



# Delaware State Fair

## 4-H Newsletter

### July 1#-2#, 2026



The Delaware State Fair is just around the corner. It is not too soon for you to begin preparing and thinking about exhibits you will be entering this year, as well as the contests and events in which you will be participating. There are a few changes this year, so read the 4-H department premium catalog carefully. Be sure to review the content at the end of this document: [QUICK REFERENCE ON HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE 4-H DEPARTMENT AT THE DELAWARE STATE FAIR.](#)

#### ONLINE REGISTRATION

All youth enrolled in the Delaware 4-H program are eligible to exhibit articles made as a part of project or activity work and participate in demonstrations, judging programs and other 4-H competitions outlined in this department of the Fair. Following established 4-H enrollment guidelines, a 4-H online enrollment must be completed via 4-H Online for the current 4-H year. Refer to the [Delaware State Fair Premium Book](#) for official information.

Entries will be accepted on the [Delaware State Fair website](#) from:

April 1 (9:00 AM) through June 1 (11:59 PM)

**LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!**

**Attention Judging Contests Participants:** Members should enter in the Fair system online if the county contest results are available before June 1. The County Office Staff will provide names of participants for judging contest verification.

**The Fair pays an entry fee for each exhibit, event and/or contest you register for online. Entering ONLY those classes which you will actually show at the Fair will maintain fees at the most minimal level.**

If you are registering a team for an event, please register the team under your club name. **If you have two groups competing in the same event, just label them "Your Club Name" Team 1, "Your Club Name" Team 2, etc.** If you do not have an email address, you may use your County 4-H Office email address, and they will mail your confirmation. NOTE: Each individual team member does not have to enter.

#### RULES FOR ALL EXHIBITS

- No item should be entered by a 4-H exhibitor that cannot be displayed "as is" out on the display floor.
- No premium will be awarded if an exhibit is not displayed.
- No plastic covering is permitted on clothing exhibits.
- Any exhibit included in a frame or on art canvas should include wire or hooks for hanging.
- Participants must be present at the stated START time for all 4-H Animal Judging Contests or they will not be able to participate (always plan to arrive in advance of start time).

## EXHIBIT CHECK-IN INSTRUCTION

### 1. Exhibit Check-In:

*Entry tags will be distributed to you by your 4-H Leader. Please check them for accuracy. If you have errors, contact the Fair immediately to correct them.*

**Please tag your exhibits prior to bringing them to the Fair.**

- All exhibits (except Foods, Vegetables, Indoor/Outdoor Gardening and Cut flowers) are brought to the 4-H exhibit area between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM on Monday, July 14.
- Foods, Vegetables, Indoor/Outdoor Gardening, and Cloverbud (Class 2 if live plant or vegetable and Class 8) are brought to the Fair between 8:30 and 11:00 AM on Thursday, July 17.
- Cut flowers, Section T, will be accepted on Wednesday, July 23, between 10:00 AM and 12:00 Noon.

### 2. Tips on Preparing Your Exhibits for the Fair:

Please read the rules at the beginning of the 4-H department premium list and each section carefully.

- 4-H youth age 5-7 may enter in the Cloverbud classes, Section A, ONLY. (Your 4-H age is determined on January 1 of the current year.)
- You may enter only one exhibit per class.

### 3. Review the class description carefully:

Exhibits not meeting the class description cannot receive a blue ribbon or premium and may be disqualified. Exhibits may be marked down or disqualified for the following reason:

- **Incorrect number of items for the class-**

For example, two like jars of canning, five carrots, etc. Do you have the correct number?

- **Incorrect size of poster-** 14" x 22" is the most common size of poster. Is your poster the correct size? Individual photos should be placed on poster board that does not exceed 6" x 8".
- **No foam core** for posters or photos, please. It is too thick to use with our hangers at the Fair.
- **Art and needlework** need to be **completed and appropriately finished** and **prepared to hang**. A hanger is not a piece of string taped on the back. There is less damage to exhibits if they are securely hung on the exhibit racks.

### 4. Label each exhibit:

Each exhibit should be labeled with your name, 4-H County, age, years in project, club and class, in addition to the entry tag the Fair provides you. In case your entry tag becomes lost or detached, we will know who the exhibit belongs to. Age is especially important so the judge knows how old you are. Print off a sheet of mailing labels for a great quick way to include this information on all your exhibits. **It sure beats hand-writing the information!**

### 5. Attach the entry tag securely:

Use masking tape to attach tags to the backs of posters, photos, etc. Use a small safety pin to attach tags to any fabric article. Please do not use straight pins or scotch tape as they come loose too easily.

