

Watonwan County 4-H

2025 County Fair Premium Book

Your guidebook to prepare and register for your 4-H experience at the Watonwan County Fair.



18 USC 707

Watonwan County Fair – July 17-20, 2025

Watonwan County Fairgrounds – 53 11th Street South, St. James, MN 56081

Fair Registration

Sunday, June 1, 2025 - Fair Registration opens in [FairEntry](http://watonwan.fairentry.com) (<http://watonwan.fairentry.com>)

Monday, June 16, 2025 - Fair Registration Deadline (11:59 p.m.)

2025 Watonwan County Fair 4-H Schedule

June 16 - Monday

Fair registration done in [FairEntry](#) by 11:59 p.m.

- ❖ Fair registration will close on the 16th this year due to the 15th falling on the weekend.

June 25 - Wednesday

Presentation Day and Pre-Fair Judging: Clothing & Textiles, Fashion Revue, Food Revue, Performing Arts, Demonstrations. **Scripts are due upon arrival!**

- ❖ [First Presbyterian Church, St. James](#)
- ❖ Judges Training: 8:30 a.m.
- ❖ Conference Judging: 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- ❖ Public Show: 7:00 p.m. - invite all family and friends
 - **Participants need to arrive at 6:30 p.m. for a practice run through.**

July 10 - Thursday

Fair Setup: Livestock Barns, Foodstand, and General Exhibit Building

- ❖ Watonwan County Fairgrounds
- ❖ 7:00 p.m.

July 14 - Monday

Judge Stacey Busswitz; judging will take place at 40335 660th Ave, Butterfield, MN, 56120

- ❖ Horse Check-in/Interviews/Show: 2:00 p.m.
- ❖ Horses will **not** be stalled at the county fair this year.

July 15 - Tuesday

General Exhibit Judging and Livestock Interviews (except horse)

- ❖ Judges and Assistant Training: 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.
- ❖ Conference Judging: 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- ❖ **Lamb Lead, Animal Costume Parade, Pet Show Scripts Due**

July 16 - Wednesday

Livestock Entry: all species (dairy milking cows/etc. check-in Thursday). Barns are open from 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Species check-in times:

- ❖ Rabbit Check-in: 3:00-5:00 p.m.
- ❖ Beef Check-in: 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- ❖ Poultry/Pigeon Check-in: 4:00-7:00 p.m.
- ❖ Goat Check-in: 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- ❖ Sheep Check-in: 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- ❖ Swine Check-in: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

July 17 - Thursday

Livestock Judging Shows, Daycare Tours, and Dairy Check-in, Livestock Demonstrations

- ❖ Lamb Lead & Sheep Show: 8:30 a.m.
- ❖ Rabbit Show: 10:30 a.m.

- ❖ Goat Show: 1:00 p.m.
- ❖ Daycare Tours: 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- ❖ Poultry Show: 5:00 p.m.
- ❖ Dairy Check-in: 6:00-9:00 p.m.

July 18 - Friday

Livestock Judging Shows and General Demonstrations/Public Presentations

- ❖ Swine Show: 8:30 a.m.
- ❖ Dairy Show: 12:30 p.m.
- ❖ Beef Show: 6:00 p.m.

July 19 - Saturday

- ❖ Livestock Auction: 9:00 a.m.
- ❖ Premier Showmanship: 11:00 a.m.
- ❖ Pet Show: 1:00 p.m.
- ❖ Animal Costume Parade: 2:00 p.m.
- ❖ **State Fair General and Livestock Exhibit Trips Deadline 5:00 p.m.**
- ❖ State Fair Meeting (General and Livestock): 5:00 p.m.

July 20 - Sunday

- ❖ Farm Family, Judges Choice Awards, and High School and 4-H graduates ceremony: 1:00 p.m.
- ❖ Livestock Loadout: **NO EARLIER** than 4:00 p.m.
- ❖ Exhibit Pick-up: **NO EARLIER** than 4:00 p.m.
- ❖ Fair Tear-down 4:00 p.m. - All 4-H members and parents are expected to help! Includes livestock barns, Foodstand, and 4-H Exhibit Building.

August 21-24

Minnesota State Fair 4-H Livestock Encampment Detailed Schedule at

<https://extension.umn.edu/4-h-showcase-events/4-h-minnesota-state-fair>

August 24-26

Minnesota State Fair 4-H General Encampment Detailed Schedule at

<https://extension.umn.edu/4-h-showcase-events/4-h-minnesota-state-fair>

September 5-9 or 13-14

Minnesota State Fair 4-H Horse Show Detailed Schedule at

<https://extension.umn.edu/4-h-events/minnesota-4-h-state-horse-show>

September 20-21

Minnesota State Fair 4-H Dog Show Detailed Schedule at

<https://extension.umn.edu/4-h-events/minnesota-4-h-state-dog-show>

A Welcome from Watonwan County 4-H

Welcome to the 2025 Watonwan County 4-H showcase season! The summer season is busy with many different 4-H activities and we are so excited to see you at many of the events.

Think about what you have learned and projects that you have taken part in throughout the last year with 4-H, school, extra curricular activities, hobbies, and more. There is likely an area in 4-H that you could showcase that project and what you learned!

This premium book is your one-stop-shop for all of the details for our main summer showcase event: the Watonwan County Fair. Please take some time to review this book.

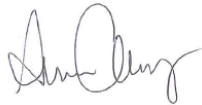
During the fair, the Extension Office will be closed. **Please visit us at our 4-H Fair Office in the 4-H Exhibit building in between the 4-H Foodstand and open class exhibit building Tuesday, July 15 - Sunday, July 20, 2025.**

4-H staff are available and happy to help with questions or concerns you may have; please reach out to us! Stay connected with us all summer long and visit the [Watonwan County Extension webpage](http://extension.umn.edu/local/watonwan) (extension.umn.edu/local/watonwan) and follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/watonwancounty4h/) (www.facebook.com/watonwancounty4h/).

Wishing you all a safe and fun showcase season!



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Mariella Sill, Youth Representative

145th Annual Watonwan County Fair

July 17 - 20 , 2025

The officers and directors of the Watonwan County Fair Board are proud to present the 2025 Premium Book for the 145th Annual Watonwan County Fair to be held at the Watonwan County Fairgrounds this coming July. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who has so willingly supported the fair each and every year. It has been this cooperation which has made this 145th annual exhibition possible.

We would love to formally invite you to attend the 2025 Fair!

The Watonwan County Fair Board:

Becky Cronk: President/Livestock/Grandstand	Andrew Karau: Vice President/Livestock/Food Trucks	Sue Craig: Secretary/Advertisement
Maci Pauling: Treasurer	Autumn Morrow: Bingo	Karla Schwieger: Commercial Building/Food Trucks
Jim Firchau: Livestock	Dillon Melheim: Grandstand/Tractor Pull	Aaron Oldenburg: Grandstand/Tractor Pull
Arica & Tyler Connell: Grandstand/Demo Derby	Franny Brown: Beer Garden	J.R. Steinbrink: Sound Technician
Dean Karau: Medallion Hunt/Kids Activities	Jackie Smith: Medallion Hunt/Kids Activities	Kayla McGuire: Creative Arts Building
Nora Schmidt: Sponsors/Donations	Ryan Doll: Gates/Parking/Livestock/Kids Activities	Cheyenne Connell: Gates/Parking
Paul Haler: Livestock	Olivia Wollé: Web and Facebook	Erin Christenson: Web and Facebook

Watonwan County Fair Association
35164 11th St S, PO Box 53
St. James, MN 56081

Or email to:
watcntyfair@gmail.com

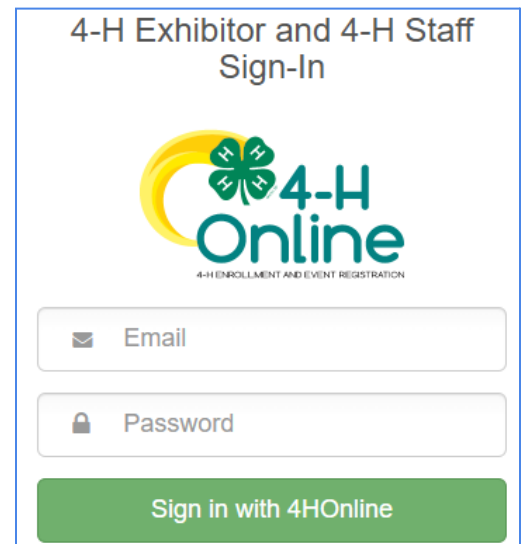
The 2025 **Open Class Premium Books** are available online and will also be available through the newspapers. The online link will be shared on our [Facebook page](#) (facebook.com/watonwancountyfair/) and [website](#) (watonwancountyfair.com). These books will include the superintendents for each class as well as guidelines for entry.

The fair is committed to being a safe space for the residents of Watonwan County and other visitors to enjoy. We ask that you not only be kind to each other but also follow any posted signs and guidelines regarding parking, smoking, alcohol, livestock, etc. In case of an emergency, please contact one of the fair board members or stop by the fair office or beer garden for assistance.


FairEntry – quick start guide for families

GETTING STARTED AND LOGGING IN

- Each youth registering must [be enrolled as an active 4-H member](#) and you must know your 4HOnline family login (email address and password). For more info go to <https://z.umn.edu/mn4honline-enroll>.
- For county fair information, premium books, dates and more, visit your county website at: <https://extension.umn.edu/local/watonwan>.
- To register for the fair go to the URL supplied by your county or go to www.fairentry.com, "Find your Fair", and when at your fair page, click on the green button to "Sign in with 4HOnline".



4-H Exhibitor and 4-H Staff Sign-In

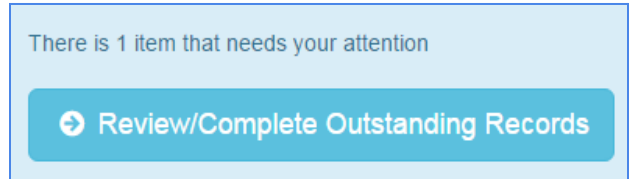


Email

Password

NEXT STEPS TO REGISTER FOR YOUR FAIR

1. Register (create) an exhibitor.
2. Add entries to that exhibitor.
3. Repeat for additional exhibitors and/or entries.
4. Resolve any registration issues (look for the blue notices).



There is 1 item that needs your attention

[Review/Complete Outstanding Records](#)

When done with exhibitors and entries, click "Continue to Payment" and submit the "Invoice". (There are no fees or payments needed, but this step is required to complete your registration.)

LOGGING BACK IN ANOTHER TIME

When logging back in, you will find your family profile in either of these "situations":

- Invoice un-submitted - You can continue adding or completing entries on that invoice.
- Invoice submitted and approved - You can add entries by starting a new invoice.

NAVIGATION HINTS

Click on the fair "Title" to return to your family Dashboard at any time.

When working on an invoice, you can often click on any of the navigation buttons even if they are not green. This can be helpful for going "back and forth" while working on entries.

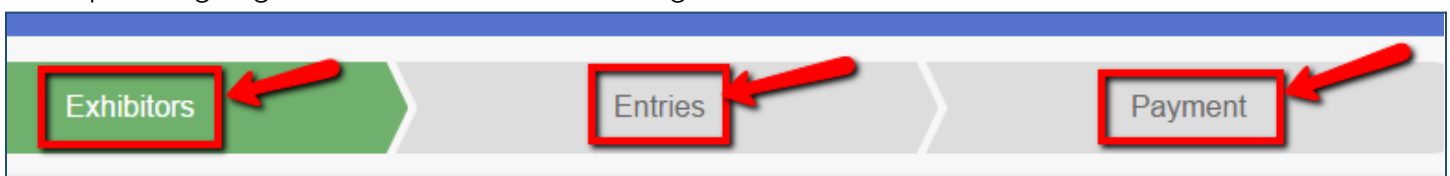


2017 Zarlog County Fair

Exhibitors ☒ Entries ☐

Exhibitors being registered

There are 0 exhibitors in the process of being registered [+ Register](#)



Exhibitors ☒ Entries ☐ Payment ☐

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ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR EXHIBITORS

What is the Premium Book?

The Watonwan County 4-H Premium Book is printed and published online for 4-H members, parents, and adult volunteers. It is used for planning and registering projects to exhibit at the Watonwan County Fair.

Please study this premium book carefully as it contains all rules and other information pertinent to exhibiting as a 4-H member. You are responsible for adhering to the rules in the premium book.

Please note that information provided in the premium book is subject to change at the discretion of the Extension Office and every attempt will be made to inform you of those changes.

4-H at the County Fair

The Watonwan County Fair is one of the highlights of the 4-H year. It is a busy, exciting, and rewarding time for many 4-Hers. It is an opportunity for youth to showcase their special efforts, interests, and talents by exhibiting projects. To "learn by doing," you are encouraged to enter exhibits in each project area that interests you. Your county fair experience should be a fun and enjoyable learning experience. You should think seriously about what you want to learn from preparing your project and how you will show that in your exhibit. Hopefully, you will be rewarded accordingly. **However, the ribbon or recognition is only secondary; the skill and knowledge of the project are what will really help you down the road in life.** Please participate in the county fair with a receptive and learning frame of mind. If you set your goal to learn new skills and knowledge, you will always be a winner.

Fair Registration ([FairEntry](http://watonwan.fairentry.com))

FairEntry: <http://watonwan.fairentry.com>

- There is no entry fee for 4-H exhibits at the Watonwan County Fair.
- Registration opens June 1 - 16, 2025.
- **All 4-H exhibits must be registered online by 11:59 p.m. June 16, 2025 using [FairEntry](http://watonwan.fairentry.com).**
- The registration deadline must be met to be eligible for any placing above a blue or to be eligible for a state fair or state show trip.

Need Help? Detailed instructions for registering with FairEntry are available online [UMN Register 4-H Entries at your County Fair Webpage](http://z.umn.edu/fairentry_helpguides) (z.umn.edu/fairentry_helpguides). Members use their 4HOnline email and password.

Club exhibits are not entered via FairEntry. Instead, club representatives send their club exhibit

registrations by email to the Watonwan County Extension Office by June 16, 2025.

County Fair Eligibility

- All Watonwan County 4-H members (in grades K through one-year beyond high school) are eligible to exhibit at the Watonwan County Fair. **All grade levels for 4-H members pertain to the grade just completed prior to the county fair.**
- All members must be enrolled in the 4-H program by June 1 (youth showing livestock need to be enrolled by May 15) in 4HOnline to be eligible for placing above a blue, including special awards and state fair trips.
- Animal ID requirement: For a 4-H member to exhibit at the county fair without penalty, all beef, dairy, dog, goat, horse, llama, rabbit, sheep and swine must have been entered in the required state 4-H ID system.
- **Animal ID data must be submitted on 4HOnline or to the Extension Office by paper by May 15, 2025, with the exception of Market Beef and Dairy Steers due February 18, 2025.**
- Every Minnesota 4-H member is eligible for a "one-time" lifetime member exemption that provides the ability to acknowledge they missed a 4-H deadline related to enrollment or competitive event participation and waive the consequences for the named deadline.
- Insurance is paid by the Watonwan County 4-H Federation for all active 4-H members and volunteers and covers Watonwan County active 4-H members and volunteers at all 4-H sponsored events.
- Not all exhibits are eligible for state fair trips. Some projects have classes for the county fair only, which is indicated in the class.

Fair Judging

What is the judge looking for?

Visit the [Minnesota 4-H Project website](http://z.umn.edu/ProjectsAndMore) (z.umn.edu/ProjectsAndMore) to learn more about your project area. Click on the "fair" section in any area for an evaluation sheet for the project area.

Preparing for the Fair

As you work on project activities and prepare exhibits for the fair, remember to prepare yourself, too. Conference judging includes both what you learned throughout your project and the exhibit itself. Exhibit judging criteria will be evaluated by: 25% exhibit quality, 25% educational value, and 50% knowledge and ability to explain.

- **Think about your answers to questions that may be asked, such as:** Why did you choose this exhibit to showcase your project learning? What steps did you go through in preparing it? What decision and choices did you make? How much did it cost in time, effort and materials? If you were to do this project again, would you change anything? Was the result worth doing? What did you learn from this? What do you plan to do next year in this project area?
- **Think about questions you might ask the judge, such as:** Could I have done this differently? How could this be changed or improved? What other things could I do?
- Remember that competition has some risks. Everyone cannot be the top winner. Others may have had more skills, time, or money to spend on the exhibit. You compete against these unknowns. If your exhibit helped you learn something you wanted to learn about in your project and if it is something you or your family can use, then **you are a winner no matter what the results of the competition!**

Conference Judging for General Project Exhibits

When you bring your general exhibits to the Watonwan County Fair, you will meet one-on-one with a judge to discuss your exhibit.

- You will have the chance to tell the judge about yourself, your exhibit and what you learned. You will also be given the opportunity to ask the judge questions to further your learning in the project area.
- You will be awarded a ribbon (blue, red or white) based 25% exhibit quality, 25% educational value, and 50% knowledge and ability to explain.

Animal Science Judging

Animal exhibits are shown in species-specific shows in a class or group of three to ten animals.

- The judges mainly look at the animal being shown. The quality of the animal should reflect your care and training of the animal. You will be awarded a ribbon based on the quality of your animal.
- During showmanship, you will be judged on how well you handle the animal and may be asked questions about your animal (how you care for it, what the different body parts are, etc). During interviews, you will be judged on your knowledge of your animal and the species industry.
- The top senior showmanship winners in beef, dairy, goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, and swine may be eligible for the Premier Showmanship.

Ribbons and their Meaning

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

- Cloverbuds: receive 'participation' ribbons
- 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."
- 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."
- 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."
- 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 and one Reserve Champion ribbon are given out per class division per project area. Additional purple ribbons are offered in some projects.
- For more information on ribbons and their meaning visit the [Ribbons Sticker Chart](https://z.umn.edu/ribbons) (z.umn.edu/ribbons)

Judge decisions

- **All decisions of the judges are final and cannot be appealed.**
- Awarding of Champion and Reserve Champion is at the discretion of the judges. Not every eligible class or lot will have a Champion and/or Reserve Champion awarded.

(NEW) Absentee Judging

Watonwan County 4-H approved Absentee Judging for General Exhibits will be conducted through a virtual judging or pre-recorded video. There will be no in-person "early judging".

