

Clay County 4-H

2026 County Fair Book

Animal ID Deadline: May 15, 2026
Fair Entry Dates: Registration opens June 1 and closes June 15, 2026
Exhibitor Meeting: June 9, 2026
Clay County Fair: July 9 through July 12, 2026

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Below, you will find a clickable Table of Contents. This will help you quickly navigate through all the pages of this document. Each link is attached to a section in this document. Simply click the link to take you directly to that section.

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Updated on 4/9/26

Schedule of 4-H Events

May 2, Saturday
LQAE Training, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Barnesville, MN

May 15, Friday
Enrollment deadline for new and returning members
Animal ID deadline: all species, in 4-H Online

June 1, Monday
County Fair pre-registration opens in FairEntry
Green Team application deadline

June 9, Tuesday
County Fair Exhibitors Meeting, 6 p.m. (expected for all)
State Fair Meeting, 7 p.m. (youth who completed grades 6+)
Zoom link: z.umn.edu/clay4hexhibitormeeting
Zoom link: z.umn.edu/clay4hexhibitormeeting

June 15, Monday
County Fair pre-registration closes in FairEntry
Late county fair registration begins; consequences may be in place. Contact the Extension Office
4-H Volunteer sign-ups close, z.umn.edu/clay4hvolunteers

June 30, Tuesday
4-H Fair set-up day, 4 to 8 p.m.
.....Schedule.....
4-H Exhibit bldg set-up..... 5 p.m.
Foodstand bldg set-up..... 5 p.m.
4-H picnic..... 6 p.m.

July 1, Wednesday
LQA & YQCA deadline for state trip eligibility
Poultry health papers are due at the office
Livestock registration certificates are due at the office
Food stand manager & cashier names are due at the office
Ride bracelet & punch card payment is due at the office

July 6, Monday
Food Stand cashier & manager training, 7 p.m.
Zoom link: https://z.umn.edu/FoodStandTraining

July 9, Thursday
Late county fair registration closes consequences may be in place at registration
Fair gates open, 7 a.m.
Animal barns open, 7 a.m.
Swine weigh-in begins, 7 a.m.
Horse & Livestock stalling/cooping, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Poultry must be in place by 12:30 p.m.
Swine must be in place by 1 p.m.
Rabbits must be in place by 4:30 p.m.
Beef, Dairy, Goat, Sheep, and Horse must be In place by 7 p.m.
General Exhibitor Check-in 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Livestock & Horse Exhibitor Check-in, 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
4-H General Exhibits Judging, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
.....Schedule.....
Judge's Orientation..... 7:30 a.m.
Judge's Assistant Orientation 1..... 7:30 a.m.
Judge's Assistants shift 1..... 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Judge's Assistant Orientation 2..... 10:00 a.m.
Judge's Assistants shift 2..... 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
All 4-H Clubs must provide at least 2 adults
General exhibit judging..... 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Judging ends..... 1 p.m.
Champions & State Fair Line-up selections after 1 p.m.
4-H Food Stand open, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Stablemates..... 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Barn Buddies..... 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Creative Clovers + Morken Lucky Leaf..... 5 to 9 p.m.
4-H Exhibit building open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
General exhibit displaying
General Projects Committee.....2 to 4 p.m.
Green Team..... 2 to 4 p.m.
Poultry Show, 1 p.m.
.....Show Order.....
Poultry & Poultry Showmanship
Rabbit Show, 5 p.m.
.....Show Order.....
Rabbit & Rabbit Showmanship
Livestock Judging Activities, 5 to 8 p.m.
Interviews (beef, dairy, goat, sheep, swine)
Exploring Animals & Science of Animals Exhibits
Livestock weigh-in, 2 to 7:30 p.m.
All livestock & horses in place, 7 p.m.
Livestock exhibitors meeting, after weigh-in concludes, approx. 7:30 p.m.
4-H Exhibit Building closes, 9 p.m.

July 10, Friday
Fair gates open, 7 a.m.
Swine Show, 7:30 a.m.
.....Show Order.....
Swine & Swine Showmanship
4-H Food Stand open, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Glyndon Fearless..... 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Creative Clovers..... 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Humboldt + Oakmound..... 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Blue Eagle Clovers..... 5 to 9 p.m.
Livestock Show, 8 a.m.
.....Species Order.....
Meat Goat & Meat Goat Showmanship
Dairy Goat & Dairy Goat Showmanship
Dairy & Dairy Showmanship
Sheep & Sheep Showmanship
Livestock Demonstrations
--Lunch break--
Beef & Beef Showmanship
4-H Exhibit building open, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Livestock interviews (rabbit, poultry), 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Horse show, 11:30 a.m.

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.....Beginning at 11:30 a.m.....
Horse Training
Interviews & Member Achievement
Horseless Horse Skills
Showmanship
Horseless Horse & Horse-Related Exhibits
.....Beginning at 1 p.m.....
Pleasure Events
Trail
Horseless Horse Skills
Deadline to register for the Clay County Fair livestock auction..... 4 p.m.
Exhibit Building Supervision, 5 to 9 p.m.
Clay County Coyotes..... 5 to 9 p.m.
4-H Exhibit Building closes, 9 p.m.

July 11, Saturday
Fair gates open, 7 a.m.
4-H Food Stand open, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Glyndon Fearless..... 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Humboldt..... 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Oakmound + Independents..... 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Blue Eagle Clovers..... 5 to 9 p.m.
The 4-H Revue practice, 8:30 a.m.
4-H Exhibit building open, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m
Horse show, 9 a.m.
.....Show Order.....
Drill Team
Cloverbuds
Equestrians with Disabilities
Gaming Events
The 4-H Revue judging, 11 a.m.
.....Show Order.....
Fashion Revue
Quilt Revue
Performing Arts
Public Presentations
Learn by Doing activities, 4-H Exhibit building
.....Schedule.....
T-shirt dog toys..... 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Milk jug bird feeders..... 3 to 4:30 p.m.
Round Robin in the Round Up Arena, 4 p.m.
Exhibit Building Supervision, 5 to 9 p.m.
Silver Lake..... 5 to 9 p.m.
4-H Ag Olympics, 6 p.m.
4-H Exhibit Building closes, 9 p.m.

July 12, Sunday
Fair gates open, 7 a.m.
4-H Food Stand open, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Clay County Coyotes + Independents..... 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Silver Lake..... 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Stablemates..... 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
4-H Exhibit building open, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Horse Awards, 9:30 a.m.
Clay County Fair Youth Auction, 11 a.m.
Farm Family Awards, 3 p.m.
State Fair trip acceptance deadline, 2 p.m.
State Fair registration paperwork distributed, 3 p.m. (completed forms + payment accepted 3-5 p.m.).
General 4-H exhibits released, 5 p.m.
Livestock 4-H exhibits released, 6 p.m.
4-H Exhibit building tear down, 5 to 7 p.m.
Blue Eagle Clovers..... 5 to 7 p.m.
4-H Food Stand teardown, 5 to 7 p.m.
Stablemates + Morken Lucky Leaf..... 5 to 7 p.m.

July 17, Friday
State Fair Livestock and General Encampment registration forms and payment are due at the Extension Office (final deadline), 4:30 p.m.

July 31, Friday
State Fair General Encampment exhibits due at Extension Office, 4:30 p.m.

Helping out during the fair

If you are willing to help with one of our 4-H events during the fair, let the 4-H office know! During the county fair, Clay County 4-H families help out at animal shows, general exhibit judging, and serve food at the 4-H Food Stand.

These events and activities wouldn't be possible without the help of our 4-H members and their families. **We are grateful to anyone willing to help out. So, if that's you, let us know!**

- **218-299-5020 (main line)**
- **mnext-clay@umn.edu**

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Club responsibilities & assignments during the fair

Whether you choose to be an exhibitor or not, **all club members are expected to participate in these group responsibilities.** For the county fair to happen for our youth--we need your help!

Barn Buddies

4-H fair set-up and picnic ..... June 30, 5 to 8 p.m.
Food Stand orientation (cashier and shift manager) ..... July 6, 7 p.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult) ..... July 9, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult) ..... July 9, 10:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m.
Food Stand Shift ..... July 9, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Blue Eagle Clovers

4-H fair set-up and picnic ..... June 30, 5 to 8 p.m.
Food Stand orientation (cashier and shift manager) ..... July 6, 7 p.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult) ..... July 9, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult) ..... July 9, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Food Stand Shift ..... July 10, 5 to 9 p.m.
Food Stand Shift ..... July 11, 5 to 9 p.m.
Exhibit Building Tear-down ..... July 12, 5 to 7 p.m.

Clay County Coyotes

4-H fair set-up and picnic ..... June 30, 5 to 8 p.m.
Food Stand orientation (cashier and shift manager) ..... July 6, 7 p.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult) ..... July 9, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult) ..... July 9, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Exhibit Building closer (provide 1 adult) ..... July 10, 5 to 9 p.m.
Food Stand Shift ..... July 12, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Creative Clovers

4-H fair set-up and picnic ..... June 30, 5 to 8 p.m.
Food Stand orientation (cashier and shift manager) ..... July 6, 7 p.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult) ..... July 9, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult) ..... July 9, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Food Stand Shift ..... July 9, 5 to 9 p.m.
Food Stand Shift ..... July 10, 10 to 2 p.m.

Glyndon Fearless 4-Hers

4-H fair set-up and picnic ..... June 30, 5 to 8 p.m.
Food Stand orientation (cashier and shift manager) ..... July 6, 7 p.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult) ..... July 9, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult) ..... July 9, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Food Stand Shift ..... July 10, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Food Stand Shift ..... July 11, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

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Humboldt

4-H fair set-up and picnic..... June 30, 5 to 8 p.m.
Food Stand orientation (cashier and shift manager)..... July 6, 7 p.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult)..... July 9, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult)..... July 9, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Food Stand Shift..... July 10, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Food Stand Shift..... July 11, 10 to 2 p.m.

Independent Members

4-H fair set-up and picnic..... June 30, 5 to 8 p.m.
Food Stand Shift..... July 11, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Food Stand Shift..... July 12, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Morken Lucky Leaf

4-H fair set-up and picnic..... June 30, 5 to 8 p.m.
Food Stand orientation (cashier and shift manager)..... July 6, 7 p.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult)..... July 9, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult)..... July 9, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Food Stand Shift..... July 9, 5 to 9 p.m.
Food Stand Tear-down..... July 12, 5 to 7 p.m.

Oakmound

4-H fair set-up and picnic..... June 30, 5 to 8 p.m.
Food Stand orientation (cashier and shift manager)..... July 6, 7 p.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult)..... July 9, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult)..... July 9, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Food Stand Shift..... July 10, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Food Stand Shift..... July 11, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Silver Lake

4-H fair set-up and picnic..... June 30, 5 to 8 p.m.
Food Stand orientation (cashier and shift manager)..... July 6, 7 p.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult)..... July 9, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult)..... July 9, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Exhibit building closer (provide 1 adult)..... July 11, 5 to 9 p.m.
Food Stand Shift..... July 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Stablemates

4-H fair set-up and picnic..... June 30, 5 to 8 p.m.
Food Stand orientation (cashier and shift manager)..... July 6, 7 p.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult)..... July 9, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Judges Assistants (provide 1 adult)..... July 9, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Food Stand Shift..... July 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Food Stand Shift & Teardown..... July 12, 1:30 to 7 p.m.

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New things to plan for in 2026!

The county fair can be an overwhelming experience, even for the most seasoned families, and new updates or changes can make it even more challenging. To help your family have the best possible county fair experience, below are several key items to note as you begin planning your summer! **Keep in mind: This is just a summary of key points–full rules, detailed information, and additional guidance are included throughout the fair book.**

- **Science of Animals & Exploring Animals exhibit judging is changing times.** These livestock general exhibits will be **judged on Thursday, July 9, at 5 p.m. alongside Livestock Interviews** in the Round Up Arena. This will allow a more streamlined judging experience for youth in these project areas.
- **Livestock market animal weigh-in is beginning earlier.** All **beef, goats, and sheep may begin weigh-in at 2 p.m.** on Thursday. This will allow 4-H staff and the species superintendents time to reconcile and produce more accurate show programs for Friday morning. Weigh-in will still conclude at 7:30 p.m.
- **Swine check-in and weigh-in are earlier.** All swine **must be weighed in and in place by 1 p.m.** on Thursday. This will allow 4-H staff and the species superintendent time to reconcile and produce more accurate show programs for Friday morning.
- **Food Stand Training is moving online.** Our club shift manager and cashier training will be moving to Zoom this year. **Designated club shift managers and cashiers will be required to attend a Zoom orientation on Monday, July 6, 2026, at 7 p.m**. The meeting will be recorded and made available for those who cannot view the meeting live. **See page 14 for more information.**
- **The Food Stand is pre-selling Punch Cards to 4-H families.** Punch cards can be pre-ordered in FairEntry when you register your fair exhibits. Punch cards are sold in $10 increments and have no cash value. **See page 13 for additional details.**
- **Clubs selected their food stand shifts this year.** To help reduce frustration with shift assignments, the 4-H office asked clubs to select and **rank their preferences for food stand shifts**. Those preferences were used to create this year's schedule, allowing 4-H staff to assign every club to shifts that their club selected.