## EXHIBIT CHECK-IN SCHEDULE

### Monday, July 14 - 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Arts, Crafts & Needlework  
Canning/Drying  
Cloverbud (Class 2 if live plant or vegetable and Class 8)  
Computers  
Conservation & Natural Resources  
Electric  
Entomology/Beekeeping  
Field Crops

### Monday, July 14 - 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM (cont.)

Floriculture  
Other Projects  
Photography  
Place Setting Contest  
Science  
Textile & Clothing  
Woodworking

### Thursday, July 17 - 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Food  
Indoor and Outdoor Gardening  
Vegetables

### Wednesday, July 23 - 10 AM to 12:00 PM

Cut Flowers

## RULES FOR ALL ENTRIES

**Rule 1:** Each 4-H'er must use the Delaware State Fair website to enter their exhibit on-line when entering Exhibits, Demonstration Events, Judging Contests, Consumer Bowl, Avian Bowl, Public Speaking, Tractor Driving, Lawn Tractor Driving and Archery. Entry deadline is June 1, 2025. Completed entry tags will be provided to the exhibitor to attach to exhibits. Please make sure your entry tag is ATTACHED TO YOUR EXHIBIT before entering the Fairground.

**Rule 2:** 4-H'ers—age 5 to 7, Cloverbuds, are eligible to enter Section A ONLY.

**Rule 3:** All articles exhibited **must be made or grown by 4-H member since last year's Fair.**

**Rule 4:** A youth pass will be given to 4-H Department exhibitors.

**Rule 5:** No awards will be made for exhibits which do not meet minimum standards.

**Rule 6:** Exhibitors may make only one entry in each class.

**Rule 7:** No item should be entered by a 4-H member that cannot be displayed "as is" out on the display floor.

**Rule 8:** No premium will be awarded if an exhibit is not displayed.

**Rule 9:** Every article exhibited **SHOULD** be labeled with name, 4-H county, age, year in project, club and class, in addition to the entry tag, to eliminate errors and lost articles. Please attach in such a way that it is not noticeable.

**Rule 10:** Only exhibits designated in the premium book to be entered using the UD Dropbox can be submitted in that manner. These include Section D (Classes 56, 63, 64 and 65) and Section H (Classes 138 to 140).

**Rule 11:** Any exhibit included in a frame or on art canvas should include a hanger, wire or hooks for hanging. Hangers are not necessary for exhibits on poster board or mat board.

**Rule 12:** If an exhibit includes a poster, posters are evaluated based on the following guidelines:

- Should be simple, not wordy, and provide a quick message in a concise format.
- Should be easy to read and have a single message/fact/point of interest.
- Letters and words should be clear, legible and straight.
- Neatness.

e. Colorful.

f. Use of visuals or graphics is important.

**Rule 13:** **ALL EXHIBITS MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE BUILDING BETWEEN 8:00 AM AND 12:00 NOON ON SUNDAY, JULY 27.** Every member must make arrangements for someone to pick up their exhibits if they are not able to do so themselves. **There should not be an expectation for your exhibits to automatically be taken back to your respective county 4-H office.**

**Rule 14:** Care will be taken to protect the exhibits from injury, but the Delaware State Fair will not in any way hold themselves responsible for accidents, loss and damage by water, fire, theft or otherwise, whatever may be the cause or extent of the damage or loss sustained. All exhibits are entered at the owner's risk.

## PREMIUM \$\$\$\$ QUESTIONS

Questions regarding placing and/or premiums for the 4-H Department must be **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** after the conclusion of the state fair. Every effort will be made to eliminate errors during the payment of premiums. However, if an exhibitor finds an error, proof of such error must be communicated to the DSF office on or before November 1, 2025. After this date, corrections may not be considered. Checks not cashed AFTER 90 days from issue will not be reissued.

## 4-H STATE FAIR FLOATS

Each county 4-H program is invited and encouraged to have a 4-H float in the nightly Delaware State Fair 4-H Parade. All 4-H members are encouraged to ride these floats in this parade in an effort to promote 4-H at the State Fair.

## PIG KISSING CONTEST

This popular event is always a fan favorite fundraiser in support of the Junior Exhibitor Scholarship Program. If interested in representing your County 4-H Program, please contact your County 4-H Office.

New Castle County (302) 831-8965

Kent County (302) 730-4000

Sussex County (302) 856-7303

## TRACTOR DRIVING CONTESTS

The **Tractor Driving Contest** will be held on **Wednesday, July 23, at 11:00 AM in the Quillen Arena.**

Participants should arrive at the Quillen Arena by 10:30 AM to SIGN IN. There will only be a senior category in this event. Age is determined as of January 1 of the current year.

The **Lawn Tractor Driving Contest** will be held on **Friday, July 18, at 11:00 AM in the Quillen Arena.**

Participants should arrive at the Quillen Arena beginning at 10:30 AM to SIGN IN. There will be three categories offered. Participants may only enter one age category. Experienced participants younger than 14 may participate in the senior event, but are then ineligible to participate in **any younger age** category.

- Beginner (ages 8-10)
- Junior (ages 11-13)
- Senior (ages 14-19)

**Participants MUST have previously participated in a state event or participated in a training at the state, county or club level in order to participate in either of these events.**

**ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST ENTER THIS EVENT BY JUNE 1 USING THE DELAWARE STATE FAIR ONLINE SYSTEM. AGE IS DETERMINED AS OF JANUARY 1 OF THE CURRENT YEAR.**

### Class

321. Tractor Driving – Senior Division (ages 14-19)

322. Lawn Tractor Driving—Beginner Division (ages 8-10)

323. Lawn Tractor Driving—Junior Division (ages 11-13)

324. Lawn Tractor Driving—Senior Division (ages 14-19)

Participants are encouraged to visit the State 4-H website in order to obtain more information about these two events: [www.udel.edu/009361](http://www.udel.edu/009361).