- Youth must arrange for virtual judging or pre-recorded video. If doing a pre-recorded video, youth must submit the video and physical project to the Extension Office before the judging either for presentation day and/or general judging day.
- 4-H staff will ensure that the correct project area judge reviews the video and project item. If you would like a list of questions, please contact the Extension Office and staff will reach out to the judge to request questions. Note: It is not guaranteed that judges will provide questions ahead of time.
- **There will be NO absentee judging for Livestock exhibits** (except under an extreme circumstance).

- Information on absentee judging can be found in the [4-H Competitive Events: Absentee Judging of Projects at County Fairs](#) document (z.umn.edu/absentee_judging).

Minnesota 4-H Youth Development believes that participation in competitive events enhances the depth and breadth of the learning and leading experience. Minnesota 4-H works to provide an equitable and uniform opportunity for participation in competitive events for its members across the state. If a 4-H member is unable to participate in the judging process, they may request permission for absentee judging.

Judging experiences for youth with disabilities or injuries

A 4-H member unable to participate in judging by himself/herself may request permission for a judging assistant to be with the 4-H member during judging. More information can be found on the [Judging experiences for youth with disabilities or injuries](#) (z.umn.edu/4h-judging-experience).

State Fair/State Show Trips

State showcases will take place at these times in 2025:

Minnesota State Fair: Aug. 21-Sept. 1

- Livestock Weekend: Aug. 21-24 (Wed.-Sun.)
- General Encampment (Watonswan County's assignment): Aug. 24-26 (Sunday-Tuesday)

4-H State Horse Show: Sept. 5-9 or 13-14

4-H State Dog Show: Sept. 20-21

State Fair/State Show Eligibility

Trips to Minnesota State Fair, State Horse Show, and State Dog Show will be selected from blue ribbon exhibits only (see State Dog Show Rules for exceptions) at the Watonswan County Fair.

- Members selected to represent the county at Minnesota State Fair and 4-H State Horse Show must have completed grade 6. Members selected to represent the county at the 4-H State Dog Show must have completed grade 3.
- A 4-H member may participate in two state fair trips per year: one in livestock and one in general. Along with their qualifying state fair exhibit trip(s), 4-H members may also participate in activities such as Share-the-Fun, demonstrations, Arts-In, cooking events, animal science educational exhibits or judging teams.
- 4-H youth that have been awarded a 4-H state trip through the local 4-H qualifying show must keep their designated exhibit on the county fairgrounds until the official release time to remain eligible for the 4-H state 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.

- The registration fee (state fair, horse, dog, or shoot) will be paid for by the Watonswan County 4-H Federation if the 4-H member qualifies for the [Member in 'Good Standing'](#) opportunity (wcMember_GoodStanding). The Federation will also provide transportation for both livestock and general state fair exhibitors.

See additional requirements for Minnesota State Fair livestock exhibits in the 4-H Animal Science Exhibit Guide section.

State Fair/State Show Selection

Winners of state trips will be identified in state fair line-ups posted by the 4-H Fair Office.

- State fair lineups are determined by the project judge and will be posted as soon as possible after the judging.
- State fair lineup is project specific and must be considered in order. If a member is listed twice in a project area, they must accept or decline each trip in the order the projects are listed.
- To be eligible for a livestock trip to the State Fair, 4-Hers must have completed Livestock Quality Assurance Training by Wednesday of fair week and must submit a certification of completion to 4-H Staff. 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 in which 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.
- 4-H members winning a state trip(s) MUST accept or decline each trip by WRITING YES OR NO by each trip they are awarded as soon as possible and no later than Saturday by 5:00 p.m. Any trip left blank will be considered declined. NO EXCEPTIONS!** Youth who are eligible for a state fair trip in more than one category, may denote their first choice and second choice trip by writing **Yes - 1** and **Yes - 2** in the accept column. During State Fair lineup verification, staff will use the preferences to determine a final state fair lineup. Youth are eligible to take **one** livestock and/or **one** general project to the state fair.
- There will be a MANDATORY meeting for all General and Livestock exhibitors who plan to attend the state fair on Saturday at 5:00 p.m.**

in the 4-H Building. All state fair participants are required to attend this meeting with their parents/guardian(s).

- State fair exhibitors are expected to fully participate in the state fair experience. For general exhibitors, this means that they must be present for the entire judging and educational experience (if there is one for their project area). Livestock exhibitors must be present for their judging experience PLUS be present to care for their animal. They must not be absent from the state fair for more than 24 hours.
- If for some reason a State Fair exhibit/exhibitor is not able to go on to the State Fair, the Extension Staff will contact the State Fair 4-H Office to see if a substitution can be made. If possible, the next exhibitor in line will be contacted.

Supporting Watonwan County 4-H at the Fair

Fairgrounds Clean Up & Set Up

Pre-clean up and set up will be Thursday, July 10 starting at 7:00 pm. Post-fair clean up will be immediately following project release on Sunday starting **NO EARLIER** than 4:00 p.m.

The following areas will need to be cleaned and torn down. Everyone exhibiting at the county fair is EXPECTED to help.

- **4-H Exhibit Building**
- **4-H Foodstand**
- **Horse Barn**
- **Poultry/Rabbit Barn**
- **Swine/Sheep/Goat Barn**
- **Beef Barn**
- **Dairy Barn**
- **Show Arena**

The more members present, the quicker setup and teardown is done. Please bring brooms, rags, buckets, basic tools, ladders, etc. If you are unsure where help is needed please find livestock superintendents, foodstand committee members, or 4-H staff.

4-H/FFA Malt Wagon Fundraiser

We were recently given the opportunity for 4-H/FFA to run the Malt Wagon at the Watonwan County Fair. All profits/expenses will be split between our two organizations. We have many community volunteers who help run this wagon. Though if all spots are unable to be filled 4-H and FFA staff will be requesting help from our members.

4-H Foodstand Fundraiser

The 4-H Foodstand at the Watonwan County Fair is the big fundraiser for the program. The money

generated fuels our 4-H programs throughout the year, helps us reach new members, and allows youth to learn and lead all year long. All 4-H members and guardians are required to volunteer for one shift in the Foodstand. Program scholarships throughout the year (camp, state fair, conferences, etc) are contingent on members volunteering in the Foodstand.

Sign-up for your Foodstand shift:

z.umn.edu/foodstandshift

We hope you will encourage your friends and family to support 4-H by eating at the Foodstand when they visit the fair!

4-H Foodstand Punch Cards

Families will be able to purchase \$15, \$25, or \$50 punch cards to be used in the 4-H Foodstand throughout the fair. Punch cards will be available for purchase in the 4-H Extension Office beginning June 25, and will continue to be available for purchase throughout the Watonwan County Fair from the 4-H Fair Office during the Fair. **There will be a 10% pre-fair discount only on the \$50 punch card** for anyone who purchases the \$50 punch card **June 25-July 16!** For your convenience, any punch cards you purchase will be kept in the 4-H Foodstand during the fair. If you have questions regarding this, please contact the 4-H Extension Office.

Note: There is **no cash refund** on 4-H Foodstand Punch Cards after the fair is over – you may however use that remaining money to purchase leftover food items on Sunday after the Foodstand closes.

Volunteer at the Fair

It takes a lot of helping hands to make a successful, smooth fair. We have many easy, one-time fair volunteer opportunities for parents and youth and larger commitments for those who love the fair! Sign up at:

- **4-H Fair Office Volunteers:**
z.umn.edu/4hfairofficevolunteers
- **Livestock Show Volunteers:**
z.umn.edu/livestockshowvolunteers

Photos at the Fair

Documenting the county fair is an important part of the experience. Please make note of the following photo opportunities.

- **Exhibit Judging Day Photos** will be taken of **ALL** 4-H members exhibiting/interviewing on Tuesday, July 15 from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the 4-H Exhibit building. All members who earned overall champion and reserve

champion in their project category will have their photo submitted to the local newspapers.

- **Livestock Ribbon Auction Photos:** All members participating in the Livestock Ribbon Auction must return to the Arena immediately following the auction to have a group photo taken and to thank the buyers.

Emergency Preparedness

Accidents: Watonwan County 4-H carries insurance on all enrolled youth and screened volunteers to cover accidents or injuries. In the case an accident occurs, **the involved parties must alert the 4-H Educator and complete an incident report within 24 hours.**

Safety Concern: If a youth, parent, or volunteer witnesses an unsafe situation, they are to alert the 4-H Educator, Fairboard, and/or emergency personnel immediately.

Severe Weather: In the case of severe weather during the fair, 4-H participants should follow proper safety procedures as communicated by 4-H Staff, Fairboard members, or local emergency personnel. Public Safety will be overseen by the Watonwan County Sheriff's Department.

4-H Policies To Know

Minnesota 4-H has developed 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. Full policies can be found on the [Statewide Policies](https://z.umn.edu/4HPolicies) (z.umn.edu/4HPolicies), but several are highlighted here and throughout the premium book. **Please review and understand these policies before coming to the county fair.** If you have questions, please contact the 4-H Extension Educator.

Code of Conduct

All Watonwan County 4-H members, volunteers and parents are expected to abide by the Minnesota 4-H Code of Conduct when participating in all 4-H sponsored events during the 4-H year, including the Watonwan County Fair.

Code of Conduct for 4-H Members

- 4-H members are not only representing themselves, but Watonwan County 4-H, their club, and family. It is expected that you act in a responsible manner.
- 4-H members are responsible for thoroughly reading and understanding the rules and guidelines for any specific exhibit or activity as outlined in the county or state fair premium books, newsletters or informational letters.

- Any violation of the Code of Conduct can be sufficient cause for immediate termination of participation in the 4-H event, and loss of all premiums and awards. Infractions of the Code of Conduct may also result in the loss of eligibility to participate in future activities such as state trips, exchange trips, camps, etc. for the current and/or upcoming 4-H year.
- Consequences of inappropriate behavior will be addressed at the discretion and judgment of the chaperones and 4-H staff.
- The full [Code of Conduct](https://z.umn.edu/4HPolicies) is available online (z.umn.edu/4HPolicies).

Code of Conduct for Parents and Volunteers

- All parents also sign a Code of Conduct upon enrollment of their children. The Minnesota 4-H Code of Conduct applies and will be enforced with 4-H members, 4-H parents, and 4-H volunteers including at the county fair while participating in or attending a 4-H event or while on premises used for 4-H purposes (e.g. show ring, exhibit building, barn, Foodstand) and at the state fair during their child's assigned encampment or assigned volunteer responsibility.

Reporting Injuries:

All actively enrolled 4-H members, Minnesota 4-H volunteers and community/parent volunteers, who are placed in a volunteer role with the 4-H program on a regular or occasional basis are covered by annual blanket accident insurance. Please report all injuries to 4-H staff as soon as they occur so that we can document the incident in the event that a claim needs to be filed.

Grievance Process and Policy

The Minnesota 4-H grievance process provides a vehicle by which to respond to 4-H members' concerns relating to their 4-H program participation.

- A grievance committee may be convened to address rule violations and alleged wrongdoing.
- **A grievance committee will NOT be convened for the following situations:** decisions made by judges, which are final; missed deadlines which are covered through the "one-time member exemption process;" and, code of conduct related violations which will be addressed by staff according to an established process.
- Families submit \$50 when filing a grievance. If the decision is made in the family's favor, the deposit will be refunded. If the decision is not in the family's favor, the deposit will be donated to the Watonwan County 4-H program.
- Information on the process can be found on the [Understanding 4-H Policies webpage](https://z.umn.edu/4HPolicies) (z.umn.edu/4HPolicies)

To read the Code of Conduct in its entirety scan the appropriate QR code below:



Watsonwan County 4-H Competitive Events Deadlines, Consequences, and Exemptions

Competitive events, deadlines, consequences and exemption options

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. For further information please refer to the [Understanding 4-H Policies webpage](https://z.umn.edu/4HPolicies) (z.umn.edu/4HPolicies). This document is designed to assist 4-H Members, families and 4-H staff in understanding state and county 4-H individual competitive event deadlines, consequences applied to each situation/deadline, and the use of the one-time exemption to remove all consequences for a single situation/deadline.

	4-H event participation	County fair ribbon and premium	County fair purple ribbon eligibility	State fair or state trip advancement	County fair auction	County fair showmanship and interview awards	County fair rate-of-gain awards
Membership enrollment or re-enrollment received after May 15	Youth must be enrolled as 4-H members prior to participating in any 4-H event. 1,2	Eligible to exhibit for blue, red or white placing and related ribbon premium.	Not eligible 3,4	Not eligible 3,4	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible (as long as appropriate process for weigh-in is followed)
Animal Science ID received after deadline (Feb 15 for market beef; May 15 for all others) or after county date for Central ID 9	Youth must be enrolled as 4-H members to identify a 4-H animal. 1,2	Eligible to exhibit for blue, red or white placing and related ribbon premium.	Not eligible 3,5,6	Not eligible 3,5,6	Eligible 3,5,6,7	Eligible	Not eligible
Fair registration received after county's pre-entry deadline	Youth must be enrolled as 4-H members and accepted in 4HOnline to register for fair. 1	Eligible to exhibit for blue, red or white placing and related ribbon premium.	Not eligible 3,4	Not eligible 3,4	Eligible 3,7	Eligible	Eligible (as long as appropriate process for weigh-in is followed)
State Fair trip acceptance received after State Fair Trip acceptance deadline	Youth must be enrolled as 4-H members and accepted in 4HOnline to register for fair. 1	Eligible to exhibit for blue, red or white placing and related ribbon premium.	Eligible	Not eligible until the full trip lineup has been depleted. 8	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Other county individual competitive event registration received after deadline	Youth must be enrolled as 4-H members prior to participating in any 4-H event. 1,2	Eligible to exhibit for blue, red or white placing and related ribbon premium.	Eligible	Moves to the end of the state fair lineup. 3	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

1. Youth may enroll in project areas at any time. However, to be eligible to exhibit at the county fair with full privileges the information in the Competitive Event Table must be met.
2. For youth enrolling in 4-H for the first time and/or joining clubs or programs organized after the May 15 deadline, enrollment will be received for a period of one calendar week after the group is organized. Because of the animal science ID deadlines, youth enrolling after May 15 will not be able to exhibit in animal science projects with full privileges.

3. 4-H members may choose to utilize their one-time exemption recognizing that they have missed a 4-H deadline and waive all consequences for that deadline. The one-time exemption applies for the career of the 4-H member and transfers among Minnesota counties.
 4. The one-time exemption form must be submitted with the late enrollment or late registration form.
 5. For the Animal Science ID deadline, the 4-H member has one calendar week after the deadline to turn in, to the Extension Office, the animal ID form and the one-time exemption form. (The animal must be owned by the deadline.)
 6. When a 4-H member uses their exemption for a late ID, then the animal(s) being ID'd may only be shown by that same 4-H member at a 4-H county and/or state 4-H event. The late ID'd animal(s) cannot be exhibited by another sibling at a 4-H event during the current 4-H year.
 7. If the County determines the 4-H Member is 'Not Eligible', this consequence is removed if the youth chooses to use the one-time exemption.
 8. Grievance procedures and one-time exemptions are not allowed when possible outcomes could affect another youth (e.g., State Fair trip acceptance deadline).
 9. Central County ID options: 1) Attend designated county ID with animals(s); 2) Make arrangements with someone else to ID animals(s) at designated date/place; 3) Make arrangement with 4-H Program Staff to attend another county's central ID date (not eligible for rate of gain); 4) Use one-time exemption and identify own animal(s). (Arrangements must be made with 4-H Program Staff prior to identifying own animals: not eligible for rate of gain.)
- **Exemption process originally implemented 10/1/13; updated 10/14, 1/17, 1/21, 5/22, 2/23, 1/24, 12/25

Premiums

Exhibitors will receive premium money based on their ribbon placings. Premiums are sponsored by the Watonwan County Fair Board (Agriculture Association) and can be picked up at the Extension Office once notified of availability.. There will be one premium paid out per project. **Thank you to the Watonwan County Fair Board for generously supporting 4-H premiums and the LaSalle Fire Department for supporting the Livestock Interview and Showmanship Champion premiums!**

Project Area	<i>Blue</i>	<i>Red</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Cloverbud</i>	<i>Grand Champion</i>	<i>Reserve Champion</i>
Fashion Revue	\$3	\$2	\$1.50	\$2	–	–
Pet Show	\$3	\$2	\$1.50	\$2	–	–
General Projects/Science of Animals/All Livestock Posters	\$3	\$2	\$1.50	\$2	–	–
Public Presentations	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	–	–
Club Exhibits	\$10	\$5	\$3.50	–	–	–
Poultry/Rabbit	\$5	\$4	\$3	\$4	–	–
Sheep/Goat/Swine/Llama	\$7	\$6	\$5	\$4	–	–
Beef/Dairy/Horse	\$10	\$8.50	\$7	\$4	–	–
Livestock Interviews and Showmanship	–	–	–	–	\$5	\$4

- **All premium checks need to be cashed within 30 days.**
- All premium checks will be available for pick-up at the Extension Office once ready.
- There is no additional premium for Champion, Reserve Champion, or Honorable Mention.
- There is no premium for Premier Showmanship.
- Notify the Extension Office immediately with any discrepancies.
- All checks will be made payable to the youth, and the Extension Office will not be responsible for any transactions beyond that (checks made out to adults or cash payments will not be permitted).
 - If your youth is unable to deposit the check, please inform the Extension Office so we can void the check. No alternative payment options will be available.

4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Saturday at 9:00 a.m. in the Swine Arena.

The Watonwan County 4-H/FFA Livestock Auction helps to support Watonwan County 4-H/FFA youth as well as the Watonwan County Federation and FFA Chapter. Seventy-five percent (75%) of each bid goes directly to the youth for use toward their 4-H/FFA projects, such as paying for a State Fair trip or project resources for the next year. The other twenty-five percent (25%) of the money raised goes to the 4-H/FFA to support county-wide 4-H/FFA programming.

General Information:

- The auction is non-terminal and not a genuine sale.
- All projects will have **unlimited bidding**.
- All animals are eligible to go through the sale regardless of their ribbon placing.
- Youth who earn grand champion or reserve champion are not required to sell that specific ribbon. All youth can choose to take **any** ribbon through the sale.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Youth must have completed third grade (no Cloverbuds).
- Youth may only register and exhibit **one** livestock project in the auction.
- Youth must have their photo taken after the sale with their project for their thank you note.
- If a 4-Her is to receive a check over \$599 from the ribbon sale, a W-9 form will need to be filled out prior to receiving their ribbon sale check and they will receive a 1099 at the end of the year.
- Please wear your fair t-shirt, jeans or nice pants, and closed toe shoes.
- Eligible projects include Beef, Dairy, Dairy/Meat Goat, Horse, Llama/Alpaca, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep, Swine.
- Livestock Auction registration is required via [FairEntry](#) by June 16th. *Those not registered via [FairEntry](#) by the deadline are not eligible for the Livestock Auction, per the outlined competitive events consequence chart.*
- 4-H members must be present at the time of the sale (no absentees).

