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 2. All non-animal exhibits, as well as poultry and rabbit exhibits, are released at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 2 **Exhibits removed before this time forfeit all premiums, champion placing, ribbons, and auction premiums, and will not be eligible to participate in any shows/competition beyond the county level. All animal exhibitors are required to clean their stalls/pens prior to leaving the fairgrounds. Superintendents will provide directions.**

COUNTY FAIR CLUB EXPECTATIONS

COUNTY FAIR PREPARATION SCHEDULE

Every club is required to help with cleaning before, during or after the fair. The more people present, the faster the work goes. We want to have the best quality buildings to match our high quality exhibits!

Pre-Fair Clean Up and Set Up Wednesday, July 22, from 6:00 p.m.-?
We will unpack display items and shelving to start setting up the 4-H building. Each club should bring at least one carload of workers**,** including people who can lift heavy things. Please bring the following:

- Cordless drills (All the display fixtures assemble with the use of a drill - the more drills the better!)
- Buckets, old rags and sponges
- Big brooms (to sweep the walls and floors)
- Something to drink!



Happy Hornets Riverside Routers
Soil Savers Woodbury

Hooley Hall set up - Food Stand - Thursday, July 23 from 6:00 pm - ?
Lucky Aces

Exhibit Set Up Tuesday, July 28, 5:00 pm until finished
These clubs will arrange 2,000 exhibits in an interesting and attractive manner and give the building a final clean-up. Each club should bring at least one carload of workers. Please bring brooms to give the floor one final sweep. ***Forest Lake Rangers Country Cousins***
St. Croix Clovers

Hooley Hall Clean up - Sunday, August 2, beginning at; 3:00 pm (take down tables, stack chairs, sweep floors, clean grill, etc)
The Leash League

Poultry & Rabbit Barn Clean-up - Sunday, August 2, 8:00 pm (See Superintendents for directions)

Post Fair Clean Up Monday, August 3, from 6 pm- ? This also includes any remaining cleaning of HOOLEY HALL! The fair is not over until everything is cleaned and put away! These clubs are responsible for **cleaning Hooley Hall and the 4-H building.** Each club should bring at least one carload of workers.

- Cordless drills (All the display fixtures assemble with the use of a drill - the more drills the better!)
- Buckets, old rags and sponges
- Big brooms (to sweep the walls and floors)
- Something to drink!



Town of May Wranglers Independents Sunnyside

PREMIUM SCHEDULE

For each exhibit that a 4-H'er/club enters at the fair, a specific amount of money will be awarded depending upon the ribbon placing. Look in the tables below for those amounts. Premium checks will be sent out after the fair.

PREMIUM SCHEDULE	Blue	Red	White
Club Banners, Comm Pride.....	2.50	1.75	1.25
Demonstrations.....	4.00	3.00	2.00
Beef, Sheep, Swine.....	6.00	4.50	3.00
Dairy, Goats	6.00	4.50	3.00
Horse	4.50	3.50	2.50
Llama, Poultry, Rabbits...	4.00	3.00	2.00
Showmanship.....	4.00	3.00	2.00
Dog, Pets	4.00	3.00	2.00
Cloverbud, Participation	2.00		
Explor. Animals/Vet Sci...	4.00	3.00	2.00
Expressive Arts.....	2.50	1.75	1.25
Family/Consumer Sci....	4.00	3.00	2.00
Mechanical Sciences.....	4.00	3.00	2.00
Natural Sciences.....	2.50	1.75	1.25
Personal Growth & Dlv.....	2.50	1.75	1.25
Plant & Soil Sciences.....	2.50	1.75	1.25
Project Records	2.50	1.75	1.25
Self Determined	2.50	1.75	1.25

*No additional premium money is awarded for Grand Champion, Reserve Champion or purple ribbons.
*Late entries (after July 1st FairEntry deadline) will not receive premium money.

4-H GENERAL EXHIBIT INFORMATION

4-H Exhibit Rules

Minnesota 4-H has a series of policies to provide continuity in programming from county to county and address risk management of our events and activities at county and state fairs. These statewide policies (z.umn.edu/4h-policies) include but are not limited to:

- Absentee judging of projects (z.umn.edu/4h-absentee-judging)
- Judging experiences for youth with differing abilities or injuries (z.umn.edu/4h-judging-experience)
- Cloverbud Policies and other info regarding age, judging procedures, showing animals, etc… (z.umn.edu/4h-policies)
- Code of Conduct (z.umn.edu/4h-policies)
- Grievance Policy (z.umn.edu/4h-policies)
- IAFE Show Ethics (z.umn.edu/IAFE-show-ethics)

Exhibits

- Youth will be eligible for all show-related premiums, awards, and participation in the state event when exhibition requirements are met and appropriate permissions are granted by 4-H Program Staff. (Auction participation is a county decision.) Approved early release is an exception to the rule and becomes a 4-H staff, in partnership with the county fair board, decision based on each situation.
- All youth must be enrolled in 4-H to exhibit, demonstrate, or take part in projects. All work on exhibits entered must be done by the 4-H member and completed during the current 4-H year unless otherwise noted.
- Note - Cloverbud exhibits, including livestock posters, will not be judged blue, red and white. Instead, all will receive participation recognition.
- There are lots of creative ways for youth to share what they've learned beyond a traditional poster or tri-fold display. Here are some engaging alternatives that 4-H'ers might consider:
    - 3D models
    - Virtual or digital displays
    - Videos
    - Interactive experiences
- Poster exhibits may not exceed 22" wide x 28" high. They may be smaller.
- Education/Science Tri-Fold Exhibits for all project areas may not exceed 12" deep x 24" wide x 36" high. (Center back 24" wide x 36" high, right and left wings each 12" wide x 36" high.)
- All exhibits will be evaluated by a conference with the judge. Exhibit judging criteria:
    - Exhibit quality, educational value, attracts attention and holds interest - 50%
    - 4-H'ers knowledge, involvement and ability to explain - 50%
    - The decision of the judge is final and may not be appealed.
- Floor space for any exhibit should not exceed 20 square feet. If your exhibit exceeds this space limitation, contact the Extension office.
- All exhibits must be labeled with name, club/group, and county. Other appropriate information for the project (i.e., vegetable varieties) should be included. If the exhibit has multiple pieces, each part needs to be labeled and should indicate 1 of 4, 2 of 4, etc.
- Opinions expressed through exhibits and presentations are those of the 4-H member and not necessarily those of MN 4-H, U of MN or the county fair/agricultural society.
- Copyright Law and Infringement:
    - Copyright is a form of protection given to authors and creators of original work. Original work includes a person's ideas captured in writing or as an image, photograph, song, audio recording, or visual recording.
    - All original work – including information found on the web – is subject to copyright protection. The author/creator has exclusive rights to reproduce, distribute, display, perform or make derivative works.
    - Before using another person's work as part of your 4-H exhibit, be sure that the work is subject to fair use, has a creative commons license or that you have requested and received permission (in writing) to use the original work. If an exhibit infringes on copyright law, a decision may need to be made to remove the exhibit from display at the county or state fair.

- 4-H members who incorporate AI tools or technologies into their projects should clearly cite the use of these resources. This includes, but is not limited to, AI-generated content, AI-driven data analysis, and AI-based project enhancements. Citation Suggestions: provide the name of the AI tool or technology used; explain how the AI was used in the project; include any relevant references or sources as appropriate.
- The University of Minnesota and 4-H policies prohibit the endorsement of commercial products or services. References to 4-H exhibition cannot be used to indicate support or endorsement of anything that is not official University or 4-H business, whether through clothing, signage, social media, or by mentioning the name.
- Community Impact Recognition
    - Minnesota 4-H wants to recognize youth who are making a difference in their community and are sharing their story through their project(s) and exhibit(s).
    - Judges at local and state showcases will place a recognition sticker on each exhibit where the 4-H'er clearly articulates how their efforts made a positive community impact.
    - Exhibits and presentations may demonstrate the youth's community impact efforts through:
        - Direct Service: Involves face-to-face interactions with the people, animals, or environment being served - such as distributing meals or cleaning up a park
        - Indirect Service: Involves benefiting a cause or group, but there isn't direct contact with those that benefit - such as fundraising or knitting blankets
        - Advocacy: Involves researching issues of public interest and then encouraging action or promoting awareness - such as promoting mindfulness practices to a school curriculum committee, collecting water quality data for a community organization.
    - Note: to qualify as "community impact", the project should primarily benefit someone or something more than you individually, or your family
    - If you are showing an animal/livestock project and would like to participate - you can submit an additional exhibit in the related General Projects category (i.e. Leadership, Citizenship, Self-Determined, Horseless Horse, etc).
        - Ex: A 4-H member raises chickens for eggs and supports a local food pantry.
        - Ex. A 4-H member trains and certifies their dog for therapy work, and visits local hospitals, nursing homes, or schools to provide comfort and companionship to patients, residents or students.
    - Recipients will be recognized with a sticker and will be invited to apply for additional leadership awards and recognitions.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR JUDGING

As you work on project activities and prepare exhibits for the fair, remember to ***PREPARE YOURSELF*** too. Conference judging includes an evaluation of both your exhibit and your learning and knowledge of the project, so prepare for both parts. Here are a few tips:

- ✔ Know what you learned in the project and in preparing the exhibit for the fair.
- ✔ Know why you chose this particular item as your exhibit and how it fits your project.
- ✔ Prepare your exhibit carefully and neatly.
- ✔ Know the cost of the exhibit in time, materials, and effort.
- ✔ Be able to explain what decisions you made, and why, in preparing the exhibit.
- ✔ Be able to explain some of the problems you had in making this exhibit and what you might do differently if you were to do it again.
- ✔ Know what further activities you might be interested in doing in this area.
- ✔ Think about any service performed in connection with your project.
- ✔ Practice explaining your project to a family member or friend.

EVALUATION OF PROJECTS

All evaluations will be made by a conference with the judge. Placing and premium will be determined by the judge on the merit of the exhibit and the knowledge of the project shown by the member. It is an opportunity for the judge to ask questions directly of the member and the member to talk about objectives and problems. Conference judging is designed to be a learning activity for the 4-H member. Parents are asked to be silent observers.

1) Judges will award blue, red, or white ribbon placing regardless of the number of exhibits in the division unless designated otherwise. The number of Court of Honor ribbons awarded will be based on the number of quality exhibits in the class. It is possible that Champion and Reserve Champion awards may not be awarded in a project area also based on the number of quality exhibits in the class. This is up to the judges' discretion.

2) All exhibits will be evaluated by a conference with the judge Project judging criteria:
Exhibit quality 25%
Educational value 25%
Knowledge and ability to explain 50%
The decision of the judge is final and may not be appealed.
3) Cloverbuds will receive a Cloverbud ribbon and participation premium. No Court of Honor ribbons will be distributed.

MEANING OF RIBBON COLOR?

MEANING OF RIBBON COLORS
We use award ribbons to recognize the accomplishments of the 4-H members. Ribbons are awarded using the following standards:

1. **Cloverbuds**: receive 'participation' ribbons
2. White: "I've tried, I've learned, but there is room for improvement and more learning, to reach a standard of skills and knowledge appropriate for my age and my years of experience in the project."
3. **Red:** "I've tried, I've learned, and I've achieved a level of skill meeting expectations for my age and years of experience, but still have room to learn and do more."
4. **Blue:** "I've tried, I've learned, and have reached most of my goals in this project. I've exceeded the level of achievement expected of me for my age and years of experience, but there still is room to learn and do more."
5. **Purple/Champion**: "I've tried, I've learned, and succeeded in reaching a high level of achievement. I know that I can still challenge myself to reach even higher levels of knowledge and skills in my project." Only one Grand Champion (Sr &* Jr) and one Reserve Champion (Sr. & Jr.) ribbon are given out per general project area based on judges discretion.

4-H CLUB ACTIVITIES

We prefer clubs planning to register for Club Activities register through a google doc registration. https://z.umn.edu/WashCoFairClubExhibits If club leaders want to make sure an entry has been made, please contact Kathy Erf at eber0002@umn.edu

CLUB/GROUP BANNER

Club Banners will be judged on **Saturday, July 25**.

Project Description

The club/group promotional banner serves as a tool to promote the local 4-H club and the county 4-H program and give 4-H'ers an opportunity for artistic expression through advertisement.

Two banners will be selected for the State Fair.

New in 2026 - Banners may also include digitally created vinyl or cloth banners.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Banners should have a theme and reflect/represent opportunities in the 4-H program. It should carry the message quickly and simply to the viewer.
- Non-digital fabric banners can be 2-D or 3-D.
- Digital banners can be designed using a platform of choice and printed.

Requirements

- Banner must be 3' x 5' and designed to hang vertically.
- Banner must be completed and equipped with a dowel (minimum size 3' 8") and ready to hang.
- Banner must be of fabric, cloth or vinyl (no paper).
- Banner can be one or two-sided. If 2-sided, indicate which side you want to be displayed.
- Attach a 3" x 5" card with the club or group name to the back of the banner.
- Banner design should be that of the 4-H members'.
- 4-H Clover Emblem Guidelines
    - Use only approved colors and formats for the 4-H clover
    - The clover must be PMS 347 green with white, black or metallic gold "H's"
    - Do not use gradients, shadow, or multi-colored effects on the clover
    - Include the "18 U.S.C. 707" notice in the same color as the clover leaves
    - If you need the 4-H Emblem in a digital format or have questions on its usage, please contact your local Extension office.

COMMUNITY PRIDE - Club

Community Pride Projects will be judged on **Saturday, July 25.**

Project Description

Share how your club or group makes their community better by being active citizens and act on the things they believe in.

Two exhibits will be selected for the State Fair.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Organize an environmental cleanup
- Make or collect and distribute items where needed
- Read to younger kids at the library or school
- Service to nursing home or homeless populations
- Deliver safety education programs such as a bike rodeo or fire safety training
- Food Partner Challenge digital story

Requirements

- The exhibit visually highlights the entire project or certain parts in a manner which tells the public what positive effects the project had on the community.
- Two youth who participated in the project may represent the club/group in conference judging. Youth will explain the purpose of the project, steps in the planning, how the project meets the community needs and the impact it has.
- Note: The youth that represent the club/group at the State Fair must meet the State Fair age requirement.

Note: Community Pride participants at State Fair may exhibit another individual project.

CLUB CONTAINER GARDEN

Club containers must be in place the evening of Tuesday, July 28 at the fairgrounds. Judging will take place on Wednesday, July 29. Please let staff know where your container is located.



The purpose of the Container Garden is to develop teamwork and decision making skills as a club and to develop skills in creativity and horticulture. Containers are used to beautify the fairgrounds.

-A club should design a planter/floral display to be entered as a club project in 4-H at the Washington County Fair.
-The theme of the container garden must showcase 4-H and your club through signage.
-The container garden must be large enough to create a highly visible outdoor display and be made of a non-breakable material. Clubs are encouraged to Use recycled materials when creating container displays.
-Plants must be appropriate to be displayed outdoors and in full sun and should be labeled for educational purposes.

Containers will be judged on their color combination, overall health of the plants and attractiveness of the total plant display.

Each club is responsible for the watering and care of their container garden during the County Fair.

Each club is responsible to pick up their exhibit from the fairgrounds at the end of the fair.

WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE 4-H RECOGNITION PROGRAM SUNDAY EVENING. CASH PRIZES FOR THE WINNERS! 1ST - $100.00 2ND - $75.00 3RD - $50.00 4TH -$25.00.

JUDGES ASSISTANTS NEEDED

Each year we are in need of Judges Assistants during the fair. The role of the Judges Assistant is to assist the judge in tracking ribbon placings, attaching name cards and helping display projects. Typically the youth should be at least 10 years old to help. Parents, grandparents or friends are welcome to help. This is a great way to listen and learn from a judge in a particular project area. A sign up form will be available as we get closer to the fair!



FOOD STAND HELP NEEDED

Again in 2025, 4-H families will be asked to help in a variety of capacities in the Food Stand during the fair. This is an important fundraiser for our program! Sign-up here: 2026 Food Stand sign up genius!
Clubs will receive financial incentives based on the number of youth and adults that sign up from each club! Extended family and friends can sign up too!

4-H GRADUATE POSTERS

4-H members who will be graduating out of the 4-H program are invited to bring ONE (22" x 28") poster board with pictures of their 4-H memories over the years. The posters will be displayed in the 4-H building during the county fair. Please drop off your completed poster at the 4-H office (on the fairgrounds) Saturday, July 26th (Exhibit Day). Posters will be displayed during the county fair and should be picked up on Sunday evening. We want to show others what you have done and enjoyed during your years in the program!

COUNTY FAIR CHAMPION AWARDS

4-H'ers who are awarded Grand Champion in their project area at the County Fair receive a champion T-shirt during the County Fair. Be sure to check out the Champion's table located in the 4-H exhibit building for more details on the times you can pick up your shirt and write your thank you! If you'd like to sponsor one of these champion awards for just $25 access sponsorship information online at: 2026 Champion Sponsorship form

PUBLIC PRESENTATION - DEMONSTRATION DAY

Demonstrations will be evaluated on Wednesday, July 29 beginning at 1:00 pm. Demonstrations need to be pre-registered through FairEntry. Staff will contact families to schedule time.

Public Presentations

Demonstrations

Demonstration - Individual
Demonstration - Team
Demonstration - Cloverbud Individual
Demonstration - Cloverbud Team

Livestock Demonstrations

Livestock Demonstration - Individual
Livestock Demonstration - Team

Presentations and Speeches

Presentations & Speeches - Individual
Presentations & Speeches - Team

Interactive Demonstrations

Interactive Demonstration - Individual
Interactive Demonstration - Team

Exhibit Suggestions

- Demonstrations:
  - Teaching others a project or activity such as taekwondo, making lemonade, slime, macrame, etc.
- Livestock Demonstrations:
  - Demonstrate how to care for an animal or prepare it for showing at the fair.
  - Teaching others how to tie a halter.
  - A talk on preventative or veterinary care for a species.
  - Demonstrate how to tattoo an animal.
- Presentations & Speeches:
  - A report on leadership lessons learned through a trip to Washington DC
  - An educational presentation that explores sustainable energy options
  - A persuasive speech exploring Social Media effects on youth mental health.
- Interactive Demonstrations:
  - An interactive presentation that teaches the public how to do something. For example, teaching the audience an origami project where they follow along with your demonstration step-by-step and create the project with you.
  - An interactive yoga demonstration where you teach the audience various poses.

Requirements

- Public Presentations may be related to any project that the member is enrolled in or to any area of interest or expertise the 4-H'er has. Presentations may be an individual or a two-person team.
- Demonstrations are an oral presentation that includes actually demonstrating the hands-on steps required to accomplish a task or process. This most often includes the use of physical objects and actual doing or showing. At

the end of the Demonstration there should be something of a "finished product". Demonstrations may also include the use of supporting visuals like posters, charts or technology-based options like presentation software (i.e. MS PowerPoint, KeyNote, Google Slides). However, the focus of the Demonstration should be on the "doing", not the supporting visuals. Presentations may be an individual or team. Individual presentations shall not exceed 15 minutes in length and team presentations should not exceed 25 minutes in length.

- Livestock Demonstrations include: Beef, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Llama - Alpaca, Meat Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep and Swine and must include a live animal in the demonstration. Other demonstrations involving animals can be entered under the demonstration category.
- Presentations & Speeches are oral presentations that present an idea, concept, viewpoint or experience in an educational or informative format (not for entertainment or performative purposes). Presentations & Speeches often consist of interaction with supporting visual aids like posters, charts or technology-based options like presentation software (i.e. MS PowerPoint, KeyNote, Google Slides). Supporting visuals may include tangible items, but generally little or no activity takes place with the item. Presentations & Speeches may be an individual or team. Individual presentations shall not exceed 15 minutes in length and team presentations should not exceed 25 minutes in length.
- Interactive Demonstrations are oral presentations that are continuous and include hands-on audience interaction/participation. Adequate supplies should be provided by the presenters so that all present can participate in the activity. Interactive Demonstrations may be an individual or team. Interactive Demonstrations are approximately 25-30 minutes in length but for both individual or team. Involving the audience in the process is the primary focus of Interactive Demonstrations and constitutes a major portion of the evaluation results.
- Note: 4-H'ers who complete a Public Presentation at the State Fair will receive a $30 cash award. These payments are made in October. 4-H'ers must be grade eligible to participate at the State Fair.
- Note: All members of a team must meet the State Fair age requirement to advance to the State Fair.
- Note: 4-H'ers may bring one Livestock Demonstration, one Llama-Alpaca Demonstration and one Demonstration, Presentations & Speech or Interactive Demonstration to the State Fair. This means one during Livestock Encampment, one during Llama-Alpaca Encampment and one during General Encampment.
- Note: 4-H'ers that win a trip to the State Fair will be asked to submit a photo of them doing their demonstration to have on display.
- Note: Due to H5N1, poultry demonstrations with live birds cannot take place on the Barn Stage in the Cattle Barn at the State Fair, but can take place on the Moo Stage outside the Cattle Barn. The Moo Stage outside does not have a screen, so a slide presentation is not an option. If you have a poultry demonstration with live birds and a slide presentation, you will need to do your demonstration in the 4-H Building.

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GENERAL 4-H PROJECTS

2026 changes/additions in blue

General 4-H Projects

Aerospace

Project Description

Share what you've learned while exploring the world of flight! Discover the latest in aerospace technology — from airplanes and rockets to helicopters, drones, and balloons. Aerospace includes anything that flies, whether it's soaring through the sky or traveling into outer space!

Exhibit Suggestions

- Build a model (rocket, airplane, satellite) and identify the parts.