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- **The 4-H Revue practice times are earlier.** To give youth more time to prepare before the show, the Fashion Revue, Performing Arts, Quilt Revue, and Public Demonstrations practice will start at **8:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 11**. Judging will begin at 11 a.m.
- **State Horse Show trip points have been updated.** All county horse committees were directed to review and come into compliance with the Minnesota 4-H horse points distribution requirements for state trip eligibility. This led to changes in the points system used at the Clay County 4-H Horse Show. **Please review page 115 for the updated points allocation system now in place.**
- **Horse Awards celebration has moved to Sunday.** The awards celebration will take place on **Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Horse Arena.** During this ceremony, the Clay County 4-H Horse Committee will announce project award winners, state trip recipients, herdsmanship winners, and special horse show event awards.
- **Livestock Herdsmanship winners will be announced on Sunday.** The Clay County 4-H Livestock Committee will announce herdsmanship winners in each species at the **Clay County Fair youth livestock auction**.
- **Order a state fair sweatshirt with your state fair registration.** The Clay County 4-H Federation is offering State Fair county delegation sweatshirts to youth who earn a trip this year! The cost of the sweatshirts will be split between 4-H and the family.

Introduced last year, but becoming more familiar!

- **The 4-H Revue will be judged at the fair.** We hope to boost participation in these project areas by allowing members more time to prepare these exhibits for judging. Judging is scheduled for **Saturday, July 11, at 11 a.m. in the 4-H exhibit building**.
- **4-H-branded attire is expected for general exhibit judging during the fair.** Clay County 4-H **provides a county fair t-shirt for youth to wear** during judging events. Livestock and horse exhibitors may wear western wear or other discipline-specific

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attire appropriate for their species; 4-H branding is not required. **The full rule about 4-H attire for judging can be found on page 106**.

- **Save the date for our County Fair Exhibitor Meeting.** Learn more about what to expect at this year's Clay County Fair. **All members are expected to attend the exhibitor meeting, held via Zoom, on June 9 at 6 p.m.** The meeting will be recorded and made available to those who cannot view it live.

- **General exhibit judging times have changed.** The hours of general exhibit judging have been moved to prevent overlap with other judging experiences. Join us **from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday** during the fair to have your general exhibits judged.

- **State Fair registration and paperwork will be available during the fair.** The timeline for state fair trip acceptance and registration has been changed. Mark your calendar.

  - **State Fair Information Meeting**, June 9 via Zoom. This meeting is an overview of the events and activities families can participate in during the Minnesota State Fair. It also covers the schedules and arrival/departure procedures.
  - **State Trip Acceptance Deadline**, July 12 at 2 p.m.
  - **State Fair Registration Paperwork**, July 12 from 3 to 5 p.m. Registration packets can be completed before you leave the fair; payment must be included; cash will not be accepted, so please plan to bring your checkbook.
  - **Completed State Fair Registration Paperwork DUE**, July 17 at 4:30 p.m. to the 4-H Office. Payment must be received with completed registration.

- **Something old and something new is in store for our champion awards.** The long-standing championship plaques are back again in 2026. **Many thanks to the individuals and families who sponsor these each year!** Last year, we added a fundraiser to raise cash premiums for grand and reserve champion ribbons. **Business sponsors were asked to contribute to the pool of funds to offer these premiums.** Cash premium values are based on a sliding scale. As more funds are raised for the championship premium pool, the premium value increases. In 2025, grand champion ribbons earned $15, and reserve champion ribbons earned $10.

- **Round up a team of friends for the 4-H Ag Olympics!** The Clay County 4-H summer intern is excited to offer a silly and fun team-building challenge for all 4-H members. Join us on **Saturday at 6 p.m. in the horse arena**, and put your Ag skills to the test!

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Join the Green Team!

Green Team is a group of 4-H teens who support showcases, assist judges, lead activities in the 4-H building, and so much more! Members who have completed grade 6 or higher are invited to join the Green Team. There will be an orientation before the fair begins.







What you could do as a team member

Hone your leadership and public speaking skills during the county fair.

- Lead hands-on activities with visitors
- Help decorate and display in the 4-H Exhibit Building
- Hand out ribbons during an animal show
- Or be the official 4-H fair photographer!

Green Team Schedule

- June 1 Application deadline to join the Green Team
- June 22 Welcome & Orientation, 5 to 8 p.m.
- June 30 County Fair Set-up & Summer Picnic, 5 to 8 p.m.
- July 7 or 8 Final staging & decorating for County Fair opening day, 6 to 8 p.m.
- July 9-12 Clay County Fair
- July 15 Wrap-up & Reflection, 6 to 8 p.m.

Please contact the office (mnext-clay@umn.edu) or fill out an application at z.umn.edu/joingreenteam if you want to join! **The application deadline is June 1.**

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Things to do before the fair

Mark your calendars



- **May 15*** - Deadline to ID animals
- **June 1** – Green Team application deadline
- **June 9** – County Fair Exhibitors Meeting online
- **June 15*** – Deadline to register exhibits for the fair, and to request ride bracelets and food stand punch cards
- **June 30** – County Fair Set-up & Summer Picnic
- **July 1*** – Deadline to turn in LQA training, poultry health papers, registration certificates, and ride bracelet/food stand punch card payment
- **July 6** – Food stand manager and cashier training online

Consequences apply to missed deadlines

Identify animals by May 15

Animal ID is the system used to identify and track all animals in the 4-H animal science project areas. These requirements help ensure the health, safety, and fairness of both animals and youth exhibitors.

To get started, enter your animal ID information in 4-H Online (https://mn.4honline.com). Log in to your family account and select a child's profile. Then click on 'Animals' and choose 'Add an Animal.' Families will need the following types of information about their animals to complete identification in 4-H Online:

- Animal type (Beef, Meat Goat, Swine, etc.)
- Ear tag #, Tattoo, leg band, etc.
- Birthdate or hatch date
- Breed, Colors & Markings
- Sex of your animal
- Test results, registration paperwork, flock certificates, etc.

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Attend the County Fair Exhibitor Meeting on June 9



Again this year, we are hosting a 4-H exhibitor meeting for all 4-H families before the county fair. Learn more about what to expect at this year's Clay County Fair and ask questions before the registration deadline. **All members are expected to attend** the exhibitor meeting hosted via Zoom on June 9 at 6 p.m Attendance will be taken and logged. **The meeting will be recorded and made available afterward** for those who cannot view the meeting live. The State Fair Informational Meeting will immediately follow.

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026
Time: 6 p.m.
Zoom link: z.umn.edu/clay4hexhibitormeeting
Recording link: z.umn.edu/clay4hexhibitormeeting

Attend the State Fair Information Meeting on June 9

Again this year, we are hosting the state fair information meeting for all 4-H families before the county fair. Learn more about transportation, financial support, registration, and lodging for the state fair. Families are encouraged to ask questions to decide whether to accept or decline state trips offered at the county fair. This meeting will be offered via Zoom immediately following the County Fair Exhibitor Meeting. **The meeting will be recorded and made available afterwards** for those who cannot view the meeting live.

Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026
Time: 7 p.m.
Zoom link: z.umn.edu/clay4hexhibitormeeting
Recording link: z.umn.edu/clay4hstatefairmeeting

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Register for the fair by June 15

We can't wait to see everything your family decides to bring to the fair! Log in to FairEntry and start pre-registering your projects. **The fair registration portal opens on Monday, June 1, and closes on Monday, June 15 at 11:59 p.m.** You can log in as many times as you want to add or update exhibits at any time.

- Register for the fair at **z.umn.edu/clay4hfairentry**
- **Identifying your animals in 4-H Online is NOT THE SAME as entering animals in the fair.** Families must ID animals in 4-H Online, AND sign up for the fair in FairEntry.

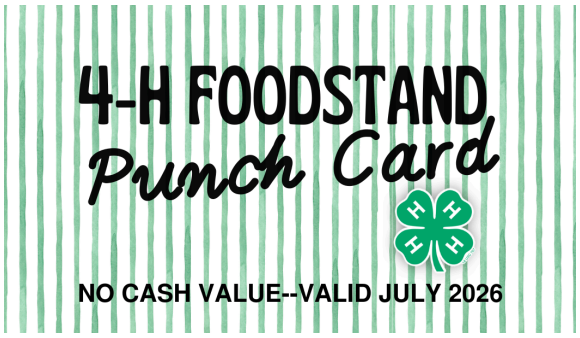
Buy discounted ride bracelets June 1-15

Ride Bracelets can be pre-ordered in FairEntry when you register your fair exhibits. **Checks made payable to "Clay County 4-H" are due in the Extension Office by July 1!** No late payments will be accepted. No exceptions and no refunds!

Eligibility requirements include:

- **Ride bracelets are pre-sale only.** No bracelets will be sold after June 15.
- Offer valid only for 4-H youth members.
- Ride Bracelet is non-transferable.

Buy food stand punch cards June 1-15



Punch cards can be **pre-ordered in FairEntry when you register your fair exhibits and will not be sold after June 15.** Punch cards are sold in $10 increments and have no cash value. These are only valid July 9-12 at the 4-H Food Stand for the 2026 Clay County Fair. **Checks made payable to "Clay County 4-H" are due in the Extension Office by July 1!** No late payments will be accepted. No exceptions and no refunds!

Eligibility requirements include:

- Offer valid only for 4-H youth members.
- **Any unused or partially used punch cards will be considered a donation**; no refunds, returns, or exchanges will be issued. Clay County 4-H is not responsible for **lost, damaged, or stolen punch cards and will not replace them.**

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Attend Food Stand Cashier & Shift Manager Training On July 6



Let's make your club's shift in the food stand a breeze! **Designated club shift managers and cashiers are expected to attend the Zoom orientation & training**. Attendance will be taken and logged. Orientation will review where supplies are located, general cooking/serving procedures, food safety, cashier training, and an overview of the food stand manual. **The club representatives who attend orientation will be your point people for questions during your food stand shift.** It is important that your club attends this orientation so that you can have a positive experience at the food stand. **The meeting will be recorded and made available afterwards** for those who cannot view the meeting live.

Date: Monday, July 6, 2026
Time: 7 p.m.
Zoom link: z.umn.edu/FoodStandTraining
Recording link: z.umn.edu/FoodStandTraining



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4-H Fair set-up & Summer Picnic



June
30
5 P.M.

4-H FAIR SET-UP & SUMMER PICNIC

CLAY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
620 Main Ave E
Barnesville, MN 56514



The excitement is building, and the to-do list is growing. So much work goes into getting the 4-H buildings and fairgrounds ready for the fair. From the installation of equipment to hanging signs, sweeping the buildings, and sanitizing the Food Stand, no corner is left untouched!

You're invited!

Mark your calendars for our set-up night before the fair. **All members are asked to help set up.** Then, stick around to enjoy the potluck picnic!

Set-up & Picnic schedule

- 4-H Building set-up, 5 p.m.
- Foodstand Building set-up, 5 p.m.
- Summer Picnic, 6 p.m.

What to bring to the picnic:

- *Last names A-G:* a beverage
- *Last names H-M:* a snack/side
- *Last names N-S:* a dessert
- *Last names T-Z:* a salad

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County fair set up

Many hands make light work! The deep clean and set-up of the 4-H Exhibit Hall and food stand is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at 5 p.m.** The more help we have, the faster we will get everything cleaned and prepped for set-up! All members are asked to help.