Any questions related to these events should be directed to the State 4-H Office via email to [de4h@udel.edu](mailto:de4h@udel.edu) or by calling 302-831-2509.

**4-H requires a T- or button-up shirt with sleeves (short or long), long pants, belt and hard closed toed work shoes. NO sandals or sneakers. Shirts should be tucked in for safety.**

**It is recommended that long hair be pulled up and jewelry is taken off. Gloves are optional.**

## ARCHERY CONTEST

The State 4-H Archery Contest will be held on **Monday, July 21.** The event location AND registration will be the Harrington Raceway Paddock Building on the west end of the fairgrounds. Participants should plan to arrive at the event site by the designated time for their age. **All participants must enter this event by June 1 at the Delaware State Fair's website. If SPECIAL TIME ACCOMMODATIONS are needed for this event, you must contact the State 4-H Office at [de4h@udel.edu](mailto:de4h@udel.edu) by June 13.**

There will be three age groups. Age is determined as of January 1 of the current year. The following reporting times will be used:

- Senior (ages 14-19) – report time is 12:30 PM
- Intermediate (ages 11-13) – report time is 1:15 PM
- Junior (ages 8-10) – report time is 2:00 PM

Competitions will be held in three categories: Barebow, Recurve and Compound. Participants may participate in all categories.

Special Note: Participants must remain until ALL shooters have finished shooting within a respective category and age division.

**Qualifications:** Youth must be ages 8-19 years old, and be participating in a 4-H Archery Club or other 4-H Shooting Sports activities. Participants must have been through 4-H Shooting Sports Archery training camp, club or outreach activity.

**Rules:** Check with your County Office.

**Equipment:** We strongly encourage all participants to bring their own equipment to the event; however, if you are unable to do this, recurve bows and arrows will be provided. Compound bows and arrows will NOT be provided. Safety equipment (arm guards and finger tabs) will be provided and required. **Proper footwear is also required consisting of closed-toe shoes (no crocs).**

### Class:

325. Barebow – Junior (ages 8-10)

328. Recurve Bow – Junior (ages 8-10)

331. Compound Bow – Junior (ages 8-10)

326. Barebow – Intermediate (ages 11-13)

329. Recurve Bow – Intermediate (11-13)

332. Compound Bow –Intermediate (11-13)

327. Barebow – Senior (ages 14-19)

330. Recurve Bow – Senior (ages 14-19)

333. Compound Bow – Senior (ages 14-19)

## STATE AVIAN BOWL

The State Avian Bowl Contest will be held on Saturday, July 26, at 1:00 PM in Memorial Hall (formerly the Centre). The Delaware State Fair will award premiums to the top three teams in competition. A team may consist of 2-4 members ages 8 to 19. Clubs may enter multiple teams and can identify them as Team 1, Team 2, etc. Individual team members DO NOT need to register. Rules and study materials are available from your County 4-H Office. Please contact Drew Harris or Susan Garey at 302-730-4000 if you have any questions about this event.

**TEAMS MUST ENTER THIS EVENT BY JUNE 1 USING THE DELAWARE STATE FAIR ONLINE SYSTEM. ENTER TEAM UNDER YOUR 4-H CLUB NAME.**

**Class 314.** Avian Bowl Team

## LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

4-H is not responsible for the management of the livestock and poultry departments at the Fair. All shows are open shows with junior classes. Please read and follow their rules and instructions carefully. Livestock to be sold in the Jr. Livestock Auction must be tagged with official DE State Fair tags at the times and locations listed in the livestock section of the Fair premium list.

## CONSUMER CHAMPIONS BOWL

The Consumer Champions Bowl will take place on Thursday, July 17, at 6:30 PM in Memorial Hall (formerly the Centre). The Delaware State Fair will award premiums to the top three teams in competition. A team may consist of 2-4 members ages 8 to 19. There are no age categories for this event. Clubs may enter multiple teams and can identify them as Team 1, Team 2, etc. Individual team members DO NOT need to register. Rules and study materials are available from your County 4-H Office.

**TEAMS MUST ENTER THIS EVENT BY JUNE 1 USING THE DELAWARE STATE FAIR ONLINE SYSTEM. ENTER TEAM UNDER YOUR 4-H CLUB NAME.**

**Class 315.** Consumer Champions Bowl Team

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

The 4-H Public Speaking contest will be held Sunday, July 20, at 2:00 PM in Memorial Hall (formerly the Centre). The Extemporaneous Speaking portion of the event will be scheduled to take place prior to the 2:00 pm start time of the Prepared Speaking Contest. County winners in the Beginner I, Beginner II, Junior and Senior categories as well as the Extemporaneous category will speak.