- Explain the science of how airplanes fly.
- Explain how the model rocket flies.
- Design or build your own rocket or airplane and explain how it works
- Identify parts of a hot air balloon and how they work.
- Discover and identify the basic parts of a helicopter and how they work.
- Make and demonstrate a hang glider.
- Demonstrate a drone and how it is used.
- Research UFOs and share your findings.
- Compare and contrast different types of kites (flat, box, parafoil, etc).
- Discuss the pros and cons of different types of flight (airplane vs helicopter vs jet, etc).
- Explore careers in this project area and explain why they interest you

Requirements

- Flyable models should be ready for flight (do not include fuel or engines); recovery systems should be in place and operative.
- Members should be familiar with safety codes in the 4-H curriculum or that accompany the kit.
- Rocket engines or batteries should be removed from planes after judging.

Bicycle

Project Description

Ride for transportation, exercise or competition! If you like traveling, tinkering or racing, you probably like bicycling. Along with taking you from place to place using no fossil fuels, bikes can teach you about safety skills and keep you fit. Your bicycle project could be to take a bike trip, fix up a bike and document the process, plan a community bike race, or learn to ride a unicycle.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Exhibit showing built, restored, reconditioned or rebuilt bikes.
- Display showing types of bikes, parts of a bike, maintenance, traffic rules, bicycling hazards, city/county/regional bike or active transportation plans, how to wear a helmet, equipment used to teach others about bike repair or first aid, etc.
- Documentation (such as slideshow, notebook, picture book, poster or film) of a bike rodeo or other bike event you helped with, or research on some other aspect of bicycling that was presented to a class, committee or service club.

Child & Family Development

Project Description

Share what you've learned about being self-reliant and responsible, how to handle emergencies and develop home-alone skills. Child & Family Development includes home safety, age-appropriate toys, nutritious snacks for children and how to create a poem, story or game.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Toy, game, puzzle, puppets, art/craft materials, etc., made from new or recycled/throw-away material.
- Babysitting kit/travel kit/rainy day kit.
- Original book, story, poem, song, play, cookbook, audio or video tape and narrative, activity book, safety manual for children.
- Scrapbook, photographs, items, reports, video, etc., on family heritage with description of what was learned about self and family.
- A creatively developed program and/or item used for or with a person with differing abilities (i.e. learning difficulties, physically impaired, etc.).

- Display exploring different types of families (nuclear, blended, single parent, childless, foster, etc).
- An educational display explaining foster care/foster families in Minnesota
- Display exploring resources for children alone at home (i.e. activities, games, kits).
- An educational display about youth mental health. Explore strategies to help youth cope with stress, anxiety, etc. with busy bags, sensory bottles/activities, conversation tips, etc.
- Display sharing your experience job shadowing an early childhood education provider, child care provider or another youth worker.
- An educational display with resources available to lower income families (i.e. WIC, Food Shelf, etc).

Requirements

- Exhibitors should be prepared to discuss, in conference judging, the age and other characteristics of the child for whom the exhibit is intended and how the exhibit contributes to the child's growth, development, and well-being.
- If the exhibit is designed to be interactive with children, the item should be used with children before exhibiting and a photograph of this activity should accompany the exhibit. Signs of use will not detract from the placing of the exhibit.

Civic Engagement (Citizenship)

Project Description

Share what you've learned about your community, how decisions are made, what issues exist in your community, and how to take positive action on those issues.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Highlight of community projects and/or civic engagement activities which you or your club completed under your leadership. Include plans of action as well as the impact of each.
- Describe your service project, which may include: how you identified the need in your community, developed a project to address the need, carried out the project, and reflected on the results.
- Illustrate how you've researched, reflected, and learned more about yourself, your family, and your friends.
- Illustrate how you've researched, reflected on, and learned more about your community, its history, and how to be a good neighbor.
- Illustrate how you've developed a tour of a local community, government or community agency; learned how government functions; and learned about police, fire protection, health, sanitation, safety, and tourism in your community.
- Different parts of the world, highlighting their history, government, and decision-making structures.
- Interview decision-makers in your community to learn more about their role.
- Explain how you organized and led tours in your towns, communities, courthouse or historic places.
- How the government works or the functions of various government agencies.
- Community organizations, agencies or service departments like fire departments, police departments, sanitation, tourism, etc.
- Complete a service project and share what you did and why you did it.
- Take a training (ie, Emergency Response, babysitting, CPR/First Aid) to help in your community.
- Food Partner Challenge digital story.

Clothing and Textiles

Project Description

Have you ever dreamed about designing your own clothing or accessories? With a clothing and textiles project, you can learn the basics of design, or sewing construction and how to make simple clothing, accessories, home decor, or other non-clothing related items. Develop skills in design and fashion illustration, business and marketing, technology in sewing, and learn about careers in the textile industry, including how STEM meets textiles with “smart” clothing. Clothing and textiles isn't always about fashion, either. You could sew your own shirt or pillow case, or you could purchase clothes someone else

made to design a historical or original look. You could also try "upcycling" a garment by updating or altering a used piece of clothing (like turning an oversized t-shirt into a dress).

Clothing & Textiles exhibits should be finished, clean and pressed for exhibition. Exhibits can be used before showing, but should be cleaned before exhibiting. Garments and sewn non-garments should be appropriate for the skill level and experience of the exhibitor.

Constructed Clothing

Exhibit Suggestions

- Include an information tag listing: pattern company name and number or inspirational photo for design, fiber content of fabric and care instructions.
- Constructed garment such as a blouse, shirt, top, skirt, pants, sweatshirt, jumper, dress, outerwear, etc.
- Constructed garment utilizing a fabric or technique new to the exhibitor, such as synthetic suede, active sportswear, micro-fibers, satin, etc.
- Using tailoring techniques to construct a garment
- Wearable art that can be included as part of the constructed garment.
- Educational poster or display on a clothing or textiles subject of your choice. Examples: career in industry, difference in fabric, how fabric is made, evolution of clothing, cost comparison, clothing selection, care of fabric, etc
- Garment mended, repaired or recycled, with color photo of original garment and explanation of steps used.

Upcycled Clothing

Exhibit Suggestions

- Significant alterations to a garment. Examples: oversized t-shirt made into a cinched t-shirt dress, altering the style of the garment, updating an old prom dress to make it current, etc.
- Wearable art that can be added to purchased garment.

Requirements

- An upcycled garment is one that is constructed from a previously worn garment that has been updated/altered in a way to produce a new garment.
- Colored photo of original garment and colored photo of new garment

Purchased Clothing

Exhibit Suggestions

- Additional information that could be included in 8 ½" x 11" binder:
  - Cost per wear
  - Cost comparison (construction vs. purchased)
  - Inventory of wardrobe (not including undergarments)
  - Educational facts about fabric in garment(s)
  - Additional photos showing ways it can be used in existing wardrobe
  - Accessories/shoes worn
  - Any other educational information not listed above
- Purchased garment such as a blouse, shirt, top, skirt, pants, sweatshirt, jumper, dress, outerwear, etc.
- Pre-used garments not altered. Examples: thrift store, garage sale, hand-me-down, etc.

Requirements

- The purchased garment or outfit must be accompanied by an 8-1/2" x 11" binder with the following information:

- Colored photo of member wearing the garment. Label photo with name, county, and color of complexion, hair and eyes.
- Cost of garment and explanation of why garment was purchased
- Fabric content and care of garment
- Examples of ways it will be used in existing wardrobe
- Sale receipt and tags, if available

Sewn Non-Garment

Exhibit Suggestions

- Non-clothing sewn, constructed item. Examples: simple home or clothing accessory item such as a pillow, apron, book bag, belt, placemat, gym bag, sewing kit, etc.
- Non-clothing article using a pattern or your own idea.

Requirements

- Include an information tag listing: pattern company/kit name or source, fiber content of fabric and care instructions.

Fashion Revue Constructed Clothing

Fashion Revue Purchased Clothing

Fashion Revue Upcycled Clothing

Exhibit Suggestions (All Fashion Revue)

- Judging is on the overall completed look which includes the outfit, accessories and overall appearance

Requirements (All Fashion Revue)

- Participants may model any clothing they have constructed, purchased or upcycled as a part of their 4-H clothing project.
- Garments are required to be modeled during conference judging and fashion show.

Note: At State Fair, clothing exhibitors can use the same garment to participate in both fashion revue and the corresponding clothing & textiles project in the same year. Example: Constructed fashion revue exhibit can be judged in the constructed clothing area (or vice versa).

Cloverbuds

Project Description

Cloverbuds *will be allowed to enter into non-competitive animal classes including; beef, dairy, sheep, swine, rabbit, poultry, meat goat, dairy goat and horse.* *See pages 53-54 for Cloverbuds rules!*

Cloverbuds must register their projects in FairEntry.

A cloverbud project can be any kind of project that youth in grades kindergarten through 2nd grade want to do. They could put together a Lego® creation, make a cardboard car, build a birdhouse, paint a picture, sculpt something in clay, research an animal, take a photograph, share a science experiment, or anything else they may want to do (provided it's safe for the child). Coming from the child's interests, a cloverbud project should get them excited about project learning and wanting to do more.

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.

Requirements

- 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 (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 (z.umn.edu/4h-cloverbud-Info) to ensure the exhibit is developmentally appropriate and follows 4-H cloverbud policies.

Note: There are no State Fair trips in this division.

Cloverbuds Exhibiting in Animal Classes;

Cloverbuds must register in Fair Entry. This includes any animal class a Cloverbud may be entering (see classes below). In Fair Entry you will need to indicate if the Cloverbud will be bringing their own animal (which would require a stall, pen or cage) or if you have talked to another 4-H'er and will be using their animal. For more details about Cloverbuds exhibiting animals see pages 53-54.;

Cloverbuds Classes;

Beef Showmanship
Dairy Showmanship
Dairy Goat Showmanship
Dog Showmanship
Horse - Barrels
Horse - Western Pleasure
Horse - Horse Showmanship
Meat Goat Showmanship
Poultry Showmanship
Rabbit Showmanship
Rabbit Agility
Sheep Showmanship
Sheep Lamb Lead
Swine Showmanship

Consumer Education and Money Management

Project Description

Share what you've learned about being a good consumer as you explore smart shopping, income and expenses, saving money, credit, and needs vs. wants.

Exhibit Suggestions

- A budget workbook, income/expenses graphs, impact of supply chains on consumers, savings plans, etc.
- Junior exhibitors: a basic comparison of similar products with different pricing.
- Intermediate exhibitors: include additional aspects of products other than just price

- Senior exhibitors: compare numerous components (nutritional value, cost per ounce, fabric content, longevity, etc).

Crafts and Fine Arts (no more than 2 exhibits per category)

Project Description

Express yourself, be creative and make an impression! It will be messy and fun as you work with all kinds of materials to create something that no one has seen before. A fine art project is something you develop from your own ideas and imagination. A craft project develops from someone else's ideas and can be easily replicated, modified and repeated by others. Whatever the project, a crafts and fine arts project teaches you skills, techniques and tools in drawing, painting, sculpting, printing, fiber arts ceramics, glass arts, graphic design, etc.

Crafts (no more than 2 exhibits per category)

Exhibit Suggestions

- For a beginner, choose a project that teaches new techniques. For advanced, choose a project requiring masterful craftsmanship.
- Work directly from a kit, diamond painting, social media influenced/inspired, LEGO kits, model replicas, no sew/tie blankets, ceramic casts, paint by number, etc.

Requirements

- Each exhibit will be evaluated on its individual merit as a craft/kit.
- Emphasis is on the creative process and the implementation of design elements and principles. The craft/kit exhibit develops from someone else's ideas and can be easily replicated, modified and repeated by others.
- All projects need to be presented in a finished manner.

Fine Arts (no more than 2 exhibits per category)

Exhibit Suggestions

- For a beginner, choose a project that teaches new techniques. For advanced, choose a project requiring mastery.
- Original work (no kits) in drawing, painting, sculpture, paint pouring, textiles, pottery, jewelry making, fiber art, quilling, etc

Requirements

- Each exhibit will be evaluated on its individual merit as an original fine art.
- Emphasis is on the creative process and the implementation of design elements and principles. The fine art exhibit should show proof that it is developed from the 4-H'ers own ideas and imagination.
- All art objects must be appropriately finished. For state fair eligible: exhibits must be ready for hanging, displaying, etc. (i.e. wire or hooks on paintings, bases for 3 dimensional work, etc.)

Creative Writing **Exhibits must be brought to the 4-H Office no later than noon on Monday, July 20. A judge will evaluate the writing prior to the county fair. Exhibitors will meet with a judge on General Project Judging Day, July 25th.**

Project Description

Exhibits could include written short stories, poems, essays, play scripts, speeches, memoirs, social media posts, articles, blog posts, graphic novels, etc.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Series of original poems.

- An original short story.
- A children's story or a story written specifically for young children, typically includes illustrations
- Series of social media posts or an article educating the public on a topic you are passionate about.
- An original graphic novel including characters' dialogue, plot line and illustrations.
- A display on the different types of poems or your favorite author
- A display on "What is Creative Writing?"

Requirements

- Creative Writing exhibits should be an original written piece; if the work of others are quoted or included, be sure to include proper citation.
- Display your work in a way that can be viewed by fairgoers (printed in a binder, written on a canvas, hung on a display, etc.)

Electricity

See "Mechanical Science" section

Engineering Design

Project Description

Engineering design projects are the creation, building, or tackling of solutions. Key to these projects is employing the engineering design process to effectively develop solutions.

Engineering Design

Exhibit Suggestions

- Using everyday items to build a simple machine to complete a simple task
- Using everyday items to create a product to solve a real-life situation
- Explore Engineering Design by using LEGO bricks to build and test creative solutions to real-world challenges or buildings
- Engineering a bridge – using everyday items to create a bridge to sustain 5 pounds of weight
- Engineering an amusement park ride - Use KNEX or other materials to design and build an amusement park ride
- Engineering a catapult/trebuchet – use everyday items to create a machine to launch a marshmallow a minimum of 3 feet
- Engineer a wind turbine to solve a problem (for example: using wind energy to lift a bucket)
- Explore careers in this project area and explain why they interest you

Requirements

- Provide a drawing of your design, including a description of the idea, problem or challenge being solved and an explanation of how the design process was used to develop a solution.

Engineering Design Challenge Team Member:

- Rookie Level - grades 3-8, 5 steps
- Level 1 - grades 3 -8, 10 steps
- Level 2 grades 7 - 12, 10 steps

All members of the team must register to participate

An Engineering Design Challenge machine is based on a Rube Goldberg-type machine, an overly complex contraption designed to accomplish a simple task. The best machines use a variety of everyday items to create a series of chain-reaction steps to accomplish a simple task. In the project, youth employ engineering, physics, humor, and storytelling to create their machine.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Machine (tabletop)
- Display, binder, poster, and video illustrating the process of doing the activity/project

Requirements

- Please refer to the Engineering Design Challenge Handbook (z.umn.edu/4hedc) for complete details.
- Team size: 2 to 9 members
- The machine must complete a minimum of 10 steps **(Rookie 5 steps)**
- The machine must operate in 2 minutes or less
- Machine size is 36 inches by 36 inches (standard card table)
- Describe how an engineering design process was used to complete the project.
- Provide a journal record illustrating the process of completing the project.
- Teams advancing to the State Fair will need to submit a video prior to attending the State Fair.

Note:

a) The Engineering Design Challenge opportunity will take place at the Minnesota State Fair. Teams will participate in-person and present their machines for judging during their general encampment. Videos of machines running will be needed for the MN State Fair. Youth under 6th grade will receive participation ribbons only. Please refer to the Engineering Design Challenge Handbook (z.umn.edu/4hedc) for complete details.

Entomology

See "Natural Resources" section

Environmental Science

See "Natural Resources" section

Exploring Animals

Project Description

Intended as an introductory project area for youth who have limited experience with livestock/animal science. This area is a pathway to more in-depth study of the animal.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Show or explain something 4-H'er made, did, learned, or may explore consumer issues, breeds or careers.
- Exhibit of an animal being explored.
- Explore basic care & handling, basic feeding, basic housing, animal welfare & ethics, etc.

Requirements

- This area is for 4-H'ers who wish to learn more about a given species. Animal ownership is not required.
- Exploring Animals include: Beef, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Llama-Alpaca, Meat Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep or Swine.
- Youth interested in cats, dogs, horses or other domesticated pets (guinea pigs, snakes, rats, etc) should see appropriate sections of the premium book.

Fishing Sports

Project Description

Share what you've learned about fish species, exploring habitats or trying different fishing techniques and equipment.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Fish identification. Describe the habitat and food needs of selected fish; develop a panel display explaining the life history of a fish; create a model or exhibit identifying the parts of a fish.
- Fishing Knots: Identify how and where each knot is used; fishing equipment which is made or repaired such as lures, fishing rods and reels, ice fishing rig, or other fishing equipment
- Safety practices and techniques that are related to fishing (& ice fishing) or boating
- Examples of how water quality affects the fish ecosystem
- Display or diagram of aquatic habitats or invasive species
- Tactics to fish for various species of fish, techniques and equipment used
- Cultural aspects of fishing
- Regional differences across the US/world. (Types of fish, environments, ways to fish, considerations)
- Research commercial fishing for food industry
- Explore careers in this project area and explain why they interest you
- Local Department of Natural Resources fishing regulations

Requirements

- If any lures or pieces are part of a display, ensure that pieces are secured and hooks are not going to be a safety concern (enclosed).
- Do not include live fish as part of the exhibit.

Foods and Nutrition

Project Description

Everyone eats, but not everyone makes healthy eating choices. Learn how to pick healthy foods, prepare nutritious meals and make smart food purchases.

Foods

Exhibit Suggestions

- Food items such as:
  - Bars & Cookies (no commercial mixes)
  - Breads (no commercial mixes)
  - Cakes (no commercial mixes)
  - Pastries (no commercial mixes)
  - Gluten Free Baked Goods
  - Homemade Meal
  - Other Homemade Food
  - Fun with Convenience Foods
  - Recipe Adaptation to Improve Nutrition
  - Cake/Cupcake & Cookie Decorating
- Food science experiment
- Exhibit showing food and/or kitchen safety.
- Investigate food allergen of your choice
- Careers in the food industry

Requirements

- Exhibit may be food items and/or displays.
- Exhibitors should be prepared to discuss with the judge: recipes, references, information sources, methods, etc., as appropriate to that exhibit.
- Exhibits containing perishable foods, which may be discarded, must include a colored photograph of the food. Print the photo and recipe on an 8 ½" x 11" paper.

Notes:

If food safety is a concern, judges reserve the right not to taste and/or judge foods items.

Nutrition

Exhibit Suggestions

- One serving of nutritious food (vegetable or fruit dish, snack, bread, dairy, etc.). Include an 8 ½ x 11 poster showing nutritional value, recipe, and a photo of the food.
- Study of nutrients needed for yourself or someone else, using the dietary guidelines and MyPlate.
- Make a food or fitness plan for yourself or someone else and show how it relates to nutritional and energy needs. (Example: an athlete on a volleyball team, a teen who doesn't have a lot of time).
- Adapt a recipe(s) to show healthier ingredient choices.
- Study of how physical fitness and/or food choices are related to disease (such as: cancer, heart disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, etc.).
- Study of labels from similar food items, comparing important nutrient content like fat, fiber, and sugar.
- Explore nutrition-related careers

Food Preservation

Exhibit Suggestions

- Suggested exhibits include one (1) jar or one (1) bag of product:
  - Vegetables or fruits
  - Jams, jellies, preserves, low-sugar spreads (no frozen)
  - Pickled products (fermented or added acid, including pickles, sauerkraut, relishes, salsa).
  - Meats, poultry and/or fish. (Fish must be in pint jars.) Must be processed in a pressure canner.
    - Note: Preserved fish count toward the limit that can be in your possession.
  - Dried vegetables or dried fruits.
  - Dried herbs.
  - Beef or venison jerky.
- Learn about cottage food producer requirements in Minnesota
- Display about different methods of freezing foods
- Explore commercially available freezer bags to see which produces the best quality
- Display about preserving foods that you've hunted and/or caught
- Research different methods for harvesting and preserving butchered meat
- Make a poster about making freezer jams/jellies
- Research illnesses you can get from improper food preservation
- Teach others about safe canning methods
- Display about canning equipment and its purpose
- Learn about preserving foods in a pressure canner
- Compare current food preservation techniques with those used in the past

Requirements

- Consult the authorities (University of Minnesota Extension/other state Extension publications, USDA, National Center for Home Food Preservation) and follow the recommendations for the year (or closest to) for all recipes, procedures, and processing times. Recipes from pectin packages, etc. are acceptable.
- All food preservation exhibits must be labeled or have a note card that includes county, name, grade, product, style of pack, processing method (boiling water bath or pressure canner), date, processing time, date processed and source of recipe. Pressure canned items indicate dial or weighted gauge and how many pounds of pressure used.
- Jars must be heat-tempered clear glass canning jars, not commercial glass jars (i.e. glass mayonnaise jars).
- All jars must be sealed. Jellies and jams must be covered with lids.
- Use pint jars for fruit, vegetables, and fish; one-half pint jars for jams and jellies; 2- 1 pint jars or one quart jar for pickled products.

- No artificial food coloring should be added to entries.
- Dried foods may be stored in glass jars, self-sealing plastic bags or airtight plastic bags. The quantity of dried foods should be: fruits and vegetables 1/2 cup or more of each, herbs - 1/4 cup of each in whole leaf form, 3 strips of meat (i.e. venison or beef jerky).
- Foods must be preserved within the past year.