Summer picnic

After the 4-H building & food stand set-up, stay to enjoy the 4-H Summer Picnic! All 4-H'ers and their families are invited to share a meal, meet families from other clubs, and socialize! **The picnic is potluck style, so please bring something to share!**

The 4-H office will provide paper plates, napkins, cups, disposable silverware, and sloppy joes/buns. If your food items require serving ware, please bring that with you. We look forward to seeing you there.



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Download Clay County's App!

Dates and reminders at your fingertips!

You can also find all of these dates and reminders on the calendar in our 4-H app. Add them to your personal calendar to keep yourself organized and on track for a successful County Fair!



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Updated on 4/9/26

4-H Achievement Days

4-H Achievement Day showcase events are an important part of the county fair each year. From the 4-H food stand to the livestock show and the 4-H general exhibit building--4-H is an important part of the fair, and the county fair is a wonderful celebratory experience for our youth exhibitors!

The purpose of 4-H Achievement Days

Many people associate 4-H with kids winning ribbons for their exhibits at the county and state fairs, but 4-H is about developing "blue ribbon kids." In 4-H, competition is simply a tool we use to create engaging and fun learning experiences for young people. The real purpose and lasting value of ALL 4-H events and activities is to empower youth with skills to lead for a lifetime.

In 4-H, young people develop essential, transferable skills that they will use throughout their lives, such as problem-solving, decision-making, leadership, communicating, and responding to the needs of others. Whether youth are building rockets, raising dairy cows, or writing musical plays, 4-H gives young people the life skills they need to be successful.

We encourage all 4-H members and their families to keep this in mind as they participate in our 4-H Achievement Days during the Clay County Fair!

Why exhibit at the fair?

The county fair is a big deal. Showcasing 4-H project work is an essential part of the 4-H program experience. Just like you wouldn't attend athletic practices and games all season long just to miss the BIG game, the same logic applies to 4-H! Take some time to go through the information in this county fair book and use the tips and tricks we shared earlier in the Exhibit Planner (z.umn.edu/Clay4hexhibitplanner) to think about what kinds of things you want to exhibit!

For youth in grades K-5, the county fair is the final showcase of the 4-H year. This is their time to shine and share their accomplishments with friends and family. For youth in grades 6+, the county fair is a qualifying event through which they can earn a trip to the Minnesota State Fair. But keep in mind, a state fair experience may not be for everyone, and that's okay, too! Because for many youths in grades 6+, the county fair may offer all the celebration they are looking for!

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How we are making the best better

4-H is America's largest youth development organization–empowering nearly six million young people with the skills to lead for a lifetime. In 4-H, we believe in the power of young people. We can see that every child has valuable strengths and a real influence on improving the world around us.

Clay County 4-H staff and volunteers believe in

- Every young person's potential
- Developing young people who are empowered, confident, hard-working, determined, responsible, and compassionate—seeing a world beyond themselves so that they have the life-long skills to succeed in life
- Ensuring access and equity for all
- The power of America's leading public Universities
- The practice of positive youth development by creating positive learning experiences
- Caring and trusted adult mentors who cultivate positive relationships with youth
- Meeting young people wherever they are

When parents were asked what they liked best about 4-H, they said…

"Watching the kids learn, work together, and build lifelong friendships."

"Watching younger youth look up to older youth."

"Seeing youth try something new they were nervous about."

"I'm surprised by the things my kids find interesting when they are picking out what projects they want to bring to the fair."







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Learning curve ahead!

We understand that pre-registering exhibits and preparing those exhibits for judging can be confusing and challenging. Hopefully, the Exhibit Planner (z.umn.edu/Clay4hexhibitplanner) inspired you to fill a box with exhibits you can bring to the fair! All of your prep work is about to pay off because you've already completed the first and most time-consuming step in going to the county fair, yay!

Let's explore the next steps to get ready for the county fair, pre-register exhibits, and save those dates! Please review the following information carefully to learn how to pre-register exhibits for the county fair and what to consider as you do.

REMEMBER–You can find all of our county fair resources and information in the "County Fair" tab in our app. This tab is active year-round for your convenience.
Download the Minnesota 4-H App and get started planning for the county fair today!
Droid users: Play Store, Apple users: App Store

Step by step, we will get you there

Step 1– Planning and collecting exhibits! The Exhibit Planner (z.umn.edu/Clay4hexhibitplanner) is your go-to resource for this step. This guide was published in December and mailed directly to your home.
Step 2– Pre-register exhibits for the county fair and save the date! This County Fair Book (z.umn.edu/clay4hfairbook) is your go-to resource for this step. This book is published in April and mailed directly to your home.
Step 3– Going to the county fair! The County Fair Exhibitor Guide (z.umn.edu/clay4hexhibitorguide) will lay out what is expected of you as a 4-H exhibitor while you participate in the county fair. This guide is published in June and mailed directly to your family after you complete pre-registration for the county fair.
Step 4– Going to the state fair! The Minnesota State Fair is the pinnacle of 4-H showcasing. Youth who have completed grade 6 or higher are eligible to earn a trip to the state fair. These state fair trips must be earned at the county fair. Our county's State Fair Exhibitor Guide will provide the key information your family will need to decide whether you will accept a state trip after you have earned one. State Fair packets will be distributed during the County Fair. **We encourage all families interested in the State Fair to attend the State Fair Information Meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, June 9. Final state fair registration paperwork and payments are due to the Clay County Extension Office on Friday by 4:30 p.m. after the fair.**

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What type of exhibitor will you be?

You may remember learning in our Exhibit Planner (z.umn.edu/Clay4hexhibitplanner) that there are many types of exhibits youth can enter at the county fair. Youth can exhibit as an individual, as part of a team, or as a club. Now is the time to focus on which type of exhibitor you will be at the county fair!

Individual Exhibitor – all youth in grades K-13. **Our most common type of exhibitor.** Individual exhibitors may be either Cloverbud (grades K-2) or 4-H members (grades 3+). Your grade level is determined by the grade you most recently completed. Individual exhibitors can bring either animal exhibits, general exhibits, or do a public presentation. As an individual exhibitor, you must be present during judging or turn in the appropriate absentee judging paperwork (general exhibits only) if you cannot be present.

Team Exhibitors - are teams of two individual exhibitors who have prepared an exhibit together. Both team members must be present for judging. Team exhibits are allowed only in the Engineering Design Challenge, Plastic Sculpture Challenge, and Public Presentations.

Club Exhibitors - are groups of youth who belong to a local 4-H club or group. Clubs will prepare a club exhibit together, with each member helping in some way. Club exhibits are conference-judged, so remember to send 2-3 young people from your club to talk with the judge about your club's exhibit!





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Cloverbud exhibitors (grades K-2)

A Cloverbud is a 4-H member in kindergarten, first, or second grade. Minnesota 4-H outlines the full rules and participation requirements for Cloverbuds in the statewide MN 4-H Cloverbuds Policy document and the Cloverbud Showcase Guide. These policies are briefly outlined in the following sections.

Participating in the county fair as a Cloverbud

The purpose of the 4-H Cloverbud Program is to support 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 that will be the basis for becoming competent, caring, contributing citizens. To participate as a Cloverbud member at the county fair, the child must have completed Kindergarten, first, or second grade during the previous school year.

Competition

Cloverbud programs emphasize cooperative rather than competitive experiences. Children are encouraged to develop social skills through experiences with their peers. They are also allowed the freedom of not having undue emphasis placed on the product of their efforts. This is a time to experiment with new skills and experiences. The focus should be on their learning rather than the product.

It is not appropriate for this age group to participate in competitive situations. However, it is very appropriate for them to participate in noncompetitive 4-H activities and to be recognized for their participation. This means all exhibits will receive a Cloverbud participation ribbon for each exhibit, or entry, and will not compete against older 4-H members for ribbons or awards.

What to expect during judging

Upon arriving at the county fair or project showcase, please check in at the registration table. Inform the volunteer about the project you have brought. You will then receive your exhibit tag and be directed to your judging area. Volunteers will assist you with attaching the tag to your project. When it's your turn, you will have an individual meeting with the judge to share about your project.

After judging is complete, your project will be put on display for the public to see all the hard work you did! After the fair is completed, you will be asked to come and collect your exhibit.

What will the judge ask?

When having your Cloverbud project judged at the fair, the judge is eager to learn more about your project and your interest in it. They may ask questions such as: "Can you tell me about your project?" "Why did you choose this project?" "Did you receive any help?" "Did you have fun?" and "What do you want to learn about next year?"

Animal ID policies for Cloverbuds

- All animals shown by Cloverbuds must meet MN Board of Animal Health requirements, which include having an official, permanent form of ID on record with the Extension Office.
- Cloverbuds DO NOT need to ID animals in 4HOnline by May 15, but we encourage them to do so! This is because we use 4-H Online animal ID and project enrollments to send emails, mailings, and newsletters to families who are showing animals at the county fair. It also allows our animal barn supervisors to plan for Cloverbud members' stall/coop space.

Rules for participation

For the safety of K-2 participants, the following rules apply to Cloverbud experiences. Parents/guardians/mentors are responsible for ensuring their "Cloverbud" understands and follows the rules. Extension 4-H staff members and designated volunteer(s) are positioned to intervene when rules are not followed and/or if safety becomes a concern for another reason. For a complete list of rules and guidelines, review the 4-H Cloverbud information sheet. Definitions used in outlining the rules are noted at the end of this section.

- When using equipment that is potentially dangerous, a responsible person[1] will be with the cloverbud at all times[2] guiding and monitoring their involvement. Examples of potentially dangerous equipment include sewing machines and power tools.
- Cloverbuds may only participate in wildlife educational opportunities of the 4-H Shooting Sports/Wildlife program. Cloverbuds may not handle any equipment, including firearms and archery equipment.
- Cloverbuds must wear appropriate safety helmets when riding horses or bicycles.
- When Cloverbuds and animals (including beef, cats, dairy, dogs, goats, horses, llamas - alpacas, pets, poultry, rabbits, 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[1] must be with the Cloverbud to guide and monitor their involvement at all times[2], 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[1] is in control[3] of the animal with the Cloverbud at their side.
- The Cloverbud is in control[3] of the animal with the responsible person[1] 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[1].
- 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 with an opportunity to experience being in the ring with a judge present and to feel the pride that comes with this experience. Appropriate participation includes:

    - Cloverbuds may participate with beef, dairy, dog, goats, pets, poultry, rabbits, and swine in a Cloverbud Showmanship Class.
    - Cloverbuds may participate with a sheep in two classes: Cloverbud Showmanship and Cloverbud Lamb Lead.
    - Cloverbuds may participate with a llama - alpaca in two classes: Cloverbud Costume and Cloverbud Showmanship.
    - Cloverbuds may participate with a horse in three classes: Cloverbud Halter/Showmanship, Cloverbud Western Pleasure, and Cloverbud Barrels. If the horse is used in a riding setting, the Cloverbud may sit on the back of the horse with a responsible person[1] in control[3] of the horse at all times[2]. Helmets are required for the Cloverbud in any riding setting.

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Definitions used in outlining the rules

[1] **A "*responsible person*"** is defined as a screened adult volunteer, youth leader 6th grade and older, parent, or other adult who may appropriately assist with the group.
[2] ***"At all times"*** includes but is not limited to the following: during all portions of project workshops, club events, club meetings, public showcases, which include county fairs, demonstrations, or a community event where youth are representing 4-H with an animal or interacting with potentially dangerous equipment.
[3] ***"Control"*** means assuming responsibility for handling and/or leading the animal. The parent/responsible person must determine the cloverbud's ability to control the animal in non-mounted activities.









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4-H exhibitors (grades 3+)

The definition of a 4-H member is a member in grades three to one year past high school. Minnesota 4-H outlines the full rules and participation requirements for 4-H members on the University of Minnesota Extension 4-H member resources website: Understanding 4-H policies (https://extension.umn.edu/about-4-h/understanding-4-h-policies). These policies are briefly outlined in the following sections.

Participating in the county fair as a 4-H member

To participate as a 4-H member at the county fair, the child must have completed grade three or higher during the previous school year. 4-H'ers can bring any type of project, exhibit, or entry to the county fair. The 4-H member program is competitive at the county fair. This means all exhibits will be eligible for a blue, red, white, lavender, or purple ribbon. Youth who have completed grade 6+ may also be selected for a State Fair trip. For a full list of 4-H entry classes, check out the Class List section of this book.

Rules for participation

All 4-H members must read and be familiar with the full list of rules and regulations as outlined in the following sections of this fair book.