**Class**

- 316. Prepared Speech Beginner I (ages 8-9)
- 317. Prepared Speech Beginner II (ages 10-11)
- 318. Prepared Speech Junior (ages 12-14)
- 319. Prepared Speech Senior (ages 15-19)
- 320. Extemporaneous Speech (ages 14-19)



## TALENT SHOW

The State 4-H Talent Show will be held on Friday, July 18, beginning at 6:30 PM on the stage in Memorial Hall (formerly the Centre). There will be a limited number of talent acts that will participate. **Selection of acts will be made on a first-come, first-served basis based on when an entry is submitted.**

Presentations will be by both individuals and groups. **4-H members may ONLY PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THESE CATEGORIES, NOT BOTH.** For group acts, enter under the 4-H Club name. Individual presentations will be divided into two age categories: Beginner (ages 8-12 yrs. old) and Senior (ages 13-19 yrs. old). Age is determined as of January 1 of the current year.

Cloverbud members are permitted to participate, but cannot compete. Green participation ribbons will be awarded to all Cloverbud members.

All talent show acts will be limited to a **2 minute maximum set up time. Talent acts must not exceed 5 minutes.**

**ALL EQUIPMENT needed for the talent presentation is the responsibility of the performer.**

**Class**

- |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 310. Cloverbud (ages 5-7)            | 312. Senior Individual (ages 13-19) |
| 311. Beginner Individual (ages 8-12) | 313. Group                          |

Only so many acts can perform in the Talent Show. Your spot in the show is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation email. Once you are confirmed, you will receive a form that must be completed and returned to the State 4-H Office by July 1 or you will forfeit your spot in the Talent Show.

**REGISTER BY JUNE 1 using this [online form](#). Space is limited so please register EARLY.**

## STATE 4-H DEMONSTRATIONS/ILLUSTRATED TALKS

Only winners of County Contests, ages 8 and older, are eligible to participate in the State Contest. Please refer to the guidelines for demonstrations and illustrated talks. **Participants will be given 5 minutes for set-up. Demonstrations must be at least 3 minutes in length and are not to exceed 15 minutes.** For each 15 seconds “under” or “over” the time allowed for set-up or for the demonstration, 1 point will be deducted. **Make sure you enter the appropriate demonstration class on your online entry form.**

**4-H Demonstrations will take place beginning at 10:00 AM on the following days:**

- General Demonstrations and Plant & Environmental Sciences: Wednesday, July 23
- Family and Consumer Sciences: Thursday, July 24
- Animal Science: Friday, July 25

Please contact your County Office by **June 12** if you have any special needs due to work or livestock shows. Demonstration presentation times will be sent to participants under separate letter.

If you are using a PowerPoint presentation in your Demonstration, the deadline to submit it to the State 4-H Office is Monday, **July 7**. See page 7 for UD Dropbox instructions.

## JUDGING AND SKILL-A-THON CONTESTS

**Attention Judging and Skill-A-Thon Contest Participants:** 4-H Members may only participate in two contests at the state level. County Office Staff will identify county contest winners to determine state-level Judging and/or Skill-A-Thon Contest eligibility. If a Member qualifies for more than two events at the county level they may choose which two events they enter at the state level. It is the responsibility of qualified 4-H Members to register appropriately in the Delaware State Fair system by June 1st. Dairy, Livestock and Poultry Judging are exceptions as the County-level results may not be available until after the State Fair System closes on June 1st.

### SKILL-A-THON CONTESTS

|                            |                   |         |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| 301. Photography           | Saturday, July 19 | 1:00 PM |
| 302. Wildlife Habitat      | Saturday, July 19 | 1:00 PM |
| 303. Food and Nutrition    | Saturday, July 19 | 1:00 PM |
| 304. Textiles and Clothing | Saturday, July 19 | 1:00 PM |
| 305. Horticulture          | Saturday, July 19 | 1:00 PM |
| 306. Wood Science          | Saturday, July 19 | 1:00 PM |

### ANIMAL SCIENCE JUDGING CONTESTS

|                |                    |         |
|----------------|--------------------|---------|
| 300. Poultry   | Friday, July 18    | 9:00 AM |
| 307. Dairy     | Tuesday, July 22   | 9:00 AM |
| 308. Horse     | Wednesday, July 23 | 9:00 AM |
| 309. Livestock | Monday, July 21    | 9:00 AM |

**Participants must be present at the stated START time for all Animal Judging Contests (classes 300, 307, 308 and 309) or they will not be able to participate in the contest.**

If you have special needs that need to be accommodated, please contact the State 4-H Office two weeks prior to the event at 302-831-2509 or [de4h@udel.edu](mailto:de4h@udel.edu).

## HORSE AND PONY SHOW

The State 4-H Horse and Pony Show will be held in the Quillen Arena on Friday, July 25, at 9:00 AM. The Horse Show is for 4-H club members of the Delmarva Peninsula and is sponsored by Delaware Cooperative Extension in cooperation with the Delaware 4-H Horse Advisory Committee. All participants must be bona fide 4-H club members in good standing **as of March 1 of the current year** and be able to present some form of 4-H identification as proof of membership.



- 4-H Exhibitors must be at least 8 years of age, but not yet passed their 19th birthday on January 1 of the current year.
- Cloverbuds are between the ages of 5-7 as of January 1st of the current year and receive participation ribbons only.