Food Revue

Food Revue displays were judged in February, no projects will be brought to the county fair. Pictures from the event will be displayed. If you participated in Food Revue in February, you can enter it in FairEntry to receive premium money.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Exhibitors may bring to the county showcase experience: one item of food from the menu; a place setting which includes dishes, silverware, linens and centerpiece for the course in which food is served.

Requirements

- The display must be no larger than 30" square.
- Food Revue will be judged on food and nutritional knowledge, menu design/theme, table setting design, and cost information.
- Must include binder, which includes: Cover page, menu, cost, nutritional information, picture of place setting, picture of food, and one or more pictures of you in action preparing your meal. May also include a small poster of the menu, photo of exhibit, etc. May also include a recipe.
- Note: the judge may or may not taste the food.

Forest Resources

See "Natural Resources" section

Geology

See "Natural Resources" section

Global Connections

Project Description

Lessons on Global Citizenship are as close by as your local grocery store, library, highway or high school and can be as far away as places like Oslo, Nairobi or Hong Kong! Share what you've learned about exploring different cultures - including cultures in your own community, or around the world. Learn about similarities and differences in government, history, people, art, and/or traditions.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Explore your own culture. What are the important elements of your culture and how is it different from other cultures?
- Make a display of coins, stamps or postcards from other countries. How are they used? What is the meaning of the images on them?
- Record an oral history interview with someone from another culture living in your community.
- Service learning: Teach English to non-native English speaking people. What did you learn from doing this?
- Make a collection of foreign recipes and prepare them for others. Consider Hmong or Somali cuisine, or that of another Minnesota group.
- Develop a travel plan to a country of interest highlighting the important landmarks to visit and experiences to take part in.

- Prepare an exhibit of items, pictures, maps, charts, slides/tapes, drawings, illustrations, writings or displays that depict the heritage of the member's family or community or 4-H history.
- Illustrate what you have learned about a country's or U.S. region's geography, economy, agriculture, people, language, housing, culture, music, crafts, clothing, holidays or other aspects.
- Pick a country to study, then look up which one of the fifty U.S. states has a similar population to that country. Create a presentation documenting the similarities and differences between the identified country and the state based on the following topics:
    - Climate and weather
    - Culture and traditions
    - Food and cuisine
    - Language

Health & Wellness

Project Description

Explore anything you want related to how we can stay physically and emotionally healthy. Learn how to be active, eat right, stay safe and teach others how to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Research and report on a health issue of your choice.
- Report on a community service project that you conducted or volunteered with that relates to a health issue or addresses a community need.
    - Include objectives, audience, timetable, program description, materials, community support and evaluation.
    - Examples might include food distribution centers, homeless shelters, vaccine clinics, blood drives, community run/walk events such as a 5K,
    - Share the results of a service project you conducted in your community to address a health-related need.
    - Make a personal connection with an organization or group working to address health disparities or health inequities in your community (for example, availability and access to safe and affordable housing).
- Conduct a community health assessment for your county, tribe, city or school. What are they doing well to support people's wellbeing? What challenges have arisen? What solutions are they offering to support the community? What will you do now that you have this information?
- Research resources that are available to you in your community. Does this provide information useful to you or your peer group? What did you learn and do with the information?
- Organize a peer support group, conference, a seminar, a workshop, or a chemical-free party. What is your goal in creating this group?
- Promote health through campaigns, activities, and events centered on specific health issues.
    - Create a health day/week at school or arrange a health topic at your 4-H club meeting.
    - In collaboration with others (school, peers, etc.) develop an “anti-bullying” campaign to address Social Media Health.
- Create a Day in the Life Timeline to identify how you spend your day -
    - Where can you set goals to include more healthy practices such as mindfulness, fitness, movement, more fruits or vegetables, etc.?
    - Share some ways you incorporate self-care and/or mindfulness practices into your daily routines.
    - How do you manage schedules/Stress Management?
    - What steps do you take to ensure you are nourishing your body throughout the day?
- Create a video or musical production addressing a cause that's connected to health and wellness.
- Design a model of the human skeleton and label the bones or learn about other organs and systems of the human body
- How does fitness, motion, or athletics fit into a healthy lifestyle for you
- Careers in the health science industry

Home Environment

Project Description

The home environment project is about the physical environment of the home. You could learn about decorating, arranging furniture for ease of use and aesthetics, or how to landscape a garden space to make a cozy outdoor space.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Finished or refinished item, or reupholstered furniture with before and after photos.
- Repaired, restored, remodeled or upcycled item for the home.
- An article remade or reclaimed for the home with a link to the past, including history of use.
- Description, diagrams/photos, samples and cost of a redecorating or remodeling plan showing before and after.
- Item creation for the home - for appeal or for practical use.
- Home organization and functionality (i.e. make a spice rack).
- Environmentally friendly home improvements; assess energy efficiency.

Requirements

- Members exhibiting in this project should be prepared to discuss how their exhibit applies to the home, how and where it is used or displayed, and all details of how it was made or selected.
    - They should know about the subject matter of the specific exhibit, the materials used, how and why it was done, costs involved, and alternatives considered
- A photograph and details showing its place in the home environment must accompany exhibits that are items for the home.
- Pictures and wall hangings that are exhibited should be finished.
- Purchased kits are allowed to be used.

Horticulture

Project Description

Horticulture projects emphasize hands-on learning in the growth and care of plants, including annuals, biennials, perennials, houseplants, vegetables, fruits, and ornamental plants. Exhibits should demonstrate sound horticultural practices, plant health, and youth learning.

Flower Gardening

Exhibit Suggestions

- When exhibiting cut flowers, we suggest:
    - three stems of one variety of annual flowers, or
    - one stem of a hardy perennial, or
    - one stem of summer flowering bulbs, or
    - one blossom of a tea rose, or
    - one stem of a hardy shrub rose.
- Flower bouquet or arrangement on any theme.
- Display of dried flowers with a card explaining the drying method.
- My Flower Garden - Exhibit on poster board, not to exceed 22 x 28". Include a plan of the garden drawn to scale, the correct variety name and pictures (or photographs) of the flowers grown. Be prepared to discuss the process from soil preparation to blooming.
- Educational Exhibit showing the principles of propagation or reproduction, nutrition, culture and physiology (how a plant lives and grows).
- A display using a 4-H project kit showing how plants or vegetables absorb color and change their leaf color.

Requirements

- Label each container according to kind or variety.
- Live plant material will be accepted if it can be maintained in a fresh condition with ease.

Indoor and Outdoor Gardening

Exhibit Suggestions

- Two or more varieties of house plants with common and botanical names.
- Terrarium or dish garden: consider the terrarium material of general terrarium plants of native and woodland plants of Minnesota.
- Educational exhibit showing plant propagation, plant history, forcing bulbs, the life cycle of a flowering plant, etc.

Requirements

- Indoor/outdoor living flowers and plants are to be exhibited in this area (including Fairy Gardens)
- Potted Plants:
  - Flowering plants should be in bloom.
  - Foliage plants should be in vigorous condition.
  - Plants should be grown in the exhibited container for at least one month prior to the fair.
- Plants In Hanging Containers:
  - Container for the plant should not be more than 10" in depth or diameter.
  - Maximum total length of hanger and plant should not exceed 4'
  - Evaluation will include appropriateness of plant for a hanging container, condition, arrangement, hanger to container to plant relationship, and plants being well established.
- Terrariums:
  - The terrarium may not exceed 24" in any dimension.
  - Terrarium should be planted four to six weeks ahead of exhibiting.
  - Members must be able to identify all plant materials in their terrariums and know why they were selected for use (quality, container and design).
- Fairy Garden:
  - Must include at least two types of live plants.
  - Gardens can be in an indoor container or outdoor display, with clear labeling of plant species.
  - Exhibits may include a brief written description (maximum 100 words) explaining the theme or story of the garden.
  - Plants should be grown in the exhibit container for at least one month before the fair.

Landscape Design

Exhibit Suggestions

- A 3D model of a landscaping design (24x36 inches)
- A binder detailing the exhibit with photos, design, budget, key explaining certain pieces in the design, etc..
- A colored design of the layout with colors. Adding explanation of why certain colored plants and what they add to the design.
- Using a computer and designing landscaping, garden areas or new treeline development.
- A display about turf management of golf courses vs baseball fields and why certain types of grasses are used.
- Types of turf grasses for home use.
- Creating a landscape project for a nursing home, hospital or other places with people in care. Using plants or bird feeders for patient comfort.
- Discussion options of either annual or perennial plants used.
- Pollinator gardens

Requirements

- Include a design (paper or 3D model)
- Itemization of supplies, plants, trees, grasses, rocks, bricks, pavers, gates/fences, structures, and other materials used in the design
- A budget
- If multi-year, describe the yearly benchmarks.
- Identify software or computer programs used.
- Mentions elements of landscape design such as: Balance, Focalization, Simplicity, Rhythm and Line, Proportion, and Unity.

Industrial Technology

Project Description

Use tools to build a project of your choice and develop skills in shop, metal work and woodworking.

Metal Work

Exhibit Suggestions

- Metal work is the creation of metal structures by cutting, bending and assembling processes. It is a value-added process involving the creation of machines, parts, and structures from various raw materials. Could also include a display on properties, uses, or processing of metals
- It is encouraged that youth provide a binder or supporting documentation about the work on the project - pictures of the process, statement of materials purchased or tools utilized etc.

Woodworking

Exhibit Suggestions

- Woodworking is the skill of making items from wood (or wood substitute/alternative product), and could include cabinet making (cabinetry and furniture), wood carving, joinery, carpentry, woodturning or other wood manipulation techniques. Could also include a display on properties, uses, or processing of wood or wood alternatives.
- It is encouraged that youth provide a binder or supporting documentation about the work on the project - pictures of the process, statement of materials purchased or tools utilized etc.

Note:

1) Please contact 4-H staff if your project is an oversized exhibit.

Mechanical Science

Project Description

Includes (but not limited to) automotive, implement, heavy equipment, recreation vehicle, small engine, tractor, electric, type of projects. Includes past projects of Electric, Small Engines and Tractor.

Exhibit Suggestions

An exhibit focusing on any mechanical science area such as (but not limited to) automotive, implement, heavy equipment, machine, recreation vehicle, small engine, tractor, electric:

- An educational display of some aspect of a machine or a piece of equipment use, operation, modification, repair, care, reconditioning, etc.
- An educational display on the history, purpose, technology or design of a machine or a piece of equipment.
- Engine that has been reconditioned or repaired.
- A device constructed by a member utilizing a powersource.

- Restoration of an engine, vehicle, tractor, machine or implement (body work and/or mechanical)
- Modification of an engine, vehicle, tractor, machine or implement
- If bringing an engine, vehicle, tractor, machine or implement as a project, consider including a binder or display outlining your project process from research to project completion.
- Diagram of wiring in your home/farm showing switch locations, fuse boxes, wire size, capacities, fuse sizes, total bulk wattage, appliance wattage, number of circuits, and type of wiring installation.
- Explore careers in this project area and explain why they interest you

Requirements

- Motorized projects must adhere to safe building and operating design.
- Check space and transportation requirements for large exhibits with your local Extension Educator. Large exhibits may be displayed outdoors
- Fuel must be removed from exhibits for display (fuel can be added for judging purposes, but then removed after judging for safety purposes).
- A colored wiring diagram or schematic must accompany all electric and electronic exhibits. Safety must be reviewed when working with electricity.

Natural Resources

Project Description

To include; Entomology, Environmental Science, Forest Resources, Geology and Water Resources projects

Entomology

Project Description

Share what you've learned with the study of insects and how they play a big part in our earth's ecosystem and food supply.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Projects can include but is not limited to life history displays (e.g. insect life cycle, honey production process, etc), scientific investigation (e.g. insect habitats or effects of environment factors on insects), insects in current events (e.g. pollinators, butterfly tagging, invasive species, protected or declining species), insects in our ecosystem (food source, roles in food production, behaviors, health or disease, etc)
- Live projects (e.g. bee or ant colony)
- Utilize the scientific method to learn about insects. Remember to introduce the subject, describing the process (materials and method), predicting an outcome, stating the results, and discussing any conclusions. Get involved and share what you learned through citizen science projects.
- Collections- cases can be purchased through a variety of vendors or homemade.
    - Specialty insect collection can include but is not limited to a collection of a single order (e.g. Coleoptera or Lepidoptera), a collection of immature insects, a collection of insects from a particular habitat (e.g. aquatic, forest, or prairie) or a collection of economic pests of a specific crop (e.g. insects attacking corn).
    - General collection- starter collection should have 10-20 insects, goal is to get to 50 species of adult insects representing at least 8 orders. Each year add or replace insects. A full 50 species case would be approximately 19" x 16.5" x 3" to 24" x 18" x 3".

Requirements

- Live projects (e.g. bee or ant colony) will be accepted if the project can be self-sustaining for up to 14 days without special care. A written report or journal should accompany the project. Pictures, drawings, charts, tables, or other figures may be used.

- Collection shall be contained in one see through enclosed case. Arrange so that the case may be displayed in a horizontal position. Place the project label on the lower right corner of the top.
    - Specimens must be collected by the exhibitor. Purchased insects are not acceptable.
    - Specimens must be properly pinned with insect pins. Small insects may need to be placed on cardboard points.
    - Specimens must be properly labeled.
        - The location, date, and collector must be included on the labels. County and state (and country, when applicable) are minimum location information that should be included. It is valuable to include the nearest town or township where the specimen was collected, the type of habitat it was collected from (e.g. on elm tree; on lake shore; indoors.), and the common name of the insect.
        - All labels should be visible so they can be read. Use a permanent ink marker, pencil or print labels from a computer.

Environmental Science

Project Description

Share what you've learned about the relationships and interactions of plants, animals, humans, and their ecosystems through the specific challenges they face and/or solutions they offer.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Environmental challenges, such as climate change, pollution, erosion, etc., describing the causes and their sources, its effect on people and other living things, and potential solutions. This could include news clippings and other media about an environmental issue that you care about.
- Phenology journal used to keep track of environmental changes throughout a season.
- Showcase your participation in an event such as a BioBlitz or naturalist program, or other citizen science project to collect data and/or raise awareness.
- Complete a community map or assessment, to observe environmental needs and community assets.
- Vlog detailing hiking, camping, paddling, backyard, and other explorations/adventures
- A display or journal of Minnesota plants, insects, animals, birds or fish. Include pictures or drawings and information on habits, foods, and shelter needs.
- Collection of wildflowers growing near where you live or a place you visit.
- Experiments related to local environmental engineering and/or technology applications: such as urban design, pocket prairies, roadside management, eco-friendly buildings, etc.
- Pros and cons regarding a specific piece of environmental policy and/or management.
- Choose one living thing in the forest, field or stream and make a display to describe its ecosystem and/or the flow of energy throughout the ecosystem.
- Investigate an invasive, threatened, or extinct species in your area. Where do invasive species come from and is it considered invasive in its native area? What threatens them and what can be done about it? Why do species go extinct and as that happened in the area where you live?

Requirements

- Follow local or state policies for collecting, removing and/or transporting plants and other organisms

Forest Resources

Project Description

Share what you've learned about the importance of trees and forests and find ways to help with conservation.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Identify the parts of a tree and what they do with a poster or collection of leaves, seeds, needles, etc.
- Show tree growth; annual ring cross-sections; make a seed collection.
- Prepare a report with drawings about your favorite tree--include name of tree, drawings or pictures of tree, facts and uses of the tree, and other appropriate information.
- Show layers of the forest; renewable versus non-renewable resources; forestry careers; leaf and twig identification; taxonomic keys; nutrient road maps.
- Forest ecosystem health such as succession; tree and forest measurements; fire's effect on the forest; how trees grow; forest types; harvesting methods; pathology of the forest, invasive species, human impacts on the forest.
- Photographic display or report on forest products or industries, including maple syrup production; wood products; Christmas trees or others (recreation, wildlife, etc.).
- Woodland management such as policies created by the U.S. Forest Service or specialized design including shelterbelts/windbreaks and urban forestry.
- Human health benefits from trees, and what role trees play in global ecology.
- Organize or take part in a mass tree planting and calculate the amount of carbon that will be offset
- Explore the history of forestry through the lens of indigenous practices or the effects of treaties. How have these relationships impacted people and landscapes?

Requirements

- Follow local or state policies for collecting, removing and/or transporting plants and other organisms
- Specimens should be mounted on cardboard or other sturdy material.

Geology

Project Description

Share what you've learned about geologic earth structures or features and materials used to make everyday objects.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Display of rocks, minerals, gemstones, a rock plate; can be displayed in an egg carton for younger youth, or in a display case as youth progresses in the project; include in the display, labels of specimen name and location collected.
- Rocks, minerals, or fossils from within Minnesota or on a definite theme such as metamorphism, weathering, quartz minerals, ores, or a theme of your own choosing.
- Polished rock specimen; include an unpolished specimen of each rock type for comparison.
- The "science how's and why's" dealing with the principles of geology and natural earth sciences.
- Explain the three main rock types (Igneous, Metamorphic, Sedimentary) include examples of each.
- Model of a geologic earth structure or feature such as volcano, mountain range, plate tectonics, earthquake, cave, glacier.
- Timeline of geological time scale.

Water Resources

Project Description

Share what you've learned about how to protect wetlands and water quality, and how we depend on our state's wetlands

Exhibit Suggestions

- Demonstrate water's unique chemical/physical properties, such as how heat and salt affect water density or how a wetland ecosystem changes throughout the seasons

- How water is necessary for life, such as a display on water/wetland ecosystem services like filtration or nutrient cycles from plants
- How water connects earth systems like a poster displaying your local water cycle or watershed
- Research your local water body's thermoclines or nutrient cycles
- How water is used by people, such as:
  - A record tracking your family's water footprint at home, or
  - A model showing stormwater runoff, or
  - A map showcasing water accessibility or insecurity in a specific region of the world
- Water/wetland resource management measures like erosion control practices, and terraces, or a map of local, regional, state, or global water bodies and water quality.

Requirements

- Follow local or state policies for collecting, removing and/or transporting plants and other organisms

Needle Arts

Project Description

Make it yourself! Use your creativity and skill in knitting, crocheting, embroidery or counted cross stitch to make a unique sweater, scarf or other creations.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Any item made by the member using the techniques of knitting, crocheting, embroidery and crewel, counted cross stitch, needlepoint, hardanger, weaving, appliqué, latchhook, tatting, hand embellishments, felting, hand embroidery.
- Consumer Product Analysis: Comparison and evaluation of materials, supplies, or accessories used for a needle arts technique.
- Poster or display showing how needlework product is or could be priced, advertised and marketed.
- Poster or display comparing different techniques of a particular needle art (ex. different felting techniques, different stitches).
- Poster or display showing how to care for your project supplies (ex. storing, organizing, cleaning).
- Historical/Cultural Study: Story, poster, or display about a needle arts heirloom from your family or local history museum. Exhibit must include information about how item should be preserved.

Requirements

- This project area is for projects created using a hand needle, hook, shuttle or loom.
- Each exhibit must include a consumer information tag, if appropriate, with the following information: pattern name and source, fiber content, and care instructions.
- Exhibitor should be prepared to discuss techniques, fiber content, care instructions, and cost. Exhibitor is encouraged to bring instructions, pattern, or other educational sources used.
- Projects must be finished and ready to display. If an item is framed, a wall hanging, or to be displayed on a wall, it should be finished and ready to hang.
- Project kits are acceptable in this project area. The project must meet all other requirements.

Performing Arts - Performing Arts projects were judged during Performing Arts Night in April, register in FairEntry for premium money only.

Project Description

Discover acting techniques, improvisation, costume and set design, makeup techniques, stage lighting, and more!

Requirements for all Performing Arts

- Exhibit can be either a performance or an exhibit that shows a member's involvement or interest in the performing arts.
- Entries in Performing Arts are distinct from Share-the-Fun in the intention behind the entry. Performing Arts entries will be judged based on the criteria identified below and on an individual basis, even in group performances.
- An exhibitor may submit entries in both performance and non-performance based classes (e.g. a member may perform a puppet show that they wrote as a performance based exhibit and submit the script as a non-performance based exhibit
- Note: All members of a team/group must meet the State Fair age requirement to advance to the State Fair.

Performance Based

Exhibit Suggestions

- Perform a short story, show scene, music selection, dance, monologue, poetry, etc.

Requirements

- A performance in music, dance, drama, etc.
- A performance cannot last longer than 5 minutes.
- Performances may be given as a solo, duet, or a small group.
- Performances may include a non-judged accompanist
- Acts must be appropriate for any age audience
- To be eligible for State Fair, the member must be able to discuss the process of selecting, planning, performing and reflecting on their project work.
- The technique and artistry of the performance will be considered.

Non-Performance Based

Exhibit Suggestions

- An educational display on some aspect of music, drama, dance, or performing.
- A journal or scrapbook (with written statements) of current performing arts experiences.
- A written piece such as poetry, sheet music, or other physical artifact intended for performance created by 4-H'er.

Requirements

- An exhibit such as a poster or display that shows a member's involvement or interest in the performing arts.
- To be eligible for State Fair, the member must be able to discuss the process of selecting, planning, creating and reflecting on their project work.
- The workmanship, general appearance and technique used to develop the exhibit will be considered.

Pets

Project Description

Which pets would fit into your family? How could you be an excellent caretaker? Learn about a variety of small pets, such as cats, dogs, birds, guinea pigs, iguanas, snakes or frogs.

Cats

Exhibit Suggestions

- Educational display explaining cat care, health, nutritional needs, etc.