FairEntry Registration & Buyer Solicitation

1. Registration for the Ribbon Sale will take place within [FairEntry](#) registration.
2. Please choose the species you are *most likely to sell* at the time of registration. After his/her final judging, a member may switch species or

have champion/reserve champion added by their name by notifying the 4-H Fair Office as soon as judging is complete. **No changes will be accepted after Friday at 8:00 p.m.**

3. Exhibitors will be prompted to complete a buyer solicitation questionnaire in [FairEntry](#). **Buyer solicitation packets will be mailed before July 1st.**

Buyer Appreciation:

- Immediately following the Auction, all youth will return to the Arena to say thank you to the buyers and take a group picture.
- Every 4-Her must complete the correct number of thank you notes to their buyers. Thank you cards will be available at the end of the auction by 4-H staff. These need to be completed following the auction immediately and will be verified by 4-H staff before youth are able to leave. Parents are encouraged to come and assist their 4-Her in writing a thank you card.
 - When writing your auction thank you card, please be sure to address the buyer and thank the buyer using your first and last name. In the body of your thank you, be sure to include which project they purchased, your appreciation for their support and future plans for the project. **Your thank you should be at least 3 sentences long.** Examples will be provided.
- 4-Hers will receive their checks from the Watonwan County Extension Office no sooner than two weeks after the County Fair. If no thank you was completed, youth **will not** receive their auction check.

ANIMAL COSTUME PARADE

Saturday at 2:00 p.m. in the Swine Arena.

The Animal Costume Parade is a fun event open to all youth in grades K+ that brought a livestock exhibit to the fair. Youth make and/or buy a costume for themselves and their animal to parade around the show arena. Cloverbuds (K-2) are allowed to participate, but must follow the Cloverbud and animals policy.

How to participate?

- Select one livestock animal that is brought to the fair to use for the animal costume parade
- Sign-up for the animal costume parade through [FairEntry](#).
- 4-Her creates and/or purchases a costume for themselves and their animal.

- Complete a [short script](https://z.umn.edu/animalcostumeparadescript) (z.umn.edu/animalcostumeparadescript) to be read about your animal and the costumes you have chosen to wear.
- Youth will be given a small prize for participation!

JUDGES CHOICE & GRADUATING MEMBERS

Sunday at 1:00 p.m. in the Entertainment Building.
Judges Choice

The Judges Choice Awards are given out to any age youth grade 3+ that exhibit in general and livestock. Each judge will decide an overall Judges Choice Champion and Reserve Champion in each project area. You can be a purple winner in your age division, but not be the winner of the Judges Choice Award. There is only one overall Judges Choice Champion and Reserve Champion. The winner(s) might be from grades 3-5, 6-8, or 9+. The judge(s) may base his/her decision on the youth's enthusiasm, knowledge, and/or workmanship. In the end, it is the judges choice.

How do I know if I received a Judges Choice Award?

- There will be a Judges Choice Award Poster located by the 4-H Fair Office where all winners will be posted. Please check the board.
- We will have a special presentation for Judges Choice Award winners where winners will receive a plaque and a disc for each area they were named a Judges Choice winner.
- The award event will be held on Sunday at 1:00 pm in the Entertainment Building. If you are a winner, please plan on attending, wear a 4-H T-shirt, and be ready to have your picture taken as a large group.
- All are invited to attend!

Graduating Members

- Our high school graduates and 4-H graduates will be recognized and receive their certificate and gift following the Judges Choice Awards.. These youth will receive a special invitation in the mail requesting their presence to receive their awards.

CLOVERBUD GUIDELINES

About the Cloverbud Program

Cloverbuds are 4-H members who have completed grades K-2 at fair time. The 4-H Cloverbud Program supports the positive development of children in grades K-2 as they explore their world, discover the possibilities, build self-esteem and practice the basic social skills. These will be the basis for becoming competent, caring, contributing citizens. The Cloverbud program **emphasizes cooperative rather than competitive experiences** to develop social skills with their peers. Research shows that grades K-2 is a time to experiment with new skills and experiences, not to strive for perfection. Children in this age range have only begun to deal with the concept of being less than the best. Therefore, we provide noncompetitive 4-H experiences for Cloverbuds and recognize them for their participation.

Cloverbud Policy

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. See the [4-H Cloverbud webpage](https://z.umn.edu/4HCloverbuds) (z.umn.edu/4HCloverbuds) for the full policy.

Equipment Use

When using equipment that is potentially dangerous, a responsible person will be with the Cloverbud at all times guiding and monitoring their involvement. Examples of potentially dangerous equipment include sewing machines and power tools.

Helmets

Cloverbuds must wear appropriate safety helmets when riding horses or bicycles.

(AGAIN) Cloverbuds and Animals

When Cloverbuds and animals (including beef, cats, dairy, dogs, goats, horse, llama, pets, poultry, rabbit, swine and sheep) are together at a 4-H program or participating at the county fair as a 4-H member, the following rules apply:

- A 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:

- The responsible person is in control of the animal with the Cloverbud at their side.
- 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

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

CLOVERBUD EXHIBIT GUIDE

4-H Cloverbuds at the Fair

Fair exhibits are an opportunity for all 4-H members to showcase what they have learned in project areas throughout the past year. Cloverbuds may register for a **total of 10 projects in any combination of general exhibits and public presentations**. Cloverbuds may exhibit up to one animal in each animal science area. Cloverbuds may also choose up to one of each clothing & textiles, food revue, fashion revue, and/or performing arts.

- All Cloverbuds participate in conference judging and animal judging at the Watonwan County Fair in their own Cloverbud class alongside all 4-H members for experience and to feel the pride that comes with sharing their learning with judges. See fair schedule for judging and show times.
- All Cloverbuds will receive a participation ribbon, rather than blue, red, white or champion ribbons.
- No state fair trips are awarded to Cloverbuds. Only 4-H members grades 6+ are eligible for state fair participation.
- Visit the [Cloverbud Showcase Guide](https://z.umn.edu/cloverbudshowcaseguide) (z.umn.edu/cloverbudshowcaseguide) for more information.

4-H Cloverbud Exhibits

Enter all Cloverbud Exhibits in the **Cloverbud departments in [FairEntry](#)**.

CLOVERBUD - GENERAL PROJECT EXHIBITS

Judged on Tuesday, July 15 at Watonwan County Fairgrounds.

Cloverbuds may choose up to 10 exhibits in any combination of general exhibits and public presentations.

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Any one item made by the Cloverbud member at home, at a 4-H club meeting, at school, or anywhere else.

- General project exhibits should be something the Cloverbud has been working on during the last year.
- 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 project 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.)

- Please review the General Project Exhibit Guide section to learn more about what would be required of exhibits once members complete grade 3.

CLOVERBUD - PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

(AGAIN) Two options for judging:

- 1) During Presentation Day on Wednesday, June 25 at the First Presbyterian Church in St. James or**
- 2) During County Fair - families will be able to sign-up for a timeslot**

Cloverbuds may choose up to 10 exhibits in any combination of general exhibits and public presentations.

Youth will give an oral presentation that includes demonstrating the hands-on steps required to accomplish a task or process. This most often includes physical objects and a live demonstration. Individuals should be no longer than 15 minutes in length, teams no longer than 25 minutes in length.

- 1 Individual Demonstration
- 1 Livestock Demonstration
- 1 Team Demonstration

CLOVERBUD - LIVESTOCK INTERVIEWS

Judged on Tuesday, July 15 at Watonwan County Fairgrounds.

Cloverbuds may choose an interview for each livestock species exhibit.

Cloverbud Livestock Interviews are optional but are highly encouraged for Cloverbuds to prepare them once they reach 3rd grade. Once Cloverbuds become members, a livestock interview is required for each animal science exhibit brought to the fair. For example, if a youth brings a rabbit, sheep, and beef cow that youth will need to complete an interview for each species (rabbit, sheep, and beef).

For more information around livestock interviews see [page 53](#).

CLOVERBUD - CLOTHING & TEXTILES, FASHION REVUE, PERFORMING ARTS, AND FOOD REVUE

Judged on Wednesday, June 25th at First Presbyterian Church in St. James (706 3rd Ave South).

Cloverbuds may choose up to 1 of each exhibit listed:

- Cloverbud Clothing & Textiles (this includes constructed, purchased, upcycled, and sewn non-garment categories)
- Cloverbud Fashion Revue
- Cloverbud Food Revue
- Cloverbud Performing Arts

CLOVERBUD - PET SHOW

Judged on Saturday, July 19 1:00 p.m. in Swine Arena.

Enter all Cloverbud Pet Show entries in the **Cloverbud - General department in [FairEntry](#).**

- Please complete a [Pet Show script](http://z.umn.edu/petshowscript) (z.umn.edu/petshowscript) and turn into 4-H Staff by Wednesday of the fair.
- After youth complete their one-on-one judging with the judge, they will walk their pet around the show arena as their script is being read for the public to see.

CLOVERBUD - ANIMAL SCIENCE EXHIBITS

Enter all Cloverbud Animal Science Exhibits in the **Cloverbud - Livestock (Animal of Choice) department in [FairEntry](#).**

- Cloverbuds may register up to once in each animal science class.
- Cloverbuds may show their own animal or another 4-Hers identified animal. You will be asked during fair registration in [FairEntry](#) if you are showing your own animal or another 4-Hers identified animal for stalling/penning purposes.
- Cloverbuds are not required to enter animal ID information in 4HOnline for the animal ID deadlines. However, if you are bringing an animal to the fair that is not IDed by another 4-Her, you must still comply with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health requirement that all animals at exhibitions have an official ID (tag or tattoo). (See Animal Identification section).
- The responsible person must either be in control of the animal with the Cloverbud at their side or the Cloverbud is in control of the animal with the responsible person at their side. See Cloverbud exhibits guidelines for more information.
- Please read the Animal Science Exhibit Guide of this Premium Book for important rules, check-in times, show times explanations of posters and science of animal projects, and more.

Cloverbud Livestock Animals:

- Cloverbud - Beef
- Cloverbud - Dairy
- Cloverbud - Goat - Dairy
- Cloverbud - Goat - Meat
- Cloverbud - Horse at Halter - Barrels
- Cloverbud - Horse at Halter - Western Pleasure
- Cloverbud - Llama/Alpaca Costume
- Cloverbud - Poultry/Pigeon
- Cloverbud - Rabbit
- Cloverbud - Sheep
- Cloverbud - Lamb Lead
 - Please complete a [Lamb Lead Script](https://z.umn.edu/lambleadscript) (z.umn.edu/lambleadscript) and turn into 4-H Staff by Wednesday of the fair
- Cloverbud - Swine

Cloverbud Livestock Posters:

- Cloverbud Science of Animal Poster (this will be judged on general exhibit judging day, but livestock posters may be brought to the species specific livestock barn(s) for display after judging).

CLOVERBUD - DOG SHOW

Judged at:

- **Blue Earth County Dog Show (Obedience, Rally and Showmanship)** - Saturday, August 2 at 8:30 a.m., Key City Kennel Club, Mankato, MN
- **Sibley County Dog Show** - Saturday, July 19 at 8:30 a.m., Sibley County Fairgrounds, Arlington, MN

For more information around Dog Shows see [page 57](#)

GENERAL PROJECT EXHIBIT GUIDE

Food Revue, Performing Arts, Clothing & Textiles, and Fashion Revue Judging

Wednesday, June 25, at First Presbyterian Church, 706 3rd Ave South, St. James

Judging: 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Public Performance and Awards: 7:00 p.m.

All General Project Exhibit Judging and Livestock Interviews

Tuesday, July 15 from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Watonwan County Fairgrounds.

General Project Exhibits at the Fair

Anything you imagine can be entered as a 4-H exhibit! This premium book provides a catalog of project areas you will find in [FairEntry](#) and some exhibit suggestions. These are only suggestions.

What is the judge looking for? Visit the [Minnesota 4-H Project website](#) (z.umn.edu/ProjectsAndMore) to learn more about your project area. Click on the "fair" section in any area for an evaluation sheet for the project area.

- Judges will award honorable mention, blue, red, or white ribbon placing regardless of the number of exhibits in the division unless designated otherwise. The number of additional ribbons awarded (Champion and Reserve Champion) 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. This is up to the judges' discretion.
- Cloverbud exhibits, including livestock posters, will receive participation recognition.

- All General Project Exhibits are entered under the General Exhibits department in [FairEntry](#).
- Cloverbuds entering General Project Exhibits should enter under Cloverbud - General department in [FairEntry](#).

General Project Information

When arriving for general project judging please **check in** at the 4-H Exhibit Building. Each 4-H member will receive a family packet with their exhibit cards for all general projects to be judged, livestock exhibitor back tag numbers, and instructions for the judging day process. At the end of judging all members will need to have their picture taken and youth outcome survey completed to receive their county fair t-shirt.

- Members may exhibit, demonstrate, or take part only in projects in which they are registered for in [FairEntry](#) by **June 16**.
- All youth must be enrolled in 4-H to exhibit, demonstrate, or take part in projects. All work on projects entered must be done by the 4-H member and completed during the current 4-H year unless otherwise noted.
- Exhibits are entered and displayed at the risk of the exhibitor. The 4-H program will exercise

care to protect them. However, the Extension Office cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage due to the conditions imposed by viewers, the arrangement of the buildings in which displays are housed and the number of exhibits. 4-Hers who have exhibits of great sentimental and or monetary value should carefully consider whether such exhibits should be exposed to the hazards of the fair. You may have a booklet or poster showing the project work to leave at the fair instead of the valued project itself.

- **Opinions expressed through exhibits and presentations are those of the 4-H member(s) and not necessarily those of MN 4-H, U of MN or the county fair/agricultural society.**

Project Display Sizes

- Floor space for any exhibit should not exceed 20 square feet. If your exhibit exceeds this space limitation, contact the Extension Office.
- Poster may not exceed 22" wide x 28" high. They may be smaller.
- Education tri-fold Exhibits for all exhibits may not exceed 12" deep x 24" wide x 36" high, except where specifically stated. (Center back 24" wide x 36" high, right and left wings each 12" wide x 36" high.)

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.
- **(NEW)** 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.

(AGAIN) 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-Her 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.
 - **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 or 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.

Note: To qualify as "community impact", the project should primarily benefit someone or something more than you individually, or your family.

Release of Exhibits

All General exhibits will be **released on Sunday, July 20 NO EARLIER THAN 4:00 p.m.** Please remove all exhibits between 4:00-6:00 p.m. on Sunday. If you are unable to pick up your exhibits at this time, please arrange for someone to pick up and remove your exhibits. Unauthorized early removal of exhibits will result in loss of premiums.

4-H Club Exhibits

Club exhibits are not entered via FairEntry. Instead, club representatives send their CLUB exhibit registrations by email to the 4-H Extension Office by June 16, 2025.

- **(AGAIN) Two representatives of your club must present club projects for conference judging; more than two members are highly encouraged.**
- Judging is on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Watonwan County Fairgrounds.

CLUB BANNER

The club promotional banner serves as a tool to promote the local 4-H club and the county 4-H program and gives 4-Hers an opportunity for artistic expression through advertisement. **Two banners will be selected as state fair exhibits.** Banners qualifying for the state fair will be transported to and from the State Fair by 4-H staff.

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.
- Banners can be 2-D or 3-D.

Requirements:

- Banner must be 3' x 5' and designed to hang vertically.
- It must be completed and equipped with a dowel (minimum size 3' 8") and ready to hang.
- Banner must be of fabric (no paper) and can be one or two-sided. If 2-sided, indicate which side you want to be displayed.
- Club name on 3 x 5 card pinned to back. (Any assembly technique can be used.)

COMMUNITY PRIDE

This is a project where a club displays ways in which they make their community better by being active citizens and act on the things they believe in. **Two exhibits will be selected as state fair exhibits.** Community pride exhibits must have two youth members from the club present at the state fair conference judging.

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 homes or homeless populations.

- Deliver safety education programs such as a bike rodeo or fire safety training.

Requirements:

- The exhibit may include a three-sided display, video, or other visual method which 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 club youth who participated in the project may represent the club 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.

CLUB FLOWER BOX

County Fair Only

Prepare and maintain a flower box for display at the Watonwan County Fair. Must be maintained by the club and removed by Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.

Requirements:

- Bring on Tuesday, Entry Day for judging. A minimum of two club members should be present for judging.
- Flower boxes can be displayed anywhere on the fairgrounds.
- Limit 1 exhibit per club.
- **No state fair trip awarded.**

CLUB SCRAPBOOK

County Fair Only

Show and explain your club activities and participation in community and county events through written words and photos. **No state fair trip awarded.**

CLUB BOOTH

County Fair Only

The booth should depict an area of work or program of current emphasis.

PLASTIC SCULPTURE CHALLENGE

This can be done as a club, team, and/or individual.
[See page 41.](#)

4-H GENERAL EXHIBIT PROJECTS

All General Exhibits are entered in [FairEntry](#). Cloverbuds see the Cloverbud section of this Premium Book and enter exhibits under the All Cloverbud Exhibits department in [FairEntry](#).

- For each general exhibit class, youth will select their age division in [FairEntry](#); age divisions include grades 9+, grades 6-8, and grades 3-5.
- Youth in grades 6+ in all classes are eligible for a state fair trip, unless otherwise stated. If a class reads 'County Fair Only' **no** state fair trips will be awarded because they are a non-State Fair eligible class.
- Exhibitors may bring up to **3 exhibits per class**, unless otherwise stated.

4-H MEMBER RECORDS

County Fair Only

Exhibit Suggestions:

- The exhibit should include your complete set of 4-H member records from your first year as a 4-H member to date.

AEROSPACE

Share what you've learned about the latest in aerospace technology including airplanes, rockets, helicopters, drones, balloons, etc. Aerospace includes any objects that fly within the Earth's atmosphere and 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:

- Models or other project objects can be used during the judging process.
- 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.

BICYCLE

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.

CARD MAKING

County Fair Only

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Create 3 cards with a common theme.
- Cards created using stamps, paper, stickers, and/or other materials.

CHILD & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Share what you've learned about being self-reliant and responsible, how to handle emergencies and develop home-alone skills. Child and 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.