Entries must be received in advance by July 11, 2025. A class list and entry form will be available on the State 4-H website after May 1. Classes can be scratched or added up to and including the day of the show once they have entered. Entry fee payments are made the day of the show.

Horses and ponies may be shipped in the morning of the show or be stabled on the Fairgrounds if they are participating in additional horse shows during Fair week. Proof of a negative coggins test and a certificate of vaccination for Equine Influenza and Rhinopneumonitis (EHV) within the past 180 days are required to show. Exhibitors are required to wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet whenever mounted or driving.

## REMINDERS

All 4-H activities use January 1 in determining age. Young people must be age 8 and older for all competitive events.

**Vegetable Exhibit PowerPoint** - The County Offices have a PowerPoint available that can assist 4-H members in preparing their vegetable exhibits. Be sure to review this information before preparing your exhibits.

**Section R – Food Exhibits** – There is no icing allowed on any cupcake, cookie or brownie exhibit (except for Class of 3 Decorated Cupcakes that resembles an animal). **Put all food exhibits on disposable plates in a Ziploc bag with entry tag inside and name folded over and not shown.** Indicate type/flavor of food item on back of exhibit tag.

The **4-H Awards Celebration** will be held on Saturday, July 26, at 5:00 PM in the Quillen Arena. All Demonstration, Judging, Public Speaking, Archery, Avian Bowl, Consumer Bowl, Lawn Tractor, Tractor, State 4-H Horse Show, and Conservation Display winners will be recognized. 4-H members and parents are encouraged to attend!

## Fair Exhibits Required to be Submitted to the UD Dropbox

All Delaware State Fair entries must be registered into the system by June 1st. Digital files for the following Classes must be submitted by Monday, **July 7, 2025**, using the University of Delaware Dropbox Service:

- Computer Video Exhibits – Class 56, 63, 64 and 65 only
- Photography Digital Slide Show Exhibits – Class 138, 139 and 140 only
- State Demonstration Contests – Submit presentations if using PowerPoint

Name your file using the following convention to ensure we properly direct your entry.

Class number - 4-H'er full name - presentation title

Example: **Class 86 - Ryan Fields - An Apple a Day May Keep the Doctor Away**

### University of Delaware Dropbox Instructions:

- Go to [www.udel.edu/dropbox](http://www.udel.edu/dropbox)
- Click the “**Drop-off**” button.
- **Box 1:** Enter your information.
- **Box 2:** For recipient email, enter: **de4h**  
@udel.edu is not necessary because this is a secure internal UD campus system.
- **Box 3:** Upload your file
- Click the “**drop-off the file**” button.



Note: An automated email message will be sent from the UD Dropbox service when your file is downloaded by 4-H Staff. If an email confirmation is not received within 3 business days of your submission please reach out to the 4-H State Office at 831-2509 to confirm receipt.

## HELP US AT THE FAIR

*The Fair is not possible without a cadre of talented 4-H'ers and adult volunteers that make it all happen. Consider volunteering to help set-up the building, check-in exhibits, and assist judges. Good help is always needed, especially adult volunteers. We ask that all helpers be age 8 or older. [Helper Sign-up Form](#)*

**Tuesday, July 8**—9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Clean-up and set-up building. Looking for older members who can set up exhibit booths and move them into place. Decorate building. Cut corrugated paper and attach to exhibit booths. Desire older members who can cut paper and use a staple gun, as well as pay attention to detail.

**Monday, July 14**—2:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Exhibit check-in. Lunch is not provided, but snacks and drinks will be available at 4:30 PM. Sort exhibits by class and check tags for completeness.

**Tuesday, July 15**—8:45 AM to 4:00 PM

Judge's Clerks. Punch tags and attach ribbons. Record premiums. Must be at least 10 years old.  
12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM Begin displaying photos and posters.

**Wednesday, July 16**—9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Display Teams. Older 4-H members. Need to be able to work independently and in teams displaying.

**Thursday, July 17**

**Check-in Foods**—8:15 AM to 11:30 AM

Check tags for completeness and sort by class and assist with display.

**Thursday, July 17 (cont.)**

**Check-in Vegetables/Horticulture**—8:15 AM to 11:30 AM

Check tags for completeness and sort by class and assist with display.

**Foods Judge's Clerks and Display**—11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Must have had lunch prior to arriving at 11:00 AM. Punch tags, attach ribbons, record premiums, and assist judges. Assist with clean-up.

**Vegetable/Horticulture Judge's Clerks and Display**

11:00 AM to 4:00 PM Must have had lunch prior to arriving. Punch tags, attach ribbons, record premiums, and assist judges. Assist with clean-up.

**Wednesday, July 23**—9:45 AM to 1:00 PM

Cut Flower check-in. Clerk and Display.

**Sunday, July 27**—Dismantle building. Two groups of volunteers.

7:30 AM to 10:30 AM - Dismantle exhibit area but not move exhibits. Check-out clerks.

10:30 AM to 1:30 PM - Big people (and muscle) needed to pull booths apart—muscle

## DELAWARE STATE GRANGE AND FARM BUREAU



The Delaware State Grange has always been very supportive of the Delaware 4-H program and is in need of 4-H members and adult volunteers to help them in their food booth during the Delaware State Fair. The Grange will provide community service verified hours for the students and a monetary stipend to the local 4-H club based on hours that their members work. Be sure to note your 4-H club name when registering to work.