Dogs

Exhibit Suggestions

- Educational display explaining dog diseases, breeding, training, caring for dogs at humane society, information about therapy dogs, etc.

Pets

Exhibit Suggestions

- Educational display explaining pet care, health, nutritional needs, etc.

Pet Judging (live animal)

Animals not falling into a market or breeding class for 4-H can be entered into Pet Judging. Pet Judging will take place on Saturday, July 25 from 10:00 - 2:00 pm. Pets will be judged on a first come, first serve basis. Animals that come for Pet Judging to not stay on the fairgrounds.

Photography

Project Description

A photography project is about learning both the art and science of photography. Photography is the process of capturing light with a camera to create an image. So many devices have cameras; a point-and-shoot camera, your cell phone, tablet, drone, and more.

Photography can be not only a way to capture images, but also to express and share ourselves with others. What do we mean? The photography project will help you learn your own answer to that question!

Requirements for all photography

- All photos exhibited must have been taken/produced/enhanced by the exhibitor during the current year.
- Stock photos are not allowed
- The exhibitor's name, club, county and exhibit class should be clearly printed on the back of the exhibit.
- Unaltered 4"x6" photos must be attached to the back of any exhibit
- For safety, picture frames or glass are not allowed
- Exhibits with multiple photos should use 4"x6" prints - multiple photos should be displayed on a board (see below for board information)
- Enlarged photos should be 5"x7" or 8"x10"
- Photos should be mounted on a mat board, foam board, or poster board using neutral colors (white, tan, gray or black). Do not use construction paper, cardstock, colored paper or wrapping paper. Photos should not be mounted on any type of flexible/bendable paper.
- Use a 14" x 22" board for 5 or more photos in an exhibit. Cut smaller boards for enlargements
- Exhibits should reflect the appropriate size for the item designed, e.g. the photos used for an ornament, a calendar, a poster, or brochure would require different sized photographs.
- Learn how to prepare your photos for the fair
    - Video Tutorial z.umn.edu/4HPhotoPrepVideo
    - Slideshow Tutorial z.umn.edu/4HPhotoPrepSlideshow

Notes for all photography

Equipment: Use any device capable of capturing a photographic image to be printed: digital or film camera, cell phone, tablet or drone. A computer, phone or tablet is required for photo manipulation.

Note: Supervision of the drone operator is important until they understand not only how to use a drone but also understand the etiquette and rules for using the drone. For information visit the Federal Aviation Administration on unmanned aircraft systems.

Photo/Video Release Form - Use this form when including any person in your photo that is NOT in 4-H. This verifies that the subject has agreed to have their photograph taken. Keep this signed form in a file. Here is a link to the Photo & Video Release form in English (z.umn.edu/photo-release-english), Spanish (z.umn.edu/photo-release-spanish), Hmong (z.umn.edu/photo-release-hmong) and Somali (z.umn.edu/photo-release-somali).

This presentation (z.umn.edu/intro-to-photo-manipulation) explains what the difference is between elements and manipulation, software options and information on how to talk to a judge.

State Fair photos, examples of Photo Manipulation (z.umn.edu/mn4hmanipulatedphotos)

Digital art should be entered in Crafts & Fine Arts, not photography.

Element of Photography (limited to no more than 2 exhibits)

Project Description

This exhibit will focus on what makes a good photograph (composition, light, shutter speed, color, depth of field, leading lines, etc). Only select whole image edits or modifications are allowed in post-production. Post-production is any adjustment made after the photo is taken using editing software. Allowed whole image edits must be applied to the entire image and not specific areas of the photo. Allowed whole image edits include:

- cropping
- exposure correction
- color saturation
- contrast
- sharpening
- conversion to black & white

On-camera filters: a physical filter that attaches to the camera lens (neutral density, polarizer, various colors, etc) are allowed.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Photo Story:
  - Show a town's history or a family history. This could include photos of historic buildings, old photos copied from the historical society or library, family or individual portraits, etc.
  - Develop a documentary of another of yours or a friend's 4-H project or of your 4-H club's community service project
  - Document environmental issues such as the plight of pollinators, pollution, soil erosion, or the steps taken to improve the environment
  - Present a day in the life of – farm or city youth, a local professional person such as a school nurse or a firefighter, law enforcement office, or other interesting personality
  - Exhibit a series of photos on how to make or do something
- Common Theme or subject:
  - Display a series of 3 to 7 photos of a common subject such as people, buildings, landscapes, animals, seasons, action, nature, weather, close-ups, etc.
- Showcase a Photographic Elements:
  - Display a series of 5 to 7 photos that illustrate some photographic element such as composition, lighting, shutter speeds, depth of field, color, contrast, cropping, etc.
- Panorama:
  - Show a single image created in camera or a triptych (set of 3 photos intended to be used together) of several images created by moving the camera. A triptych may consist of separate images that are variants on a theme, or may be one larger image split into three.

Photo Manipulation (limited to no more than 2 exhibits)

Project Description

This exhibit will focus on using photography to show creatively edited photos and how photography is used in everyday life. Software editing is required for this category and may include:

- layering
- all digital filters (except black and white)
- creative coloring
- removing or adding objects
- text additions, etc.

Entries in this category must involve editing with software such as Photoshop, Lightroom, IPhoto, Picasa, Gimp, Picmonkey, Pixi, Microsoft Publisher, etc.

Suggested softwares (all can be used on Android, iPhone, and iPad): Snapseed (easy to use and does a nice job), Adobe Photoshop Express (good option for those wanting to grow into Photoshop), Pixir (2nd to 6th grades only), PicsArt Photo Studio (powerful photo and video editing app).

Please view the Introduction to Photo Manipulation (z.umn.edu/intro-to-photo-manipulation) slideshow for specific examples and explanations.

Stock photos are not allowed. A stock photo is a photo taken by another person (not yourself) who has licensed their photo for specific uses by others. All images used in photo manipulation exhibits must have been taken by the exhibitor. For example, you may not include an image of space taken by NASA as the background of your photo and if you want a shark inserted into your composite image, you must take a photo of a shark yourself, not import one from another website.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Composite Photo: Multiple images combined into one image
  - Panoramas (overlapping areas of several photos and stitching them together in post-production)
  - the same person in multiple places within the photo
  - replacing the sky
- Single Source Image Manipulation
  - acne removal, eye enhancement, teeth whitening, etc.
  - selective color manipulations (i.e. converting everything to black and white except items that are the same color red)
  - apply digital filters (other than black and white)
  - removing distractions in the background, etc.
- Photo Series:
  - Make a series of 5 to 7 digitally edited photos that illustrate a common theme such as environmental issues, plight of pollinators, how to do something, etc.
- Enlarged Photo:
  - Show a 5”x7” or 8”x10” print that has been digitally enhanced and illustrates software skills. An unaltered 4 x6” print must be attached to the back of the exhibit.
- Publications:
  - Show calendars, brochures, posters that are created using computer software
- Photo Novelties:
  - Display mugs, puzzles, blankets, or other media on which photos have been printed
- Slide Show:
  - Make a compilation of photos with titles, voice-over or background music. For judging, exhibitors can show their exhibit on a 14” x 22” poster board, computer or tablet.

Plant Science

Project Description

Plant Science projects focus on hands-on learning in plant growth and management, including agricultural technology, row and specialty crops, and weed and pest identification and management, with exhibits demonstrating sound practices, plant health, and youth learning.

Agricultural Technology

Exhibit Suggestions

- A display or presentation highlighting the technology used in agriculture such as GPS tools, drone use, implement technology, yield mapping, genetic engineering, seed traits, agricultural chemistry, precision agriculture, on-farm research, side-by-side trials, etc.
- A drone showcase explaining precision agriculture
- A display demonstrating automated tractors

Corn

Exhibit Suggestions

- A jar or clear container (equalling 8 cups) of shelled corn.
- A display of ears of dent corn, consisting of 6-10 ears of corn of the same variety.
- A bundle of corn stalks, consisting of stalks of the same variety.
- An educational display illustrating corn's plant reproduction, different types of corn, plant growth factors, plant characteristics, plant part identification, growing and using plants, plant growth and food production, examples of a plant disease, etc.
- A display using a 4-H project kit (a corn stalk growing out of a five-gallon pail).
- Tallest Stalk of Field Corn

Requirements

- Crop must be grown on a farm with which you have a relationship with the producer and have interviewed the producer about the growing process. Crops must have been grown in the current or previous growing season.
- Include an information card listing the variety, soil, and agronomy information of the crop if the exhibit is a crop sample.
- Be familiar with crop input costs and the growing process.

Forages

Exhibit Suggestions

- A dried sample, in a 3-5 inch tied, dried bundle, clear container of ensiled forages or in a sample 4-6 inch slab of a bale of forage. Forages include alfalfa, warm-season grasses, cool-season grasses, sorghum, native grasses, silage, etc. It is recommended that a sample analysis of your forage accompanies the sample.
- An educational display illustrating one of the following ideas: nutritional analysis of feedstuff, plant reproduction, plant growth factors, plant characteristics, growing and using plants, plant growth and food production, examples of a plant disease, etc.of forages.
- A display using a 4-H project kit (grass grown in a container showing how forages are grown).

Requirements

- Crop must be grown on a farm with which you have a relationship with the producer and have interviewed the producer about the growing process. Crops must have been grown in the current or previous growing season.

- Include an information card listing the variety if the exhibit is a crop sample.
- The sample could be in a clear plastic container or a large clear plastic bag.
- Be familiar with crop input costs and the growing process.

Plant and Soil Science

Exhibit Suggestions

- Take soil samples and compare soil analysis (soil analysis can be done by obtaining kits at your local Extension Office).
- An exhibit showing different varieties of cover crops, etc. (seed or plant)
- A plant life cycle exhibit highlighting the growth of a plant from seed to a mature plant.
- A display using a 4-H project kit

Small Grains

Exhibit Suggestions

- A jar or clear container (equalling 8 cups) of any small grain variety. This could include wheat, oats, rye, barley, etc.
- A dried sample, in a 3-5 inch tied, dried bundle of the same variety.
- An educational display illustrating one of the following ideas: plant reproduction, plant growth factors, plant characteristics, usage of plants, plant growth, food production, examples of a plant disease, etc. of small grain.

Requirements

- Crop must be grown on a farm with which you have a relationship with the producer and have interviewed the producer about the growing process. Crops must have been grown in the current or previous growing season.
- Include an information card listing the variety if the exhibit is a crop sample.
- Be familiar with crop input costs and the growing process.

Soybeans

Exhibit Suggestions

- A jar or clear container (equalling 8 cups) of soybeans.
- A dried sample, in a 3-5 inch tied, dried bundle of the same variety.
- An educational display illustrating plant reproduction, plant growth factors, plant characteristics, usage of plants or seeds, plant growth and food production, and examples of a plant disease, etc. of a soybean.
- A display using a 4-H project kit

Requirements

- Crop must be grown on a farm with which you have a relationship with the producer and have interviewed the producer about the growing process. The crop must have been grown in the current or previous growing season.
- Include an information card listing the variety if the exhibit is a crop sample.
- Be familiar with crop input costs and the growing process.

Specialty Crops

Exhibit Suggestions

- An adequate sample of a specialty crop such as sugar beets, edible beans, black beans, kidney beans, field-produced sweet corn, peas, carrots, potatoes, popcorn, etc. Dried products should be in a jar or clear container (equalling 8 cups); fresh products on a plate or flat box.
- A dried sample, in a 3-5 inch tied, dried bundle of the same variety.
- An educational display illustrating one of the following ideas: plant reproduction, plant growth factors, plant characteristics, usage of plants, plant growth, food production, examples of a plant disease, etc. of a specialty crop.
- Tallest Sunflower (bring an exhibit of your tallest sunflower stalk with a sunflower head on it).

Requirements

- Crop must be grown on a farm with which you have a relationship with the producer and have interviewed the producer about the growing process. Crops must have been grown in the current or previous growing season.
- Include an information card listing the variety if the exhibit is a crop sample.
- Be familiar with crop input costs and the growing process.

Weeds and Pests

Exhibit Suggestions

- A display or presentation highlighting any current pests in agriculture or horticulture. Could include their life cycle, prevention or treatment, their impact on the plant, etc.
- A weed display or book identifying different weeds in agriculture or horticulture. Highlight one weed in-depth, a class of weeds (such as grasses or broad leaves) or a collection of different weeds. Could include identification details, life cycle, weed control, the impact on crop production, etc.
- A display, book or poster identifying insects that are harmful to crops or other plants.
- Note: Do not include live or dried noxious weed samples in your display. If you are bringing in a sample of weed seeds, put it in a sealed container.

Plastic Sculpture Challenge

Project Description

This project was created to build awareness and knowledge of both the positive and negative impacts of single use plastics and ways to recycle or repurpose plastic. It is also meant to empower 4-H youth to be actively involved as change agents in reducing use of single-use plastics and increasing recycling/repurposing, for their family, their club, their community, their country and their world.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Suggested materials to attach items together: zip ties, string, rubber bands, art materials, colorful duct tape, or electrical tape. Strong adhesives (such as E6000 and Gorilla Glue) need to be used in a well-ventilated area with adult supervision. Safety note: melting plastic gives off toxic fumes. If using a glue gun, it is recommended to use a cool, “low temp” glue gun.
- Depending on the size and weight of your sculpture, you might consider adding wheels that lock in place or handles to your sculpture so it is easy to move.

Requirements

- Exhibits can be created by individuals, teams or clubs.
- 4-H’ers of all ages are invited to explore the plastics issue and create an art sculpture with found plastics.

- If a base is needed, it should be made out of thin wood, plywood, fiberboard, or similar material.
- Sculptures can be any size with a maximum size of: 3 ft. wide x 3 ft. long x 6 ft. tall.
- Must be made of clean (washed) plastics
- Must be multidimensional. Sculptures can be free-standing or should be ready for hanging for display (e.g. wires or hooks for hanging, on a sturdy, movable base, etc.).
- If you are unsure about any of these Guidelines, please consult your 4-H Extension Educator.
- Sculptures must include an Artist Statement (50 words or less) with:
    - Name(s) of Artists
    - Title of your sculpture
    - A statement about what you created and why
    - What materials you used.
    - What you learned and how will it change your use of single-use plastics
    - How others can reduce their use of single-use plastics

Note: Two exhibits from each county or tribal program will be selected for the State Fair. Note: State Fair Plastic Sculptures will be on display only. No judging will occur at the State Fair. Exhibitors will receive written feedback from a panel of judges.

Project Records

4-H members are encouraged to keep Project Records (forms can be found on the Washington County 4-H website under Washington County 4-H resources). Project Records are completed for individual projects. Record keeping is a life skill. By completing 4-H Project Records, members can reflect on what they have learned, the costs associated with their project, challenges, and successes. Records are judged on July 25th with the General Projects. Pictures are encouraged to help tell your story.

Quilting

Project Description

Quilting is the term given to the process of joining a minimum of three layers of fabric together either through stitching manually by hand using a needle and thread, or mechanically with a sewing machine or specialised longarm quilting system. (Wikipedia)

Exhibit Suggestions

- A quilted item, any finishing technique acceptable. Examples: potholder, table runner, doll quilt, bed-sized quilt
- Repair, repurposing, or re-design of a previously finished quilt. Example: an heirloom quilt with significant repairs or turned into another quilted item.
- A display on a quilting topic of your choice. Examples: the history of quilting/quilting patterns, a comparison of different fabrics or threads, different types of quilting notions and tools, piecing techniques.

Requirements

- Attach an index card which includes: pattern name and source, fiber content of fabric & batting, and care instructions.
- Finishing techniques may be machine quilted, hand quilted or hand tied. If not quilted or tied by the 4-H'er, exhibitor must state who tied or hand/machine quilted the final project.
- Techniques used, size, and difficulty of the project should be based on the exhibitor's sewing/quilting experience level.

Safety

Project Description

The safety project is about keeping yourself safe and helping others stay safe, too.

Exhibit Suggestions

- A First Aid or Childcare Kit with explanations for the items you included.
- A Public Service Announcement and/or social media toolkit to promote a safety topic of your choice.
- List tips for being safe when home alone, such as emergency numbers to call, safety while preparing snacks, keeping doors locked, etc.
- Attend and report on a safety program such as farm/livestock/animal, fire, food, firearms, ATV, watercraft, wilderness/outdoor, traffic, bike, personal, online, sun/skincare or others.
- Interview a safety professional and showcase their advice.

Requirements

- Abide by local, state and federal laws regarding your safety topic

Science Inquiry

Project Description

In this project area, 4-H youth build confidence in doing science by exploring questions and finding answers. They follow a step-by-step process (called Science Inquiry) to satisfy their curiosity, learning more about something they can observe or experience.

Exhibit Suggestions

- An exhibit you presented at a local science fair
- Exploration of the physical properties of slime using different materials/recipes to make slime
- Types of bird feeders you used to determine if there is a preferred bird feeder type in your backyard
- Different types of frogs you found in a pond as you investigated the difference in the frog species in the spring and the frog species in the summer
- Different types of treats and the data you collected as you explored how your dog responds to different treats during training
- Results of your investigation of different types of sunscreen to see their effects on UV beads
- Different water filtration systems you tested and the results you analyzed to identify which one resulted in the cleanest water
- Rock candy created as a result of investigating how the concentration of sugar affects crystal growth
- Test how different light sources, soil types, or fertilizers affect plant growth. Show your research question, method, and results with photos or samples.
- Which natural substances make the best cleaners?

Requirements

- Include the question, issue, or happening being investigated
- Include a description of how a science inquiry process was used to help understand the happening being investigated or studied
- Explain each step followed during the science inquiry process.

Self-Determined

Project Description

The Self-Determined project area is intended for those projects that might not fit within other categories and for those learning experiences that members select, plan, and manage on their own. It is distinct from learning experiences determined or guided by others (e.g. school work, club-determined projects). This is not a “catch-all” category but rather is focused on intentional self-directed learning. Members should be able to describe what they did, how they reflected on it, and how they applied what they learned.

Exhibit Suggestions

- A portfolio describing the selection, planning, and management of a service learning project and what the member learned during the experience.
- A trifold display made as part of a school assignment with the addition of an accompanying journal describing the process of developing the display and capturing reflection on learning during completion of the assignment
- A photo collage capturing the experiences and stages of development of an event planned and facilitated by the member either individually or as part of a team
- A video or digital blog capturing the "behind the scenes" work, reflection, and application of concepts done by an individual member while working as part of a team on a project or assignment A lego creation (not a kit) intended to include some deeper thinking and learning that is not encapsulated in any other project, requiring the exhibitor to create their own learning path.

Requirements

- A self-determined project will be judged primarily on the self-guided learning experience. While the artistry and craftsmanship of the exhibit itself will be considered, emphasis will be placed on the selection and identification of the self-guided learning experience and the ability of the member to convey the experience and what was learned from it. If the member wishes to be judged on the exhibit's craftsmanship or artistry, the exhibit should be entered within the appropriate project area (e.g. a project in seed art should be submitted within Crafts and Fine Arts project area if looking to be judged on the quality of the final product and the process and learning associated with its assembly).
- Exhibits consisting of projects or assignments done for school or other organized learning environments must indicate how the member went above and beyond the requirements of the assignment/project and individualized the learning to meet their own goals and desired outcomes.
- Exhibits may be submitted by individuals or teams. A team may consist of not more than three (3) individuals. Team members will be judged collectively.
- To be eligible for State Fair, the member(s) must be able to discuss the process of selection, planning and management of a self-determined learning experience.

Shooting Sports

Project Description

Share what you've learned about ethical behavior and responsibility when it comes to shooting sports and equipment.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Safety techniques applied to shooting activities (e.g., range commands and range safety, eye and ear protection, cleaning a firearm, dressing for safety-first aid, survival skills, etc.).
- Shooting Skills (e.g., basic safety rules, basic parts and functions of each piece of equipment, care and maintenance, accessories, position, etc.).
- Design and create shooting sports equipment (e.g., pellet stand, kneeling role, target stand, quiver, etc.)
- History and nomenclature of firearms.
- Sportsmanship: Ethical behavior and responsibility.

Requirements

- No explosive materials are allowed. Arrow tips or broadheads should be removed for display but may be included as part of the judging experience if secured for safety.
- Exhibits including firearms & bows must be sporting varieties only. Exhibitors must include a color photo of the item to be left on display - bows and firearms will not be left on display. The photograph should be taken prior to the county fair and attached to the display.
- MN and 4-H regulations for handling and storing firearms must be followed.

Technology

Note: Includes: Aquatic Robotics, Computer & Robotics exhibits.

Project Description

Share what you've learned about Aquatic Robotics, computers, or robotics — such as programming, building,3D printing or operating robots — and create a 4-H fair exhibit to show what you've discovered.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Robot (Examples: Edison, EV3, WeDo, Osmos, VEX (or other types of robotics)); (Have a photo of the robot if you do not intend to leave the robot on display)
- Display the robot using diagrams of programming, photos, booklets, etc
- Video of robot in action
- Exhibit an ROV (Remote Operated Vehicle); show the use in identifying Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and providing education
- Explain the foundations of computers and explore how computers work for various projects.
- Build a robot with labels describing how it works and/or accompanied with a binder of how it works
- Share software you created and how it works
- Learn about cyberbullying and explain prevention techniques
- Share about a robotics class you participated in and what you learned
- Create an educational app. Show how you planned your app by including sketches, wireframes, or screenshots, and explain how it helps users learn.
- Explore careers in this project area and explain why they interest you
- Design computer hardware/software
- An object made using a 3D printer

Requirements

- Include description, images/photos needed to assist with verbal or written description
- Description(s) can be verbal or written
- Computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. can be used during the judging process
- Remove batteries from technology exhibit after judging

Vegetable, Fruit and Herb Gardening

Project Description

Exhibitors showcase their vegetables, fruits, and herbs, demonstrating their gardening techniques and an understanding of plant growth and care.