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Club exhibitors

A club can complete as many club exhibits as it would like each year. Planning and creating club exhibits is a great way to get all of your members involved in an activity during a regular monthly meeting! Club exhibits are a contributed effort of all club members and are judged for club credit, not individual credit.

There are types of club exhibits that your club can make together:

- Club Banner
- Club Booth
- Community Pride
- Club Scrapbook
- Plastic Sculpture Challenge







Registering your club exhibits

We ask that the club exhibit pre-registration (z.umn.edu/clayclubexhibits) be entered by club leaders, not individuals. Extension Staff will transfer the club exhibit pre-registrations to FairEntry before the county fair. **Please complete the pre-registration form by June 15.**

Club Exhibits will be judged during General Exhibits Judging. They are not conference judged, except for Club Community Pride projects, which require 1-2 club members to be present for conference judging. Clubs will receive a **$25, $20, or $10 club premium for each club exhibit** they bring to the county fair. See page 100 for the premium schedule.

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Project Information

The class list and descriptions in this book are the first resource you should review when starting to plan what you will bring to the county fair. It will outline general exhibit rules, size limits, display requirements, and also offer suggestions for the kinds of things that can be exhibited in that project area.

If you are in grades 6+, pay special attention to the exhibit requirements. Failing to meet individual exhibit requirements results in an automatic ribbon level deduction at the state fair (e.g., a blue ribbon exhibit will be docked to a red ribbon), and may result in a ribbon deduction or ineligibility for a champion ribbon at the county fair. For example, all photos should be mounted on a neutral-colored matboard, and no frames or glass are allowed.

Are you still looking for ideas of what kinds of things can be exhibited? Check out these ideas (z.umn.edu/Clay4hexhibitideas) before you come to the county fair.






Find help and ask questions

We understand that project information can be overwhelming, but **please take some time to look through a few of the project areas you are interested in.** Then reach out to your club leader or staff at the Extension office to ask questions. The more you ask, the more you know! There are no questions that are not worth asking, and we are happy to help you!

Clay County Extension Office
Office hours: Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
715 11 St N Ste 107B, Moorhead, MN
Door 22 on the north side of the Family Service Center
218-299-5020 or mnext-clay@umn.edu.

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About the class list

Browse through the class list on the following pages. Projects are listed alphabetically. Read through the FairEntry class list. What is the Department name? What is the Division name? How many entry classes are available in that project area? These will be new terms that many families will need to learn. But learning them now will help you complete pre-registration in FairEntry more quickly later. Highlight the class or classes you think you might have an exhibit ready for, or that you hope to get an exhibit ready for!

When registering, remember that your grade level is based on the grade you most recently completed.

Next, read through the exhibit rules and regulations. Are there size limits or display requirements? Do you have the supplies you need to meet those requirements?

Many projects can serve as exhibits in more than one area. For example, use your back-to-school outfit as a Clothing exhibit and a Fashion Revue exhibit, or make a first-aid kit for your rabbit and enter the kit as a Veterinary Science exhibit!

Lastly, check out the show day information! What day will the judging take place? And where? Is there special clothing, equipment, or supplies you need to wear or bring with you? Answers to all of these questions can be found in both the class list and in the County Fair Exhibitor Guide that will be mailed to you after completing pre-registration in FairEntry.



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Important terminology to learn

4-H Online – our membership enrollment database. Youth must be enrolled members to participate in the county fair. Youth enrolled after May 15 will not be eligible for champion awards or state trips. (https://mn.4honline.com)

FairEntry – our county fair exhibit registration website. Use your 4-H Online family email and password credentials to log in and pre-register exhibits for the county fair from June 1 to June 15. (https://z.umn.edu/Clay4hfairentry)

Department – the top-most level of grouping for exhibits. Departments represent exhibit types (e.g., a general project or an animal species exhibit).

Division – the upper-level grouping of classes for exhibits. Used almost exclusively in animal departments, divisions can represent any of these things:

- animal types (e.g., market or breeding)
- breeds (e.g., Holstein, Crossbred, etc.)
- subspecies (e.g., turkeys, doves, chickens, etc.)
- sexes (e.g., barrow, gilt, steer, heifer, etc.)
- animal events that youth exhibitors can participate in (e.g., pet show)

Class – the lowest level of grouping for animal exhibits. Classes represent the animal ages or general project area (e.g., a Holstein spring calf, Plant Science, etc.).

Subclass - some classes are broken further into subclasses (e.g., Plant Science has 8 subclasses). In animals, subclasses could be classified by age or sex, the youth members' grade level, or the animal's weight.



Fair Entry registration is separate from enrolling and identifying animals in 4-H Online. **You ARE NOT registered for the fair until you complete the registration steps online.**

z.umn.edu/clay4hfairentry

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General projects class list

FairEntry Hierarchy

Department Name: GENERAL PROJECTS
Division Name: GENERAL PROJECTS ALL CLASSES
Class Name: see project titles as listed
Sub-Class(es): CLOVERBUDS; GRADES 3-5; GRADES 6-8, GRADES 9-13

Turn to page 68 for Club Exhibits, 70 for Public Presentations, 72 for Science of Animals , and 73 for Animal Projects.

AEROSPACE

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

BICYCLE

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

CHILD & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Toy, game, puzzle, puppets, art/craft materials, etc., made from new or recycled/throw-away material.
- Babysitting kit/travel kit/rainy day kit.
- Original book, story, poem, song, play, cookbook, audio or videotape and narrative, activity book, or safety manual for children.
- Scrapbook, photographs, items, reports, video, etc., on family heritage with description of what was learned about self and family.
- A creatively developed program and/or item used for or with a person with differing abilities (i.e., learning difficulties, physically impaired, etc.).
- Display exploring different types of families (nuclear, blended, single-parent, childless, foster, etc).
- An educational display explaining foster care/foster families in Minnesota
- Display exploring resources for children alone at home (i.e., activities, games, kits).
- An educational display about youth mental health. Explore strategies to help youth cope with stress, anxiety, etc. with busy bags, sensory bottles/activities, conversation tips, etc.
- Display sharing your experience job shadowing an early childhood education provider, child care provider or another youth worker.
- An educational display with resources available to lower-income families (i.e., WIC, Food Shelf, etc).

Requirements:

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

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (CITIZENSHIP)

Project Description:

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

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Exhibit Suggestions:

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

CLOTHING AND TEXTILES

Project Description:

Have you ever dreamed about designing your own clothing or accessories? With a clothing and textiles project, you can learn the basics of design, or sewing construction and how to make simple clothing, accessories, home decor, or other non-clothing-related items. Develop skills in design and fashion illustration, business and marketing, technology in sewing, and learn about careers in the textile industry, including how STEM meets textiles with "smart" clothing. Clothing and textiles aren't always about fashion, either. You could sew your own shirt or pillow case, or you could purchase clothes someone else made to design a historical or original look. You could also try "upcycling" a garment by updating or altering a used piece of clothing (like turning an oversized t-shirt into a dress).

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

Constructed Clothing

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Include an information tag listing: pattern, company name and number or inspirational photo for design, fiber content of fabric and care instructions.
- Constructed garment such as a blouse, shirt, top, skirt, pants, sweatshirt, jumper, dress, outerwear, etc.
- Constructed garment utilizing a fabric or technique new to the exhibitor, such as synthetic suede, active sportswear, micro-fibers, satin, etc.
- Using tailoring techniques to construct a garment

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- Wearable art that can be included as part of the constructed garment.
- Educational poster or display on a clothing or textile subject of your choice. Examples: career in industry, difference in fabric, how fabric is made, evolution of clothing, cost comparison, clothing selection, care of fabric, etc
- Garment mended, repaired or recycled, with color photo of original garment and explanation of steps used.

Upcycled Clothing

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

Purchased Clothing

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

- The purchased garment or outfit must be accompanied by an 8-1/2" x 11" binder with the following information:
  - Colored photo of member wearing the garment. Label photo with name, county, and color of complexion, hair and eyes.
  - Cost of garment and an explanation of why garment was purchased
  - Fabric content and care of garment
  - Examples of ways it will be used in existing wardrobe
  - Sale receipt and tags, if available

Sewn Non-Garment

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

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Fashion Revue Constructed Clothing

Fashion Revue Purchased Clothing

Fashion Revue Upcycled Clothing

Exhibit Suggestions (All Fashion Revue)

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

Requirements (All Fashion Revue)

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

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

CLOVERBUDS

Notes:

- ***Register your exhibit in the appropriate project areas as noted in the class lists. Exhibit classes can be switched on the judging day at the judge's discretion without consequence.***
- ***There are no State Fair trips in this project area.***

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

- Cloverbuds are youth who have completed grades K-2. Cloverbud programs emphasize cooperative rather than competitive experiences—in accordance with our guidelines all cloverbuds will receive a participation ribbon, rather than the blue, red, white, or champion ribbon.

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- Cloverbud general exhibits can be made at home, at a 4-H or non-4-H meeting or event.
- Cloverbud animal science areas include live animals or posters in the following: Beef, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Dog, Horse, Llama-Alpaca, Meat Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep & Swine. Animal-related project areas must follow the MN 4-H Cloverbud policy (z.umn.edu/4h-cloverbud-Info) that requires a responsible person to be with the Cloverbud members at all times during Cloverbud activities when in the presence of an animal. This includes pet and livestock projects.
- Review the Cloverbud Information Sheet (z.umn.edu/4h-cloverbud-Info) to ensure the exhibit is developmentally appropriate and follows 4-H cloverbud policies.

CONSUMER EDUCATION & MONEY MANAGEMENT

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

- A budget workbook, income/expenses graphs, impact of supply chains on consumers, savings plans, etc.
- Junior exhibitors: a basic comparison of similar products with different pricing.
- Intermediate exhibitors: include additional aspects of products other than just price
- Senior exhibitors: compare numerous components (nutritional value, cost per ounce, fabric content, longevity, etc).

CRAFTS & FINE ARTS

Project Description:

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

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.

Note: Due to the large number of exhibits in this project area, champion awards will be given in each age division: grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-13.

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 eligibility: exhibits must be ready for hanging, displaying, etc. (i.e., wire or hooks on paintings, bases for 3-dimensional work, etc.)

Note: Due to the large number of exhibits in this project area, champion awards will be given in each age division: grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-13.

CREATIVE WRITING

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

ELECTRICITY

See "Mechanical Science" section

ENGINEERING DESIGN

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

ENGINEERING DESIGN CHALLENGE LEVEL 1 & 2

Engineering Design Challenge Team Member:

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

All members of the team must register to participate

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

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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 Handbook (z.umn.edu/4hedc) for complete details.

ENTOMOLOGY

See "Natural Resources" section

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

See "Natural Resources" section

EXPLORING ANIMALS

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

- This area is for 4-H'ers who wish to learn more about a given species. Animal ownership is not required.
- Exploring Animals include: Beef, Dairy, Dairy Goat, 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 the appropriate sections of the premium book.

Note: Exploring Animals exhibits will be judged on Thursday at 5 p.m. in the Round Up Arena alongside Livestock Interviews.

FISHING SPORTS

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

- Research commercial fishing for the food industry
- Explore careers in this project area and explain why they interest you
- Local Department of Natural Resources fishing regulations

Requirements:

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

FOODS AND NUTRITION

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

FOODS

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Notes:

- ***If food safety is a concern, judges reserve the right not to taste and/or judge food items.***
- ***Due to the large number of exhibits in this project area, champion awards will be given in each age division: grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-13.***

NUTRITION

Exhibit Suggestions:

- One serving of nutritious food (vegetable or fruit dish, snack, bread, dairy, etc.). Include an 8 ½ x 11 poster showing nutritional value, recipe, and a photo of the food.
- Study of nutrients needed for yourself or someone else, using the dietary guidelines and MyPlate.
- Make a food or fitness plan for yourself or someone else and show how it relates to nutritional and energy needs. (Example: an athlete on a volleyball team, a teen who doesn't have a lot of time).