CITIZENSHIP

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Highlight of community projects and/or citizenship activities which you or your club completed under your leadership. Include plans of action as well as the impact of each.
- An educational display illustrating the description of a 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.
- An educational display illustrating how you've researched, reflected, and learned more about yourself, your family, and your friends.
- An educational display illustrating how you've researched, reflected on, and learned more about your community, its history, and how to be a good neighbor.
- An educational display illustrating 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.
- A display on different parts of the world, highlighting their cities, culture, history and more.
- A display explaining how you organized and led tours in your towns, communities, courthouse or historic places.
- An educational display on how the government works or the functions of various government agencies.

- A display on community organizations, agencies or service departments like fire departments, police departments, sanitation, tourism, etc.
- Complete a service project and create a display of what you did and why you did it.

CLOTHING & TEXTILES

Clothing exhibitors are encouraged to participate in the Fashion Revue! Exhibitors can use the same garment to participate in both fashion revue and the corresponding clothing & textiles exhibit in the same year at both the county and state fair. Register in [FairEntry](#) under both.

CLOTHING & TEXTILES – CONSTRUCTED CLOTHING

Special Judging Day: Wednesday, June 25th at the First Presbyterian Church in St. James.

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Constructed garments 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.

Requirements:

- Include an information tag listing: pattern company name and number or inspirational photo for design, fiber content of fabric and care instructions.
- Exhibits should be finished, clean and pressed. Exhibits can be used before showing, but should be cleaned before exhibiting.
- Items constructed should be appropriate for the skill level and experience of the exhibitor.

[Clothing & Fashion Revue-Constructed Clothing form \(bring with you to judging\)](http://z.umn.edu/constructedclothing)
(z.umn.edu/constructedclothing)

CLOTHING & TEXTILES – PURCHASED CLOTHING

Special Judging Day: Wednesday, June 25th at the

First Presbyterian Church in St. James.

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Purchased garments 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.
- Additional information that could be included in the required 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.

Requirements:

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

[Clothing & Fashion Revue-Purchased Clothing form \(bring with you to judging\)](http://z.umn.edu/purchasedclothing)

(z.umn.edu/purchasedclothing)

CLOTHING & TEXTILES – UPCYCLED CLOTHING

Special Judging Day: Wednesday, June 25th at the First Presbyterian Church in St. James.

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

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

[Clothing & Fashion Revue-Upcycled Clothing form \(bring with you to judging\)](http://z.umn.edu/upcycledclothing)

(z.umn.edu/upcycledclothing)

CLOTHING & TEXTILES – SEWN NON-GARMENT

Special Judging Day: Wednesday, June 25th at the First Presbyterian Church in St. James.

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.

[Clothing & Fashion Revue-Sewn Non-Garment form \(bring with you to judging\)](http://z.umn.edu/nongarment)

(z.umn.edu/nongarment)

CLOTHING & TEXTILES – FASHION REVUE

Special Judging Day: Wednesday, June 25th at the First Presbyterian Church in St. James.

(NEW) All categories (constructed, purchased, upcycled) will be judged together for fashion revue until our numbers increase. We will also be doing a ribbon placing system of blue, red and overall Grand and Reserve Champion ribbons.

Fashion Revue is judged on the overall completed look which includes the outfit, accessories and overall appearance.

~ Clothing & Textiles - Fashion Revue

Requirements:

- 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.
- Exhibitors must provide a short narrative and a photo for the fashion show. Bring this photo with you to judging. See Clothing and Fashion Revue form links above.

Note: Guardians, when your youth is in the process of judging for fashion revue, please stay out of the judging area. We want youth to gain confidence in themselves when presenting their project to the judge.

CONSUMER EDUCATION & MONEY MANAGEMENT

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 & FINE ARTS

CRAFTS & FINE ARTS – CRAFTS

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.

CRAFTS & FINE ARTS – FINE ARTS

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-Hers 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

(AGAIN) Special Judging Requirement: Projects or a copy must be turned into the Extension Office by Thursday, July 10th at 4:00 pm. This will allow time for the judge to review submissions.

Creative writing includes original written pieces such as 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?"

Requirement:

- 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.).

DOG

See Pets and Pet Show. Also see Dog in the Animal Science section for dogs trained in the 4-H dog project.

ENGINEERING DESIGN

ENGINEERING DESIGN - ENGINEERING DESIGN

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.

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 the 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, LEVEL 1 & 2

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.

Engineering Design Challenge Team Members

- Level 1 - grades 3 -8 (suggested)
- Level 2 - grades 7-12 (suggested)
- All members of the team must register to participate

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

1. Please refer to the [Engineering Design Challenge Level 1 and 2 Handbooks](http://z.umn.edu/4hedc) (z.umn.edu/4hedc) for complete details.
2. Team size: 3 to 10 members.
3. The machine must complete a minimum of 10 steps.
4. The machine must operate in 2 minutes or less.
5. Due to space constraints at the State Fair, we encourage teams to think mini and keep their machine to tabletop dimensions to build a machine that is manageable and portable. We encourage a "card table" or platform size of 3-4 ft wide (with height up to 6 ft.). The maximum allowed dimensions are 6' x 6' x 6'. Machines will

be on display in the 4-H building for the duration of the state fair.

6. Describe how an engineering design process was used to complete the project.
7. Provide a journal record illustrating the process of completing the project.
8. Teams advancing to the State Fair will need to submit a video prior to attending the State Fair.

(NEW) Note: 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 Level 1 and 2 Handbooks](http://z.umn.edu/4hedc) (z.umn.edu/4hedc) for complete details.

EXPLORING ANIMALS

Exploring Animals is intended as an introductory exhibit 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:

- An educational exhibit to show or explain something 4-Her made, did, learned, or may explore consumer issues, breeds or careers.
- Poster, journal, video, 3 ring binder of animal being explored.
- Explore basic care and handling, basic feeding, basic housing, animal welfare and ethics, etc.

Requirements:

- This area is for 4-Hers who wish to learn more about a given species. Animal ownership is not required.
- Exploring Animals include: beef, dairy, dairy goat, meat goat, llama/alpaca, 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

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Fish identification. Describe the habitat and food needs of selected Minnesota 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 or boating.

- Examples of how water quality affects the fish ecosystem.
- Create a display or diagram of aquatic habitats, 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 the food industry.
- Explore careers in this project area and explain why they interest you.
- Local Department of Natural Resources fishing regulations.

FOOD REVUE

Special Judging Day: Wednesday, June 25th at the First Presbyterian Church in St. James.

Share what you've learned about planning, preparing and presenting food as part of a meal or snack. Food is judged on food and nutritional knowledge, menu design/theme, table setting design, and cost information. For guidance on this project, see the [Food Revue Handbook](http://z.umn.edu/handbook_foodrevue) (z.umn.edu/handbook_foodrevue).

Exhibit suggestions:

- Select a tested, favorite recipe from a cookbook, or other dependable source. Plan a menu using your recipe.
- Choose your own theme for your place setting and display according to your menu selection (from casual to formal). Coordinate the table setting with a tablecloth and/or placemat, dishes, glassware, flatware and centerpiece for one person only. Choose an appropriate table setting.
- Create a global connection: display what you have learned about food and place settings from around the world.

Requirements:

- The display must be no larger than 30" square.
- Bring 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.
- Must include binder with: 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.
- Photos, binder and place setting (not food) should be used for display at the fair. May also include a small poster of the menu, photo of exhibit, etc.
- **Note:** The judge may or may not taste the food.

[Food Revue form \(bring with you to judging\)](http://z.umn.edu/foodrevueform)
(z.umn.edu/foodrevueform)

FOODS & NUTRITION

FOODS & NUTRITION - FOODS

Exhibit suggestions:

- Food items such as:
 - Bars and 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.
- Food science experiment
- Exhibit showing food and/or kitchen safety.
- Investigate food allergen of your choice.
- Display about careers in the food industry.

Requirements:

- Exhibits 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. Youth can choose to discard or take home their food exhibit.
- **Note:** If food safety is a concern, judges reserve the right not to taste and/or judge foods items.

FOODS & NUTRITION - NUTRITION

Exhibit Suggestions:

- One serving of nutritious food (vegetable or fruit dish, snack, bread, dairy, etc.). Include an 8½ 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](http://www.myplate.gov) (www.myplate.gov).
- 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.

FOODS & NUTRITION - 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 are 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.

FOODS & NUTRITION - CAKE/CUPCAKE/COOKIE DECORATING

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Theme cakes - birthday, wedding or other special events.
- Creative cakes: animals, cars/trucks, food.
- Traditional cakes: traditional wedding cakes; cakes with borders, flowers, fancy tips.
- A plate of holiday cookies.

Requirements:

- Cake/cupcakes/cookies must be out of the pan, frosted, and on a platter to show the judge.
- While exhibitors are judged primarily on decoration, frosting and cake should be homemade by the 4-H'er and may be tasted by the judge.
- Sheet cakes should be no larger than a 1/2 sheet (13"x18").
- Plates of at least 6 cupcakes or 6 cookies.
- Provide a photo of your exhibit that will be on display at the county fair.

Please Note: Judging at the state fair is combined with Food & Nutrition judging.

Resources:

- Take a look at [this guide](https://z.umn.edu/cakecookie_decoratingtips) for help with cake and cookie decorating (z.umn.edu/cakecookie_decoratingtips)

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

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 countries and learning about their government, history, people and popular cultures or further exploration of your own culture and traditions. This includes ways you have made a difference in your community and your world with a global connections project.

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Make a poster exploring 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 another that of another Minnesota group.
- 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.
- Prepare a display illustrating 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

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

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 and/or have written information to show 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 and ready to hang.
- Purchased kits are allowed to be used.

HORSE RELATED

Two exhibits will be awarded trips to the 4-H State Horse Show (not Minnesota State Fair). See Horse section for details.

- 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.

HORSELESS HORSE

Two exhibits will be awarded trips to the 4-H State Horse Show (not Minnesota State Fair). See Horse section for details.

- Horseless Horse offers the opportunity to study and learn about the horse to members that do not own or lease a horse.
- 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.

HORTICULTURE

HORTICULTURE – 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.
- Outdoor living flowers and plants are to be exhibited in this area (including Outdoor Fairy Gardens).
- Live plant material will be accepted if it can be maintained in a fresh condition with ease.

HORTICULTURE - INDOOR GARDENING

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Two or more varieties of houseplants 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 living flowers and plants are to be exhibited in this area (including Indoor 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 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, know why they were selected for use (quality, container and design).

- Fairy Gardens:
 - 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.

HORTICULTURE - LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Exhibit Suggestions:

- A 3D model of a landscaping design (24 x 36 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 tree line 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

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY - 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.
- Please contact 4-H staff if your project is an oversized exhibit.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY - 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.
- Please contact 4-H staff if your project is an oversized exhibit.

MECHANICAL SCIENCE

Includes (but not limited to) automotive, implement, heavy equipment, recreation vehicle, small engine, tractor, electric type of projects.

Exhibit Suggestions:

- 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 power source.
- 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

NATURAL RESOURCES - ENTOMOLOGY

Exhibit Suggestions:

- 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, such as 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:

- Emphasis of the project must relate to an aspect of entomology. Project must demonstrate specific knowledge of insects. Be prepared to discuss references and sources (e.g. books, magazines, internet, interviews with an expert etc.).

- Displays or booklets on entomology topics should include references and sources. Pictures, drawings, charts, tables, or other figures may be used to support understanding.
- 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.

NATURAL RESOURCES - EXPLORING THE ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

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:

- Display or create a video about 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 journals used to keep track of environmental changes throughout a season.
- Display showcasing 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.

NATURAL RESOURCES - FOREST RESOURCES

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Identify the parts of a tree and what they do with a poster or collection of leaves, seeds, needles, etc.
- Display showing 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.
- Display showing layers of the forest; renewable versus non-renewable resources; forestry careers; leaf and twig identification; taxonomic keys; nutrient road maps.
- Display on 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.).
- Display on woodland management such as policies created by the U.S. Forest Service or

specialized design including shelterbelts/windbreaks and urban forestry.

- A video or display about the 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.

NATURAL RESOURCES - GEOLOGY

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.
- Educational exhibit showing the "science how's and why's" dealing with the principles of geology and natural earth sciences.
- Exhibit explaining 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.

NATURAL RESOURCES - WATER RESOURCES

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.
- Project showing how water is necessary for life, such as a display on water/wetland ecosystem services like filtration or nutrient cycles from plants.
- Share 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.
- Display on 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.
- Exhibit detailing 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

Exhibit suggestions:

- Any item made by the member using the techniques of knitting, crocheting, embroidery and crewel, counted cross stitch, needlepoint, hardanger, weaving, appliqué, latch hook, 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. Exhibits must include information about how the 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.
- Exhibitors should be prepared to discuss techniques, fiber content, care instructions, and cost. Exhibitors are encouraged to bring instructions, patterns, 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 exhibits can be either a performance or an exhibit that shows a member's involvement or interest in the performing arts.

- 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).

PERFORMING ARTS - PERFORMANCE BASED

Special Judging Day: Wednesday, June 25th at the First Presbyterian Church in St. James.

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.

PERFORMING ARTS - NON-PERFORMANCE BASED

Special Judging Day: Wednesday, June 25th at the First Presbyterian Church in St. James.

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 members.

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.

[Performing Arts form \(bring with you to judging\)](http://z.umn.edu/performingartsform)
(z.umn.edu/performingartsform)

PETS

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Educational display explaining cat care, health, nutritional needs, etc.
- Educational display explaining dog diseases, breeding, training, caring for dogs at humane society, information about therapy dogs, etc.
- Educational display explaining pet care, health, nutritional needs, etc.

To show your live pet, see Pet Show. Also see Dog in the Animal Science section for dogs trained in the 4-H dog project.

PET SHOW

County Fair Only

Judged on Saturday, July 19 at 1:00 pm in the Swine Arena.

Cats, kittens, hamsters, birds, guinea pigs, puppies, dogs, turtles, and more! The Watonwan County Pet Show is an opportunity for you to share your knowledge and your pet! A 4-H judge will judge your knowledge and handling of your pet.

Be prepared to answer questions about how to care for your animal and be a responsible pet owner.

Requirements:

- No livestock: cows, sheep, pigs, or goats. No horses or llamas.
- Rabbits and poultry are allowed if they are pets and not shown as an animal science exhibit. 4-H Animal ID rules do not apply to the pet show.
- Dogs may be shown if not trained to participate in the 4-H dog project and must have current vaccinations.
- All cats must have certification of rabies vaccination and distemper shots.
- Animals must be kept in their cages or leashed at all times unless they are in the show ring. Dogs are not allowed at the fair except to participate in the Pet Show or 4-H dog project activities.

- Maximum of 2 pets per exhibitor.
- Exhibitors may enter the pet show with live pets and educational exhibits about their pets as a general project exhibit (in cat, pet, dog, exploring animals, etc.) See General Project Exhibit section.

Note:

- No stalling or lodging. Please be prepared to return your pet home immediately after the show.
- No walking your pets around the fairgrounds, they must be contained down by the livestock barns with no disrupting behavior.
- The fairboard is aware that 4-H will have a pet show, however, if a fairboard member approaches you asking why you have a pet at the fair, respond with "I'm here for the 4-H pet show" and they will understand.

All Pet Show Exhibits are entered under Pet Show in the General Exhibit Department in [FairEntry](#). Cloverbuds entering in the Pet Show should see the Cloverbud section of this Premium Book and enter exhibits under Cloverbud - General and Posters division in [FairEntry](#).

[Pet Show Script Form](#) (z.umn.edu/petshowscript):
Due Wednesday, July 16.

No state fair trip awarded. (State fair trips are awarded in the General Project Exhibit divisions, such as pets, exploring animals, etc. See General Project Exhibit section.)

PHOTOGRAPHY

Requirements for BOTH Elements of Photography and Photo Manipulation:

- All photos exhibited must have been taken/produced/enhanced by the exhibitor during the current year.
- 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

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.

Please 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 see: www.faa.gov/uas (unmanned aircraft systems).

Photo/Video Release Form:

Use this form when including any person in your photograph/video that is NOT in 4-H. This verifies that the subject has agreed to have their photograph taken or be in your video. Keep this signed form in a file. Here is a link to the Photo and Video Release form in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Hmong](#) and [Somali](#).

Resources:

The presentation [Introduction to Photo Manipulation](http://z.umn.edu/intro-to-photo-manipulation) (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.

[Examples](http://z.umn.edu/photoexamples) (z.umn.edu/photoexamples) of state fair photos, examples of Photo Manipulation.

PHOTOGRAPHY - ELEMENTS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

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 and white

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

1. 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 officer, or other interesting personality.
 - Exhibit a series of photos on how to make or do something.
2. 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.
3. Showcase a Photographic Element:
 - 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.
4. 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.

PHOTOGRAPHY - PHOTO MANIPULATION

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](https://z.umn.edu/intro-to-photo-manipulation)" slideshow for specific examples and explanations (z.umn.edu/intro-to-photo-manipulation).

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. Examples of images not allowed include: an image of space (taken by NASA) as the background of your photo or if you want a shark inserted into your composite image, you must take a photo of a shark.

Exhibit Suggestions:

1. 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
 - combining several images of a person in subsequent stages of a cartwheel
2. Single Source Image Manipulation
 - acne removal, eye enhancement, teeth whitening, etc.
 - eye enhancement
 - 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.
3. 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.
4. Enlarged Photo:
 - Show a 5" x 7" or 8" x 10" print that has been digitally enhanced and illustrates software skills. An unaltered 4 x 6" print must be attached to the back of the exhibit.
5. Publications:

- Show calendars, brochures, posters that are created using computer software.
6. Photo Novelties:
 - Display mugs, puzzles, blankets, or other media on which photos have been printed.
 7. 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

PLANT SCIENCE - 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.

PLANT SCIENCE - CORN

Exhibit Suggestions:

- A two-quart jar or clear container (equaling 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 a 3" x 5" index 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.

PLANT SCIENCE - 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 SCIENCE - 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 forages, 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.

PLANT SCIENCE - SMALL GRAINS

Exhibit Suggestions:

- A two-quart jar or clear container (equaling 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 and food production, examples of a plant disease, etc. of a 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.

PLANT SCIENCE - SOYBEANS

Exhibit Suggestions:

- A two-quart jar or clear container (equaling 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 a 3 x 5 index card listing the variety if the exhibit is a crop sample.
- Be familiar with crop input costs and the growing process.

PLANT SCIENCE - 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 two-quart jar or clear container (equaling 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 and 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 a 3 x 5 index card listing the variety if the exhibit is a crop sample.