Fruit

Exhibit Suggestions

- Fruit should be brought in an appropriate size clear container for displaying fruit.
- Display showing a comparison of several varieties of the same fruit (labeled); display using a branch to illustrate proper pruning of fruit trees and explaining the process; illustrate the many uses of fruits (fresh, jams, juices, cooking, baking, salads and recipes); illustrate the use of fruits as natural dyes.
- Educational display illustrating diseases (actual specimens) or insects (actual specimens) and methods of control.

Requirements

- If displaying a fruit sample, the exhibitor should bring 4-6 items of one variety of fruit.and include an information card listing the varieties of fruit.
- The exhibit must be produced at home or by a close relative. **Cannot be store purchased**.

Herb Gardening

Exhibit Suggestions

- Educational display showing some aspect of raising or using herbs.
- An herb container garden planted in a tub, pot, or planter.
- A dried sample of herbs you have raised, harvested, and dried (in an airtight container)
- A display using a 4-H project kit (growing a variety of herbs in a container).

Largest Vegetable

Note: This exhibit is not an optimal example of an edible vegetable. This is done for fun-growing purposes.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Squash
- Cabbage
- Pumpkin
- Melons

Requirements

- Include an information card with name, plant variety and date planted.
- The exhibit must be produced at home or by a close relative. **Cannot be store purchased**

Potatoes

Exhibit Suggestions

- Display a box (fruit crate size) or clear Rubbermaid container of potatoes that contains all the potatoes in that hill (all the potatoes one plant produced)
- Display a box (fruit crate size) or clear Rubbermaid container of 6-10 potatoes from one or two hills of the same variety of potato.
- Educational display illustrating diseases and control, methods of mulching and reasons, causes and effects of sun-scald.

Requirements

- If displaying a potato box (fruit crate size) or clear Rubbermaid container, you need 6-10 potatoes of the same variety or 2-3 varieties (this year's crop) similar in size to the variety identified on an information card.
- Be familiar with crop input costs and the growing process.
- The exhibit must be produced at home or by a close relative. **Cannot be store purchased**.

Vegetable Container Garden Exhibit

Exhibit Suggestions

- Showcase your gardening skills by growing a thriving Vegetable Container Garden. THis exhibit challenges 4-H'ers to design and maintain a productive garden in a container, perfect for small spaces.

Requirements

- Must include one type of vegetable grown in a container.
- The container should be portable and have proper drainage.
- Judges will assess plant health, variety selection, creativity in design and overall presentation.
- Exhibits may include a brief written description (maximum 100 words) detailing the plant choices, care methods and any unique features of the garden.
- Plants should be grown in the exhibit container for at least one month prior to the fair.
- A themed herb garden with multiple plants would be accepted in this category.

Vegetable Gardening Box

Clarification: Vegetable Variety is either Large, Medium or Small

Exhibit Suggestions

- A box (fruit crate size) or clear rubbermaid container used to display vegetables.

Requirements

- Label vegetables with proper variety names on an information card.
- When exhibiting a collection of vegetables, the collection should include six different kinds of vegetables (For example: 1 large variety + 3 medium varieties + 2 small varieties)
- 6 different vegetable specimens for this exhibit choosing any combination of the following:
- One large vegetable specimen (cabbage, squash, melon, pumpkin, cauliflower, etc.)
- Three different medium-sized vegetable specimens and 3 of each specimen (tomatoes, onions, peppers, cucumbers, kohlrabi, carrots, beets, turnips, etc.)
- Two small vegetable specimens and 6-12 of each specimen (green beans, peas, lima beans, etc.)
- Potatoes may not be included (enter under the Potato project).
- The exhibit must be produced at home or by a close relative. **Cannot be store purchased**.

Vegetable Plate

Clarification: Vegetable Variety is either Large, Medium or Small

Exhibit Suggestions

- On a disposable plate, display an example of ONE vegetable variety.
- Examples of individual variety on a plate include:
  - Large-sized vegetable specimen: 1 sample (cabbage, squash, melon, pumpkin, cauliflower, etc.)
  - Medium-sized vegetable specimen: 3 of each specimen (tomatoes, potatoes, onions, peppers, cucumbers, kohlrabi, carrots, beets, turnips, asparagus, etc.)
  - Small sized vegetable specimen: 6- 12 of each specimen (green beans, peas, cherry tomatoes, jalapenos, lima beans, etc.)

Requirements

- Label vegetables with proper variety names on an information card.
- Only have one vegetable variety (Large, Medium or Small) on the plate. (For example: Variety is Medium sized - three onions).
- The exhibit must be produced at home or by a close relative. **Cannot be store purchased**.

Veterinary Science

Project Description

Share what you've learned during an in-depth exploration around veterinary science topics.

Exhibit Suggestions

- An exhibit focused on technology or industry advancements in veterinary science
- An exhibit on diseases of animals focusing on the history, management, prevention, etc.
- An exhibit on use of different medications in veterinary science focusing on dosage, records, implications of use, impact on the industry
- An exhibit focused on surgical and nonsurgical procedures used in veterinary medicine (spaying/neutering pets, embryo transfer, wellness visit, etc.).
- An exhibit focused on careers in veterinary science exploration (such as job shadowing, interviews and opportunities)
- Create a 3-D model of the skeletal system of the animal of your choice

Video and Filmmaking

Project Description

You can use videos in your daily life, for school projects or in a future career. Videography is art, communications and technology together. Becoming good at making videos teaches media literacy—the ability to fully understand media messages that come at you every day.

Video/Filmmaking
Video/Filmmaking – Production Team (2-3 members per team)

Exhibit Suggestions

- Showcase various video/film techniques
- A selected subject. Include a short storyboard or outline
- Illustrate how a video/film camera works, or how to care for video/film equipment, illustration of computer video/film creation, etc.
- A video/film made by blending computer technology and traditional camera created video/film.
- A video/film using data from trail camera or time lapse camera (stop action video) or drone with attached camera (see note related to drone use).
- A video/film using Claymation, dolls, Lego for stop action
- Document environmental issues such as the plight of pollinators, pollution, soil erosion, or the steps taken to improve the environment
- A short documentary on a family member or interesting member of your community
- A trailer for a movie or event (can be fictional)
- A story that you tell using your friends and family
- A commercial, real or fictional

Requirements

- It is encouraged that when developing a 4-H video/filmmaking exhibit, members will develop skills beyond the classroom.
- It is recommended that the video/filmmaking exhibit be 3-5 minutes and no longer than 10 minutes.
- All video/filmmaking exhibits must be made by the exhibitor OR by a production team of which the exhibitor must be a member
- The exhibitor's name, grade, and club must be clearly printed on all exhibit pieces.
- All video/film footage exhibited must have been made/created DURING THE CURRENT 4-H YEAR. When appropriate, (i.e. historical sequences) older video clips can be used.
- The member should provide the video file even if sending it electronically.
- Video/film must be presented on DVD, flash drive or CD. Participants are also allowed to upload their video to YouTube.
- Videos can also be delivered via Youtube, Vimeo, Frame.io or similar online based presentation sites.
- Video/film needs to be in presentation form, including a title and credits
- The video/film must be original material. Any video/film exhibit, which appears to contain copyrighted material, including music, will not be publicly displayed unless the exhibitor has written permission from the producer to use the material in the video/film. Portions and music from other sources must be documented and have a copyright release. Learn more about copyrighted material and finding material that is public domain or released under the Creative Commons license at z.umn.edu/free4u.
- A computer must be brought for viewing the video/film during the conference judging,other arrangements need to be made in advance with the 4-H staff
- Video/film must be playable on Windows, use file format including .WMV, .FLV and .MPEG, .AVI, .MOV, .AVCHD, .MPEG-1, .MEG-4, as well as a playable DVD.
- 4-H videos must adhere to G or PG (parental guidance) standards. The 4-H Code of Conduct requires respectful behavior, so you may not depict: violence, obscene language (or naughty words) including swearing, rude interactions or insults, or use or visibility of guns or fighting, etc. Remember not only teens and pre-teens view the videos but young children and their parents. Keep this in mind when creating your video.

Notes:

- This is not a slideshow (see Manipulated Photography for slideshow)
- Supervision of the drone operator is important until they understand not only how to use a drone but also understand the etiquette and rules for using the drone. For information visit the Federal Aviation Administration on unmanned aircraft systems.

Video Release form - Use this form when including any person in your video that is NOT in 4-H. This verifies that the subject has agreed to be in your video. Keep this signed form in a file. Here is a link to the Photo & Video Release form in English (z.umn.edu/photo-release-english) , Spanish (z.umn.edu/photo-release-spanish), Hmong (z.umn.edu/photo-release-hmong) and Somali (z.umn.edu/photo-release-somali).

Equipment: Any electronic device capable of capturing a video image video camera, digital camera, DSLR, time lapse camera or trail camera, cellphone, tablet, GoPro or drone with attached camera (operator must meet age requirements to use a drone).

Water Resources

See "Natural Resources" section

Wildlife Biology & Management

Project Description

Wildlife biology and management is about taking care of and protecting animals in their natural habitats to ensure their well-being and the balance of nature. Wildlife management is like being a guardian for animals and their homes. It's about making sure they have enough food, clean water, and safe places to live. Wildlife managers also help sick or injured animals and make sure there is a good balance in nature so all animals can thrive.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Develop a wildlife management plan--show practices related to land use and forest management for wildlife such as controlled burns, logging, planting, etc.
- Explore basic concepts of Wildlife Management (waterfowl wingboards, birdhouse trails, carrying capacity, game animal habitat requirements, history of game management, etc).
- Explain some factors that threaten or endanger animal species such as urbanization, climate change, or habitat loss. Or explore a species that went extinct and why it happened.
- Build a bird or bat house, nesting structure, hibernaculum, animal shelter or feeder and explain the history of artificial shelter structures how it can benefit a species.
- Display a collection of identified wildlife scat (droppings), skulls or skins. How do they differ? Why?
- Show how wildlife can be classified into herbivores, carnivores or omnivores using skull diagrams
- Write a wildlife landscape habitat plan
- Report on animal adaptations, such as animal camouflage. How do adaptations of plants and animals match the environment they live in?
- Make a display that details a food chain/web of a particular habitat.
- Explain the life cycle of your favorite wild animal in a video, poster or display.
- Shadow or volunteer at a nature center or park and share your experience using a journal, video, or display. Learn about rules and policies in place to protect or manage certain species of wildlife.
- Identify, mount and label a book of plants native to a certain region
- Animal signs, animal tracks, homes or foods
- Do a bird study, including beak type, wings, feet, song, feeding patterns, etc.
- Make a collection of wildflowers growing near where you live or a place you visit

Requirements

- All wild game used in exhibits must be tagged appropriately according to state laws.

Youth Leadership

Project Description

Youth Leadership is a project area that requires the member to discover their skills and then develop those skills and share them with others. This might happen individually or with a group.
Share how you've built an understanding of self, developed skills, learned how to work with others, overcome obstacles or adjusted goals, developed understanding of making decisions, and/or managed and or worked in groups.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Share your youth leadership experience. This could include your 4-H youth leadership journey, or your leadership in an organization within your school or community.
- Share what you gained and shared from a conference or retreat you attended.
- Share a personal development plan you have implemented
- Develop a (career and/or college prep) portfolio
- Develop a presentation that illustrates how you've built understanding of self, developed communication skills, learned how to work with others, developed understanding of making decisions, and/or managing and/or working in groups.
- Lesson plan you've developed
- Meeting outline or agenda developed by youth
- Illustrate how you've shared 4-H with others.
- Scrapbook outlining participation in leadership programs. Includes personal reflection on leadership growth and development.
- Share how you have taken the lead on a service project, and what leadership skills you gained through the project.
- Share how you have served as a mentor and/or teacher to younger youth (could be with a project area, a club activity or officer role, etc)
- Share how you led your group's Food Partner Challenge

4-H ANIMAL SCIENCE RULES & INFO

*****NOTE ALL large animals must stay north of the Barns, please do not walk your animals around the fairgrounds! ALL ANIMALS must stay away from Food Vendors!**

Animal Science

- All beef, dairy, dairy goat, dog, horse, llama-alpaca, meat goat, poultry (doves/pigeons only), rabbit, sheep and swine shown in 4-H livestock shows must have the required State 4-H ID system, ear tag and/or tattoo. Animal ID data must be submitted online, arrive in the Extension office, or be postmarked no later than May 15, 2026 (with the exception of Market Beef due Feb. 17, 2026).
- All animals exhibited must be owned solely by the member, member's family or leased by agreement. The family includes the 4-H'ers parents or guardians and siblings living together as a family unit. The definition of family includes an extended family where the animals may be owned by grandparents with the 4-Her's parents actively involved with and working on the farm. Animals owned in partnership with non-family members (as defined above) must be leased and follow guidelines within the lease information.
- 4-H'ers exhibiting livestock at the County Fair are responsible for the care and feeding of animals they exhibit.
- Note - Cloverbud exhibits, including livestock posters, will not be judged blue, red and white. Instead, all will receive participation recognition.
- All livestock exhibits, including showmanship, must be pre-registered. Members in animal projects may exhibit one animal per class, unless stated otherwise. 4-H'ers must show their own animal in the class. If the 4-H'er has multiple animals in one class, another 4-H member(s) from the same county can show the other animals.

- All 4-H'ers exhibiting livestock at the county fair are eligible to participate in showmanship **and must show their own animal**.
- Advertising animals for sale and displaying farm, ranch, or sale signs in the show ring is not allowed. The only permissible signs are 4-H stall cards, champion/reserve champion signs, educational signs with performance or pedigree information, and signs with the animal's name. Additionally, only decorations that support the 4-H Youth Development Program are allowed.
- Registered market animals must have registration papers solely in the exhibitor's name, the exhibitor's family name, or the family's farm name; registered breeding animals must have registration papers solely in exhibitor's name, the exhibitor's family name, or the family's farm name or be under lease from any other owners (including partnerships). Registered breeding animals that are leased may have registration papers in the animal owners name or farm name.
- To show in the registered breed classes, animals must meet the registration requirements for that breed and registration papers must be available. Animals without proper registration papers (crossbreeds and grades) must be shown as commercial.
- All animal health regulations will be in effect as stipulated by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health and the County Agricultural Society.

Cloverbud participation in Animal Shows

Washington County will allow 4-H Cloverbuds (grades K-2) limited participation in livestock (beef, dairy, sheep, swine, goat, rabbit, poultry) horse and dog shows. Please read carefully the information below!

*Cloverbud animals do NOT need to be Identified in 4hOnline by the May 15th deadline.
*Cloverbuds bringing their own animals onto the fairgrounds must have approved Identification/tag for their animal. Contact Ann @ Churc109@umn.edu to request a tag.
***Cloverbuds must pre-register their animals in FairEntry** so we know how many animals to expect. A Cloverbud can bring an animal from home and stall it at the fair or use another 4-H'ers animal that is already being exhibited in a fair class.
*Horse exhibitors must bring a copy of their coggins, Dog must bring proof of vaccinations.
*Cloverbuds show in non-competitive classes. See Cloverbud section under each specie for specific classes they are allowed to participate in.
*Participation ribbons will be awarded.

Competition

Cloverbud programs emphasize cooperative rather than competitive experiences. Children are encouraged to develop social skills through experiences with their peers.

Rules for 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.

When cloverbuds and animals (including beef, cats,dairy, dogs, goats, horse, 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 responsible person must be with the cloverbud to guide and monitor their involvement at all times, including but not limited to movement within and to and from the trailers, barns, wash racks, and show arena.
- Families may choose one of two acceptable ways to guide and monitor involvement in non-mounted activities:
  1. The responsible person is in control of the animal with the cloverbud at their side.
  2. The cloverbud is in control of the animal with the responsible person at their side to assist or take control of the animal when needed or as directed by staff, volunteers or show managers.
- When a cloverbud is mounted on a horse, the horse must always have a lead line and be under the control of the responsible person.
- 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.

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 includes county fairs, demonstrations, or a community event where youth are representing 4-H with an animal or interacting with potentially dangerous equipment..
3 "Control" means assuming responsibility for handling and/or leading the animal. The parent/responsible person must determine the cloverbud's ability to control the animal in non-mounted activities.

Required Livestock Quality Assurance & Ethics Training Policy

Livestock Quality Assurance & Ethics Training

All youth participating as a State Fair 4-H livestock exhibitor in beef, dairy, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits, meat goat, dairy goat, and llama/alpaca must have completed Livestock Quality Assurance Training prior to the Washington County Fair. Certification is good for 3 fair seasons. To check your LQA status for 2026, log into your family account, click on member, and then click on 'trainings' for that member (left column). If LQA is current it will be listed, if nothing is listed you will need to complete LQA training for 2026.

If you are due to be certified, there are two training options available;

Option 1 - LQA&E face to face Training

Participation in a face to face 3-hour Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics (LQA&E) training offered in various locations around the state. **This certification is valid for three fair seasons**. This training is designed for 4-Hers 6th grade and up. Typically Level I is designed for grades 6 - 8th, and Level II designed for grades 9th - 13. 4-Hers completing grades 6-8 may be certified in either Level I or Level II. The determination of which Level to certify at for grades 6-8 should be based on the livestock project experience the 4-Her possesses.

Washington and Dakota County 4-H is hosting an in-person LQA & E training on June 12; 8:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Schaffer Family (Elmegca Farm) in Cannon Falls. Cost: $5. (please bring correct change) Register through 4honline.com

Option 2 - YQCA on-line Training

YQCA YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS
Food Safety — Animal Well Being — Character

4-H members have the option of completing the 1-hour online offered via distance learning. **This certification is valid for one fair season**. Cost of this training is $12/child and is paid at the time of online registration with credit card. Since training is good for one fair season, it will need to be completed annually. This is a nationally offered program and registration fee is utilized to upkeep the system and update the training. To access information on how to complete the YPCA course go to: Youth for the Quality Care of Animal Instructions

LQA & E Trainings promote responsible care of animals, making informed decisions in animal care and providing safe consumer food products. Youth will receive a certificate of completion. Additional information concerning any Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics training in our county will be listed in upcoming 4-H newsletters.
Watch for additional Animal Science opportunities to be shared in upcoming newsletters, on the Washington County 4-H Facebook page or emails.

Verification of Animals

Animals will be verified by species coordinators at the county fair to make sure their identification matches the paperwork that was submitted by the May 15 Identification deadline. Any animal not having proper identification that matches the February 15/May 15 Animal Identification Affida**vit** will not be eligible for championship placing, livestock auction participation, premiums, any placing above a blue ribbon, or any shows/competitions beyond the county level.

Registered/Purebred Animals

Registered/Purebred animals that are entered in a 'registered' classes must show proof of registration (registration paper) during ID verification at the county fair, (Wednesday for beef, sheep & swine, and Thursday for dairy and goats). Exhibitors must have a registration paper that matches the tattoo/ identification of the animal. Animals without proper Registration papers will be shown in a commercial or grade class. The commercial/grade status will follow that animal if awarded a State Fair trip.

Pre-registration in FairEntry

All livestock exhibits, including showmanship, must be pre-registered. Animals used in showmanship classes must have been exhibited in a market or breeding class. 4-H'ers must show their own animals in a showmanship class.

HOW TO REGISTER MORE THAN ONE ANIMAL PER CLASS
If you have two animals in the same class, you need to enter each animal separately In FairEntry.

SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES

All youth register for the showmanship class specific to your species. Showmanship provides an opportunity to show your animal and to learn proper showmanship skills.

Grooming Rules for County Fair

All grooming of livestock at the fair, including clipping, trimming and manipulation of the hair/wool (such as blocking on sheep, pulling up hair on beef and working up top lines on dairy) must be clearly done by the exhibitor, or members of the immediate family or any other enrolled Minnesota 4-H member. Immediate family members are defined as being parents, step parents, legal guardians, grandparents, brothers or sisters. (**Washington County Exceptions *are for 3 – 5 grade 4-H members*** *or* ***1st year members who have never shown an animal before).*** *These 4-H members may* consult with a livestock resource person chosen by the 4-H family. A livestock resource is defined as someone who is working with the 4-H'er/4-H family to help them learn management and fitting and grooming skills in their project area. The 4-H'er exhibiting the animal MUST be present and involved in the fitting process at the county fair.

STATE FAIR FITTING RULE ARE AS FOLLOWS; All grooming of livestock at the fair, including clipping, trimming and manipulation of the hair/wool (such as blocking on sheep, pulling up hair on beef and working up top lines on dairy) must be clearly done by the exhibitor, members of the immediate family (parents, step-parents, legal guardians, grandparents, brothers or sisters) or any other enrolled Minnesota 4-H member. NO resource person..

Health Requirements

All animals brought to the Washington County Fair must fulfill the health requirements established by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health and the Washington County Agricultural Society. Refer to the 'Health Rules for Livestock Exhibitors at: https://washingtoncountyfair.org/exhibitors/

Sheep and Goat Exhibitors: The Minnesota Board of Animal Health requires sheep and goats to have a scrapie identification tag or premises ID tattoo no matter what their age. The only exception is if you have a registered goat with a tattoo matching its Registration paper (can't be pending) – you do not need a scrapie tag. If you have an animal that you have purchased at a sale this year that does not have a scrapie tag/tattoo or premises ID tattoo in its ear, you need to contact the person you purchased your animal from to obtain a scrapie tag.