The Delaware State Grange Fair Booth is open daily during the fair from 7am until 9 pm. Students usually spend 2 to 4 hours between 10am and 3pm. A Grange booth food voucher is provided to all volunteers.

Delaware 4-H highly encourages your support. Please contact Debbie Edwards, State Secretary of the Delaware State Grange, at (302) 535-3032 to discuss availability and register to volunteer. Let's help those who have helped our program in so many ways over the years.

## FOOD BANK CAMPAIGN

Delaware 4-H will continue to support the Delaware Food Bank by donating extra vegetables from our vegetable exhibits. AFTER judging, only one item will be displayed and all remaining items will be donated to the local Food Bank. 4-H members are also welcome to bring extra produce in to donate when they bring their exhibits to the Fair. Other members may also assist in supporting this initiative by bringing in canned or boxed food items to donate.

## HOST AND HOSTESS

Throughout the Fair hosts and hostesses are needed to be available in the 4-H exhibit area to provide information about 4-H, projects on display, and prevent damage and theft of exhibits. **We welcome all 4-H Youth and Adults** to volunteer to act as a host/hostess. This is a great opportunity for 4-H'ers age 8 and up. Get your best 4-H friend to join you and sign up to help! Beginning April 1, the online form will be activated to sign up to be a Host-Hostess during the Fair. Two people will be allowed per time slot. Each time slot will be for 2 hours.

[Host and Hostess Sign-up](#)

## DATES TO REMEMBER



**JUNE 1**

**DEADLINE!**

***ALL online registrations with the  
Fair closes at midnight.***

- July 1 Complete [Host and Hostess Sign-Up online](#)
- July 1 Complete [Helper Form Sign-up online](#)
- July 7 **Submission due date for:** Computer Exhibit  
Videos, Photography Exhibit Digital Slide Shows  
and State Demonstration Contest PowerPoint  
presentations. [See page 7 for UD Dropbox  
instructions.](#)

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE  
**COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION**



Cooperative Extension programs and policies are consistent with federal and state laws and regulations on non-discrimination regarding race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin; physical, mental or sensory disability; marital status, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era or disabled veteran. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Cooperative Extension Office.

**If you have special needs that need to be accommodated, please contact the State 4-H Office two weeks prior to the event at 302-831-2509 or [de4h@udel.edu](mailto:de4h@udel.edu).**

## DELAWARE STATE FAIR 4-H DEPARTMENT SCHEDULE

**June**

**Mark your 4-H activities/commitments and post this on the family refrigerator.**

|          |            |  |                                              |
|----------|------------|--|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Sun</b> |  | <b>Deadline for ALL ONLINE Fair entries!</b> |
|----------|------------|--|----------------------------------------------|

**July**

|           |              |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Tues</b>  |                                                                  | <b>Entry deadline to the County 4-H Office for Judging Contests.</b>                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Tues</b>  |                                                                  | <b>All 4-H Youth and Adults are encouraged. <a href="#">Helper Form Sign-up.</a> <a href="#">Host/Hostess Sign-up.</a></b>                                                                                                    |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Mon</b>   |                                                                  | Deadline to submit Computer Exhibit Videos, Photography Exhibit Digital Slide Shows, and Demonstration PowerPoint CD/DVDs to the State 4-H Office. <a href="#">See page 7 for UD Dropbox instructions.</a>                    |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Tues</b>  | 9 AM - 4 PM                                                      | Clean-up and set-up the 4-H Building. Decorate 4-H Building.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>14</b> | <b>Mon</b>   | 3 PM - 6 PM                                                      | Check-in exhibits: Non-perishables.                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>15</b> | <b>Tues</b>  | 8:45 AM - 4 PM<br>12 noon - 4 PM                                 | Judge 4-H exhibits<br>Begin displaying photographs/posters                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>16</b> | <b>Wed</b>   | 9 AM - 4 PM                                                      | Display 4-H Exhibits                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>17</b> | <b>Thurs</b> | 8:30 AM-11 AM<br>11 AM - 4 PM<br>5:00 PM<br>6:30 PM              | Check-in: foods, vegetables, indoor/outdoor gardening<br>Judge and display<br>Delaware State Fair officially opens. 4-H exhibits open to the public.<br>* Consumer Champions Bowl Contest – Memorial Hall Stage               |
| <b>18</b> | <b>Fri</b>   | 9:00 AM<br>11:00 AM<br>6:30 PM                                   | Poultry Judging—Memorial Hall Conference Room<br>* Lawn Tractor Driving Contest—Quillen Arena (Participants arrive by 10:30 AM)<br>* 4-H Talent Show—Memorial Hall Stage                                                      |
| <b>19</b> | <b>Sat</b>   | 1:00 PM                                                          | 4-H Skill-A-Thons (formerly Judging Contests): Food & Nutrition, Horticulture, Photography, Textiles & Clothing, Wildlife Habitat, and Wood Science—Memorial Hall Conference Room                                             |
| <b>20</b> | <b>Sun</b>   | 2:00 PM                                                          | * State 4-H Public Speaking and Extemporaneous Speaking Contest—Memorial Hall Stage                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>21</b> | <b>Mon</b>   | 9:00 AM<br>Senior-12:30 PM<br>Intermed-1:15 PM<br>Junior-2:00 PM | 4-H Livestock Judging—Kent Building<br>4-H Archery Competition—<br>Harrington Raceway Paddock Building—<br>Participants should report at designated times.                                                                    |
| <b>22</b> | <b>Tues</b>  | 9:00 AM                                                          | 4-H Dairy Judging—Quillen Arena                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>23</b> | <b>Wed</b>   | 9:00 AM<br>10:00 AM<br>10 AM - 12 noon<br>11:00 AM               | 4-H Horse Judging—Quillen Arena<br>4-H Demonstration Contest: *General and Plant & Environmental Sciences—Memorial Hall Stage<br>Check-in: Cut flowers<br>4-H Tractor Driving—Quillen Arena (Participants arrive by 10:30 AM) |
| <b>24</b> | <b>Thurs</b> | 10:00 AM                                                         | 4-H Demonstration Contest: Family and Consumer Sciences – Memorial Hall Stage                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>25</b> | <b>Fri</b>   | 9:00 AM<br>10:00 AM                                              | Horse and Pony Show—Quillen Arena<br>4-H Demonstration Contest: Animal Science—Memorial Hall Stage                                                                                                                            |
| <b>26</b> | <b>Sat</b>   | 1:00 PM<br>5:00 PM                                               | 4-H Avian Bowl—Memorial Hall Stage<br>4-H Awards Celebration—Quillen Arena                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>27</b> | <b>Sun</b>   | 8 AM– 12 noon                                                    | 4-H Department– Exhibit removal                                                                                                                                                                                               |