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- Adapt a recipe(s) to show healthier ingredient choices.
- Study of how physical fitness and/or food choices are related to disease (such as cancer, heart disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, etc.).
- Study of labels from similar food items, comparing important nutrient content like fat, fiber, and sugar.
- Explore nutrition-related careers

FOOD PRESERVATION

Exhibit suggestions:

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

Requirements:

- Consult the authorities (University of Minnesota Extension/other state Extension publications, USDA, National Center for Home Food Preservation) and follow the recommendations for the year (or closest to) for all recipes, procedures, and processing times. Recipes from pectin packages, etc., are acceptable.
- All food preservation exhibits must be labeled or have a note card that includes county, name, grade, product, style of pack, processing method (boiling water bath or pressure canner), date, processing time, date processed, and source of recipe. Pressure-canned items indicate dial or weighted gauge and how many pounds of pressure used.
- Jars must be heat-tempered clear glass canning jars, not commercial glass jars (i.e., glass mayonnaise jars).
- All jars must be sealed. Jellies and jams must be covered with lids.
- Use pint jars for fruit, vegetables, and fish; one-half pint jars for jams and jellies; 2- 1 pint jars or one quart jar for pickled products.
- No artificial food coloring should be added to entries.
- Dried foods may be stored in glass jars, self-sealing plastic bags, or airtight plastic bags. The quantity of dried foods should be: fruits and vegetables, 1/2 cup or more of each, herbs - 1/4 cup of each in whole leaf form, 3 strips of meat (i.e., venison or beef jerky).

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- Foods must be preserved within the past year.

FOOD REVUE

Exhibit suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

FOREST RESOURCES

See "Natural Resources" section

GEOLOGY

See "Natural Resources" section

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Explore your own culture. What are the important elements of your culture, and how is it different from other cultures?
- Make a display of coins, stamps, or postcards from other countries. How are they used? What is the meaning of the images on them?
- Record an oral history interview with someone from another culture living in your community.
- Service learning: Teach English to non-native English-speaking people. What did you learn from doing this?
- Make a collection of foreign recipes and prepare them for others. Consider Hmong or Somali cuisine, or that of another Minnesota group.
- Develop a travel plan to a country of interest, highlighting the important landmarks to visit and experiences to take part in.
- Prepare an exhibit of items, pictures, maps, charts, slides/tapes, drawings, illustrations, writings, or displays that depict the heritage of the member's family or community or 4-H history.
- Illustrate what you have learned about a country's or U.S. region's geography, economy, agriculture, people, language, housing, culture, music, crafts, clothing, holidays, or other aspects.

- Pick a country to study, then look up which one of the fifty U.S. states has a similar population to that country. Create a presentation documenting the similarities and differences between the identified country and the state based on the following topics:
    - Climate and weather
    - Culture and traditions
    - Food and cuisine
    - Language

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Research and report on a health issue of your choice.
- Report on a community service project that you conducted or volunteered with that relates to a health issue or addresses a community need.
    - Include objectives, audience, timetable, program description, materials, community support, and evaluation.
    - Examples might include food distribution centers, homeless shelters, vaccine clinics, blood drives, community-run/walk events such as a 5K,
    - Share the results of a service project you conducted in your community to address a health-related need.
    - Make a personal connection with an organization or group working to address health disparities or health inequities in your community (for example, availability and access to safe and affordable housing).
- Conduct a community health assessment for your county, tribe, city, or school. What are they doing well to support people's well-being? 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

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- How does fitness, motion, or athletics fit into a healthy lifestyle for you
- Careers in the health science industry

HOME ENVIRONMENT

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

HORTICULTURE

Project Description:

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

FLOWER GARDENING

Exhibit Suggestions:

- When exhibiting cut flowers, we suggest:
    - three stems of one variety of annual flowers, or
    - one stem of a hardy perennial, or
    - one stem of summer-flowering bulbs, or
    - one blossom of a tea rose, or
    - one stem of a hardy shrub rose.
- Flower bouquet or arrangement on any theme.
- Display of dried flowers with a card explaining the drying method.
- My Flower Garden - Exhibit on poster board, not to exceed 22 x 28". Include a plan of the garden drawn to scale, the correct variety name, and pictures (or photographs) of the flowers grown. Be prepared to discuss the process from soil preparation to blooming.

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- 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.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR GARDENING

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

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

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Exhibit Suggestions:
- A 3D model of a landscaping design (24x36 inches)
- A binder detailing the exhibit with photos, design, budget, a key explaining certain pieces in the design, etc.

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- A colored design of the layout with colors. Adding an explanation of why certain colored plants are used and what they add to the design.
- Using a computer and designing landscaping, garden areas, or new treeline development.
- A display about turf management of golf courses vs baseball fields and why certain types of grasses are used.
- Types of turf grasses for home use.
- Creating a landscape project for a nursing home, hospital, or other places with people in care. Using plants or bird feeders for patient comfort.
- Discussion options of either annual or perennial plants are used.
- Pollinator gardens

Requirements:

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

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

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

METAL WORK

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

WOODWORKING

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Notes:

- ***Please contact 4-H staff before the fair if your project is an oversized exhibit.***
- ***Due to the large number of exhibits in this project area, champion awards will be given in each age division: grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-13.***

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MECHANICAL SCIENCE

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

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

Project Description:
To include: Entomology, Environmental Science, Forest Resources, Geology, and Water Resources projects

ENTOMOLOGY

Project Description:
Share what you've learned about the study of insects and how they play a big part in our Earth's ecosystem and food supply.

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Projects can include but is not limited to life history displays (e.g. insect life cycle, honey production process, etc), scientific investigation (e.g. insect habitats or effects of environment factors on insects), insects in current events (e.g. pollinators, butterfly tagging, invasive species, protected or declining species), insects in our ecosystem (food source, roles in food production, behaviors, health or disease, etc)
- Live projects (e.g., a bee or an ant colony)

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- Utilize the scientific method to learn about insects. Remember to introduce the subject, describing the process (materials and method), predicting an outcome, stating the results, and discussing any conclusions. Get involved and share what you learned through citizen science projects.
- Collections- cases can be purchased through a variety of vendors or homemade.
    - Specialty insect collection can include, but is not limited to, a collection of a single order (e.g., Coleoptera or Lepidoptera), a collection of immature insects, a collection of insects from a particular habitat (e.g., aquatic, forest, or prairie), or a collection of economic pests of a specific crop (e.g., insects attacking corn).
    - General collection- starter collection should have 10-20 insects, the goal is to get to 50 species of adult insects representing at least 8 orders. Each year, add or replace insects. A full 50 species case would be approximately 19" x 16.5" x 3" to 24" x 18" x 3".

Requirements:

- Live projects (e.g., bee or ant colony) will be accepted if the project can be self-sustaining for up to 14 days without special care. A written report or journal should accompany the project. Pictures, drawings, charts, tables, or other figures may be used.
- Collection shall be contained in one see-through enclosed case. Arrange so that the case may be displayed in a horizontal position. Place the project label on the lower right corner of the top.
    - Specimens must be collected by the exhibitor. Purchased insects are not acceptable.
    - Specimens must be properly pinned with insect pins. Small insects may need to be placed on cardboard points.
    - Specimens must be properly labeled.
        - The location, date, and collector must be included on the labels. County and state (and country, when applicable) are the 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 an elm tree; on a lake shore; indoors), and the common name of the insect.
        - All labels should be visible so they can be read. Use a permanent ink marker, pencil, or print labels from a computer.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Environmental challenges, such as climate change, pollution, erosion, etc., describing the causes and sources, their effect on people and other living things, and potential solutions. This could include news clippings and other media about an environmental issue that you care about.
- Phenology journal used to keep track of environmental changes throughout a season.
- Showcase your participation in an event such as a BioBlitz or naturalist program, or other citizen science project to collect data and/or raise awareness.
- Complete a community map or assessment to observe environmental needs and community assets.
- Vlog detailing hiking, camping, paddling, backyard, and other explorations/adventures
- A display or journal of Minnesota plants, insects, animals, birds, or fish. Include pictures or drawings and information on habits, foods, and shelter needs.
- Collection of wildflowers growing near where you live or a place you visit.

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- 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 has that happened in the area where you live?

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

FOREST RESOURCES

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

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

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

GEOLOGY

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

Exhibit Suggestions:
- Display of rocks, minerals, gemstones, a rock plate can be displayed in an egg carton for younger youth, or in a display case as the youth progresses in the project; include in the display, labels of specimen name and location collected.

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- Rocks, minerals, or fossils from within Minnesota or on a definite theme such as metamorphism, weathering, quartz minerals, ores, or a theme of your own choosing.
- Polished rock specimen; include an unpolished specimen of each rock type for comparison.
- The "science hows and whys" dealing with the principles of geology and natural earth sciences.
- Explain the three main rock types (Igneous, Metamorphic, Sedimentary), including examples of each.
- Model of a geologic earth structure or feature, such as a volcano, mountain range, plate tectonics, earthquake, cave, or glacier.
- Timeline of the geological time scale.

WATER RESOURCES

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Note: Follow local or state policies for collecting, removing, and/or transporting plants and other organisms.

NEEDLE ARTS

Project Description:

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

Exhibit suggestions:

- Any item made by the member using the techniques of knitting, crocheting, embroidery, crewel, counted cross stitch, needlepoint, hardanger, weaving, appliqué, latchhook, tatting, hand embellishments, felting, or 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 products are 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).

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- Historical/Cultural Study: Story, poster, or display about a needle arts heirloom from your family or local history museum. Exhibit must include information about how 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.

Note: Due to the large number of exhibits in this project area, champion awards will be given in each age division: grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-13.

PERFORMING ARTS

Project Description:

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

Requirements for all Performing Arts:

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

Note: All members of a team/group must meet the State Fair age requirement to advance to the State Fair.

PERFORMANCE BASED

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

NON-PERFORMANCE BASED

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

PETS

Note: To include Dog, Cats & Pets projects.

CATS

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

DOGS

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

PETS

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Note: All pets projects will be judged during General Exhibits Judging. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Project Description:

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

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

Requirements for all photography:

- All photos exhibited must have been taken/produced/enhanced by the exhibitor during the current year
- The exhibitor's name, club, county, and exhibit class should be clearly printed on the back of the exhibit.

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

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

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

Note: Due to the large number of exhibits in this project area, champion awards will be given in each age division: grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-13.

ELEMENTS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Project Description:

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

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

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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, a firefighter, a 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.

PHOTO MANIPULATION

Project Description:

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

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

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

Suggested software (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), Pixlr (2nd to 6th grades only), PicsArt Photo Studio (powerful photo and video editing app).

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

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

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Exhibit Suggestions:

1. Composite Photo: Multiple images combined into one image
    1. Panoramas (overlapping areas of several photos and stitching them together in post-production)
    2. the same person in multiple places within the photo
    3. replacing the sky
2. Single Source Image Manipulation
    - acne removal, eye enhancement, teeth whitening, etc.
    - selective color manipulations (i.e., converting everything to black and white except items that are the same color red)
    - apply digital filters (other than black and white)
    - removing distractions in the background, etc.
3. Photo Series:
    - Make a series of 5 to 7 digitally edited photos that illustrate a common theme, such as environmental issues, the plight of pollinators, how to do something, etc.
4. Enlarged Photo:
    - Show a 5"x7" or 8"x10" 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, and 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

Project Description:

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

AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

CORN

Exhibit Suggestions:

- A jar or clear container (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

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Requirements:

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

FORAGES

Exhibit Suggestions:

- A dried sample, in a 3-5 inch tied, dried bundle, a clear container of ensiled forages, or 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 accompany 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 you have interviewed the producer about the growing process. Crops must have been grown in the current or previous growing season.
- Include an information card listing the variety if the exhibit is a crop sample.
- The sample could be in a clear plastic container or a large clear plastic bag.
- Be familiar with crop input costs and the growing process.

PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCE

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

SMALL GRAINS

Exhibit Suggestions:

- A jar or clear container (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, food production, examples of a plant disease, etc., of small grain.

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Requirements:

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

SOYBEANS

Exhibit Suggestions:

- A jar or clear container (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 you have interviewed the producer about the growing process. The crop must have been grown in the current or previous growing season.
- Include an information card listing the variety if the exhibit is a crop sample.
- Be familiar with crop input costs and the growing process..

SPECIALTY CROPS

Exhibit Suggestions:

- An adequate sample of a specialty crop, such as sugar beets, edible beans, black beans, kidney beans, field-produced sweet corn, peas, carrots, potatoes, popcorn, etc. Dried products should be in a jar or clear container (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, 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 you have interviewed the producer about the growing process. Crops must have been grown in the current or previous growing season.
- Include an information card listing the variety if the exhibit is a crop sample.
- Be familiar with crop input costs and the growing process.

WEEDS & 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.

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- *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 them in a sealed container.