- All animal health regulations will be in effect as stipulated by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health and the County Agricultural Society. It is the responsibility of each livestock exhibitor to contact a veterinarian to be sure the project animal is qualified for exhibit.
- The official veterinarian's decision is final. The official veterinarian will make general health examinations of all livestock and poultry on the day of entry and daily during exhibition.
- The official veterinarian will order the immediate removal to a quarantine facility or removal from the exhibition premises of any livestock with symptoms of infectious or communicable diseases. **This includes livestock with warts or ringworm. A statement from a veterinarian that an animal is being treated for these diseases is not acceptable.**

Animal Care

Your animal is your responsibility at the fair. Bring whatever you need to feed and care for your animal at the fair. Animals must be well cared for, and all animal areas should be kept clean and neat for the public. Livestock exhibitors are to furnish their own hay, straw, or grain. Shavings are provided for rabbit and poultry exhibitors.
Members must bring their own watering pans, wash pails, and grooming equipment, etc.

FEED & BEDDING

All animal exhibitors are responsible for bringing their own feed and bedding with the exception of Beef Cattle. Beef exhibitors will be provided bedding for a fee. **If you are exhibiting beef cattle, please contact Paul Krueger at: 651-335-6544 at least 2 weeks prior to the fair to let him know how many animals you will be bringing. Payments for bedding will be collected at the county fair.**

STALLING

Stalls are assigned for all species by the Superintendents.

Herdsmanship

4-H'ers exhibiting animals at the County Fair are responsible for the care and feeding of the animals they exhibit. The Washington County Agricultural Society will award Herdsmanship plaques to the top 4-H member in each livestock specie. These awards are presented Sunday night at the 4-H Recognition Program. Criteria for selection will include cleanliness of exhibit area, appearance of animals, and exhibitor's conduct.

Purpose:

The Herdsmanship Contest is conducted to help 4-H livestock members learn skills in courtesy, cooperation, neatness

and proper care of animals. The goal is to present animal exhibits to the public in a neat and attractive manner.

Member Duties:
Livestock exhibits will be evaluated once each day throughout the fair during the hours of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Washington County Agricultural Society provides awards to the winners of each livestock species. It is expected that the owner of the exhibited animal has fed, exercised and cleaned the animal prior to 9 a.m. each day. All animals must be maintained and look presentable to the public daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Member Expectations:
1. Keep all stalls and cages clean
2. Keep sufficient amount of water in buckets and pans when appropriate
3. Keep aisles clean
4. Make sure animal is clean
5. Greet the public and answer any questions you can in a pleasant manner
6. Display stall cards to identify your animal(s)
7. Be considerate of other exhibitors
8. Be on time for your show and stay until the show is completed
9. Empty full wheelbarrows after every use
10. Keep forks, rakes, shovels and all other equipment out of the aisle
11. Keep litter picked up. (i.e. pop cans, wrappers)
12. Keep animal(s) comfortable in hot weather
13. Do not expect others to pick up after you
14. When you are unable to be with your animal at feeding time, make sure you have found a replacement that is responsible enough to take care of your animal

As always HAVE FUN! Do your part to make sure the barns are a nice place for the public to visit and learn about animal agriculture.

Suggested Show Clothing

Dairy – white pants and shirt
Dairy Goat – white pants and shirt
Meat Goat – dark jeans & collared shirt
Beef – jeans & collared shirt
Sheep – jeans & collared shirt
Swine – jeans & collared shirt
Poultry – jeans & long sleeve shirt (optional white coat)
Rabbit – jeans & long sleeve shirt (optional white coat)
Llama – black pants/white shirt (for judging), Obstacle Course (optional)

Fair Animal Superintendents

Dairy - Gary Rydeen & Kevin Brown (612-456-2575)
Beef – Paul Krueger (651-335-6544)
Sheep – Jeff Groskopf (651-380-5548)
Swine – Brad Bowman (651-235-3712) Steve Oehlke (651-247-6666)
Poultry – Juanita Peuse (651-245-7524), Caitlin Ferguson (651-373-8292)
Rabbit – Jayleen Stolzenburg (515-460-1667), Sara Delaney (651-491-3914)
Lama – Dan Whittaker (651-295-5340)
4-H Meat Goat – Sarah Johnson (651-442-2506)
Dairy Goat – Bonnie Augustine (651-214-7463)

Confirming a State Fair Trip

If you "earn" a State Fair trip, you will find your name listed on the "State Fair" Boards in the 4-H building on the fairgrounds after your respective show. The earlier you confirm your trip the better as other youth are waiting to confirm their trips – all livestock trips must be confirmed by Sunday at noon.

State Fair Meeting

On Saturday, August 1st at 11:00 am, there will be a State Fair exhibitor meeting for both first time general and livestock participants in the 4-H building on the fairgrounds.

All State Fair animal exhibitors must attend a species meeting at 2:00 pm in their respective barns on Sunday, August 3. This meeting is to coordinate State Fair transportation, supplies, etc. with other exhibitors going to the MN State Fair.

Animal Science Consumer Education

It is expected that all 4-H members represent the 4-H program and their projects at the county fair. Most animal species will have an informational table where 4-H youth will be expected to sign up for at least an hour shift. Volunteers will provide sign-up sheets. We expect that 4-H members are proud of their livestock exhibits and are happy to share their knowledge with fairgoers.

15th Annual Supreme Showmanship Contest!

The Champion Senior Showmen in the Dairy, Beef, Swine, Sheep, Dairy and Meat Goat projects will all compete against one another for the title of the Premier Showman on **Sunday, August 2 at 12:00 pm**. It is an honor to be selected to be in the Supreme Showmanship Contest! There are a few changes to this year's competition.

- The judging will take place in a Round Robin style in which each participant will be judged for 5 minutes on each species.
- No written quiz will be given.
- Each participant is responsible to bring his or her own showmanship animal to the competition. The Sr. Champion will not show their own animal in the contest.
- After each of the participants have shown each specie the judges will collaborate, and determine which showmen will receive the title of Premier Showman!

4-H Market Livestock Auction

Who is "selected' for the Livestock Auction? – 50% of the highest placing ***market*** *Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goats Poultry & Rabbit* exhibitors have the opportunity to be in the 4-H Market Livestock Auction based on the judge's placing. Only one animal per exhibitor can be in the Auction. For example, if you show market beef and market goats and earn an auction spot with both animals, you will need to decide which animal you would like to have in the auction. The age of the exhibitor does not matter – the honor is based on the placing of the market animal. The Auction is held on **Saturday evening, August 1, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Judging Arena.** ***4-H exhibitors selected to the auction are expected to assist in finding buyers/bringing money for their animal.*** Of the total amount, 80% goes to the 4-H member, 20% goes into the Federation Fund to support other 4-H programs. The Auction is a Premium Auction only – buyers do NOT get the animal.

The IRS requires 1099 forms be completed for any youth earning more than $600 in the auction. To complete the 1099 form our office will need the social security number of the youth meeting this requirement. No check will be sent to youth who have not provided their social security number. In addition, no checks are distributed until all the money from the buyers has been collected.

All 4-H members selected for the 4-H Livestock Auction must be present the night of the Auction to bring their own animals into the ring. **Youth selected to the Livestock Auction must complete the Auction Selection Form; to confirm if they are accepting an Auction trip no later than 1:00 p.m. on Friday, July 31. If not, the trip will go to the next individual in line.**

MANDATORY AUCTION MEETING FOR AUCTION PARTICIPANTS!

Youth who have been selected to be in the Livestock Auction for the first time are required to attend a MANDATORY meeting on Friday, July 31 at 6:00 p.m. in the Judging Arena. Members of the Auction Committee will be explaining the process.

Market Livestock Auction Photos

Auction photos are sent to the buyers with a thank you from the 4-H office. Auction photos will be taken while the 4-H member is in the auction ring Saturday night. A backdrop will be provided between the sheep and goat barn for families wishing to take their own pictures during the county fair.

Auction Buyers Needed!

Brochures are available on the Washington County 4-H website to send to potential buyers. The Auction is held on **Saturday, August 1, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Judging Arena.** This is a premium only auction, buyers do not get the animal, they are purchasing a 'ribbon'. Buyers do not need to be present to 'purchase' an animal and it is very acceptable to pool money with other individuals or businesses. 4-H members are expected to bring in buyers to the auction to help purchase their animals. It is encouraged to ask potential buyers ahead of the fair if they would 'pledge' funds if you were selected to be in the auction.

State Fair Purple Ribbon Auction

The Washington County Livestock Auction sets aside funds each year from our auction to help support Washington County 4-H'ers who are selected to the MN State Fair Purple Ribbon Auction. A 4-H member who has not participated in the Washington County LIvestock Auction will not receive money from the Purple Ribbon Fund if selected for the State Fair Purple Ribbon Auction.

ANIMAL SCIENCE KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

All 4-H members exhibiting beef, dairy, meat and dairy goats, poultry, sheep, swine, llama-alpaca, rabbits, dog and horse will be required to take a knowledge quiz during their check in. To receive premium money, you must pre-register in FairEntry!

The purpose of the Animal Science Knowledge Quiz is to encourage youth to dig into learning about their specific specie. It also helps prepare state fair age youth to participate in the state interview process. Written quizzes will be administered at the following times;

Tuesday, July 28	**Horse Pleasure Show youth (time and location will be announced on the day of the show.)**
Wednesday, July 29	
TBD	**Horse Game Show youth (time and location will be announced on the day of the show.)**
4:00 pm	**Sheep/Swine Exhibitors take Mandatory Knowledge Quiz (Ring between Swine & Goat Barn)**
4:30 pm	**Beef Exhibitors take Mandatory Knowledge Quiz (Ring between Swine & Goat Barn)**
Thursday, July 30	
1:30 pm	**Dairy, Dairy Goat, Market Goat Exhibitors take Mandatory Knowledge Quiz (Judging Arena)**

An award will be presented to the top placing Junior(grades 3-5) , Intermediate (grade 6-8), and Senior (grades 9 and up) Knowledge Bowl participant. Exhibitors need to register for the Knowledge Quiz by selecting 'Knowledge Quiz' on your FairEntry submission. Youth must complete the Knowledge Quiz to place higher than a blue ribbon.

SCIENCE OF ANIMALS EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

Science of Animals Educational Exhibits

Note: The following animal types are eligible for Science of Animals exhibits: Beef, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Meat Goat, Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep and Swine.

Health/Breeding/Production Exhibit

Zoonotics Exhibit

Other Exhibit

Exhibit Suggestions

- Items constructed (such as feeding systems or show equipment) or science exhibits focusing on one of the four divisions listed above.
- These projects may be enhanced with 3-dimensional displays, posters or notebooks

State Fair trips will be available. Exhibits will be judged during Livestock Encampment and 4-H'ers may exhibit both an animal (if awarded a trip from the county show) and a Science of Animal Educational Exhibit. NOTE: Llama-Alpaca, Poultry and Rabbit promotional and educational posters are an exhibit item at the state level and may be entered as a poster in each respective area.

ANIMAL SCIENCE CLASSES

BEEF

SHOW: Friday, July 31 @ 9:00 am (Judging Arena)

******Beef Exhibitors are expected to remove trash out of bedding, and clean out alleys (loose hay/bedding can be put into the stall area) before leaving the fairgrounds on Sunday evening.***

Birth Dates

Breeding Heifer – Spring Calf	January 1 – May 15, 2026
Breeding Heifer – Fall Calf	September 1 – December 31, 2025
Breeding Heifer – Summer Yearling	May 1 – August 31, 2025
Breeding Heifer – Junior Yearling	January 1 – April 30, 2025
Breeding Heifer – Senior Yearling	September 1 - December 31, 2024
Cow/Calf	Calves must be born between January 1 - May 15, 2026
Prospect Market Calves	January 1 – May 15, 2026
Market Beef	January 1 – August 31, 2025
Dairy Steers	January 1 – August 31, 2025

Breeding Heifer

Beef - Registered Spring Calf
Beef - Registered Fall Calf
Beef - Registered Summer Yearling
Beef - Registered Junior Yearling
Beef - Registered Senior Yearling
Beef - Commercial Spring Calf
Beef - Commercial Fall Calf
Beef - Commercial Summer Yearling
Beef - Commercial Junior Yearling
Beef - Commercial Senior Yearling

Cow and Calf

Beef - Cow and Calf Pair

Prospect Calf

Beef - Heifer Calf
Beef - Steer Calf

Market Beef

Beef - Market Steer
Beef - Market Heifer

Requirements

- Recommended minimum weight for State Fair is 1,000 pounds; recommended maximum weight is 1,500 pounds.

Dairy Steer

Beef - Pure Breed Dairy Steer
Beef - Crossbred Dairy Steer

Requirements

- Recommended minimum weight for State Fair is 1,000 pounds; recommended maximum weight is 1,600 pounds. Pure Breed Dairy Steers must be 100% dairy breed. The following breeds will be accepted without registration papers: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, and Jersey. Milking Shorthorn dairy steers must be registered with the American Milking Shorthorn Society and not carry the "S" suffix.
- Dairy Steers showing permanent teeth may be shown, but they can place no higher than a red ribbon and they will not be eligible for State Fair or auction.
- **Crossbred Dairy Steers must be at least 50% from the acceptable breeds listed for the Pure Breed Dairy Steer division, with the balance being from any other beef or dairy breed; however, the steers must show adequate dairy steer characteristics, as determined by the screening committee. Exhibitors should be prepared to identify the breeds of their crossbred dairy steer.**

Beef Showmanship

Beef Knowledge Quiz

Beef Cloverbud (see rules on pages 53-54)

Beef Cloverbud Animal Exhibit - SHOWMANSHIP ONLY

Prospect Calf – Dairy Market (COUNTY CLASS ONLY)

Beef – Prospect Dairy Market Calf – Purebred
Beef – Prospect Dairy Market Calf – Crossbred

Requirements:

- Calves need to be born between Jan 1 – April 30 of current year.
- Prospect dairy market calf class is for males calves only.
- Calf can be from a purebred or crossbreed dairy breed.
- Male calves do not need to be castrated.
- NOT eligible for State Fair trip.
- NOT eligible for Livestock Market Auction.
- 4-H member may register to compete in Beef Showmanship.
- Limit 2 calves per exhibitor.

DAIRY

SHOW; Saturday, August 1 beginning at 10:00 am (Judging Arena)

There will be a DAIRY exhibitor meeting on Thursday following the Knowledge Quiz at 1:30 pm in the Judging Arena.
******Dairy Exhibitors are expected to remove trash out of bedding, and clean out alleys (loose hay/bedding can be put into the stall area) before leaving the fairgrounds on Sunday evening.***

Birth Dates

Spring Calf	March 1, 2026 - May 31, 2026
Winter calf	December 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026
Fall calf	September 1 – November 30, 2025
Summer yearling	June 1 – August 31, 2025
Spring yearling	March 1 – May 31, 2025
Winter yearling	December 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025
Fall yearling	September 1 – November 30, 2024
Milking Yearling	Born Sept 1, 2024 or later that has freshened & in milking form
Junior two year old	March 1 – August 31, 2024
Senior two year old	September 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024
Three year old cows	September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023
Four year old cows	September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022
Aged cow	Born before September 1, 2021
Dry cow	Dry cow of any age

Holstein Registered

Dairy - Spring Calf
Dairy - Winter Calf
Dairy - Fall Calf
Dairy - Summer Yearling
Dairy - Spring Yearling
Dairy - Winter Yearling
Dairy - Fall Yearling
Dairy - Milking Yearling
Dairy - Junior Two-Year-Old Cow
Dairy - Senior Two-Year-Old Cow
Dairy - Three-Year-Old Cow
Dairy - Four-Year-Old Cow
Dairy - Five-Year-Old and Older Cow
Dairy - Dry Cow

Holstein Grade

Dairy - Spring Calf
Dairy - Winter Calf
Dairy - Fall Calf
Dairy - Summer Yearling
Dairy - Spring Yearling
Dairy - Winter Yearling
Dairy - Fall Yearling
Dairy - Milking Yearling
Dairy - Junior Two-Year-Old Cow
Dairy - Senior Two-Year-Old Cow
Dairy - Three-Year-Old Cow
Dairy - Four-Year-Old Cow
Dairy - Five-Year-Old and Older Cow
Dairy - Dry Cow

Crossbreds and Color Breeds Registered and Grade

Dairy - Spring Calf
Dairy - Winter Calf
Dairy - Fall Calf
Dairy - Summer Yearling
Dairy - Spring Yearling
Dairy - Winter Yearling
Dairy - Fall Yearling
Dairy - Milking Yearling
Dairy - Junior Two-Year-Old Cow
Dairy - Senior Two-Year-Old Cow
Dairy - Three-Year-Old Cow
Dairy - Four-Year-Old Cow
Dairy - Five-Year-Old and Older Cow
Dairy - Dry Cow

Dairy Showmanship

Dairy Knowledge Quiz

Dairy Cloverbud (see rules on pages 53-54)

Dairy Cloverbud Animal Exhibit -SHOWMANSHIP ONLY
Dairy Cloverbud Poster

Dairy Herd (COUNTY CLASS ONLY)

Dairy – Jr Herd (2 animals)
Dairy Sr. Herd (3 animals, one must be milking)

DAIRY GOAT

SHOW; Friday, July 31 @ 8:00 am will begin with Showmanship (Judging Arena) Goat Judging to follow.

******Dairy Goat, Pygmy Goat Exhibitors are expected to clean their pens out – push bedding out to the aisle or designated area after 7 pm on Sunday.***

Birth Dates

Junior Kid Doe	April 1 – June 30, 2026
Senior Kid Doe	January 1 – March 31, 2026
Dry Yearling Doe (never kidded)	January 1 – December 31, 2025
Milking Yearling Doe	January 1 – December 31, 2025
Milking Two Year Old Doe	January 1 – December 31, 2024
Milking Doe - 3 Years and under 5 Years	born in 2022 or 2023
Milking Doe - 5 Years and older	born before 2022

Dairy Goat

Dairy Goat Junior Doe Kid
Dairy Goat Senior Doe Kid
Dairy Goat - Dry Yearling Doe
Dairy Goat - Milking Yearling Doe
Dairy Goat - Milking 2 Year Old Doe
Dairy Goat - Milking 3 - 4 Year Old Doe
Dairy Goat - Milking 5+ Year Old Doe

Note: For safety reasons all dairy goats must be dis-budded/dehorned.
Regrowth of less than **one inch** allowed.

Dairy Goat Showmanship

Dairy Goat Knowledge Quiz

All dairy goat exhibitors are required to take a Knowledge Quiz. Champions will receive an award!

Dairy Goat Cloverbud (see rules on pages 53-54)

Dairy Goat Cloverbud Animal Exhibit -SHOWMANSHIP ONLY
Dairy Goat Cloverbud Poster

DOG

SHOW: Saturday, July 25 @ 8:00 am Showmanship, Obedience, Rally (Washington County Fairgrounds) Sunday, July 28 @ 8:00 am Agility (location TBD)

Dog Agility

Dog - Pre-Agility
Dog - Agility Beginner
Dog - Agility Elementary
Dog - Agility Intermediate
Dog - Agility Senior
Dog - Agility Advanced
Dog – Limited Agility
Dog - Jumpers 1A
Dog - Jumpers 1B
Dog - Jumpers 2
Dog - Jumpers 3
Dog - Limited Jumpers

Dog Rally

Dog – Rally Foundation
Dog - Rally Beginner
Dog - Rally Novice
Dog - Rally Graduate Novice
Dog - Rally Intermediate
Dog - Rally Advanced
Dog - Rally Pre-Excellent
Dog - Rally Excellent
Dog - Rally Pre-Master
Dog - Rally Master
Dog - Rally Veterans

Dog Obedience

Dog - Obedience Foundation
Dog - Obedience Beginner
Dog - Obedience Graduate Beginner
Dog - Obedience Novice
Dog - Obedience Graduate Novice
Dog - Obedience Pre-Open
Dog - Obedience Open
Dog - Obedience Graduate Open
Dog - Obedience Pre-Utility
Dog - Obedience Utility
Dog - Obedience Veterans
Dog - Obedience Brace
Dog - Obedience 4 Dog Team

Dog Showmanship

Dog - Showmanship Novice
Dog - Showmanship Open
Dog - Showmanship Excellent

A dog may be shown in the dog show or the pet show, not both.

4-H'ers - 3rd grade and up are eligible for county and state dog show.

4-H'ers shall exhibit in the classes corresponding to the level of training they and their dog have received. Additional information, class requirements, and rules/regulations can be found in the Minnesota 4-H Agility, Obedience, Rally and Showmanship rules and guidelines (four separate publications) available on the MN 4-H dog project website (z.umn.edu/mn4hdogproject).

All dogs must be vaccinated according to the requirements listed on the MN 4-H Dog Project ID Affidavit and Vaccination Form.

Dog Knowledge Quiz

Dog Cloverbud (see rules on pages 53-54)

Dog Cloverbud Animal Exhibit - SHOWMANSHIP ONLY

Dog Cloverbud Poster

HORSE

Horse Shows are scheduled for:

Tuesday, July 28 - Pleasure Show starting at 9:00 am (Main Horse Arena)
Trail Classes (Main Horse Arena)
Pleasure state trip meeting follows Pleasure Show!
Wednesday, July 29, Game Show starting at 9:00 am (Main Horse Arena)
Game state trip meeting follows Games Show!
Drill Team will perform on Sunday, August 2 at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm.