**\* Denotes new date and/or time in 2025 compared to previous years' State Fair schedules.**

## QUICK REFERENCE ON HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE 4-H DEPARTMENT AT THE DELAWARE STATE FAIR

- Submit entries on Delaware State Fair's website from April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>; enter only classes you expect to complete.
- Must have a 4-H enrollment card on file in your respective County Office for the current 4-H year based on established enrollment guidelines.
- All exhibits (except for Foods, Plants and Vegetables) are brought to the state fair on **Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>** from 3:00 - 6:00 pm.
- Food, Plants, and Vegetable exhibits are brought to the state fair on **Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>** from 8:30 - 11:00 am.
- Cut Flower exhibits are brought to the state fair on **Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>** from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.
- All exhibits must be removed from the building on **Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>** from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. Every member MUST make arrangements for someone to pick up your exhibits if they are not able to do so themselves. There should not be an expectation for your exhibits to automatically be taken back to your respective County 4-H Office.
- **IMPORTANT RULE ESTABLISHED in 2024:** In order for a 4-H youth exhibitor to receive a free exhibitor pass for entry into the Delaware State Fair, they **must meet one** of the following levels in the 4-H Department:
  - o Enter five (5) exhibits in the 4-H Department.
  - o Participate in two (2) 4-H competitions that occur during the State Fair.
  - o Participate in one (1) 4-H competition that occurs during the State Fair **AND** enter three (3) exhibits in the 4-H Department.
  - o Exhibit one or more entries as a Cloverbud Exhibitor in the 4-H Department.

| Sec | Class | Important Guidelines/Rules to Follow |
|-----|-------|--------------------------------------|
|-----|-------|--------------------------------------|

- |   |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A | 1-8   | These are the <u>only entries</u> available to <u>Cloverbud Members</u> (5-7 years old).                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| B | 9-37  | Entries in all these classes <u>must</u> use hand, machine sewing, or textile techniques.<br><br>Entries that are not identifiable as to what has been sewn <u>must include explanation</u> on back of tag to explain to judge.                                                                                 |
| C | 49-59 | Processing must follow and <u>use current USDA recommendations</u> . All entries must be <u>labeled</u> with product name, date of preparation and/or processing, type of pack, method of processing, pre and/or post treatments or method of drying. Exhibit must consist of <u>TWO jars</u> of like products. |