- Be familiar with crop input costs and the growing process.

PLANT SCIENCE - WEEDS & 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 (check the current listing at <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/weedcontrol/noxiouslist.aspx>). If you are bringing in a sample of weed seeds, put it in a sealed container.

PLASTIC SCULPTURE CHALLENGE

This can be done as a club, team, and/or individual.

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.

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.

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.

Requirements:

- Exhibits can be created by individuals or teams.

- 4-Hers 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 plastic

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

(AGAIN) Two options for judging:

- 1) During Presentation Day on Wednesday, June 25 at the First Presbyterian Church in St. James or**
- 2) During County Fair - families will be able to sign-up for a timeslot**

- Public Presentations may be related to any project that the member is enrolled in or to any area of interest or expertise the 4-Her has. Presentations may be an individual or a two-person team.
- 4-Hers who complete a Public Presentation at the State Fair will receive a \$30 cash award. These payments are made in October. 4-Hers must be grade eligible to participate at the State Fair.
- 4-Hers 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).
- 4-Hers that win a trip to the State Fair will be asked to submit a photo of them doing their demonstration to have on display.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS - DEMONSTRATION

(AGAIN) Two options for judging:

- 1) During Presentation Day on Wednesday, June 25 at the First Presbyterian Church in St. James or**
- 2) During County Fair - families will be able to sign-up for a timeslot**

~ Demonstration - Individual

~ Demonstration - Team

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Teaching others a project or activity such as taekwondo, making lemonade, slime, macrame, etc.

Requirements:

- 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.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS - INTERACTIVE DEMONSTRATION

(AGAIN) Two options for judging:

- 1) During Presentation Day on Wednesday, June 25 at the First Presbyterian Church in St. James or**
- 2) During County Fair - families will be able to sign-up for a timeslot**

~ Interactive Demonstration - Individual

~ Interactive Demonstration - Team

Exhibit Suggestions:

- 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:

- 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.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS - LIVESTOCK DEMONSTRATION

Will be judged during the county fair: families will be able to sign-up for a timeslot in FairEntry.

~ Livestock Demonstration - Individual

~ Livestock Demonstration - Team

Exhibit Suggestions:

- 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.

Requirements:

- 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.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS - PRESENTATION & SPEECH

(AGAIN) Two options for judging:

- 1) During Presentation Day on Wednesday, June 25 at the First Presbyterian Church in St. James or**
- 2) During County Fair - families will be able to sign-up for a timeslot**

~ Presentations & Speeches - Individual

~ Presentations & Speeches - Team

Exhibit Suggestions:

- 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.

Requirements:

- 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.

QUILTING

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 specialized 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:

- Include an information card listing: pattern name and source, fiber content of fabric and batting, and care instructions.
- Finishing techniques may be machine quilted, hand quilted or hand tied. If not quilted or tied by the 4-Her, the 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

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

SCIENCE INQUIRY

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.
- Video of you exploring the physical properties of slime using different materials/recipes to make slime.
- Display different types of bird feeders you used to determine if there is a preferred bird feeder type in your backyard.
- Powerpoint showing the 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.
- Display showing the different types of treats and the data you collected as you explored how your dog responds to different treats during training.
- Tri-fold display board showing the results of your investigation of different types of sunscreen to see their effects on UV beads.
- A slideshow illustrating different water filtration systems you tested and the results you analyzed to identify which one resulted in the cleanest water.
- Display the rock candy created as a result of investigating how the concentration of sugar affects crystal growth.

Requirements:

- Include the question, issue, or happening being investigated.
- Include 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.

Resources:

[Science Inquiry Project Resource Guide](http://z.umn.edu/scienceinquiryresourceguide)
(z.umn.edu/scienceinquiryresourceguide)

See the '[Testable Questions Video](https://z.umn.edu/testablequestions)' (z.umn.edu/testablequestions) to get you started on what could work for your science inquiry project.

SCRAPBOOKING

County Fair Only

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Create an entire scrapbook, exhibit one scrapbook page, have a set of themed pages for a scrapbook, explore a scrapbooking technique, etc.

SELF-DETERMINED

Self-Determined exhibits showcase learning experiences that members selected, planned, and managed on their own and are judged primarily on the self-guided learning experience. 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

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 and 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

Share what you've learned about computers, technology, using Aquatic Robotics and/or programming and/or another type of robot or a robotics class or program.

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.
- Explore careers in this project area and explain why they interest you.
- Design computer hardware/software.

Requirements:

- Include description, images/photos needed to assist with verbal or written description.
- Description(s) can be verbal or written.
- Computers, smartphones, tablets, ect. can be used during the judging process.

VEGETABLE, FRUIT & HERB GARDENING

VEGETABLE, FRUIT & HERB GARDENING - 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.

VEGETABLE, FRUIT & HERB GARDENING - 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).

VEGETABLE, FRUIT & HERB GARDENING - LARGEST VEGETABLE

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

Exhibit Options:

- 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.

VEGETABLE, FRUIT & HERB GARDENING - 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.

(NEW) VEGETABLE, FRUIT & HERB GARDENING - VEGETABLE CONTAINER GARDEN

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Showcase your gardening skills by growing a thriving Vegetable Container Garden. This exhibit challenges 4-Hers 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, FRUIT & HERB GARDENING - VEGETABLE GARDENING BOX

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, FRUIT & HERB GARDENING - VEGETABLE PLATE

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.
- Only have one vegetable variety (large, medium or small) on the plate. (For example: medium-sized variety = three onions)
- The exhibit must be produced at home or by a close relative. CANNOT BE STORE PURCHASED.

VETERINARY SCIENCE

Share what you've learned during an in-depth exploration of 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.

Requirements:

- Be prepared to discuss research techniques and source information.

VIDEO / FILMMAKING

~ Video/Filmmaking

~ Video/Filmmaking – Production Team (2-3 members per team/can come from different schools and/or grades

Exhibit suggestions:

- Showcase various video/film techniques.
- A selected subject. Include a short storyboard or outline.

- A poster that illustrates 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, Legos or 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.
- This is NOT a slideshow (see Photography Manipulation for slideshow).

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, USB, flash drive or data 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. ***Please note that the internet is not reliable at the Watonwan County Fair. If your video is delivered through an online platform, please have a backup copy in place for judging at the county fair.*
- 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.

- 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.

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).

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 see: <https://www.faa.gov/uas> (unmanned aircraft systems).

Photo/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 have their photograph taken or be in your video. Keep this signed form in a file. Here is a link to the Photo & Video Release form in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Hmong](#) and [Somali](#).

WILDLIFE BIOLOGY & MANAGEMENT

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.
- Make a display of 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

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.

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.
- 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.).

Requirements:

- Be prepared to discuss and/or have written information about what you learned about your ability to lead a project.
- Be able to share how you 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.

ANIMAL SCIENCE EXHIBIT GUIDE

Animals at the Fair

Animal/Livestock Arrival

- All livestock MUST be entered by 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16 (except dairy). Only pets (cats and dogs) are present for the pet show only.
- Be sure to stop in the 4-H Fair Office to pick up your family packet, exhibitor number, t-shirt, and other important information.
- The official fair veterinarian will walk through every barn on Wednesday and periodically throughout the fair, to inspect animals.
- **Livestock Trailers:** All livestock trailers must be taken home during the fair. They may not remain at the fairgrounds overnight.
- **Livestock Scale:** If anyone questions the validity of a county fair scale or the weight of their animal, the superintendent must double check the scale to ensure it is weighing the same. If a scale is found to be off at any point during a weighing, superintendents must determine when and why the mistake occurred and take appropriate steps to fix it. If this can't be done, all animals must be re-weighed.

All Exhibits Release

- **All exhibits must remain in place until Sunday, July 20 at 4:00 p.m.**
- Removal of livestock from the fairgrounds without prior approval from the 4-H staff may result in forfeiture of all premium money, awards, state fair trips, and auction eligibility.
- 4-H families that wish to leave early to attend another livestock show MUST provide documentation/confirmation of entry forms for the show they will be attending to Extension Staff in partnership with the county fair board **before July 12, 2025**.
- Animal exhibitors are expected to remove all garbage and personal items from the stall prior to leaving. Everyone is expected to clean up after their own animals, including when leaving the fair.

Stalling and Care

All 4-Hers exhibiting animals are responsible for the care and feeding of their animals for the entire duration of the fair.

- Stalling will be determined by staff with input from specific superintendents.
- Barn space will be used for animals first and adequate tack space for feed, grooming chutes, show boxes, etc second.

- 4-H members exhibiting livestock must provide their own bedding for the duration of the fair and their own feed and equipment.
- No animals may be advertised for sale and no farm, ranch, or sale signs may be displayed at the fair or worn in the show ring. The only signs other than 4-H stall cards and champion/reserve champion signs that may be displayed are educationally-based signs with performance or pedigree information and signs with the animal's name. Only decorations that support the 4-H Youth Development Program are allowed. Only decorations that support positive youth development and the Minnesota 4-H program and policies are allowed. No political signs or flags should be displayed in 4-H buildings.
- Water/wash stands are available:
 - North end/East corner of the sheep/swine barn (wash rack/water)
 - North of the Dairy Barn (wash rack/water)
 - West end of the Poultry/Rabbit barn (water)
 - North end of the Horse barn (water)

Grooming Livestock

The 4-Her exhibiting the animal should be present and involved in the fitting process at the county fair.

Watsonwan County Grooming Rules

- All grooming of livestock at the fair, including clipping, trimming and manipulation of the hair/wool must be clearly done by the exhibitor, members of the family, any other registered Minnesota 4-H members/volunteers, or a livestock resource person. An outside hire for fitting/grooming will not be permitted.

State Grooming and Fitting Rules

- 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.

Show Attire Recommendations and Guidelines

- Each exhibitor will receive a 2025 Watsonwan County 4-H t-shirt when they check-in at the 4-H Fair Office. Shirt sizes will be determined during [FairEntry](#) registration. These shirts will be required for **the Livestock Ribbon Auction**.

- **All species exhibitors** should wear an appropriate shirt (blouse, button down, polo, etc) jeans or nice pants with no holes. **Poultry and Rabbit exhibitors** should wear a white long sleeve shirt and/or white lab coat with jeans or nice pants with no holes. **Dairy and Dairy Goat exhibitors** should wear all white: white shirt and pants.
- All exhibitors are **required** to wear closed toed shoes or boots.
- Harnesses, pins, or magnets may be used to display exhibitor numbers on the exhibitor's back.

Beef: Youth should carry a show stick, and have a comb in their pocket with teeth facing inward. It is preferred that animals have leather show halters. Cable halters may only be used as show halters in the show ring. Cable halters may not be used to tie cattle in the barn or in tie-outs.

Dairy: It is preferred that animals have leather show halters.

Dog: Please refer to the [Dog Project Guide](http://z.umn.edu/dogprojectguide) (z.umn.edu/dogprojectguide) for appropriate collars and leashes for show.

Dairy Goat: Exhibitors may use leather or smooth chain collars or show halters (including cable halters) in the show ring. Goat training and prong collars are **not** allowed. An optional 12 inch lead strap may be used for breeding doe classes. Cable halters may only be used as show halters in the show ring. Cable halters may not be used to tie goats anywhere.

Meat Goat: Exhibitors may use appropriate show equipment (leather or smooth chain collars, show halters, cable halters, and safety (prong) collars). An optional 12 inch lead strap may be used for breeding doe classes. Cable halters may only be used as show halters in the show ring. Cable halters may not be used to tie goats anywhere.

Horse: Please refer to the [4-H Horse Handbook](http://z.umn.edu/horsehandbook) (z.umn.edu/horsehandbook) for appropriate dress for each class. Helmets are required for all mounted classes. Riding exhibitors must wear double exhibitor numbers, one on each side of the saddle pad.

Sheep: For lamb lead, a halter is required; however in all other classes the animal should be shown without a halter if possible.

Swine: Youth should carry a driving tool, a small hand brush and a rag.

Livestock Awards

Trophies will be awarded to the champion and reserve champion for each species (beef, dairy, poultry, rabbits, sheep, goats, and swine). Youth earning a Trophy must write a thank you note to the sponsor and turn into the 4-H Fair Office before the fair has ended. 4-H Staff will mail the letter for you.

Herdsmanship Contest

Herdsmanship is an essential part of the showcase experience and includes the proper care of animals, cleanliness, and the exhibitors' behavior and interactions with the public. Behavior and interactions with the public in the barn are just as important as an exhibitor's time in the show ring. The following guidelines must be followed during the county fair and will be judged.

- Herdsmanship of swine, sheep, goat, poultry, rabbit, horse, dairy, and beef will be judged each day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon anytime between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., but not during specific species livestock shows or the auction.
- Herdsmanship will be **judged by family**. Herdsmanship work must be completed by the youth exhibitors.

Judges will use a rating system out of 100 pts.

The overall member winner and species winner will be announced and honored at the annual awards banquet in the fall.

- **Cleanliness of Stalls and Aisle 45 pts:** Alley, pens and stalls neat and free of obstructions (manure hauled and put in proper place), proper feeding and watering (feed pans in pen and in front of animals only at feeding time), bedding is adequate and dry, and all card decor, etc. arranged neatly.
- **Arrangement of Exhibits and Exhibitors 30 pts:** Feed and equipment neatly arranged (show boxes, trimming chutes, stall cards, etc.), courtesy and conduct of exhibitors.
- **Appearance of Animals 25 pts:** Cleanliness of animals, animals tied and pens securely fastened.

Note: Barn aisles must remain clear and accessible at all times. Grooming chutes, tack boxes, chairs, etc. should not block aisles at any time.

Animal Science 4-H Policies

In addition to the 4-H Policies, animal science exhibits must adhere to these additional policies regarding their animals. Full policies can be found at the Minnesota 4-H [Animal ID webpage](http://z.umn.edu/AnimalID) and [Leasing a 4-H Animal webpage](http://z.umn.edu/LeaseAnimal). (z.umn.edu/AnimalID and z.umn.edu/LeaseAnimal).

- All 4-Hers must show their own animal in the class. If the 4-Her has multiple animals in one class, another 4-H member(s) from the same county can show the other animals.

Ownership and Leasing

- **Market animals cannot be leased.**
- All animals exhibited must be owned solely by the member, member's family or leased by agreement. The family includes the 4-Her's

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.

- Once a lease agreement is in place, refrain from allowing any other individual—including the owner—to enter/exhibit the animal in any show/exhibition during the time this contract is in effect. If the lease is a "family lease" only the 4-H members in that immediate family are eligible to show the animal for the duration of the lease. Showing the animal encompasses any exhibition, including but not exclusive to: 4-H shows, open shows, FFA shows, junior breed shows, jackpot shows, expositions, etc.
- If, during the time of the lease agreement, the leased animal is shown by anyone other than the leasing 4-H member (or 4-H members in the immediate family in the case of a family lease), the leased animal is no longer eligible to be exhibited as a 4-H project animal.
- See the Minnesota 4-H [Leasing 4-H Animal webpage](https://z.umn.edu/LeaseAnimal) for more (z.umn.edu/LeaseAnimal).

Animal Health Requirements

- **All animal health regulations will be in effect as stipulated by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health and the County Agricultural Society.** Animals known by the exhibitor to have an infectious, communicable disease or to have been exposed to an infectious, communicable disease or to be from a quarantined herd or flock may not be entered in an exhibition. Warts and ringworm are considered communicable diseases. Therefore, animals affected by these diseases cannot be exhibited. A statement from a veterinarian that an animal is being treated for these diseases is NOT acceptable.
- **All animals will be inspected by the Official Veterinarian on the opening day of the exhibition and daily during the exhibition.** The Official Veterinarian will order the immediate removal to a quarantine facility or removal from the exhibition premises of any animal with symptoms of infectious or communicable diseases. Animals placed in a quarantine facility must remain there until removed from the exhibition premises. They may not enter a show ring. This includes animals with warts or ringworm.
- **It is your responsibility to contact your personal veterinarian and have the appropriate tests and health papers for exhibiting.** Be sure to contact your veterinarian

at least two (2) weeks prior to the fair. If you have questions, call the Extension Office or your local veterinarian.

- **You must have all of the appropriate health papers with you when you bring your animals to the fair.**

Animal Identification

The 4-H Animal ID system identifies and tracks all animals in the 4-H animal science project areas in 4HOnline. **In addition, the Minnesota Board of Animal Health requires all animals at exhibitions to have an official ID (tag or tattoo).** For a summary of both requirements, see [Identification Details by Species and Class](https://z.umn.edu/AnimalID) (z.umn.edu/AnimalID). You must follow all of these requirements, whether you own or lease.

Animal ID in 4HOnline

- All beef, dairy, dog, goat, horse, llama-alpaca, rabbit, sheep and swine shown in 4-H livestock shows must have the required State 4-H ID system, ear tag and/or tattoo. Reference the Minnesota 4-H [Animal ID webpage](https://z.umn.edu/AnimalID) (z.umn.edu/AnimalID).
- Animals ID data must be submitted in 4HOnline, arrive in the Extension Office, or be postmarked no later than the annual May 15 deadline (Feb. 15 for Dairy Steers and Market Beef). (ID deadlines are changed when they fall on weekends/holidays.)
- **Cloverbuds do not need to ID animals in 4HOnline (see Cloverbud section).**
- 4-H members with late IDs will not be eligible for a state fair trip or special awards.

Registered Animals

- 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.

Board of Animal Health Requirements

- All cattle, swine, sheep and goats exhibited at the fair must have official identification (ID) that meets the requirements of both state and federal animal identification rules. The goal of these ID requirements is to uniquely identify

animals so they can be traced to their source in a disease outbreak. The type of ID used in each species may vary, but each official ID is unique to that animal within the United States. For pictures of official ear tags and more information about official ID in livestock, visit the [Board of Animal Health Official ID webpage](https://mn.gov/bah/official-id/) (mn.gov/bah/official-id/).

- There are no state or federal requirements at this time to officially identify llama/alpaca or rabbits.
- All chickens, turkeys and game birds at exhibitions, except baby poultry, must be individually identified with a leg or wing band with a unique ID number. Young poultry that are too small to band, can be exhibited as a group if the Hatchery Permit number or NPIP number is written on the cage. Leg bands will be available at the fair if needed.
- Animals originating out of state should have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) at the time of acquisition (purchase) to travel across state lines. If housed in MN, a CVI is not needed for exhibition at the county or state fair. If housed in another state and crossing into MN at the time of exhibition (county or state fair) the CVI requirement is in effect. A CVI is valid for 30 days from the date of the inspection.