******Horse Exhibitors are expected to clean their stalls. Place bedding in designated areas (behind the barn) before leaving the fairgrounds. (If your horse is stalled through Sunday, bedding can be removed into the aisles before you leave.)***

Horse Knowledge Quiz
All Horse exhibitors are required to take a Horse Knowledge quiz. Quizzes will be administered from the Show Office during the day of the County Fair Horse Show. Specifics regarding when the quiz may be taken will be in the County Fair Horse Letter. Awards will be given for top placing individuals. 4-Hers must complete a Horse Knowledge Quiz in order to place higher than a blue ribbon. Register in Fair Entry.

PLEASURE SHOW (The Show Office has the authority to split and/or combine classes.)

Showmanship
Horse - Showmanship, Grades 12+
Horse - Showmanship Grades 10-11
Horse - Showmanship Grades 8-9
Horse - Showmanship Grades 6-7
Horse - Showmanship Grades 3-5
Cloverbuds - Showmanship

English Pleasure
Horse - English Pleasure - Grades 12+
Horse - English Pleasure - Grades 10-11
Horse - English Pleasure – Grades 8-9
Horse - English Pleasure - Grades 6-7
Horse - English Pleasure - Grades 3-5
Horse - English Pleasure - Walk/Trot, Novice
Horse - English Pleasure - Walk/Trot/Canter, Novice

English Equitation
Horse - English Equitation - Grades 12+
Horse - English Equitation - Grades 10-11
Horse - English Equitation - Grades 8-9
Horse - English Equitation - Grades 6-7
Horse - English Equitation - Grades 3-5
Horse - English Equitation - Walk/Trot, Novice
Horse - English Equitation - Walk/Trot/Canter, Novice

Western Pleasure
Horse - Western Pleasure - Grades 12+
Horse - Western Pleasure - Grades 10-11
Horse - Western Pleasure - Grades 8-9
Horse - Western Pleasure - Grades 6-7
Horse - Western Pleasure - Grades 3-5
Horse - Western Pleasure - Walk/Trot/Lope, Novice
Horse - Western Pleasure - Walk/Trot, Novice

Cloverbud Western Pleasure

Western Horsemanship
Horse - Western Horsemanship, All Gaits, Grades 12+
Horse - Western Horsemanship, All Gaits, Grades 10-11
Horse - Western Horsemanship, All Gaits, Grades 8-9
Horse - Western Horsemanship, All Gaits, Grades 6-7
Horse - Western Horsemanship, All Gaits, Grades 3-5
Horse - Western Horsemanship, Walk/Trot, Novice
Horse - Western Horsemanship, Walk/Trot/Lope, Novice

Ranch Pleasure Class
Horse - Ranch **Pleasure** Class, Grades 12+
Horse - Ranch **Pleasure** Class, Grades 10-11
Horse - Ranch **Pleasure** Class, Grades 8-9
Horse - Ranch **Pleasure** Class, Grades 6-7
Horse - Ranch **Pleasure** Class, Grades 3-5

Egg and Spoon (No points) *Only register for either Pleasure Day or Game Day.
Horse - Egg & Spoon, Grades 12+
Horse - Egg & Spoon, Grades 10-11
Horse - Egg & Spoon, Grades 8-9
Horse - Egg & Spoon, Grades 6-7
Horse - Egg & Spoon, Grades 3-5

Trail Class (No points)
Horse -Trail Class, Grades 12+
Horse - Trail Class, Grades 10-11
Horse - Trail Class, Grades 8-9
Horse - Trail Class, Grades 6-7
Horse - Trail Class, Grades 3-5

Horse Training
Horse - Training Steps 1-6

GAME SHOW *** (The Show Office has the authority to split or combine any class.)

Egg and Spoon (No points) *Only register for either Game Day or Pleasure Day.
Horse - Egg & Spoon, Grades 12+
Horse - Egg & Spoon, Grades 10-11
Horse - Egg & Spoon, Grades 8-9
Horse - Egg & Spoon, Grades 6-7
Horse - Egg & Spoon, Grades 3-5

Pole Weaving
Horse - Pole Weaving, Grades 12+
Horse - Pole Weaving, Grades 10-11
Horse - Pole Weaving, Grades 8-9
Horse - Pole Weaving, Grades 6-7
Horse - Pole Weaving, Grade 3-5

Key Race
Horse - Key Race, Grades 12+
Horse - Key Race, Grades 10-11
Horse - Key Race, Grades 8-9
Horse - Key Race, Grades 6-7
Horse - Key Race, Grades 3-5

Jumping Figure 8
Horse - Jumping Figure 8, Grades 12+
Horse - Jumping Figure 8, Grades 10-11
Horse - Jumping Figure 8, Grades 8-9
Horse - Jumping Figure 8, Grades 6-7
Horse - Jumping Figure 8, Grades 3-5

Barrel Race
Horse - Barrel Race, Grades 12+
Horse - Barrel Race, Grades 10-11
Horse - Barrel Race, Grades 8-9
Horse - Barrel Race, Grades 6-7
Horse - Barrel Race, Grades 3-5
Cloverbuds Barrels

Horse Cloverbud
(See Cloverbud Rules #27 on page 66)
Horse - Cloverbud Barrels
Horse - Cloverbud Western Pleasure
Horse - Cloverbud Horse Showmanship
Horse – Cloverbud Poster

Horse Related (State Trips, grades 6+ attend State Horse Show in September
Horse - Horse Related, Grades 6+
Horse - Hores Related, Grades 3-5

Requirement:
- Must be enrolled in the Horse project to exhibit in this division.
- Exhibits may be a model, poster, scrapbook, essay, and/or article. The exhibit should show or explain something the 4-H member has made, done, or learned in the project.
- Exhibits are conference judged with the exhibitor present.on Saturday, July 27.

Horseless Horse Exhibit (State Trips (grades 6+) attend State Horse Show in September)

Horse - Horseless Horse, Grades 6+
Horse – Horseless Horse, Grades 3-5

Requirement:
Exhibits may be a model, poster, scrapbook, essay, and/or article. The exhibit should show or explain something the 4-H member has made, done, or learned in the project. Exhibits are conference judged with the exhibitor present.

This exhibit area is for youth who do not own or lease a horse. Youth should exhibit in this category if they participate in the horseless horse program with a mentor horse. If they do own or lease their own horse, they may exhibit the same style exhibit in the Horse Related area (listed on previous page.)
- Exhibits are conference judged with the exhibitor present on Saturday, July 26.

Horseless Horse Skills Class
Horse - Horseless Horse Level 1, Grades 6+
Horse – Horseless Horse Level 1, Grades 3-5
Horse - Horseless Horse Level 2, Grades 6+
Horse – Horseless Horse Level 2, Grades 3-5
Horse - Horseless Horse Level 3, Grades 6+
Horse - Horseless Horse Level 3, Grades 3-5

Requirement
- Youth will complete a level in the horseless horse booklet prior to the show. The booklet will include answering knowledge questions and learning hands-on skills. An example of a knowledge question would be to list 4 breeds of horses and describe their uses. An example of a skill to demonstrate would describe and demonstrate how to properly back a horse on the halter 4 steps.
- The booklet must be signed prior to the show by a Horseless Horse Volunteer, Mentor or 4-H Extension Staff attesting to that the youth has completed the booklet, can complete the skills and is prepared for the judging experience.
- Youth can only test and exhibit one level per year.
- They will use a mentor's horse in the ring. The horse will be used to aid in answering the judges questions and demonstrating skills.
- Youth will demonstrate and interview one-on-one with the judge, on exhibitor at a time.
- The judging will be a combination of demonstrating these skills and answering interview questions from the judge. The judge will select a number of skills and knowledge based questions related to the booklet (not all of them).

HORSE

Requirements:
1. All 4-H'ers participating in any 4-H sponsored mounted activity are required to wear **properly fastened** ASTM/SEI approved protective headgear. Helmet use is required when mounted. This policy also extends to 4-H volunteers when they are working with youth in a 4-H volunteer role during mounted activities. Additional information can be found at; z.umn.edu/4HHorseProject
2. All exhibitors must be Washington County 4-H members, and enrolled in the Horse project.
3. It is recommended that all 4-H'ers enrolled in any phase of the 4-H Horse Project participate in the Horse Member Achievement Program. 4-H'ers enrolled in the Horse Training Program are REQUIRED to participate in the Horse Member Achievement Program.
4. Each member must use his/her own project horse (mare or gelding only). If two 4-H'ers are showing the

same horse, the horse may be shown only once per class (e.g.: showmanship, Western Pleasure, barrels, etc.).

5. 4-H'ers may show in either a Novice class or a regular class...**NOT BOTH!** (i.e.: 4-H'er may show in Novice Horsemanship, but cannot show in Regular Horsemanship). **A Novice is a rider who has never won a blue ribbon at a 4-H or Open Horse Show.**
6. Trainers and adults are **NOT** allowed to exercise or ride a 4-H'ers horse at the show. All show officials (judges, ring steward, PDC committee members) have the authority to, and will enforce State Trip forfeiture if adults exercise or ride a 4-H'ers horse at the show.
7. 4-H'ers may exhibit no more than two horses. 4-H'ers showing two horses must pre-register each horse for the appropriate classes. Only one horse may be shown per class.
8. A time limit of three minutes to wait for an exhibitor to enter a class after the class has been called will be in effect.
9. Improper use of spurs or whips will be cause for disqualification.
10. Dress Code – Riders in Western classes must wear a helmet, collared western long sleeve shirt (sleeves cannot be rolled up), western boots, western pants or jeans, and belt (belt is optional in games classes only). Chaps will be optional in all western classes (at judge's discretion).
11. Dress Code – English attire may be either hunt or saddle seat, but may not be mixed. Riders must wear a helmet, jodhpurs/breeches, English-type boots, coat, and shirt.
12. Show attire must be worn when accepting ribbons and trophies.
13. In all cases, except as stated above, refer to the state horse rule book for all attire and tack requirements. The official rules of the State Horse Rule Book will apply. State Horse Rules
14. If equipment breaks down, five minutes will be allowed for repairs without leaving the ring, and the exhibitor may be assisted with the permission of the ringmaster.
15. Judges' decisions will be final.
16. Novice class points will not be eligible for state fair trip points.
17. Champion and Reserve Champion riders will be selected by a point system. Points can be earned in no more than five classes, and will be awarded only on blue ribbon placings. Up to six points will be awarded for each class. Specific details on how state horse show trips are calculated will be found in the show bill on the day of the show.
18. To determine the Champion, points remain with the horse and rider combo. Points are calculated separately per show (pleasure show and games show).
19. Trail and Egg & Spoon points do NOT count for State Horse Show points but classes will be placed.
20. No classes may be added after the show starts. No premiums or points will be allowed for late entries (after the July 1st Fair Entry deadline) unless using a ONE time exemption.
21. Show management reserves the right to refuse an exhibitor entry into any class or event if they deem that entry unsafe for the exhibitor or other exhibitors or animals. A Judge or ring steward has the authority to and must dismiss from the ring any entry that is unruly or not in sufficient control for the safety of the handler or other exhibitors.
22. As provided in the Minnesota 4-H Horse Program Rule Book, the use of any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer, local anesthetic, psychotropic substance, or drug which might affect the performance of a horse and/or pony is prohibited. (The use of phenylbutazone is allowed to the extent specified in the state rule book). All show officials reserve the right to ensure compliance with this rule. Failure to cooperate will disqualify the entry.
23. Riding Exhibitors must wear double exhibitor numbers, one on each side of the saddle pad. Duplicate numbers will be available for each rider competing at the County Fair.
24. A rider cannot take two horses to the State Horse Show unless one of them is a training horse or a saddle seat.
25. No riding double!
26. All Horse Exhibitors (excluding Cloverbuds) are required to take the Horse Knowledge Quiz. The Knowledge Quiz is broken up into 3 age categories. The top placing individual of each age category (Sr., Int., Jr.) will receive an award. State Horse Show trips will not be awarded to anyone not taking the Quiz.
27. **Cloverbuds may participate in limited non-competitive classes based on the following Requirements:** (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.)

- A responsible person to guide and monitor their involvement at all times, including but not limited to movement within and to and from the trailers, barns, wash racks, and show arena.
- Families may choose one of two acceptable ways to guide and monitor involvement in non-mounted activities:
    1. The responsible person is in control of the animal with the cloverbud at their side.
    2. The cloverbud is in control of the animal with the responsible person at their side to assist or take control of the animal when needed or as directed by staff, volunteers or show managers.
- When a cloverbud is *mounted* on a horse, the horse must always have a lead line and be under the control of the responsible person.

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 person in control of the horse at all times. Helmets are required for the Cloverbud in any riding setting.

LLAMA-ALPACA

LLAMA - ALPACA SHOW; Sunday, August 2 at 9:00 am (Judging Arena). Llama's come for the show and are released, they do not stay at the fair.

Birth Dates

4-H Llama-Alpaca projects must be born prior to January 1, 2026

Gender:

- No sexually intact male over 18 months is eligible for exhibition.
- 4-H Llama - Alpaca projects must be born prior to January 1, 2026.
- No companion animals (no buddies, crias, or nursing mothers allowed)

Llama-Alpaca – Obstacle Course

Llama-Alpaca - Showmanship

Llama-Alpaca Knowledge Quiz

All Llama Exhibitors are required to take a Knowledge Quiz. Champions will receive an award!

Cloverbuds *are not* allowed to show llama's.

MEAT GOAT

SHOW: Thursday, July 30 @ approx. 3:00 pm following the Sheep Show

******Goat Exhibitors are expected to clean their pens out – push bedding out to the aisle or designated area after 7 pm on Sunday.***

Check in for the goat project will be Thursday, July 30, at 12 p.m. at the north end of the goat barn. YOU (or a family member) MUST BE PRESENT WITH YOUR GOAT for ID & registration check and weigh in. Knowledge quiz will follow for all 4-H Goat Exhibitors at approximately 1:00 pm in the Judging Arena.
-Market Goat Show starts at 3:00 pm on Thursday, July 30 (immediately following the sheep show. The market goat show will end with showmanship.

Birth Dates

Market goat

Meat market goat (wether) – April 30, 2026	Nov 1, 2025
Meat market goat (doe) – April 30, 2026	Nov 1, 2025
Dairy market goat (wether) – April 30, 2026	Nov 1, 2025

Wether Dam

Wether dam yearling (never kidded) 2024 - Aug 31, 2025	Sept 1,
Wether dam kid 2025 - April 30, 2026	Sept 1,

Meat goat breeding does

*Senior yearling meat breeding doe (never kidded)
Sept 1, 2024 – Feb 28, 2025
*Junior yearling meat breeding doe (never kidded)
March 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025
*Fall yearling meat breeding doe (never kidded)
June 1, 2025 – Nov 30, 2025
*Senior meat breeding doe kid
Dec 1, 2025 – Feb 28, 2026
*Junior meat breeding doe kid
Mar 1, 2026 – May 31, 2026
Note: Pygmy Goats are classed as Meat Goats

Market Goat

Meat Market Goat - wether
Meat Market Goat - doe
Dairy Market Goat - wether

Wether Dam

Wether dam yearling (never kidded)
Wether dam kid

Meat Goat Breeding Doe

Meat Goat - Senior Yearling Breeding Doe, registered or grade (never kidded)
Meat Goat - Junior Yearling Breeding Doe, registered or grade (never kidded)
Meat Goat – Fall Yearling Breeding Doe, registered or grade (never kidded)
Meat Goat – Senior Meat Breeding Doe Kid, registered or grade
Meat Goat – Junior Meat Breeding Doe Kid, registered or grade

Requirements

- The recommended minimum weight for Market Goats at the State Fair is 40 pounds, and the recommended maximum weight is 110 pounds.
- Market wethers must be disbudded/de-horned. Re-growth must not exceed one inch. Cut (sawed) off horns are not permitted
- Meat breeding does, wether dams and market does may have horns and they do not need to be capped or blunted.

Meat Goat Showmanship

Meat Goat Knowledge Quiz

Meat Goat Cloverbud (See rules on page 53-54)

Meat Goat Cloverbud Animal Exhibit - SHOWMANSHIP ONLY
Meat Goat Cloverbud Poster

Other Meat Goats

San Clemente Heritage Goats

2 classes;
*Kidded
*Never Kidded

**No weight requirement.
**No Auction selection

POULTRY

POULTRY SHOW: Thursday, July 30 @ 10:30 am (Judging Tent).

4-H Poultry members can add <u>one</u> additional pen of poultry! For example, if you plan to bring a pen of white egg layers, you can bring 2 pens of white egg layers.

If you have two animals(pens) in the same class, you need to enter each animal separately In FairEntry.
Poultry Exhibitors are expected to clean each cage out and put in a dump trailer on the west side of the barn after 8 pm on Sunday. Disassemble and stack cages on pallets.

Hatch Dates

All exhibited birds (except breeding pigeons and doves) must be of this year's hatch.

Doves

Breeding pair (one male and one female)	December 31, 2025 or earlier

Pigeons

Young bird (one male or one female)	January 1 or after
Breeding pair (one male and one female)	December 31, 2025 or earlier

Suggested hatch dates:

Chickens

Market (two males or two females)	6 to 8 weeks before fair
Birds over 10 lbs will receive a white ribbon	
Breeding (one male and two females)	January
Egg production (two females)	20 weeks before fair

Ducks

Market (two males or two females)	7 to 8 weeks before fair
Breeding (one male and two females)	January

Geese

Market (two males or two females)	15 to 20 weeks before fair
Breeding (one male and two females)	January

Guinea

Market (two males or two females)	20 to 22 weeks before fair
Breeding (one male and two females)	January

Turkey

Market (two males or two females)	18 to 20 weeks before fair
Breeding (one male and two females)	January

Chickens

Chickens - Market pen of two males or two females
Chickens - Breeding pen of one male & two females
Chickens - Bantam Breeding pen of one male & two females
Chickens - Egg production pen of two pullets, White egg layers
Chickens - Egg production pen of two pullets, Brown egg layers

Doves

Doves - Purebred breeding pair

Ducks

Ducks - Market pen of two males or two females
Ducks - Breeding pen of one male & two females
Ducks - Bantam Breeding pen of one male & two females

Geese

Geese - Market pen of two males or two females
Geese - Breeding pen of one male & two females

Guinea

Use the following Classes, with the Divisions to indicate the type of your project animal(s). Note: ONLY Pearls, Whites and Lavender breeds can be shown:
Guinea - Market pen of two males or two females - same breed
Guinea - Breeding pen of one male & two females - same breed

Pigeons

Pigeons - Utility, 1 Breeding Pair
Pigeons - Utility, 1 Young bird Male or Female, 1 young bird, this year band
Pigeons - Fancy, 1 Breeding Pair
Pigeons - Fancy, Young bird Male or Female, 1 young bird, this year band
Pigeons - Flying, 1 Breeding Pair
Pigeons - Flying, Young bird Male or Female, 1 young bird, this year band

Turkeys - Domestic Only

Turkeys - Domestic Only - Market pen of two males or two females
Turkeys - Domestic Only - Breeding pen of one male & two females

Poultry Showmanship

Poultry Knowledge Quiz

Poultry Cloverbud (see rules on pages 53-54)

Poultry Cloverbud Animal Exhibit-SHOWMANSHIP ONLY
Poultry Cloverbud Poster

Other Poultry

Eggs

Set of 6 Eggs - White
Set of 6 Eggs - Brown
Set of 6 Eggs - Colored

Eggs will be judged at the beginning of the poultry show. Eggs must be raised on the exhibitor's premises by chickens owned by the exhibitor/family. Exhibitors should present six clean eggs to the judge in a cardboard or styrofoam carton with all domes (broad ends) pointed up. Eggs should be selected for judging based on uniform size (length greater than width, obvious top and bottom), shape and color. Shells should be free from ridges and rough parts, with no lines or cracks. In the case of a tie for championship ribbon, eggs may be cracked to judge the best yolk; bright yellow, free from blood streaks, well rounded with no signs of embryo development. Each entry will be eligible for champion/reserve champion ribbons but are NOT state fair eligible as this is not currently a MN 4-H State Fair class.

Requirements

- **All breeding birds must be purebred and listed as an American Poultry Association (APA) recognized breed. More information about APA recognized breeds can be found in the APA Standard of Perfection handbook or on the American Poultry Association website under Accepted Breeds and Varieties.**
- All pigeons and doves will be judged according to the National Pigeon Association (NPA) Book of Pigeon Standards.
- Commercial breeds are recommended for all market and egg production classes.

Other Poultry

Requirements:

- Egg production pen of two pullets will have two separate lots – one for white egg layers and one for brown egg layers. White egg layers must be hybrid. Brown egg layers must be commercial purebred or hybrid; hybrids are preferred.
- Poultry exhibited must be of this year's hatch, (except doves and pigeons). All, except waterfowl, doves and pigeons, must have a health certificate and must be identified by a numbered leg band.
- Breeding classes will be judged on breed characteristics using the American Standard of Perfection as a guide.

-**NO TESTING OF BIRDS AT THE FAIR.**

RABBIT

SHOW: Rabbit Judging, Wednesday, July 29 @ 9:00 am (Judging Tent) Cloverbud Showmanship will start at 9:00 am.

******Rabbit Exhibitors are expected to clean each cage out and put in a dump trailer on the west side of the barn after 8 pm on Sunday. Disassemble and stack cages on pallets.***

Rabbits must be tattooed prior to May 15th or coming to fair. based on the age of the rabbit. Animals not properly ID'd by the deadline are not eligible for a championship placing, livestock auction participation, premiums, any placing above a blue ribbon, or participation in any shows/competitions beyond the county level (i.e. State Fair).

Rabbits that are not purebred or that have been spayed or neutered, are not eligible to be shown in breeding classes.