PLASTIC SCULPTURE CHALLENGE

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

Notes:

- ***Two exhibits from each county or tribal program will be selected for the State Fair.***
- ***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.***

QUILTING

Project Description:

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

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Exhibit Suggestions:

- A quilted item, any finishing technique acceptable. Examples: potholder, table runner, doll quilt, bed-sized quilt
- Repair, repurposing, or redesign 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, and piecing techniques.

Requirements:

- Attach an index card which includes: pattern name and source, fiber content of fabric & batting, and care instructions.
- Finishing techniques may be machine quilted, hand quilted, or hand tied. If not quilted or tied by the 4-H'er, 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.

QUILT REVUE

Project Description:

Quit Revue allows youth to present their quilting projects to an audience. Depending on the size of the quilt, a helper will be provided to help with displaying the entire quilt on stage. The youth will hold one side of the quilt in a landscape fashion while answering the judging questions.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Judging is based on the completed quilt and the way that you present your project and answer the judge's questions.

Requirements:

- Participants may model any quilt they have constructed as a part of their 4-H quilting project.
- Quilts registered for the quilt revue are required to be presented during conference judging and the quilt revue.

Note: Quilting projects will be judged during the general exhibit judging. The Thursday judging will focus on the project itself. Judging during the Revue show on Saturday will consist of the way you present your project and answer the judges' questions. Practice for the Revue Show will also take place on Saturday. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.

SAFETY

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

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- Interview a safety professional and showcase their advice.

Requirements:

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

SCIENCE INQUIRY

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

SELF-DETERMINED

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

- A portfolio describing the selection, planning, and management of a service learning project and what the member learned during the experience.
- A trifold display made as part of a school assignment, with the addition of an accompanying journal describing the process of developing the display and capturing reflection on learning during completion of the assignment

- A photo collage capturing the experiences and stages of development of an event planned and facilitated by the member, either individually or as part of a team
- A video or digital blog capturing the "behind the scenes" work, reflection, and application of concepts done by an individual member while working as part of a team on a project or assignment A lego creation (not a kit) intended to include some deeper thinking and learning that is not encapsulated in any other project, requiring the exhibitor to create their own learning path.

Requirements:

- A self-determined project will be judged primarily on the self-guided learning experience. While the artistry and craftsmanship of the exhibit itself will be considered, emphasis will be placed on the selection and identification of the self-guided learning experience and the ability of the member to convey the experience and what was learned from it. If the member wishes to be judged on the exhibit's craftsmanship or artistry, the exhibit should be entered within the appropriate project area (e.g., a project in seed art should be submitted within the 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 the State Fair, the member(s) must be able to discuss the process of selection, planning, and management of a self-determined learning experience.

SHOOTING SPORTS

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

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TECHNOLOGY

Note: Includes Aquatic Robotics, Computer & Robotics exhibits.

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Robot (Examples: Edison, EV3, WeDo, Osmos, VEX (or other types of robotics)); (Have a photo of the robot if you do not intend to leave the robot on display)
- Display the robot using diagrams of programming, photos, booklets, etc
- Video of the 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 by a binder of how it works
- Share the software you created and how it works
- Learn about cyberbullying and explain prevention techniques
- Share about a robotics class you participated in and what you learned
- Create an educational app. Show how you planned your app by including sketches, wireframes, or screenshots, and explain how it helps users learn.
- Explore careers in this project area and explain why they interest you
- Design computer hardware/software
- An object made using a 3D printer

Requirements:

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

VEGETABLE, FRUIT AND HERB GARDENING

Project Description:

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

FRUIT

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Fruit should be brought in an appropriately sized, 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**.

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HERB GARDENING

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

LARGEST VEGETABLE

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

Exhibit Options:

- Squash
- Cabbage
- Pumpkin
- Melons

Requirements:

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

POTATOES

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

VEGETABLE CONTAINER GARDEN EXHIBIT

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

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VEGETABLE GARDENING BOX

Clarification - Vegetable Variety is either Large, Medium, or Small

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

VEGETABLE PLATE

Clarification - Vegetable Variety is either Large, Medium, or Small

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

VETERINARY SCIENCE

Project Description:

Share what you've learned during an in-depth exploration 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 the use of different medications in veterinary science, focusing on dosage, records, implications of use, and impact on the industry
- An exhibit focused on surgical and nonsurgical procedures used in veterinary medicine (spaying/neutering pets, embryo transfer, wellness visits, 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

Note: All veterinary science projects will be judged during general exhibits judging. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.

VIDEO/FILMMAKING

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

Video/Filmmaking

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Showcase various video/film techniques
- A selected subject. Include a short storyboard or outline
- Illustrate how a video/film camera works, or how to care for video/film equipment, an 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 a 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, and Lego for stop action
- Document environmental issues such as the plight of pollinators, pollution, soil erosion, or the steps taken to improve the environment
- A short documentary on a family member or an interesting member of your community
- A trailer for a movie or event (can be fictional)
- A story that you tell to your friends and family
- A commercial, real or fictional

Requirements:

- It is encouraged that when developing a 4-H video/filmmaking exhibit, members will develop skills beyond the classroom.
- It is recommended that the video/filmmaking exhibit be 3-5 minutes and no longer than 10 minutes.
- All video/filmmaking exhibits must be made by the exhibitor OR by a production team of which the exhibitor must be a member
- The exhibitor's name, grade, and club must be clearly printed on all exhibit pieces.
- All video/film footage exhibited must have been made/created DURING THE CURRENT 4-H YEAR. When appropriate (i.e., historical sequences), older video clips can be used.
- The member should provide the video file, even if sending it electronically.
- Video/film must be presented on DVD, flash drive, or CD. Participants are also allowed to upload their video to YouTube.
- Videos can also be delivered via YouTube, Vimeo, Frame.io, or similar online-based presentation sites.
- Video/film needs to be in presentation form, including a title and credits
- The video/film must be original material. Any video/film exhibit that appears to contain copyrighted material, including music, will not be publicly displayed unless the exhibitor has written permission

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from the producer to use the material in the video/film. Portions and music from other sources must be documented and have a copyright release. Learn more about copyrighted material and finding material that is public domain or released under the Creative Commons license at z.umn.edu/free4u.

- A computer must be brought for viewing the video/film during the conference judging; other arrangements need to be made in advance with the 4-H staff
- Video/film must be playable on Windows, use file formats including .WMV, .FLV, .MPEG, .AVI, .MOV,.AVCHD, .MPEG-1, .MEG-4, as well as a playable DVD.
- 4-H videos must adhere to G or PG (parental guidance) standards. The 4-H Code of Conduct requires respectful behavior, so you may not depict: violence, obscene language (or naughty words), including swearing, rude interactions or insults, or use or visibility of guns or fighting, etc. Remember, not only teens and pre-teens view the videos, but young children and their parents. Keep this in mind when creating your video.

Notes:

- ***This is not a slideshow (see Manipulated Photography for slideshow).***
- ***Supervision of the drone operator is important until they understand not only how to use a drone but also understand the etiquette and rules for using the drone. For information see: https//www.faa.gov>uas (unmanned aircraft systems).***

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

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

WATER RESOURCES

See "Natural Resources" section

WILDLIFE BIOLOGY & MANAGEMENT

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Develop a wildlife management plan--show practices related to land use and forest management for wildlife, such as controlled burns, logging, planting, etc.
- Explore basic concepts of Wildlife Management (waterfowl wingboards, birdhouse trails, carrying capacity, game animal habitat requirements, history of game management, etc).
- Explain some factors that threaten or endanger animal species, such as urbanization, climate change, or habitat loss. Or explore a species that went extinct and why it happened.

- Build a bird or bat house, nesting structure, hibernaculum, animal shelter, or feeder, and explain the history of artificial shelter structures, how they can benefit a species.
- Display a collection of identified wildlife scat (droppings), skulls, or skins. How do they differ? Why?
- Show how wildlife can be classified into herbivores, carnivores, or omnivores using skull diagrams
- Write a wildlife landscape habitat plan
- Report on animal adaptations, such as animal camouflage. How do adaptations of plants and animals match the environment they live in?
- Make a display that details a food chain/web of a particular habitat.
- Explain the life cycle of your favorite wild animal in a video, poster, or display.
- Shadow or volunteer at a nature center or park and share your experience using a journal, video, or display. Learn about rules and policies in place to protect or manage certain species of wildlife.
- Identify, mount, and label a book of plants native to a certain region
- Animal signs, animal tracks, homes, or foods
- Do a bird study, including beak type, wings, feet, song, feeding patterns, etc.
- Make a collection of wildflowers growing near where you live or a place you visit

Requirements:

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

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Project Description:

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

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

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Club exhibits class list

CLUB EXHIBITS

Note: Club exhibits must be pre-registered by club leaders by June 15 using the following form: z.umn.edu/clayclubexhibits. Please DO NOT enter club exhibits into FairEntry.

CLUB BANNER

Project Description:

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

Two banners will be selected for the State Fair.
New in 2026 - Banners may also include digitally created vinyl or cloth banners.

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

Requirements:

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

COMMUNITY PRIDE - Club

Project Description:

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

Two exhibits will be selected for the State Fair.

Exhibit Suggestions:

- Organize an environmental cleanup
- Make or collect and distribute items where needed
- Read to younger kids at the library or school

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- Service to nursing homes or homeless populations
- Deliver safety education programs, such as a bike rodeo or fire safety training
- Food Partner Challenge digital story

Requirements:

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

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

CLUB BOOTH
Club Activity - Booth

Requirement:

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

CLUB SCRAPBOOK
Club Activity - Scrapbook

Requirement:

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

PLASTIC SCULPTURE CHALLENGE
See "Plastic Sculpture Challenge" section within the general project

Note: Exhibits can be created by individuals, teams, or clubs.



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Public presentations class list

FairEntry Hierarchy

Department Name: **Public Presentations**
Division Name: **see project titles as listed**
Class Name: **INDIVIDUAL; TEAM**
Sub-Class(es): **CLOVERBUDS; GRADES 3-5; GRADES 6-8; GRADES 9-13**

DEMONSTRATIONS

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

LIVESTOCK DEMONSTRATIONS

Livestock Demonstration - Individual
Livestock Demonstration - Team

PRESENTATIONS & SPEECHES

Presentations & Speeches - Individual
Presentations & Speeches - Team

INTERACTIVE DEMONSTRATIONS

Interactive Demonstration - Individual
Interactive Demonstration - Team

Exhibit Suggestions:

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

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Requirements:

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

Note: Demonstrations, presentations, speeches, and interactive demonstration projects will be judged during the 4-H Revue on Saturday. Livestock demonstrations will be judged following the sheep show in the Round Up Arena on Thursday. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.

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Science of animals class list

FairEntry Hierarchy

Department Name: Science of Animals
Division Name: Health/Breeding/Production Exhibit, Zoonotics, Other
Class Name(s): Beef, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Meat Goat, Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep, Swine
Sub-Class(es): Cloverbuds; Grades 3-5; Grades 6-8; Grades 9-13

SCIENCE OF ANIMALS EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

Note: Science of Animals exhibits will be judged on Thursday in the Round Up Arena alongside Livestock Interviews. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.

HEALTH/BREEDING/ PRODUCTION EXHIBIT

Beef
Dairy
Dairy Goat
Meat Goat
Poultry
Rabbits
Sheep
Swine

ZOONOTICS EXHIBIT

Beef
Dairy
Dairy Goat
Meat Goat
Poultry
Rabbits
Sheep
Swine

OTHER EXHIBIT

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 four divisions listed above.
- These projects may be enhanced with 3-dimensional displays, posters, or notebooks

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

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Animal projects class list

FairEntry Hierarchy

Department Names: Beef, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Dog, Horse, Llama - Alpaca, Meat Goat, Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep, Swine
Division Name: Noted As "Breeding Heifer", etc.
Class Name: Noted As "Spring Calf", etc.
Sub-Class(Es): n/a

BEEF

Note: Cloverbuds may only register to exhibit in the Cloverbud Showmanship class.

BIRTH DATES

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

BREEDING HEIFER

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

COW AND CALF

Beef - Cow and Calf Pair

PROSPECT CALF

Beef - Heifer Calf
Beef - Steer Calf

MARKET BEEF

Beef - Market Steer
Beef - Market Heifer

Requirements:

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

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DAIRY STEER
Beef - Dairy Steer

Requirements:

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

BEEF SHOWMANSHIP
Beef Showmanship
Cloverbud Showmanship
Note: Showmanship classes will be shown by age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Junior and Senior showmanship classes will be split into (smaller) sub-classes of no more than six exhibitors. A youth exhibitor's grade level is the grade most recently completed.