Requirement for Minnesota State Fair Livestock Exhibits

In addition to general requirement (see State Fair/State Show Eligibility section):

- 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 a Livestock Quality Assurance workshop and provided certification **before July 16, 2025**.
- To ensure that as many youth as possible have the opportunity to participate in a livestock experience at the Minnesota State Fair, we create a state fair lineup to fill the quota of trips allotted to Watonwan County.
- 4-H youth that 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 4-H families that wish to leave early to attend another livestock show **MUST** provide documentation/confirmation of entry forms for the show they will be attending to Extension Staff **before July 12, 2025**. Proof of 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.

IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics

(International Association of Fairs and Expositions)

- **Exhibitors** of animals at livestock shows shall at all times deport themselves with **honesty** and good **sportsmanship**. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of **honor** and **dignity** to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to junior as well as open class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show.
- **All youth leaders** working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and **positive** that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their **fine example**.
- Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and absolutely responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit premiums, awards and auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the respective fairs and livestock shows. Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from competition at all livestock shows in the United States and Canada. Read the full [Show Ring Code of Ethics](https://z.umn.edu/ShowRingCodeEthics) (z.umn.edu/ShowRingCodeEthics).

State Fair Line-Up Procedures

At the end of each show, the judge will determine a state fair line-up.

- 4-Hers who have completed 6th grade and their LQA&E training and earned a blue ribbon are eligible for State Fair.
- Trips earned are exhibit specific and must be accepted in the order in which the judge has placed.

Poultry and Rabbits:

- State Fair eligible 4-Hers will be selected during the show by the judge. They will receive a State Fair line-up callback ticket and will return to the ring at the end of judging.
- Poultry may follow the same process dependent upon numbers. If numbers are low, the State Fair line-up will follow the same process as Dairy, Goat, Beef, and Sheep.

Dairy, Goat, Beef, and Sheep:

- State Fair eligible 4-Hers will bring the animal or animals they wish to be considered for

State Fair into the ring during the State Fair line-up.

- The judge will then determine the order of the State Fair line-up.
- The final State Fair line-up will be posted on the State Fair bulletin board outside the 4-H Fair Office within one hour of the conclusion of the show.

Swine:

- Due to quotas and State Fair requirements, there are two line-ups for swine: *There is a maximum of 5 Market Gilt trips available per county. First trip is an automatic market gilt trip. If a county fills ½ of their market barrow/breeding gilt quota, they can add 2 additional market gilt trips. If a county fills their full market barrow/breeding gilt quota they can add the final 2 market gilt trips.*
- After the market gilt portion of the show, a State Fair line-up will be determined. The breeding gilts and market barrows line-up will be determined at the end of the show.
- The final State Fair line-up will be posted on the State Fair bulletin board outside the 4-H Fair Office within one hour of the conclusion of the show.

Interviews and Showmanship Details

All 4-Hers exhibiting animals at the fair are required to participate in the interview and showmanship classes (Cloverbuds are optional, see Cloverbud exhibit guidelines). 4-Hers must show their own animals for showmanship. Register for both showmanship and interviews in [FairEntry](#) under each individual species.

About ANIMAL SCIENCE INTERVIEWS

Judging: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

All 4-H members (Cloverbuds optional) showing animals are required to participate in the interview class.

- Interviews are conducted by judges to determine the exhibitor's knowledge of their project. They will emphasize many life skills such as communication, responsibility, decision making, and problem solving.
- Interview participants will be judged based on grade level:
 - Junior – completed grades 3-5
 - Intermediate – completed grades 6-8
 - Senior – completed grades 9+
- Register for interviews in [FairEntry](#) in any or all species in which you are showing an animal.
- Two exhibitors from each grade level will be selected for Grand and Reserve Champion.
- The interview winners will be announced at their respective livestock show.

About SHOWMANSHIP

Judging: At your show

All 4-H members showing animals are required to participate in the showmanship class. (The Cloverbud class in each species is similar to showmanship; therefore Cloverbuds do not participate in this showmanship class.)

- During showmanship, you will be judged on the show condition of the animal, fitting, handling of the animal and member's ability to show. There may also be questions about your animal (how you care for it, what the different body parts are, etc.).
- Showmanship is a great opportunity to improve show ring skills and share knowledge.
- The 4-H member may only show his/her own animal in the showmanship class.
- Showmanship participants will be judged based on grade level:
 - **Junior – completed grades 3-5**
 - **Intermediate – completed grades 6-8**
 - **Senior – completed grades 9+ (eligible for Senior Premier Showmanship Contest)**
- Older divisions will begin the showmanship contests so that younger members can watch and learn before they compete.

PREMIER SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST

The Premier Showmanship Contest will take place on Saturday at 11:00 a.m. in the Swine Arena.

The premier showmanship contest is a prestigious learning opportunity for senior show people to showcase their skills across species. The champion in the senior showmanship class (grades 9+) of beef, dairy, goat, horse, poultry, rabbit, sheep, and swine will be offered the chance to participate. If they choose not to participate, the next best senior show person, as determined by the species' judge, will be eligible to participate.

(NEW) Youth who have previously earned Grand Champion Premier Showmanship must take a break for one year from participating in Premier Showmanship before they may participate again. Additionally, if a youth is participating in the one year post-high school membership (13th grade), they can compete in premier showmanship and have the chance to win the championship, even if they won the previous year.

- Youth who had won Grand Champion Premier Showmanship and are in their "break" year are invited to announce and award the trophies for Premier Showmanship and offer a Premier Showmanship Orientation for Premier participants to teach tips and tricks.

Youth should work with other members in the county to share and secure animals to be used in the contest. Each participant must provide one animal in the

species they were the champion senior showman in. This is a no-fit show; however, animals should be clean. Members should share tips and tricks on how to show their species as well as some commonly known facts about their species that a judge might ask during the contest. If you are having problems securing an animal, please ask the species superintendent or 4-H Educator for help.

A judge for each species station including beef/dairy, sheep/goat, poultry/rabbit, and swine/horse will observe the participants' showmanship skills and assess their knowledge. Youth will be scored on each species.

Points will be awarded 1-8 for each species shown. The youth with the **least** amount of points will be our Champion Premier Showmanship Winner.

Prior to the start of the contest, each exhibitor must obtain and put on their premier showmanship number which will be a number 1-8. The participants finish with their own animals. They bring their animals to the ring and then rotate clockwise to the next station. Each round will be 10 minutes with 2 minutes between each round for participants to switch animals. During the 10 minute round youth will show one animal for 5 minutes then switch and show the other animal for 5 minutes. After 10 minutes, participants will then rotate to the next station and follow the same procedure. This will continue until the participants have shown all the species (finishing with their own animals).

If for any reason, a member is not comfortable showing a specific species, they may forfeit their points for that species. Only one species can be forfeited.

The champion and reserve champion premier show person will receive a large trophy.

Rules & Regulations

- The champion senior showman in beef, dairy, goat, horse, poultry, rabbit, sheep, and swine will be invited to participate.
 - **Note:** There will be no live horse in premier showmanship, but the swine judge will ask each participant 5 questions related to horse.
- If the qualifying senior showman is not able or interested in participating, the reserve champion showman will get the opportunity to participate in their place.
- In the case of a 4-Her winning in more than one of the scheduled showmanship contests, the member gets to decide which species they will represent.

- You will be required to provide an animal to show. This animal does not have to be yours or the animal you won showmanship with, just a properly IDed 4-H animal at the fair.
- The animals used in the contest do not need to be fitted but need to be clean.
- Proper footwear (at least closed toed shoes), long pants, and long sleeves will be required to show. Show clothes are optional.
- Previous Premier Showmanship champions will need to take a one year break before being able to compete again in Premier Showmanship. Additionally, if a youth is participating in the one year post-high school membership (13th grade), they can compete in premier showmanship and have the chance to win the championship, even if they won the previous year. Reserve champion winners will be eligible.
- Each member will start at their own animal, then rotate one station clockwise so each youth will end premier showmanship with their own animal. A minimum of two questions will be asked and then they will be asked to lead and set up the animal, or whatever is proper for that animal in showmanship. This will be done for all competitors at each station.

4-H Animal Science Exhibits

All Animal Science Exhibits are entered under the specific animal department in [FairEntry](#).

BEEF

Superintendents: Russ Eischen, Kayla McGuire, & Cali Rosenhammer

Jr. Superintendents: Destiney Bolte

[Beef Info Sheet](#) (z.umn.edu/beef_info2025)

Beef Interviews

Tuesday, July 15, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Entertainment Building

Beef ID Check and Weigh-In

Wednesday, July 16, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Beef Barn

Beef Show/Showmanship

Friday, July 18 at 6:00 p.m. Swine Arena

FairEntry Registration

- Enter in the Beef department in [FairEntry](#).

- **Cloverbuds:** see the Cloverbud section in this Premium Book and the Cloverbuds - Livestock division in [FairEntry](#).

Requirements:

- Beef ID forms and/or lease agreements must be on file in 4-H Online by May 15th of the current year. Market Beef and Dairy Steers must be ID'd by February 18th of the current year. For ID details see [2025 Minnesota 4-H Animal Science identification requirements](#) (z.umn.edu/mn4hanimalID)
- Fitting is not required, but animals should be clean.
- Animals will be weighed at entry time.
- All beef animals must be dehorned (except for select breeds (ex. Highlands).
- **(AGAIN)** Calves must be born between January 1 - May 15, 2025.

Quota: No limit of entries per class.

BREEDING HEIFER

~ Registered:

Spring Calf	Jan. 1 – May 15, 2025
Fall Calf	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31, 2024
Summer Yearling	May 1 - Aug. 31, 2024
Junior Yearling	Jan. 1 – Apr. 30, 2024
Senior Yearling	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31, 2023

~ Commercial:

Spring Calf	Jan. 1 – May 15, 2025
Fall Calf	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31, 2024
Summer Yearling	May 1 - Aug. 31, 2024
Junior Yearling	Jan. 1 – Apr. 30, 2024
Senior Yearling	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31, 2023

- Registered breeding heifers must be identified with an ear tattoo that is recorded and matches the tattoo number on the registration paper by May 15.
- Commercial breeding heifers must be identified with a Minnesota 4-H ear tag or with an ear tattoo that is recorded and matches the tattoo number on the registration paper by May 15.
- Heifers shown in the prospect market class may not be shown in a breeding class.
- Breeding exhibits will indicate their breed in [FairEntry](#).

COW/CALF

Requirements:

- **(AGAIN)** Calves must be born between January 1 - May 15, 2025.
- Registered cow/calf pairs must be identified with an ear tattoo that is recorded and matches the tattoo number on the registration

paper by May 15. Both the cow and calf must be ID'd.

- Commercial cow/calf pairs: Must be identified with a Minnesota 4-H ear tag or with an ear tattoo that is recorded and matches the tattoo number on the registration paper by May 15 (Calves must be ear tagged and identified prior to June 30.) Both the cow and calf must be ID'd.
- Cow/calf pairs shown at county fair may be housed in a tie stall or pen.
- Judging will be based on the quality of the cow/calf pair (performance data and the visual production qualities of the pair).
- Cow/calf pairs may include heifer, steer or bull calves. The calf may be shown in the cow/calf pair as well as Spring Calf (if age eligible) or in the Prospect Calf Class. Bull calves may be shown in the Prospect Steer Calf division but will receive no higher than a blue ribbon.

MARKET BEEF

~ Market Heifer	Jan. 1 – Aug. 31, 2024
~ Market Steer	Jan. 1 – Aug. 31, 2024

- Recommended minimum weight for state fair is 1,000 pounds; recommended maximum weight is 1,500 pounds.
- All market beef and dairy steers must be tagged with Minnesota 4-H ear tag by February 18 and the ID data entered in 4-H Online or the ID worksheet submitted to the Extension Office.

DAIRY STEER

~ Purebred Dairy Steer	Jan. 1 – Aug. 31, 2024
~ Crossbred Dairy Steer	Jan. 1 - Aug. 31, 2024

Requirements:

- Recommended minimum weight for state fair is 1,000 pounds; recommended maximum weight is 1,600 pounds.
- All market beef and dairy steers: Must be tagged with a Minnesota 4-H ear tag by February 15 AND the ID data entered online or the ID worksheet submitted to your county Extension Office, by February 18.
- Purebred dairy steers must be 100% dairy breed. These 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 purebred 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.
- Classes may be combined depending on the number of registrations.

PROSPECT CALF

~ Prospect Heifer Calf Jan. 1 – May 15, 2025
~ Prospect Steer Calf Jan. 1 – May 15, 2025

Requirements:

- Prospect market calves: Must be identified with a Minnesota 4-H ear tag by May 15.
- Heifers shown in the prospect market class may not be shown in a breeding class.
- Calf may also be shown as a Cow/Calf pair.
- Judging will be based on quality, production, and future potential relative to breed, sex, breeding, or market.

COW & AGED COW

County Fair Only

~ Cow (2-5 yrs) Aug. 31, 2020-Aug. 31 2023
~ Aged Cow (6+ yrs) Before Aug. 31, 2019

Requirements:

- Must be identified with a Minnesota 4-H ear tag or a tattoo by May 15.
- This is a non-State Fair Eligible class.

(NEW) RATE OF GAIN

County Fair Only

Highest rate of gain from Animal ID weigh-in to ID check and weigh-in at county fair.

Requirements:

- Market beef must have weight and date entered into 4HOnline by the February 18 deadline. Market beef must also be weighed in during beef ID check-in.
- This is for market beef that wants to compete in this class only.
- Awards will be announced during the beef show.
- This is a non-State Fair eligible class.

BEEF SHOWMANSHIP (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

BEEF INTERVIEW (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

BEEF POSTER

County Fair Only

- If entered with state advancement intent, enter in Science of Animals or Exploring Animals.
- See 4-H Science of Animals Educational Exhibits, [page 68](#)

DAIRY

Superintendent: Kari Miest

Jr. Superintendents: Levi Miest & Ryan Pierson

[Dairy Info Sheet \(z.umn.edu/dairy_info2025\)](http://z.umn.edu/dairy_info2025)

Dairy Interviews

Tuesday, July 15, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Entertainment Building

Dairy ID Check

Thursday, July 17, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Dairy Barn

Dairy Show/Showmanship

Friday, July 18 at 12:30 p.m. Swine Arena

FairEntry Registration

- Enter in the Dairy department in [FairEntry](#).
- **Cloverbuds:** see the Cloverbud section in this Premium Book and the Cloverbud-Livestock division in [FairEntry](#).

Requirements:

- Dairy ID forms and/or lease agreements must be on file in 4-H Online by May 15th of the current year. For ID details see [2025 Minnesota 4-H Animal Science identification requirements \(z.umn.edu/mn4hanimalID\)](#).
- Dairy animals who have previously been ID'd need to be reactivated by May 15.
- Cows no longer need to be identified before first freshening. However, no family member or other 4-Her will be allowed to show an animal that has been shown by another 4-Her after the animal's first freshening.
- Senior Yearlings that have calved must compete in the two-year-old cow class.
- **Grades and Registered animals will be shown together in all classes.**
- Dairy-Crossbred and Other Breeds will indicate their breeds in [FairEntry](#).
- Classes may be combined depending on the number of registrations.
- Members exhibiting milking cows need to bring their own milking equipment or need to contact their superintendent a week prior to the county fair.

Quota: No limit of entries per class. There needs to be a minimum of 3 animals for show class - superintendents may combine lots for show.

DAIRY - BREEDS & CROSSBRED/OTHER

Breeds (registered and grade) include: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey, Milking Shorthorn, and Mixed Color.

~ Spring (Junior) Calf	March 1 - May 31, 2025
~ Winter Calf	Dec 1, 2024 - Feb 28, 2025
~ Fall Calf	Sept. 1 - Nov 30, 2024
~ Summer Junior Yearling	June 1 - Aug 31, 2024
~ Spring Junior Yearling	March 1 - May 31, 2024
~ Winter Senior Yearling	Dec 1, 2023 - Feb 29, 2024
~ Fall Senior Yearling	Sept 1 - Nov 30, 2023
~ Milking Yearling	Born Sept 1, 2023 or later that has freshened or in milking form
~ Junior 2-year-old	March 1, - Aug 31, 2023
~ Senior 2-year-old	Sept 1, 2022 - Feb 28, 2023
~ Three-year-old cows	Sept 1, 2021 - Aug 31, 2022
~ Four-year-old cows	Sept 1, 2020 - Aug 31, 2021
~ Aged Cow	Born before Sept. 1, 2020
~ Dry Cow	Dry cow of any age

JUNIOR DAIRY HERD

County Fair Only

~ Junior Dairy Herd 3 females all one breed

Requirements:

- This is a non-State Fair eligible class.

DAIRY SHOWMANSHIP (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

DAIRY INTERVIEW (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

DAIRY POSTER

County Fair Only

- If entered with state advancement intent, enter in Science of Animals or Exploring Animals.
- See 4-H Science of Animals Educational Exhibits, [page 68](#).

DOG

Blue Earth County Dog Show

Obedience, Rally and Showmanship

Saturday, August 2 at 8:30 a.m., Key City Kennel Club, Mankato, MN

Sibley County Agility Show

Saturday, July 19, 8:30 a.m., Sibley County Fairgrounds, Arlington, MN

FairEntry Registration

- Enter in the Dog department in [FairEntry](#).
- **Cloverbuds:** see the Cloverbud section in this Premium Book and the Cloverbud - Livestock division in [FairEntry](#).

Requirements:

- Dog ID forms and/or lease agreements must be on file in 4-H Online by May 15th of the current year. For ID details see [2025 Minnesota 4-H Animal Science identification requirements](#) (z.umn.edu/mn4hanimalID).
- A dog may be shown in the dog show or the pet show, but not both.
- 4-Hers grade 3+ are eligible for the regional and state dog show.
- 4-Hers shall exhibit in the classes corresponding to the level of training they and their dog have received. All dogs must be trained by the 4-H member showing them.
- All dogs must be vaccinated according to the requirements listed on the MN 4-H Dog Project ID Affidavit and Vaccination Form. Dog health certificates must be on file in 4-H Online.
- Dogs must be over six months old to compete.
- More information, class requirements, and rules/regulations can be found in rules and guidelines (four separate publications) available at [4-H Dog Project](#) website (z.umn.edu/4HDog).
- Dogs should be brought to the fairgrounds on Show Day only and are not housed at the fairgrounds during County Fair.

Quota: Members may show up to 2 dogs.