***** Rabbit Project members can add additional rabbits to bring to the county fair!*****

- **Doe and Litter- Stays the same, one litter per 4 Her**
- **Single Fryer - 2 lots (two rabbits) (Meat Class entry)**
- **Pen of 3 - 2 Lots (2 pens total 6 rabbits) (Meat Class entry)**
- **4 Class - Multiple entries of any age group and sex, 6 maximum Rabbits. (In addition to Meat class entries)**
- **6 Class - Multiple entries of any age group and sex, 9 maximum Rabbits. (In addition to Meat class entries)**

Small Breeds

Rabbit - Small Breed Senior Buck over 6 months of age
Rabbit - Small Breed Senior Doe over 6 months of age
Rabbit - Small Breed Junior Buck under 6 months of age
Rabbit - Small Breed Junior Doe under 6 months of age

Small breeds (4 class): American Fuzzy Lop, American Sable, English Angora, French Angora, Satin Angora, Belgian Hare, Blue Holicer, Britannia Petite, Mini Californian, Standard Chinchilla, Czech Frosty, Dwarf Hotot, Dwarf Papillon, English Spot, Florida White, Harlequin, Havana, Himalayan, Holland Lop, Jersey Wooly, Lilac, Lionhead, Mini Lop, Mini Rex, Mini Satin, Netherland Dwarf, Polish, Rex, Rhinelander, Silver, Silver Martin, Tan, and Trianta

Large Breeds

Rabbit - Large Breed Senior Buck over 8 months of age
Rabbit - Large Breed Senior Doe over 8 months of age
Rabbit - Large Breed Intermediate Buck 6 - 8 months of age
Rabbit - Large Breed Intermediate Doe 6 - 8 months of age
Rabbit - Large Breed Junior Buck under 6 months of age
Rabbit - Large Breed Junior Doe under 6 months of age

Large breeds (6 class); American, Giant Angora, Agent Brun, Beveren, Blanc de Hotot, Californian, Champagne D'Argent, Checkered Giant, American Chinchilla, Giant Chinchilla, Cinnamon, Creme D'Argent, English Lop, French Lop, New Zealand, Palomino, Satin, Silver Fox, and Flemish Giant

Requirements

- **All rabbits must be purebred and an American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) recognized breed. More information about ARBA recognized breeds can be found in the ARBA Standard of Perfection or ARBA website.**
- **Pedigrees are not required.**
- Each rabbit must be permanently tattooed in the left ear for identification purposes.

Running Breeds

Senior Buck over 8 months of age
Senior Doe over 8 months of age
Intermediate Buck 6-8 months of age
Intermediate Doe 6-8 months of age
Junior Buck under 6 months of age
Junior Doe under 6 months of age

Requirements

- Breeding Rabbit requirements apply to Running Breeds
- Running Breeds include Checkered Giant, English Spot, Rhinelander and Tan

Market Rabbit

Rabbit - Single Fryer, 3 ½ to 5 ½ pounds, not over 70 days old
Rabbit - Pen of three fryers, 3 ½ to 5 ½ pounds, not over 70 days old

Rabbit Showmanship

Age divisions: grades K-2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8 and grades 9+

- Any 4-H'er enrolled in the Rabbit Project may enter a poster. You do not have to be exhibiting a rabbit at the state fair to enter.
- There are two categories: 1) Promoting 4-H Rabbits and 2) Education 4-H Rabbit.
- Poster size no larger than 14" x 22", hanging vertically (larger sized posters will be capped at a blue ribbon). No foam board allowed.
- Posters must be labeled on the back with the 4-H'ers name, grade completed, county and whether it's a promotional or educational poster.
- Posters cannot use copy written materials, i.e., slogans, designs.
- Posters in grades K-2 will receive participation ribbons only.
- Posters in grades 3-5, 6-8, 9+ are eligible for awards in Education and promotion.
- A poster may be selected for use in designing the cover of next year's show program or t-shirt. A design selected for this use must be a flat design that can be clearly reproduced and does not contain any trademarked characters, images, themes or phrases. Some modifications to the design may be made to ensure compliance with University of Minnesota and Minnesota 4-H branding requirements.

Rabbit Knowledge Quiz

Rabbit Cloverbud (see rules on pages 53-54)

Rabbit Cloverbud Animal Exhibit -SHOWMANSHIP ONLY
Rabbit Cloverbud Poster

Other Rabbits

Rabbit Agility (No State Fair Trip/No Champion/top 3 will be recognized.)

Judging will take place on Friday, August 1 at 10:00 a.m.
Rabbit Agility – Grade 9+
Rabbit Agility – Grades 6-8
Rabbit Agility – Grades 3-5
Rabbit Agility - Cloverbuds

Doe & Litter Class (No State Fair Trip/No Champion)

Doe & Litter Class (Litter must be at least 4 weeks of age at fair time.)

Requirements:
-This is an added class within our county. The judges look for litter size, uniform shape and size of the litter and health of the doe. No champion will be awarded. -Not State Fair eligible.

SHEEP

****Lamb Lead will begin at 1:00 pm prior to the Sheep Show on Thursday, July 31 outside Sheep Barn.**

*****Sheep Show will begin at 1:30 pm on Thursday, July 30 outside the Sheep barn.**

******Sheep Exhibitors are expected to clean their pens out – push bedding out to the aisle or designated area after 7 pm on Sunday.***

Birth Dates

Fall Ewe Lamb	Born between September 1 - December 31 of previous year
January Ewe Lamb	Born in January of current Year
February Ewe Lamb	Born in February of current Year
March Ewe Lamb	Born in March of current Year
Yearling Ewe	Over 1 yr and under 2 yrs of age & not show evidence of 4 permanent incisors
Wether Dam Ewe Lamb	Born on or after December 1 of previous year
Wether Dam Yearling Ewe	Over 1 yr and under 2 yrs of age & not show evidence of 4 permanent incisors
Market Lamb	Born on or after December 1 of previous year

Breeding Ewe

Sheep - Registered Yearling Ewe
Sheep - Registered Fall Ewe Lamb
Sheep - Registered January Ewe Lamb
Sheep - Registered February Ewe Lamb
Sheep - Registered March Ewe Lamb
Sheep - Commercial Yearling Ewe
Sheep - Commercial Fall Ewe Lamb
Sheep - Commercial January Ewe Lamb
Sheep - Commercial February Ewe Lamb
Sheep - Commercial March Ewe Lamb
Sheep - Wether Dam Ewe Lamb
Sheep - Wether Dam Yearling Ewe

Market Lamb

Market Lamb - Speckle Face
Market Lamb - Black Face
Market Lamb - White Face
Market Lamb - Hair Breeds

Requirements

- Recommended minimum weight for State Fair is 105 pounds; recommended maximum weight is 170 pounds.
- Lambs shown in the hair breeds division must be of straight hair sheep breeding. Crossbred hair sheep and wool breeding is not acceptable. See 2026 Animal Science Updates (z.umn.edu/4-HAnSciUpdates) for more information.
- Minimum of 3 animals of the same species is required to have their own breed class.
- Market lambs will be weighed at the fair and divided into weight classes. If an exhibitor has two or more lambs in the same weight class, the exhibitor may show one of the lambs in the next heavier weight class, or they must select another 4-H member to show one of their lambs.
- No limit to the number of market or breeding sheep a 4-H'er can exhibit, must be ID'd by May 15th deadline.

Lamb Lead

Requirements

- Lamb lead exhibitors must groom and train a sheep and must wear a garment made from at least 60% wool. Garment is defined as a piece of clothing covering a main part of your body (not socks or accessories).
- Exhibitors will be judged based on project knowledge, poise, their outfit, and their lamb.
  - Classes may be combined depending on number of entrants

Note: 4-H'ers who participate in Lamb Lead at the State Fair will receive a $30 cash award, provided by the Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association (MLBA). These payments are made in October. 4-H'ers must be grade eligible to participate at the State Fair.

Sheep Showmanship

Sheep Knowledge Quiz

Sheep Cloverbud (see rules on pages 53-54)

Sheep Cloverbud Animal Exhibit-SHOWMANSHIP ONLY
Sheep Cloverbud Poster

Fleece

Requirements

- Fleece exhibits must come from sheep in the flock owned by the exhibitor. In the case of a leased animal, fleece exhibits may come from the flock of the leased animal.

Note:

- All 4-H'ers receiving a blue ribbon on their fleece may exhibit at the State Fair.

SWINE

Show:Thursday, July 30 @ 8:00 am (outside hog barn).

******Swine Exhibitors are expected to clean their pens out – push bedding out to the aisle or designated area after 7 pm on Sunday.***

Birth Dates

January Gilt Born in January of current year
February Gilt Born in February of current year
March Gilt Born in March of current year
Market Barrow Born on or after January 1 of the current year. Recommended farrow date in January or February
Market Gilt Born on or after January 1 of the current year. Recommended farrow date in January or February

Breeding Gilts

Swine - Registered January Gilt
Swine - Registered February Gilt
Swine - Registered March Gilt
Swine - Crossbred Breeding Gilts will be shown by weight

Market Barrow/Market Gilt

Swine - Market Barrow
Swine - Market Gilt

Requirements

- Recommended minimum weight for State Fair is 220 pounds; maximum State Fair weight is 300. Market barrows and market gilts weighing less than 220 pounds will show in their own class "Super Lightweights" and those 301 pounds and over will show in their own class "Super Heavyweights" and will be eligible for blue, red or white ribbons and are not eligible for champions at State Fair.
- No limit to the number of market or breeding swine a 4-H'er can exhibit. Must have been ID'd by the May 15th deadline.
- There must be a minimum of 3 purebred animals to create a separate breed class.
- Market hogs will be weighed at the fair and divided into weight classes. If an exhibitor has two or more hogs in the same weight class, the exhibitor may show one of the animals in the next heavier weight class, or they must select another4-H member to show one of their animals for them

Swine Showmanship

Swine Cloverbud (see rules on pages 53-54)

Swine Cloverbud Animal Exhibit-SHOWMANSHIP ONLY
Swine Cloverbud Poster

STATE FAIR & STATE SHOW ELIGIBILITY

State Fair or State Show Eligibility

- Trips for State Fair, State Horse Show, and State Dog Show will be selected from blue ribbon exhibits only (see State Dog Show Rules for exceptions).
- Members selected to represent the county at the State Fair and State Horse Show must have completed sixth grade.
- To be eligible for a livestock trip to the State Fair, 4-H'ers must have completed Livestock Quality Assurance Training. State Policy: All youth participating as a State Fair 4-H livestock exhibitor in beef, dairy, dairy goat, llama-alpaca, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep and swine must have completed a livestock quality assurance training. There are two training options 1) a 3 hour in-person workshop (LQA&E), or 2) a 1 hour on-line training (YQCA). Youth completing either quality assurance training option will receive a certificate of completion.
- Exhibitor must complete LQA training prior to the county fair.
- Along with their qualifying state fair exhibit trip(s), 4-H members may participate in activities such as Share-the-Fun, demonstrations, Arts-In, cooking events, animal science educational exhibits or judging teams.
- Competitive events, deadlines, consequences and exemption options (z.umn.edu/4h-policies). Every Minnesota 4-H member is eligible for a "one-time" member exemption. This exemption provides the ability (one-time in a 4-H member's career) for the 4-H member to acknowledge they missed a 4-H deadline related to enrollment or competitive event participation and waive the consequences for the named deadline. Exemptions may be used for county fair pre-entry registration requirements, but may not be used for State Fair trip sign-up deadlines.
- 4-H youth who have been awarded a 4-H State Fair livestock trip through the local 4-H qualifying show must keep their designated trip animal on the county fairgrounds until the official release time to remain eligible for the 4-H State Fair trip. In the event that a youth/family requests an early release to travel/attend a national junior livestock show and education event, prior arrangements for early release must be made with and approved by the local 4-H program staff, in partnership with the county fair board. Proof of national junior show participation (program with youth's name, printed class placing information) must be presented to local 4-H staff upon return to the county to maintain eligibility for the Minnesota State Fair 4-H livestock shows.
- 4-H youth that have been awarded a 4-H State Fair general project trip through the local 4-H qualifying show must keep their designated trip project on the county fairgrounds until the official release time to remain eligible for the 4-H State Fair trip.

How Do I know if I received a State Fair Trip?

State Fair Trip winner boards are located in the 4-H building on the Washington County Fairgrounds. There will be a trifold board listing the 4-H'ers who qualified for State Fair trips. A colored sticker is used to accept or decline State Fair trips. Please come to the 4-H office to confirm your trip and a staff member will assist you. PLEASE confirm your State Fair trip and pick up your State Fair packet at the 4-H office on the fairgrounds ASAP. If you are out of town (after the conference judging), it is your responsibility to connect with another 4-H family to find out if you won a State Fair Trip and complete the paperwork.

Meaning of colored stickers used for State Fair Trip winners.

Yes! I will for sure take this State Fair trip!

No, I will not take this State Fair trip.

I will take this State Fair trip if it becomes available to me.

State Fair or State Show Eligibility

★ Members selected to represent the county at the State Fair and State Horse Show **must have completed sixth grade.**

- ★ Members selected to represent the county at the State Dog Show **must have completed third grade.**
- ★ **General Project State Fair Trips, State Dog Trips and State Horse Show trips must be confirmed and packets completed by 7:00 pm on Friday, July 31.**
- ★ **Livestock Trips must be confirmed and packets picked up no later than noon on Sunday, August 2.**
- ★ **First time State Fair participants are strongly encouraged to attend the State Fair Orientation meeting at 11:00 am on Saturday, August 1 in the 4-H building.**
- ★ **Livestock youth will meet in their respective barns on Sunday, August 2, at 2:00 pm to discuss State Fair plans!**

-Trips for State Fair, State Horse Show, and State Dog Show will be selected from blue ribbon exhibits only.

-Judges for each project area determine who will be selected for state trips.

-Horse Trips are earned through a point system.

State Fair Participation

- A member may participate in the State Fair in the following ways:

*4-H'ers that earn State Fair trips in multiple projects, can only take one livestock exhibit, one non-livestock exhibit or one demonstration. For example, if a 4-H earns a beef and swine trip, they need to decide on only one of those projects. Same with a general exhibit, if a 4-H'er earned a clothing and photography trip, they need to choose one of those trips. If a 4-H'er earns a livestock trip and a general trip (which are held at different times during the state fair, they may take both of these exhibits).

*There is a limit of six activities per participant. They can be group or individual activities.

Examples of Activities: County Arts-In, Team Demonstration, Individual Demonstration, Share-The-Fun, Judging Team, Project Exhibit, etc.

*Participation in multiple activities may not always be possible because of scheduling conflicts.

State Fair Chaperones

We are in need of screened adult volunteers who would be interested in chaperoning Washington County 4-H members during both the general and livestock encampments at the Minnesota State Fair. Volunteers MUST be screened prior to the County Fair to have priority. Chaperone paperwork for the State Fair must be completed by Sunday evening, August 3. The Federation covers the cost of chaperones that are selected. Chaperones are responsible to make sure 4-H members are checked into the dorms each evening, help distribute shirts, help chaperone the 4-H dance and handle issues when staff are not present. If you are interested in serving as a State Fair chaperone, please let a 4-H staff know. Washington County will have their State Fair General Projects judged over Labor Day weekend.

State Fair Exhibit Drop Off

***REMEMBER:** State Fair exhibits may <u>not</u> be left at the county fair for staff to haul to the Extension Office. All exhibits will need to be taken home from the County Fair, packed, boxed, covered, etc. and brought back to the Extension Office on either **<u>Monday, August 10 or Tuesday, August 11 between 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m</u>**. **Any project that is oversized, motorized, or very fragile projects will need to be transported to the State Fair by the 4-H member's family.** Check with the 4-H office as to when your State Fair project will need to be delivered to the State Fair.

State Shoot - Sept 4-6, 2026

- 4-H youth in grades 3-13 who have completed 15 hours of on-line shooting under the guidance of a certified instructor *and* 8 hours of wildlife education are eligible to participate in the State Shoot with the approval of their Instructor.

State Horse Show- Sept 18 - 21, 2026

Horse exhibitors earning a State Horse Show trip will be expected to attend a State Show meeting following their respective shows on Wednesday of the County Fair. An announcement will be made with details on the day of the show. State packets will be distributed at these meetings. Completed State Horse packets (including those individuals going to State for Hippology, Judging Teams, Horse Related and Horseless Horse) are due to the 4-H Office on the fairgrounds by Friday, July 31 @ 7:00 p.m. A group photo of State Horse Show exhibitors will be taken Monday, August 3 at 5:30 pm at the fairgrounds prior to clean up.

State Dog Show - Sept 26 - Sept 27, 2026

- 4-H youth **who have completed 3rd grade at the time of the show** *and* have earned a blue ribbon at their county show will be eligible for the State Dog Show. More information will be available at the county dog show.

STATE DOG SHOW
Completed State Dog Packets are due to the 4-H Office on the fairgrounds by Friday, July 31 @ 7:00 p.m.

4-H Code of conduct for youth

1. I understand that the Minnesota 4-H Youth Development program is a non-formal education program in which I have an option to participate. I accept my responsibility to engage in program activities and to excuse myself from this program if it does not meet my personal learning objectives. I recognize the organization has the responsibility and authority to remove youth who are disruptive to the 4-H Youth Development program or for any other reason the 4-H Youth Development program deems appropriate.

2. I accept my responsibility to represent the University of Minnesota Extension 4-H Youth Development program by holding myself to the standards of the 4-H pledge and motto. I will refrain from behavior that negatively represents myself, my family, my community, 4-H or the University of Minnesota.

3. I acknowledge that the 4-H program utilizes competition related to project work as a tool for learning. I will ensure that my project exhibits are appropriate and respectful. I will demonstrate good sportsmanship, encourage this behavior in others, and not allow this behavior to detract from the learning experience. I will not let my personal desire to win overshadow the needs of the group.

4. I accept my personal responsibility to be informed and follow the policies, rules, and deadlines established by Minnesota 4-H. I will not cheat, lie, knowingly furnish false information, deceive, or otherwise engage in dishonest, unethical or illegal behaviors. I will not encourage others to disregard or intentionally violate conditions of Minnesota 4-H participation.

5. I will act in a respectful and responsible manner during all 4-H programs. I will comply with directions of 4-H officials acting in the performance of their duties. I will not obstruct or disrupt any 4-H program or encourage others to engage in such conduct. I understand that a judge's decision is final.

6. I will promote a spirit of inclusion and welcome participation of individuals from all backgrounds. I will practice fair-mindedness by being open to the ideas and opinions of others. I will comply with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws and University of Minnesota policies. I will not participate in behaviors that discriminate against other people.

7. I understand that it is my responsibility to request reasonable accommodations if I need them because I have a diagnosed disability. I will request accommodations as early as possible and work with the 4-H program to help them determine what accommodations are reasonable. I understand that any accommodation decision rests solely with Minnesota 4-H.

8. I will communicate (oral, written and electronic) in an open, honest, respectful manner in all situations involving the 4-H program. I will refrain from communication that is negative, offensive, destructive or hurtful to others. I will refrain from sharing private matters in a public group setting. I will not engage in or tolerate slander, put-downs, insults, taunting, name-calling, yelling, profane language, sexual innuendos and other comments or hostile behaviors likely to offend, hurt or set a bad example.

9. I will ensure a safe environment for myself and others. I will not act in an irresponsible or potentially hazardous manner. I will access and operate machinery, vehicles and other equipment in compliance with laws, rules of the 4-H program, and general safety practices.

10. I will make healthy choices. I will not possess, offer, or use e-cigarettes, tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, or illegal substances. I will not attend 4-H programs under the influence of alcohol, marijuna, or any illegal substance.

11. I will keep and respect healthy personal boundaries. I will not manipulate, stalk, harass, violate others, or share pornographic images with others. I will not engage in unwanted sexual conduct with anyone.

12. I will dress in a manner that is appropriate, tasteful and respectful to me and others. I will avoid clothing and accessories that depict violence, sex, drugs, alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, death, gangs or other offensive or obscene pictures or language. I will not wear clothing that reveals my underclothing, midsection, torso, chest, cleavage or upper thighs. If a dress code is provided for a specific 4-H program, I will follow the stated dress code.

13. I will respect the property of others. I will not use, abuse, or take another individual's personal belongings. I will not damage facilities.

14. I will abide by the University policy on possession and carrying of weapons (firearms or other dangerous weapons as defined by Minnesota law.) I will not possess or carry a weapon while on University property or during attendance at a 4-H program, regardless of location, except in the following two circumstances: (1) I am lawfully storing a firearm inside a personal motor vehicle; or (2) I have been authorized by the 4-H program to possess and carry firearms at 4-H Shooting Sports/Wildlife programs.

15. I will contact a volunteer or staff member if I witness behaviors that do not align with this code of conduct. If a situation is escalating to where I feel unsafe, I will contact the authorities. I will not retaliate against an individual because of the individual's good faith participation in reporting misconduct or participating in investigations.

16. I will not possess any prohibited items and understand my belongings are subject to search and seizure by 4-H staff or a volunteer designee, upon reasonable suspicion that a prohibited and/or illegally possessed substance or object is contained within that area.

17. I will use appropriate channels within the University of Minnesota Extension to address concerns and conflicts, working towards a resolution. I will accept the decision of the individual and/or group with leadership and authority to make the decision even if the decision is not the one I personally desire.

18. I will demonstrate behaviors appropriate as a positive role model. If I have a guest or guests in attendance at a 4-H program, I will encourage them to abide by the Minnesota 4-H Code of Conduct. I recognize that if the guest's behavior interferes with the learning, my guest may be asked to leave the 4-H program.