BEEF INTERVIEW

Beef Interview
Note: Interview classes will be shown by age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Interview judging will take place on Thursday in the Round Up Arena. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.

DAIRY

Note: Cloverbuds may only register to exhibit in the Cloverbud Showmanship class.

BIRTH DATES

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

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HOLSTEIN & MIXED COLOR - REGISTERED OR GRADE

Dairy - Spring (Junior) Calf
Dairy - Winter Calf
Dairy - Fall Calf
Dairy - Summer Jr. Yearling
Dairy - Spring Jr. Yearling
Dairy - Winter Sr. Yearling
Dairy - Fall Sr. Yearling
Dairy - Milking Yearling
Dairy - Jr. Two-Year-Old Cow
Dairy - Sr. Two-Year-Old Cow

HOLSTEIN & MIXED COLOR - REGISTERED OR GRADE CONTINUED

Dairy - Three-Year-Old Cow
Dairy - Four-Year-Old Cow
Dairy - Five-Year-Old and Older Cow
Dairy - Dry Cow

DAIRY SHOWMANSHIP

Dairy Showmanship
Cloverbud Showmanship
Note: Showmanship classes will be shown by age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Junior and Senior showmanship classes will be split into (smaller) sub-classes of no more than six exhibitors. A youth exhibitor's grade level is the grade most recently completed.

DAIRY INTERVIEW

Dairy Interview
Note: Interview classes will be shown by age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Interview judging will take place on Thursday in the Round Up Arena. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.

DAIRY GOAT

Note: Cloverbuds may only register to exhibit in the Cloverbud Showmanship class.

BIRTH DATES

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

DAIRY GOAT

Dairy Goat Jr. & Sr. Doe Kids
Dairy Goat - Dry Yearling Doe
Dairy Goat - Milking Doe
Note: For safety reasons, all dairy goats must be disbudded/dehorned. Regrowth of less than ONE INCH allowed.

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DAIRY GOAT SHOWMANSHIP

Dairy Goat Showmanship
Cloverbud Showmanship
Note: Showmanship classes will be shown by age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Junior and Senior showmanship classes will be split into (smaller) sub-classes of no more than ten exhibitors. A youth exhibitor's grade level is the grade most recently completed.

DAIRY GOAT INTERVIEW

Dairy Goat Interview
Note: Interview classes will be shown by age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Interview judging will take place on Thursday in the Round Up Arena. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.

DOG

Notes:

- ***Clay County does not offer a dog show at this time. If you would like to exhibit in this project area, please contact Extension Staff. Families will need to be referred to a county showcase where you could participate.***
- ***Cloverbuds may only register to exhibit in the Cloverbud Showmanship class.***

DOG AGILITY

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

DOG RALLY

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

DOG OBEDIENCE

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

DOG SHOWMANSHIP

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

Requirements:

- 4-H'ers in 3rd grade and up are eligible for the county and state dog show.
- 4-H'ers shall exhibit in the classes corresponding to the level of training they and their dog have received. Additional information, class requirements, and rules/regulations can be found in the

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Minnesota 4-H Agility, Obedience, Rally, and Showmanship rules and guidelines (four separate publications) available on the MN 4-H dog project website (z.umn.edu/mn4hdogproject).

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

DOG INTERVIEW

Dog Interview

DOG CLOVERBUD

Cloverbud Dog

HORSE

Note: Cloverbuds may only register to exhibit in the Cloverbud Showmanship, Cloverbud Barrels, and Cloverbud Western Pleasure classes.

HORSE SHOW

ENGLISH EQUITATION

Horse - English Equitation - Grades 9+
Horse - English Equitation - Grades 6-8
Horse - English Equitation - Grades 3-5

ENGLISH PLEASURE

Horse - English Pleasure - Grades 9+
Horse - English Pleasure - Grades 6-8
Horse - English Pleasure - Grades 3-5

WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

Horse - Western Horsemanship, All Gaits, Grades 9+
Horse - Western Horsemanship, All Gaits, Grades 6-8
Horse - Western Horsemanship, All Gaits, Grades 3-5

WESTERN PLEASURE

Horse - Western Pleasure - Grades 9+
Horse - Western Pleasure - Grades 6-8
Horse - Western Pleasure - Grades 3-5
Note: **Exhibitors must choose Ranch Pleasure or Western Pleasure. They cannot exhibit in both.**

POLE WEAVING

Horse - Pole Weaving, Grades 9+
Horse - Pole Weaving, Grades 6-8
Horse - Pole Weaving, Grades 3-5

JUMPING FIGURE 8

Horse - Jumping Figure 8, Grades 9+
Horse - Jumping Figure 8, Grades 6-8
Horse - Jumping Figure 8, Grades 3-5

KEY RACE

Horse - Key Race, Grades 9+
Horse - Key Race, Grades 6-8
Horse - Key Race, Grades 3-5

BARREL RACE

Horse - Barrel Race, Grades 9+
Horse - Barrel Race, Grades 6-8
Horse - Barrel Race, Grades 3-5

TRAIL CLASS

Horse - Trail Class, Grades 9+
Horse - Trail Class, Grades 6-8
Horse - Trail Class, Grades 3-5

RANCH PLEASURE CLASS

Horse - Ranch Pleasure Class, Grades 9+
Horse - Ranch Pleasure Class, Grades 6-8
Horse - Ranch Pleasure Class, Grades 3-5
Note: **Exhibitors must choose Ranch Pleasure or Western Pleasure. They cannot exhibit in both.**

HORSE SHOWMANSHIP

Horse - Showmanship Grades 9+
Horse - Showmanship Grades 6-8
Horse - Showmanship Grades 3-5

HORSE INTERVIEW

Horse - Interview, Grades 9+
Horse - Interview, Grades 6-8
Horse - Interview, Grades 3-5
Note: Interview judging will take place on Friday in the Horse Arena. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.

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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)

Horse Helmet Policy:
All 4-H'ers participating in any 4-H-sponsored mounted activity are required to wear properly fastened ASTM/SEI-approved protective headgear. Helmet use is required when mounted. This policy also extends to 4-H volunteers when they are working with 4-H youth in a 4-H volunteer role during mounted activities. Additional information can be found on the Horse project page (z.umn.edu/4HHorseProject)

HORSE CLOVERBUD

Horse - Cloverbud Barrels
Horse - Cloverbud Western Pleasure
Horse - Cloverbud Horse Showmanship

HORSE TRAINING

Horse - Training Steps 1 - 6

HORSE RELATED

Horse- Horse Related, Grades 6+
Horse - Horse Related, Grades 3-5
Notes: Judging will take place on Friday at the Horse Arena. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.

Requirements:

- **This exhibit area is for youth who exhibit a horse; horseless horse is for youth who do not exhibit 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.
- Exhibits are conference judged with the exhibitor present.

HORSELESS HORSE EXHIBIT

Horse - Horseless Horse, Grades 6+
Horse – Horseless Horse, Grades 3-5
Notes: Judging will take place on Friday at the Horse Arena. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.

Requirements:

- **This exhibit is for youth who do not exhibit a horse; horse-related is for youth who exhibit 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.
- Exhibits are conference judged with the exhibitor present.

HORSELESS HORSE SKILLS CLASS

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

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

***Notes:* Judging will take place on Friday at the Horse Arena. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.**

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

Horse Show Rules & State Trip Policies can be reviewed in the 4-H Exhibit Rules section of this fair book.

Prepare for the Fair

This is a great opportunity for youth in grades 3 and up to spend time with their horse, meet new friends, and get advice from local clinicians. Sessions are held on Monday evenings leading up to the county fair at the Clay County Fairgrounds in Barnesville, MN, or in Hawley, MN.

More information will be shared as the fair approaches. Be sure to mark your calendar now–you won't want to miss the fun!



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LLAMA-ALPACA

Notes:

- ***Clay County does not offer a llama-alpaca show at this time. If you would like to exhibit in this project area, please contact Extension Staff. Families will need to be referred to a county showcase where they can participate.***
- ***Cloverbuds may only register to exhibit in the Cloverbud Showmanship and Cloverbud Costume classes.***
- ***4-H'ers who participate in the Llama-Alpaca Costume Contest at the State Fair will receive a cash award. These payments are made in October. 4-H'ers must be grade eligible to participate at the State Fair.***

BIRTH DATES

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

GENDER

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

LLAMA-ALPACA

Llama-Alpaca - Costume (Exhibitor must be on foot)
Llama-Alpaca - Obstacle Course
Llama-Alpaca - Public Relations
Llama-Alpaca Showmanship
Llama-Alpaca Fleece

LLAMA-ALPACA CLOVERBUD

Llama-Alpaca - Costume (Exhibitor must be on foot)
Llama-Alpaca Showmanship

MEAT GOAT

Notes:

- ***Cloverbuds may only register to exhibit in the Cloverbud Showmanship class.***
- ***Pygmy Goats are classed as Meat Goats.***

BIRTH DATES

Market goat

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

Wether Dam

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

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Meat goat breeding does

Senior yearling meat breeding doe (never kidded)	Sept 1, 2024 – Feb 28, 2025
Junior yearling meat breeding doe (never kidded)	March 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025
Fall yearling meat breeding doe (never kidded)	June 1, 2025 – Nov 30, 2025
Senior meat breeding doe kid	Dec 1, 2025 – Feb 28, 2026
Junior meat breeding doe kid	Mar 1, 2026 – May 31, 2026

MARKET GOAT

Meat Market Goat
Dairy Market Goat - wether

WETHER DAM

Wether dam yearling (never kidded)
Wether dam kid

MEAT GOAT BREEDING DOE

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

Requirements:

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

MEAT GOAT SHOWMANSHIP

Meat Goat Showmanship
Cloverbud Showmanship
Note: Showmanship classes will be shown by age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Junior and Senior showmanship classes will be split into (smaller) sub-classes of no more than ten exhibitors. A youth exhibitor's grade level is the grade most recently completed.

MEAT GOAT INTERVIEW

Meat Goat Interview
Note: Interview classes will be judged by age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Interview judging will take place on Thursday in the Round Up Arena. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.

POULTRY

Note: Cloverbuds may only register to exhibit in the Cloverbud Showmanship class.
HATCH DATES
Note: All exhibited birds (except breeding pigeons and doves) must be of this year's hatch.

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Doves	**Required Hatch Date**
Breeding pair (one male and one female)	December 31, 2025, or earlier
Pigeons	**Required Hatch Date**
Young bird (one male or one female)	January 1 or after
Breeding pair (one male and one female)	December 31, 2025, or earlier
Chickens	**Suggested Hatch Date**
Market (two males or two females)	6 to 8 weeks before the fair
Breeding (one male and two females)	January
Egg production (two females)	20 weeks before fair
Ducks	**Suggested Hatch Date**
Market (two males or two females)	7 to 8 weeks before the fair
Breeding (one male and two females)	January
Geese	**Suggested Hatch Date**
Market (two males or two females)	15 to 20 weeks before the fair
Breeding (one male and two females)	January
Guinea	**Suggested Hatch Date**
Market (two males or two females)	20 to 22 weeks before the fair
Breeding (one male and two females)	January
Turkey	**Suggested Hatch Date**
Market (two males or two females)	18 to 20 weeks before fair
Breeding (one male and two females)	January

Use the following Classes, with the Divisions to indicate the type of your project animal(s).

CHICKENS
Chickens - Market pen of two males or two females
Chickens - Breeding pen of one male & two females
Chickens - Bantam Breeding pen of one male & two females
Chickens - Egg production pen of two pullets, White egg layers
Chickens - Egg production pen of two pullets, Brown egg layers
Note: Market birds over 10 pounds will receive a white ribbon.

DOVES
Doves - Purebred breeding pair

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

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

GUINEA
Guinea - Market pen of two males or two females - same breed

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Guinea - Breeding pen of one male & two females - same breed
Note: ONLY Pearls, Whites, and Lavender breeds can be shown.

PIGEONS

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

TURKEYS - Domestic only

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

Requirements:

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

POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP

Poultry Showmanship
Cloverbud Showmanship
Note: Showmanship classes will be shown by age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Junior and Senior showmanship classes will be split into (smaller) sub-classes of no more than twelve exhibitors. A youth exhibitor's grade level is the grade most recently completed.

POULTRY INTERVIEW

Poultry Interviews
Note: Interview classes will be judged by age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Interview judging will take place on Friday in the Poultry Barn. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.