DOG AGILITY

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

Requirements:

- Dog agility combines the elements of a dog's agility, briskness, confidence, and a handler's control through an obstacle course designed for dogs. To be eligible to participate, a

member must have participated in at least 6 of the dog agility classes conducted at the 4-H Dog Agility Training Course. Members may show 2 dogs.

- A 4-H member and their dog has to complete one year of obedience and has earned a 170 or above score in the Foundation or a Beginner class; or completed 2 years of obedience in order to participate in agility.

DOG RALLY

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

DOG OBEDIENCE

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

Requirements:

- Foundation Class – A 4-Her and/or dog in the first year of training. The dog may participate in this class only once during its 4-H Career. A dog entering this class with more than ten (10) weeks of training in an organized class prior to enrolling in the Foundation level 4-H training class is ineligible. A dog with one leg of an AKC-PCD, AKC-CD, or an AKC-BN obedience title (or equivalent) or Rally RN (or equivalent) is ineligible. The dog will move to Beginner the following year.
- Beginner Class - Limited to 4-Her's having previous obedience experience but who are working with a new dog, a 4-H member in their first year of obedience training with a dog that has previous training, or a 4-H member who did not receive a score of 170 or above in Foundation.

- Graduate Beginner and Above - A member winning a 170 or above score in any of these classes must proceed to the next higher class the following year.

DOG SHOWMANSHIP

- ~ Showmanship Novice
- ~ Showmanship Open
- ~ Showmanship Excellent

Requirements:

- Showmanship classes are judged on the ability of the handler to properly show his/her dog based on breed standards and his/her knowledge of dogs. The dogs are not judged except for the grooming and their response to the handler. A crossbred dog should be shown and groomed by the breed standard it most resembles. The handler will be in Jr. or Sr. Novice until he/she receives a purple ribbon, after which time he/she will enter either Jr. or Sr. Open depending on age.

DOG INTERVIEW

Dog interviews are not offered.

GOAT-DAIRY

Superintendents: Nicole Van Wyk & Amanda Larson
Jr. Superintendents: Lynnzae Van Wyk

[Goat-Dairy Info Sheet](https://z.umn.edu/goatdairy_info2025)
z.umn.edu/goatdairy_info2025)

Dairy Goat Interviews

Tuesday, July 15, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Entertainment Building

Dairy Goat ID Check

Wednesday, July 16, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Goat Barn

Dairy Goat Show/Showmanship

Thursday, July 17 at 1:00 p.m. Swine Arena

FairEntry Registration

- Enter the Dairy Goat departments in [FairEntry](https://FairEntry.com).
- **Cloverbuds:** see the Cloverbud section in this Premium Book and the Cloverbud - Livestock division in [FairEntry](https://FairEntry.com).

Requirements:

- Dairy Goat ID forms and/or lease agreements must be on file in 4-H Online by May 15th of the current year. For ID details see [2025 Minnesota 4-H Animal Science identification requirements](https://2025.Minnesota4-HAnimalScienceidentificationrequirements.z.umn.edu/mn4hanimalID) (z.umn.edu/mn4hanimalID)

- NOTE: For safety reasons all dairy goats must be Dis-budded/dehorned.
- Regrowth of less than ONE INCH allowed.

Quota: No limit of entries per class. There needs to be a minimum of 3 animals for show class - superintendents may combine lots for show.

DAIRY GOAT

~ Jr. Doe Kid	Apr. 1 – Jun. 30, 2025
~ Sr. Doe Kid	Jan. 1 – Mar. 31, 2025
~ Dry Yearling Doe (never kidded)	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2024
~ Milking Yearling Doe	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2024
~ Milking 2-Year-Old Doe	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023
~ Milking 3 & 4-Year-Old Doe	Born in 2021 or 2022
~ Milking 5+-Year-Old Doe	Born before 2021

DAIRY GOAT SHOWMANSHIP (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

DAIRY GOAT INTERVIEW (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

DAIRY GOAT POSTER

County Fair Only

- If entered with state advancement intent, enter in Science of Animals or Exploring Animals.
- See 4-H Science of Animals Educational Exhibits, [page 68](#).

GOAT-MEAT

Superintendents: Nicole Van Wyk & Amanda Larson
Jr. Superintendents: Lynnzae Van Wyk

[Goat-Meat Info Sheet](#)
z.umn.edu/goatmeat_info2025

Market Goat/Sheep Weigh In: Saturday, May 10, 9:00 a.m. Swine/Goat Building

- Attendance is mandatory for 4-H youth and their market goats only **if** they intend to compete in the rate of gain class.

Meat Goat Interviews

Tuesday, July 15, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Entertainment Building

Meat Goat ID Check

Wednesday, July 16, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Goat Barn

Meat Goat Show/Showmanship

Thursday, July 17 at 1:00 p.m. Swine Arena

FairEntry Registration

- Enter in the Meat Goat departments in [FairEntry](#).
- **Cloverbuds:** see the Cloverbud section in this Premium Book and the Cloverbud - Livestock division in [FairEntry](#).

Requirements:

- Market Goat ID forms and/or lease agreements must be on file in 4-H Online by May 15th of the current year. For ID details see [2025 Minnesota 4-H Animal Science identification requirements \(z.umn.edu/mn4hanimalID\)](#).
- Meat breeding does, wether dams, and market does may have horns and they do not need to be capped or blunted. However, if an animal is deemed a safety concern at the discretion of the committee, additional safety measures may be required.

Quota: No limit of entries per class. There needs to be a minimum of 3 animals for show class - superintendents may combine lots for show.

MARKET GOAT

~Market Goat Wether	Nov. 1, 2024–Apr. 30, 2025
~Market Goat Doe	Nov. 1, 2024–Apr. 30, 2025
~Dairy Market Goat Wether	Nov. 1, 2024–Apr. 30, 2025

(NEW) WETHER DAM

~Wether Dam Yearling (never kidded)	Sept. 1, 2023-Aug. 31, 2024
~Wether Dam Kid	Sept. 1, 2024-April 30, 2025

Requirements:

- Market animals must be a minimum of 40 pounds; recommended maximum weight of 110 lbs for state fair.
- Market wethers must be disbudded/de-horned. Re-growth must not exceed one inch. Cut (sawed) off horns are not permitted.
- **Bracing:**
 - Bracing is allowed in market and wether dam classes. Goats' feet may be lifted off the ground for set-up, then immediately set back down.
 - **Bracing will not be allowed for breeding doe classes.**

MEAT GOAT BREEDING DOE

~ Senior Yearling Breeding Doe (never kidded)	Sept. 1, 2023 – Feb. 29, 2024
~ Junior Yearling Breeding Doe (never kidded)	Mar. 1, 2024 – May 31, 2024
~ Fall Yearling Breeding Doe (never kidded)	

June 1, 2024 – Nov. 30, 2024
~ Senior Meat Breeding Doe Kid
Dec. 1, 2024 – Feb 28, 2025
~ Junior Meat Breeding Doe Kid
Mar. 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025

MARKET PEN OF 3

County Fair Only

~ Pen of 3 Any 3 **market** goats shown
by the same exhibitor

Requirements:

- This is a non-State Fair eligible class

RATE OF GAIN

County Fair Only

Highest rate of gain from market goat/sheep weigh-in to ID check and weigh-in at county fair.

Requirements:

- Market goats must be present at market goat/sheep weigh-in and have weight entered in 4HOnline by the May 15, deadline. Market goats must also be weighed in during Goat ID check-in.
- This is for market goats that want to compete in this class only.
- Awards will be announced during the goat show.
- This is a non-State Fair eligible class.

MEAT GOAT SHOWMANSHIP (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

MEAT GOAT INTERVIEW (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

MEAT GOAT POSTER

County Fair Only

- If entered with state advancement intent, enter in Science of Animals or Exploring Animals.
- See 4-H Science of Animals Educational Exhibits, [page 68](#).

HORSE

Superintendents: Jolene Braaten

Jr. Superintendents: Emily Braaten

[Horse Info Sheet](https://z.umn.edu/horse_info2025) (z.umn.edu/horse_info2025)

Horse ID Check/Interviews/Show: Monday, July 14, 2:00 p.m. Judge Stacey Busswitz; judging will take place at 40335 660th Ave, Butterfield, MN 56120

(AGAIN) Horses will NOT be stalled at the county fair.

State Fair Qualify Horse Show: Watonwan County 4-H will NOT be hosting a State Fair Qualifying show. If this is something you are interested in, please contact the Extension Office for more information. Youth will either need to exhibit at Cottonwood or Brown County's Horse Show to qualify for State Fair.

FairEntry Registration

- Enter in the Horse department in [FairEntry](#).
- **Cloverbuds:** see the Cloverbud section in this Premium Book and All Cloverbud - Livestock division in [FairEntry](#).

Requirements:

- The Minnesota 4-H Horse Program Rule Book is the official rule book for all 4-H horse project members. Download from the [4-H Horse Project website](https://z.umn.edu/HorseProject) (z.umn.edu/HorseProject) or request a copy from the Extension Office.
- Horse ID forms and/or lease agreements must be on file in 4-H Online by May 15th of the current year. For ID details see [2025 Minnesota 4-H Animal Science identification requirements](https://z.umn.edu/mn4hanimalID) (z.umn.edu/mn4hanimalID).
- **Horse Helmet Policy:** All 4-Hers 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 4-H youth in a 4-H volunteer role during mounted activities.
- Classes may be combined or split depending on the number of entries.
- Ownership-A 4-H project horse may be either owned or leased. Feeding, care and management of the animal must start May 15 and continue for the rest of the year. **Affidavits and Coggins test results must be in the Extension Office by May 15.**
- Only mares and geldings will be allowed at the County Fair and State Horse Show as well as other 4-H events.
- Tack and Attire: Please see the [Minnesota 4-H Horse Rule Book](https://z.umn.edu/mn4H_horserulebook) (z.umn.edu/mn4H_horserulebook)

Quota: No limit

State Horse Show Trip Selection Process:

- Trips are awarded for pleasure and games, and one trip will be awarded to each discipline. The remaining number of each type of trip is determined by the % of State Fair eligible riders participating in each discipline. In case of a tie or discrepancy, staff will decide on the appropriate action. The state has a quota on the number of exhibitors per county participating in Trail. Trail trips will go to the 4-Her(s) with the highest overall points.

- The following division classes will be used to count toward State Fair Trip selection. Games classes include: Barrels, Poles, Key Race and Jumping Figure 8. Pleasure classes include: Western or Ranch Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Showmanship, English Pleasure, English Equitation and Trail.
- The point system will be based on blue (or purple) ribbons only. There will be 10 points for 1st Blue, 9 points for 2nd Blue, 8 points for 3rd Blue down to 1 point for the 10th Blue. Points will only be given for the top 10 Blue ribbons.
- Top recorded times on games will count as a basis for blue ribbon ranking. Knocking down an obstacle is a 5-second penalty for each obstacle knocked down.
- If an exhibitor has two horses, the points are kept separate on each horse and are not combined for State Horse Show trips. If an exhibitor has two horses that receive State Horse Show trips, he/she must choose which horse will go to the State Horse Show and let the Watonwan County Extension Office know by 5:00 p.m. on August 12.
- Trips for Horse Related Exhibitors will be given first to the highest-ranking horse related exhibitor with a blue award NOT bringing a horse to the state show. Then, if needed to fill the quota, those bringing a horse may also bring their horse related exhibit.
- The State Horse Show Trip winner for Horse Related must be present at the State Horse Show for conference judging.
- Horseless Horse exhibitors are considered State Horse Show trip winners. Horseless Horse members and/or their family members should not own a horse. The State Horse Show Trip winner for Horseless Horse must be present at the State Horse Show for conference judging.
- **Need 3 blues to attend the State Horse Show.**

Grade Groups

- Junior: completed grades 3-5
- Intermediate: completed grades 6-8
- Senior: completed grades 9+

PLEASURE CLASSES

- ~ English Equitation
- ~ English Pleasure
- ~ Western Horsemanship
- ~ Western Pleasure
- ~ Ranch Pleasure
 - Members can choose to participate in either Western Pleasure or Ranch Pleasure, but not both

TRAIL CLASS

GAME CLASSES

- ~ Pole Weaving
- ~ Jumping Figure 8
- ~ Key Race
- ~ Barrel Race

HORSE AT HALTER

County Fair Only - No points awarded toward State Horse Show trips or county fair awards.

- ~ Donkey/Mule at Halter
- ~ Pony/Horse under Harness
- ~ Ponies 56" and under
- ~ Weanling
- ~ Yearling
- ~ 2 and/or 3 year old
- ~ Mare 4+ years old
- ~ Gelding 4+ years old

EQUESTRIANS WITH DISABILITIES

- ~ Horse - Assisted: Flat Class
 - Western or English Equitation, walk, trot with volunteer/mentors as needed
- ~ Horse - Assisted: Obstacle Game Class
 - Key Hole pattern, walk, trot with volunteer/mentors as needed
- ~ Horse - Unassisted: Flat Class
 - Western or English Equitation, walk, trot, unassisted (spotter requested)
- ~ Horse - Unassisted: Obstacle Game Class
 - Key Hole pattern, walk, trot, unassisted (spotter requested)

Requirements:

- This program is designed to allow special needs or disabled 4-H members the opportunity to explore the horse project.
- Unauthorized and unnecessary assistance from volunteers will result in penalties for the riders.
- Lead volunteers must walk behind the horse's nose.
- Riders may NOT cross-enter into other classes.

HORSE TRAINING Steps 1-6

- Any age horse may qualify provided that it has had no training beyond lounging. Your horse may not have been previously ground-driven or ridden.
- You must follow the process and document your progress while you are training.
- Exhibitors must submit their Training Program booklet to the Extension Office one week prior to the horse show. Information is available at the [4-H Horse Project website](http://z.umn.edu/4HHorseProject) (z.umn.edu/4HHorseProject).

HORSE SHOWMANSHIP (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

HORSE INTERVIEW (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

HORSE POSTER

See Horseless Horse, [page 32](#).

HORSE RELATED and HORSELESS HORSE EXHIBIT

Enter Horse Related and Horseless Horse exhibits under the **General Exhibits department** in [FairEntry](#).

Horseless Horse offers the opportunity to study and learn about the horse to members that do not own or lease a horse. Horse Related is a part of the horse project where you create an exhibit that relates to horses.

Two exhibits in each area will be awarded trips to the 4-H State Horse Show (not Minnesota State Fair).

These exhibits are judged on Tuesday with general project exhibits and will be displayed in the 4-H Exhibit Building.

- Cloverbuds: see Cloverbud section in this Premium Book and the Cloverbuds - General & Posters division in [FairEntry](#).
- 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.
- 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 of exhibit in the Horse Related area.
- Trips will be given first to the highest ranking horse related exhibitor with a blue award NOT bringing a horse to the state show. Then, if needed to fill the quota, those bringing a horse may also bring their horse related exhibit.

HORSELESS HORSE SKILLS CLASS

- ~ Horseless Horse Level 1, Grades 6+
- ~ Horseless Horse Level 1, Grades 3-5
- ~ Horseless Horse Level 2, Grades 6+
- ~ Horseless Horse Level 2, Grades 3-5
- ~ Horseless Horse Level 3, Grades 6+
- ~ Horseless Horse Level 3, Grades 3-5

Requirements:

- 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 judge's 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).

LLAMA-ALPACA

[Llama-Alpaca Info Sheet](#)
(z.umn.edu/llama_info2025)

Llama/Alpaca Interviews:

Tuesday, July 15, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Entertainment Building

Llama-Alpaca ID Check:

Wednesday, July 16, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Horse Barn

Llama-Alpaca Show/Showmanship:

Friday, July 18, 2025, at 2:00 pm in horse arena (subject to change)

FairEntry Registration

- Enter in the Llama-Alpaca department in [FairEntry](#).
- **Cloverbuds:** see the Cloverbud section in this Premium Book and the Cloverbud - Livestock division in [FairEntry](#).

Requirements:

- Llama/Alpaca ID forms and/or lease agreements must be on file in 4-H Online by May 15th of the current year. For ID details see

[2025 Minnesota 4-H Animal Science identification requirements](https://z.umn.edu/mn4hanimalID)

(z.umn.edu/mn4hanimalID).

- 4-H llama-alpaca projects (females and castrated males) must be born prior to January 1, 2025.
- No sexually intact male over 18 months is eligible for exhibition.
- No companion animals (no buddies and no nursing mothers allowed).
- All 4-Hers who participate in the Llama - Alpaca Costume Contest at the State Fair will receive a cash reward.

Quota: No limit of entries per class.

LLAMA-ALPACA SHOW CLASSES

~ Costume (Exhibitor must be on foot)

~ Obstacle Course

~ Public Relations

LLAMA-ALPACA FLEECE

LLAMA-ALPACA SHOWMANSHIP (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

LLAMA-ALPACA INTERVIEWS (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

LLAMA-ALPACA POSTER

Any 4-Her enrolled in the Llama-Alpaca Project may enter a poster.

- Educational or promotional posters may be selected to advance to the state fair. You do not have to be exhibiting a llama-alpaca at the state fair to enter.

POULTRY

Superintendents: Matt Durheim, Hailey Eischen, & Jason Lehman

Jr. Superintendents: Cora Lehman & Christopher Hagen

[Poultry Info Sheet](https://z.umn.edu/poultry_info2025) (z.umn.edu/poultry_info2025)

Poultry Interviews

Tuesday, July 15, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Entertainment Building

Poultry ID Check

Wednesday, July 16, 4:00-7:00 p.m. Poultry Barn

Poultry Show/Showmanship

Thursday, July 17 at 5:00 p.m. Poultry/Rabbit Barn

FairEntry Registration

- Enter in the Poultry department in [FairEntry](#).
- **Cloverbuds:** see the Cloverbud section in this Premium Book and the Cloverbuds - Livestock division in [FairEntry](#).

Requirements:

- Poultry lease agreements must be on file in 4-H Online by May 15th of the current year.
- Doves and pigeons must be ID'd in 4-H Online by May 15. For ID details see [2025 Minnesota 4-H Animal Science identification requirements](#).
- All other poultry will only be registered in [FairEntry](#) by June 16.
- All, except waterfowl, doves and pigeons, must have a statement of origin from their hatchery or health certificates **submitted to the Extension Office by June 16**.
- Poultry animals will be issued leg bands at ID Check.
- All birds exhibited in breeding classes must be purebred and will be judged according to the [American Poultry Association \(APA\) "Standard of Perfection"](#).
- Poultry exhibitors are responsible for bringing their own feed and extra bedding to the fair.
- **Hatch Dates:** All exhibited birds (except pigeons) must be of this year's hatch. SUGGESTED hatch dates are:
 - Breeding Poultry and Waterfowl – January 1 or after
 - Egg Production Chickens (hybrid recommended) – March 1 or after
 - Market Chickens – March 1 or after (not to exceed 10 pounds, should be 7-9 weeks old at fair)
 - Domestic Turkey and Market Waterfowl – March 1 or after
 - Guinea (pearl, white, or lavender) – January 1 or after

Quota: Individuals can exhibit up to 3 entries per breed per class.