**Sec    Class    Important Guidelines/Rules to Follow**

- D            **Digital Class** submissions should be submitted by July 7<sup>th</sup> using [UD Dropbox Service](#).
- E            Any exhibit included in a frame or on art canvas should include a hanger, wire or hooks for hanging the exhibit.
- 72          Include the name of the 4-H camp where the exhibit was made on the back of the exhibit tag.
- 73          Club craft entered MUST be a craft project completed with your 4-H Club (and not on your own).
- 74          Paintings or Drawings should not exceed 11" x 17". Any painting done on canvas should include a hanger.
- 75          Duct tape exhibit must be made entirely from duct tape.
- 79          Identify what the beaded article is on the back of the exhibit tag.
- 86          Recycle Article must have an attached explanation of what is recycled and the impact it has.
- 95          4-H Foundation Holiday Greeting Card - Refer to list of thirteen (13) requirements/guidelines in premium book.
- F            Plant must be in care of the exhibitor for 60 days prior to the fair. Propagation date must be 60 days prior to July 1st.
- G            Fresh flowers or Fresh Wreaths are NOT permitted for any class.
- H            All photos MUST be taken by 4-H Exhibitor since the beginning of the last fair. Exhibitor SHOULD NOT be in any photo. 4-H siblings SHOULD NOT submit the same photo in any class. Be sure the photo is exhibited under PRIMARY FOCUS. Mount photos on poster board, card stock, mount board or mat board NOT TO EXCEED 6" x 8" except where **noted**. **Do not glue the exhibit tag to the mounting board- use tape.** Exhibitors SHOULD NOT enter the same photo in COLOR photo categories and BLACK and WHITE photo categories.
- 120        Special Effect used must be described on the back of the exhibit tag. See page 50 of Unit 1 of the 4-H Project manual Focus on Photography for tips and suggestions.
- 124        ALL STILL LIFE PHOTO ENTRIES ARE REQUIRED TO BE "CREATED" which involves arranging non-moving or still objects items.
- 125        Requires title on exhibit.
- 126        Requires title on exhibit.

**Sec   Class   Important Guidelines/Rules to Follow**

130   Photo Album must include a minimum of 25 photos.

132-136   Use 14" x 22" poster board for all exhibits. Each photo should be 5" X 7". Class 133 and 136 must **include a title** on the exhibit.

137   Use 14" 22" poster board for exhibit. Each photo should be 4" x 6".

138-140   Exhibits should be submitted by July 7<sup>th</sup> using the [UD Dropbox Service](#).

I   Any exhibit done on poster board should use a 14" x 22" size.

146   Exhibit requires 10 samples that are identified.

154-155   Exhibit should be approx. 24" high x 30" deep x 36" wide; no cardboard boxes, shoe boxes or tri-fold cardboard.

J   All exhibits requiring bulbs must have correct size. Use of molded plug-ins is **discouraged**. No cord that has been purchased in a store and later repaired may be entered.

K   A display consists of at least one box. Size of box should not exceed 17" x 14".

N   Any exhibit done on poster board should be 14" x 22" in size. All other exhibits should not exceed 12" x 12".

O   196   Exhibit **CANNOT** be any type of First Aid Kit.

198   Exhibit must include an Explanation as to how it will be used with children.

206   Exhibit articles must have been published and submitted to Newspaper, County Newsletter, etc, from the current enrollment year. Items should be actual (or copies of actual) articles submitted- NOT just wording typed on paper, or minutes from 4-H club meetings.

210   Must be ages 11 to 19 to enter.

P   211   Meal menu – only 1 meal – Dinner with Main Dish. Follow Favorite Foods Contest guidelines for dishes required on place setting. Guidelines can be found at: [udel.edu/0010340](http://udel.edu/0010340)

**Sec    Class    Important Guidelines/Rules to Follow**

- R**            NO ICING ON ANY FOOD EXHIBIT (except for Class 230). Please indicate type/flavor of food item on back of exhibit tag for judging. Food exhibits should be brought on a disposable plate in a Ziploc bag with entry tag inside and folded over. Exhibitors must provide a stated number of food items as listed in the premium book.
- S**            ALL vegetables for ALL vegetable classes MUST be grown by 4-H exhibitors.  
Exhibitors must provide a stated number of vegetable items as listed in the premium book.
- 250          Exhibit requires not less than 5 kinds of edible vegetables to be used in display.
- T**            All cut flower exhibits are three (3) stems, of the same variety, but may be different colors.  
NO disposable cups may be used as containers.
- U**            ONLY COUNTY WINNERS from the respective County Demonstration Contests are eligible to participate.
- V**            ONLY COUNTY WINNERS from the respective County Skill-a-thon and Judging Contests are eligible to participate.  
4-H members are permitted to participate in up to TWO (2) state judging contests for which they qualify.  
4-H members MUST arrive by Animal Judging Contest START TIMES (Dairy, Livestock, Horse, Poultry) to participate.
- W**            Talent acts will be selected on a first come first, serve basis: based on when the Fair Newsletter entry form is submitted. 4-H members may only participate in the Individual OR Group category. Members cannot participate in both.
- X**            Enter a team under your 4-H Club Name (not individuals) unless approved in advance. Use Team 1, Team 2, etc.
- Y**            Enter a team under your 4-H Club Name (not individuals) unless approved in advance. Use Team 1, Team 2, etc.

| <b><u>Sec</u></b> | <b><u>Class</u></b> | <b><u>Important Guidelines/Rules to Follow</u></b> |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------|

|   |  |                                                                                                                  |
|---|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Z |  | <u>ONLY COUNTY DIVISION WINNERS</u> from respective County Public Speaking Contests are eligible to participate. |
|---|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

POSTER EXHIBITS - If an exhibit includes a poster, posters are evaluated based on the following guidelines:

- Should be simple, not wordy and provide a quick message in a concise format
- Should be easy to read and have a single message / fact / point of interest
- Letters and words should be clear, legible, and straight
- Neatness
- Colorful
- Use of visual or graphics is important

---

**State 4-H Awards Celebration – Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm Quillen Arena**

ALL winners placing in any of the 4-H contests during fair week are ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND and be recognized.