CHICKENS

- ~ Market Pen – 2 Males or 2 Females
- ~ Breeding Pen – 1 Male and 2 Females
- ~ Bantam Breeding Pen – 1 Male and 2 Females
- ~ Egg Production Pen – 2 Pullets, white egg layers
- ~ Egg Production Pen – 2 Pullets, brown egg layers

DOVES

- ~ Purebred breeding pair

DUCKS

- ~ Market Pen – 2 Males or 2 Females

- ~ Breeding Pen – 1 Male and 2 Females
- ~ Bantam Breeding Pen – 1 Male and 2 Females

GEESE

- ~ Market Pen – 2 Males or 2 Females
- ~ Breeding Pen – 1 Male and 2 Females

GUINEAS

- ~ Market Pen – 2 Males or 2 Females – same breed
- ~ Breeding Pen – 1 Male and 2 Females – same breed

Note: Only Pearls, Whites, and Lavender breeds can be shown.

PIGEONS

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

TURKEYS

- ~ Market Pen – 2 Males or 2 Females
- ~ Breeding Pen – 1 Male and 2 Females

Note: Domestic Only

(AGAIN) FANCY-HOBBY CLASS

County Fair Only

- ~ Fancy-Hobby, Male
- ~ Fancy-Hobby, Female

Requirements:

- Fancy-Hobby projects may be any type of poultry that does not fit into an above class. Examples include rare and unusual breeds of chickens, pheasants, peacocks, etc.
- Each class contains one bird of any age.
- This class is not state fair eligible.

POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

POULTRY INTERVIEW (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

POULTRY POSTER

Any 4-Her enrolled in the Poultry Project may enter a poster.

- Poultry Educational or promotional posters may be selected to advance to the state fair. You do not have to be exhibiting poultry at the state fair to enter.

- There are two categories: 1) Promoting 4-H Poultry and 2) Education 4-H Poultry.
- See all state fair poster requirements on the [Poultry Information Sheet](http://z.umn.edu/poultry_info2025) (z.umn.edu/poultry_info2025).

RABBIT

Superintendents: Shelley Dagel & Lydia Cavanaugh

[Rabbit Info Sheet](http://z.umn.edu/rabbit_info2025) (z.umn.edu/rabbit_info2025)

Rabbit Interviews

Tuesday, July 15, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Entertainment Building

Rabbit ID Check

Wednesday, July 16, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Poultry/Rabbit Barn

Rabbit Show/Showmanship

Thursday, July 17 at 10:30 a.m. Poultry/Rabbit Barn

FairEntry Registration

- Enter in the Rabbit department in [FairEntry](#).
- **Cloverbuds:** see the Cloverbud section in this Premium Book and the Cloverbud - Livestock division in [FairEntry](#).

Requirements:

- Rabbit ID forms and/or lease agreements must be on file in 4-H Online by May 15th of the current year. For ID details see [2025 Minnesota 4-H Animal Science identification requirements](#).
- All breeds recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association are eligible. **Rabbits will be judged according to ARBA standards.**
- Judging will be based on health and vigor, uniformity of development, coat, condition and degree of fleshing. Standard recognized breed characteristics will be considered in judging breeding classes.
- Rabbit exhibitors are responsible for bringing their own water dishes, feeders, and feed to the fair. A water dish that can be attached to the cage works best.
- Small Breeds, Large Breeds, or Running Breeds, will indicate their breed in [FairEntry](#).

Please Note: At the end of the fair during clean-up all rabbit "cooling" water bottles must be emptied of **all** liquid before they are thrown away in the fair dumpsters/trash bins.

Quota: Individuals can exhibit up to 3 entries per breed per class.

SMALL BREEDS

~ Purebred Senior Buck	Over 6 months old
~ Purebred Senior Doe	Over 6 months old
~ Purebred Junior Buck	Under 6 months old
~ Purebred Junior Doe	Under 6 months old

Small Breeds Include: Dutch, Florida White, Holland Lop, Jersey Wooly, Mini Lop, Mini Rex, Netherland Dwarf, Polish, Rex, American Fuzzy Lop, American Sable, Dwarf Hotot, English Angora, French Angora, Satin Angora, Belgian Hare, Britannia Petite, Standard Chinchilla, English Spot, Harlequin, Havana, Himalayan, Lilac, Lion Head, Rhinelander, Silver, Silver Marten, Thrianta, Tan.

LARGE BREEDS

~ Purebred Senior Buck	Over 8 months old
~ Purebred Senior Doe	Over 8 months old
~ Purebred Intermediate Buck	6 - 8 months old
~ Purebred Intermediate Doe	6 - 8 months old
~ Purebred Junior Buck	Under 6 months old
~ Purebred Junior Doe	Under 6 months old

Large Breeds Include: New Zealand, Satin, American Giant Angora, Belgian Hare, Bevern, Californian, Champagne d'Argent, Checkered Giant, American Chinchilla, Giant Chinchilla, Cinnamon, Crème d'Argent, Flemish Giant, Hotot, English Lop, French Lop, Palomino and Silver Fox.

RUNNING BREEDS

~ Senior Buck	Over 8 months old
~ Senior Doe	Over 8 months old
~ Intermediate Buck	6 - 8 months old
~ Intermediate Doe	6 - 8 months old
~ Junior Buck	Under 6 months old
~ Junior Doe	Under 6 months old

Running Breeds Include: Checkered Giant, English Spot, Rhinelander and Tan.

MARKET RABBIT

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

CROSSBRED RABBIT

County Fair Only

~ Small Breed Senior Buck	Over 6 months old
~ Small Breed Senior Doe	Over 6 months old
~ Small Breed Junior Buck	Under 6 months old
~ Small Breed Junior Doe	Under 6 months old
~ Large Breed Senior Buck	Over 8 months old
~ Large Breed Senior Doe	Over 8 months old
~ Large Breed Intermediate Buck	6 - 8 months old
~ Large Breed Intermediate Doe	6 - 8 months old
~ Large Breed Junior Buck	Under 6 months old

~ Large Breed Junior Doe Under 6 months old

Requirements:

- This class is for any rabbit that is not purebred, missing/unreadable left ear tattoos, and/or not ID'd in 4HOnline by May 15.
- This is a non-State Fair Eligible class.

FUR & WOOL

County Fair Only

~Fur and wool Judged on fur quality

Requirements:

- This is a non-State Fair Eligible classNEW

RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

RABBIT INTERVIEW (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

RABBIT POSTER

Any 4-H member enrolled in the Rabbit Project may enter a poster.

- Educational or promotional posters may be selected to advance to the state fair. 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.
- See state fair poster requirements in the [Rabbit Information Sheet](#) (z.umn.edu/rabbit_info2025).

SHEEP

Superintendents: Michelle Missling

[Sheep Info Sheet](#) (z.umn.edu/sheep_info2025)

Market Sheep/Goat Weigh In: Saturday, May 10, 9:00 a.m. Swine Arena

- Attendance is mandatory for 4-H youth and their market sheep only **if** they intend to compete in the rate of gain class.

Sheep Interviews

Tuesday, July 15, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Entertainment Building

Sheep ID Check and Weigh-In

Wednesday, July 16, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Sheep Barn

Sheep Show/Showmanship

Thursday, July 17 at 8:30 a.m. Swine Arena

FairEntry Registration

- Enter in the Sheep department in [FairEntry](#).
- **Cloverbuds:** see the Cloverbud section in this Premium Book and All Cloverbud - Livestock division in [FairEntry](#).

Requirements:

- Sheep ID forms and/or lease agreements must be on file in 4-H Online by May 15th of the current year. For ID details see [2025 Minnesota 4-H Animal Science ID requirements](#).

Quota: No limit of entries per class. There needs to be a minimum of 3 animals for show class - superintendents may combine lots for show.

BREEDING EWES & LAMBS

~ Registered:

Fall Ewe Lamb	Born Sep-Dec 2024
January Ewe Lamb	Born Jan. 2025
February Ewe Lamb	Born Feb. 2025
March Ewe Lamb	Born Mar. 2025
Yearling Ewe	Over 1 yr./under 2 yrs.

~ Commercial:

Fall Ewe Lamb	Born Sep-Dec 2024
January Ewe Lamb	Born Jan. 2025
February Ewe Lamb	Born Feb. 2025
March Ewe Lamb	Born Mar. 2025
Yearling Ewe	Over 1 yr./under 2 yrs.

Requirements:

- Registered and Commercial classes may be combined.
- Yearling Ewes must not show evidence of four permanent incisors.
- Commercial ewes are judged on body type to produce feedlot lambs. See [fact sheet](#) (z.umn.edu/4hwetherdam) for the difference between the wether dam and a commercial ewe class.
- Pairs are any 2 breeding ewes/lambs of the same class age shown by the same exhibitor. Pairs classes are not state fair eligible.

WETHER DAM

- ~ Wether Dam Ewe Lamb Born on/after Dec. 1, 2024
- ~ Wether Dam Yearling Ewe Over 1 yr./under 2 yrs.

Requirements:

- Wether dams are shown by weight but follow breeding class birthdate guidelines.
- Class may be divided into Speckle Face, Black Face and White Face classes depending on the number of registrations.
- Yearlings Ewes (breeding and weather dams) may not show evidence of four permanent incisors.

- Wether dams are judged on traits to produce market lambs for show lambs (club lambs). See [fact sheet](#) (z.umn.edu/4hwetherdam) for the difference between the wether dam and a commercial ewe class.

MARKET LAMB

~ Black Face Market Lamb

Born on/after Dec. 1, 2024

~ White Face Market Lamb

Born on/after Dec. 1, 2024

~ Speckle Face Market Lamb

Born on/after Dec. 1, 2024

~ Hair Breeds Market Lamb

Born on/after Dec. 1, 2024

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 [2025 Animal Science Updates](#) (z.umn.edu/4-HAnSciUpdates) for more information.
- All Wether Dams and Market Lambs must be closely shorn (no more than ¼ inch) at weigh-in. If the wool length is determined to be too long for careful inspection, shearing will be required before re-inspection can occur.
- Lambs are to be weighed dry and clean, without blankets.
- Any sheep exhibited in a breeding ewe or wether dam class is not eligible to be shown as a market lamb. Market lambs only.

SHEEP PENS

County Fair Only

Market Pens

- ~ Pen of 2 Born on/after Jan. 1 of current year
Shown by the same exhibitor
- ~ Pen of 3 Born on/after Jan. 1 of current year
Shown by the same exhibitor

Breeding Pens (ewes only)

- ~ Pen of 2 Born on/after Sept. 1 of previous year
Shown by the same exhibitor
- ~ Pen of 3 Born on/after Sept. 1 of previous year
Shown by the same exhibitor

Wether Dam Pens (ewes only)

- ~ Pen of 2 Born on/after Sept. 1 of previous year
Shown by the same exhibitor
- ~ Pen of 3 Born on/after Sept. 1 of previous year
Shown by the same exhibitor

Requirements:

- Pen of 2 and 3 can be any combination of market ewes or wethers **OR** any combination of breeding ewes.
- Any sheep exhibited in a breeding ewe or wether dam class is not eligible to be shown as a market lamb or Pen of 2 or 3. Market lambs only.
- This is a non-State Fair eligible class.

RATE OF GAIN

County Fair Only

Highest rate of gain from market goat/sheep weigh-in to ID check and weigh-in at county fair.

Requirements:

- Market lambs must be present at market goat/sheep weigh-in and have weight entered in 4HOnline by the May 15, deadline. Market lambs must also be weighed in during Sheep ID check-in.
- This is for market sheep that want to compete in this class only.
- Awards will be announced during the sheep show.
- This is a non-State Fair eligible class.

LAMB LEAD

- 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). Garment may be purchased or constructed and may also be used as a clothing exhibit.
- Exhibitors will be judged based on project knowledge, poise, their outfit, and their lamb.
- Exhibitors must use a lamb being exhibited at the current Watonwan County Fair. Exhibitor does not need to own/lease the lamb, but should be familiar with the lamb.
- County winners do not advance to the State Fair in lamb lead unless they earn a Sheep State Fair trip. Anyone who earns a Sheep State Fair trip is eligible to enter the Lamb Lead contest at State Fair.
- Review the [Lamb Lead Information and Reference Guide](https://z.umn.edu/guide_lamblead). (z.umn.edu/guide_lamblead).
- Exhibitors must provide a short narrative for the show. See guide above for examples.
- 4-Hers who participate in lamb lead at the state fair will receive a \$30 cash award, provided by the Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association (MLBA).

Lamb Lead Script Form (z.umn.edu/lambleadscript):
Due Wednesday, July 16.

SHEEP FLEECE

- Fleece is judged on clean wool content, fineness, length of staple, and strength.
- Fleece must come from sheep in the flock owned by the exhibitor.
- Fleece must be no less than 3" in length, but no more than a 13-month growth.
- All 4-Hers receiving a blue ribbon on their fleece may exhibit at the state fair; no housing will be provided.

SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

SHEEP INTERVIEW (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

SHEEP POSTER

County Fair Only

- If entered with state advancement intent, enter in Science of Animals or Exploring Animals.
- See 4-H Science of Animals Educational Exhibits, [page 68](#).

SWINE

Superintendents: Scott & Samantha Runge

Jr. Superintendents: Keeley Runge & Katelynn Runge

Swine Info Sheet (z.umn.edu/swine_info2025)

Swine Premise ID (z.umn.edu/premise_ID25)

Swine Interviews

Tuesday, July 15, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Entertainment Building

Swine ID Check and Weigh-In

Wednesday, July 16, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Swine Barn

Swine Show/Showmanship

Friday, July 18 at 8:30 a.m. Swine Arena

FairEntry Registration

- Enter in the Swine department in [FairEntry](#).
- **Cloverbuds:** see the Cloverbud section in this Premium Book and the Cloverbuds - Livestock division in [FairEntry](#).

Requirements:

- Swine ID forms and/or lease agreements must be on file in 4-H Online by May 15th of the current year. For ID details see [2025 Minnesota 4-H Animal Science ID requirements](#).
- A gilt may be shown as breeding or market, but not both.

- All families are responsible for the marketing of their swine (unless participating in the Adopt-a-pig program).
- Crossbred Breeding Gilts will be shown by weight.

21 DAY RULE

For youth advancing to the Minnesota State Fair, we follow the 21 Day Rule. In counties with swine shows 21 days or greater from the state fair swine show, youth may take the specific pig they won a trip with or another ID'd pig. The replacement animal must be of the same type as the qualifying animal (breeding gilt, market gilt or market barrow) and cannot have been exhibited at the County Fair. The animal that will be shown must be denoted on the State Fair paperwork by Saturday at noon.

Quota: Any combination of 6 swine exhibits total

BREEDING GILTS

~ Registered Breeding Gilt

January Gilt	Born in Jan of 2025
February Gilt	Born in Feb of 2025
March Gilt	Born in Mar of 2025

~ Commercial Breeding Gilt

January Gilt	Born in Jan of 2025
February Gilt	Born in Feb of 2025
March Gilt	Born in Mar of 2025

MARKET BARROW

~ Crossbred Market Barrow

Born on or after Jan. 1 of 2025

~ Purebred Market Barrow

Born on or after Jan. 1 of 2025

Note: recommended farrow date in January or February

MARKET GILT

~ Market Gilt Born on or after Jan. 1 of 2025

- 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.
- Registered and Commercial could be shown together based on species numbers.

MARKET BARROW/GILT (COUNTY FAIR)

County Fair Only

~ Market Gilt (County Fair Only)

Born on or after Jan. 1 of the current year

~ Market Barrow (County Fair Only)

Born on or after Jan. 1 of the current year

Requirements:

- Any Adopt-a-pig "Wakefield" pigs and/or confinement pigs will be shown in this class.
- This is a non-State Fair eligible class.

SWINE PENS

County Fair Only

~ Pen of 2

Any 2 **market** swine shown by the same exhibitor

~ Pen of 3

Any 3 **market** swine shown by the same exhibitor

Requirements:

- This is a non-State Fair eligible class.

SWINE SHOWMANSHIP (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

SWINE INTERVIEW (required)

See Interviews and Showmanship Details, [page 53](#).

SWINE POSTER

County Fair Only

- If entered with state advancement intent, enter in Science of Animals or Exploring Animals.
- See 4-H Science of Animals Educational Exhibits, [page 68](#).

4-H Science of Animals Educational Exhibits

Judging is done during General Exhibit Judging Day.

Science of Animal Education Exhibits are exhibits about livestock species. Youth have a choice to display them in the Livestock Buildings or general exhibit building. **They do not involve live animals.**

State fair trips will be awarded. Members may earn state fair trips for science of animal educational exhibits only or in addition to state fair trips earned with live animal exhibits. State exhibits will be judged during the livestock encampment at the Minnesota State Fair.

Enter Science of Animal exhibits in the Science of Animals Educational Exhibits department in [FairEntry](#).

- **Cloverbuds:** see the Cloverbud section in this Premium book and the Cloverbud - Livestock department in [FairEntry](#).

- Llama-alpaca, poultry and rabbit promotional and educational posters are an exhibit item at the state level in their species area and may be entered as a poster under the respective areas.
- Horse education exhibits should be entered as Horseless Horse or Horse Related in the General Project Exhibits department of [FairEntry](#).
- Species categories include: Beef, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Meat Goat, Poultry, Rabbits. Sheep, Swine.

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

BREEDING/HEALTH/PRODUCTION

ZOONOTICS

OTHER

Resources: Science of Animals Program [Information Sheet](#) (z.umn.edu/SOAInfo)

Watonwan County Fair Registration Form

4-H Year: 2024-2025

Watonwan

Member First and Last Name

4-H County

Family Email

Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip):

Primary Phone and Cell Phone:

School Grade (just completed):

Primary Club:

If you are not registering online, this registration form is due **in** the Extension Office by **June 16**.

DIVISION	CLASS/GRADE	QUANTITY

Complete your fair registration online through [FairEntry](#). The fastest, easiest way to register!