EGG DISPLAY

Egg Display - one dozen eggs, any color
Note: There are no State Fair trips in this class.

SHOW & HOBBY BIRDS

Breeding Pen of 1 male & 2 females, any species
Single Bird - any species
Note: There are no State Fair trips in these classes.

RABBITS

Note: Cloverbuds may only register to exhibit in the Cloverbud Showmanship class.
Use the following Divisions and Classes to indicate the type of your project animal(s).

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BREEDING RABBITS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OTHER NON-LISTED LARGE BREED
Rabbit - Large Breed Senior Buck over 8 months of age
Rabbit - Large Breed Senior Doe over 8 months of age
Rabbit - Large Breed Intermediate Buck 6 - 8 months of age
Rabbit - Large Breed Intermediate Doe 6 - 8 months of age
Rabbit - Large Breed Junior Buck under 6 months of age
Rabbit - Large Breed Junior Doe under 6 months of age

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

OTHER NON-LISTED SMALL BREED
Rabbit - Small Breed Senior Buck over 6 months of age
Rabbit - Small Breed Senior Doe over 6 months of age
Rabbit - Small Breed Junior Buck under 6 months of age
Rabbit - Small Breed Junior Doe under 6 months of age

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

Requirements:

- All rabbits must be purebred and an American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) recognized breed. More information about ARBA-recognized breeds can be found in the ARBA Standard of Perfection or on the ARBA website.
- Each rabbit must be permanently tattooed in the left ear for identification purposes.

MARKET RABBIT

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

RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP

Rabbit Showmanship
Cloverbud Showmanship
Note: Showmanship classes will be shown by age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Junior and Senior showmanship classes will be split into (smaller) sub-classes of no more than twelve exhibitors. A youth exhibitor's grade level is the grade most recently completed.

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RABBIT INTERVIEW

Rabbit Interview
Note: Interview classes will be judged by age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Interview judging will take place on Friday in the Rabbit Barn. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.

DOE & LITTER DISPLAY

Doe and Litter Display must not be weaned, not over 5 weeks of age.
Note: There are no State Fair trips in this class.
Requirements:

- Baby rabbits must not be weaned, cannot be over 5 weeks of age, and cannot be entered in regular class competition.
- Display contest will be based on the uniformity of offspring, and the condition of the rabbits/pen decorating. Pen sizes are approximately 3 feet wide by 3 feet deep, and 3 feet tall.

WOOL OR PELT DISPLAY

Wool or pelt display
Note: There are no State Fair trips in this class.

Requirements:

- Wool displays can be bagged and harvested fiber, or a processed skein of angora/angora blend yarn that was harvested from your animal.
- Pelts must be tanned and ready for display or use.

SHEEP

Note: Cloverbuds may only register to exhibit in the Cloverbud Showmanship and Lamb Lead classes.

BIRTH DATES

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

BREEDING EWE

Sheep - Yearling Ewe
Sheep - Fall Ewe Lamb
Sheep - Ewe Lamb born in January, February, or March
Sheep - Wether Dam Ewe Lamb
Sheep - Wether Dam Yearling Ewe

Minnesota State Fair: 4-H wether dam
Use this information sheet to better understand the difference between the wether dam and a commercial ewe class to exhibit in the Clay County 4-H Sheep Show and at the Minnesota 4-H State Fair Sheep Show.

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MARKET LAMB

Market Lamb

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-haired sheep breeding. Crossbred hair sheep and wool breeding is not acceptable. See 2026 Animal Science Updates (z.umn.edu/4-HAnSciUpdates) for more information.

LAMB LEAD

Lamb Lead
Cloverbud Lamb Lead
Requirements:

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

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

SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP

Sheep Showmanship
Cloverbud Showmanship
Note: Showmanship classes will be shown by age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Junior and Senior showmanship classes will be split into (smaller) sub-classes of no more than ten exhibitors. A youth exhibitor's grade level is the grade most recently completed.

SHEEP INTERVIEW

Sheep Interview
Note: Interview classes will be judged by age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Interview judging will take place on Thursday in the Round Up Arena. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.

FLEECE

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

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

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SWINE

Note: Cloverbuds may only register to exhibit in the Cloverbud Showmanship class.

BIRTH DATES

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

BREEDING GILTS

Swine - Registered Breeding Gilts (born in Jan, Feb, or March).
Swine - Crossbred Breeding Gilts (born in Jan, Feb, or March).

MARKET BARROW/MARKET GILT

Swine - Registered Market Barrow
Swine - Crossbred Market Barrow
Swine - Market Gilt

Requirements:

- Recommended minimum weight for the 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 the State Fair.

SWINE SHOWMANSHIP

Swine Showmanship
Cloverbud Showmanship
Note: Showmanship classes will be shown by age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Junior and Senior showmanship classes will be split into (smaller) sub-classes of no more than ten exhibitors. A youth exhibitor's grade level is the grade most recently completed.

SWINE INTERVIEW

Swine Interview
Note: Interview classes will be judged by age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Interview judging will take place on Thursday in the Swine Barn. Please refer to the 4-H Schedule of Events for times.

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Important links:

https://mn.4honline.com

- Use this website to identify animals and enroll in 4-H

z.umn.edu/clay4hfairentry

- Use this website to sign up for the county fair
  - Register your animals for the shows at the fair
  - Register your general exhibits for judging

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Getting ready to pre-register exhibits

Take stock of what exhibits you have prepared and what exhibits you plan to finish up before the county fair. We recommend making a list for quick reference later! Then make a few quick notes next to each exhibit on that list. Write down which department/division/class you would like to exhibit each entry in.

Choosing the right department/division/class for animal exhibits

Selecting the department and division for your animal exhibit should be fairly straightforward. **Each animal species has its own department.** Because division and class titles are unique to each species, we recommend visiting the class list to review the division titles in your project area.

Divisions are slightly different for every species of animal. For example, if you plan to show livestock, you should know your animal's breed and whether it is a market or breeding type animal. If you are a horse show exhibitor, you should know which riding discipline you want to participate in and your skill level (e.g., western pleasure, level 2 horse training, etc.). Still not sure what a breeding animal is, or what your skill level is? The class list will help explain the rules and requirements for each division.

Classes, like divisions, are different for every species of animal, too. If you are a livestock exhibitor, you will need to know your animal's age (e.g., spring calf, March breeding gilt, etc.).

When in doubt, consult the class list to learn more about department/division/class titles and the rules and requirements for each.

Choosing the right department/division/class for general exhibits

General exhibits are unique because they do not have groupings within the department and division levels of the FairEntry hierarchy. Both the department and division titles will be "General Projects." This means you will see a very long class list when pre-registering for these exhibits. So let's review some special considerations when selecting a general project class.

Many general exhibits can fit into more than one class. The class you choose may impact your ribbon placement. **The central question to ask while deciding which class to select**

is: What do you want to be evaluated on? Scrapbooks are a great example of a project that fits in many classes. In the case of a vacation scrapbook, maybe you want to be judged on the quality and arrangement of the photos you put in it–in this example, you would enter your scrapbook in photography! But if you want to be judged on your experience and knowledge about the place you visited, you should think about exhibiting your scrapbook in Global Connections.

To choose the best possible entry class, you should know what you want to talk about with your exhibit. What do you love about your exhibit? What did you learn while working on it? What is most important to you about your exhibit? Use the answers to these questions to point you in the right direction when selecting the class for your exhibit.

Pre-registering individual exhibits

Are you ready to pre-register your exhibits? Excellent! Exhibit **pre-registration opens on June 1**. Log in to begin pre-registering after this date. And, if you forget to pre-register an exhibit in your first invoice, you can always log back in to add more at any time before June 15 without consequences.

Remember, **all exhibits must be pre-registered by June 15** to be eligible for champion awards and state trips. **Late registrations will be accepted** in the Extension Office from June 16 to July 9. Late registrations are not eligible for champion awards or state trips. Read our deadline, consequences, and exemptions table on page 120 to fully understand eligibility and the rules related to late animal ID and exhibit registration.

Use these hyperlinks to pre-register your exhibits

4-H Online (https://mn.4honline.com) All youth must be enrolled in 4-H to exhibit with us at the county fair. If you haven't enrolled yet, now is the time to do this! Youth enrolled after May 15 will not be eligible for champion awards or state trips. If you are already enrolled, skip ahead to FairEntry login.

FairEntry (https://z.umn.edu/clay4hfairentry) Use your 4-H Online family email and password credentials to log into our exhibit registration website. This pre-registration website opens on June 1 and closes on June 15.

REMEMBER–You can find both of these hyperlinks in the "County Fair" tab in our app. This tab is active year-round for your convenience.

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Step-by-step instructions for pre-registering in FairEntry

Most exhibits will be individual exhibits prepared and shown by youth. These can be either animal exhibits or general exhibits. Youth will enter individual exhibits based on the grade they most recently completed. Cloverbud exhibitors were in grades K to 2, and 4-H exhibitors were in grades 3 to one year past high school. You must be present during judging or turn in the appropriate absentee judging paperwork if you cannot be present.

Getting started

- To register for 4-H at your county fair, each youth must be enrolled as an active 4-H member, and you must know (or obtain) your 4-H Online family login (email address and password). For more information about enrolling and/or obtaining login information, go to https://z.umn.edu/mn4honline-enroll.

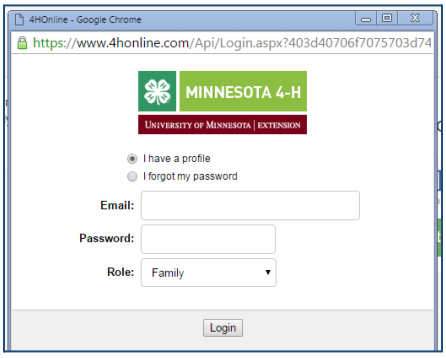
Logging in

When you're ready to register for the fair, start at the FairEntry URL (https://z.umn.edu/Clay4hfairentry) supplied by your county.

1. Click on "Sign in with 4-H Online." This will bring up a pop-up window (watch for pop-up blocker notices and/or a hidden window).



2. This is where you'll enter your 4HOnline login email and password. If you've forgotten your password, you'll need to go to mn.4honline.com and first reset your password there. For more information, go to https://z.umn.edu/mn4honline-enroll.

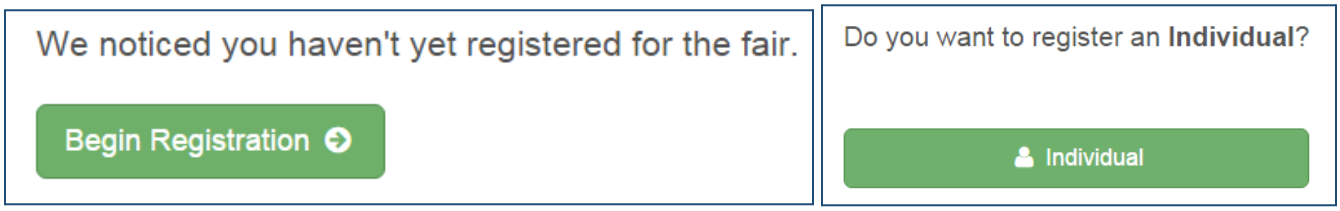


Creating exhibitors

If this is your FIRST TIME logging in, you will see a welcome screen. (See below for subsequent logins)

- Click "Begin Registration."
- Click on "Individual"
- Click on the 4-H member you are registering and click on "Continue."
- As you proceed, you may or may not see a question(s) to answer, depending on your county.
- Click "Continue."

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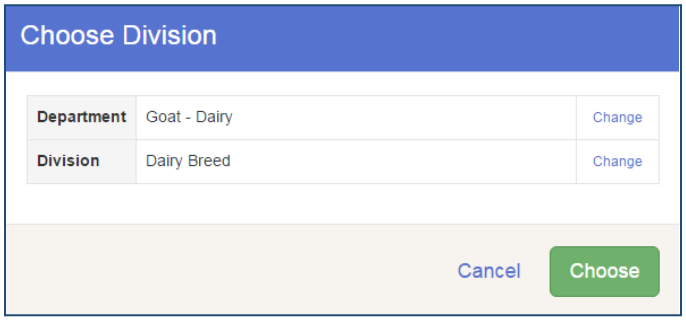


Congratulations! You have now created an Exhibitor profile, which can be reviewed if desired.

Creating (pre-registering) entries

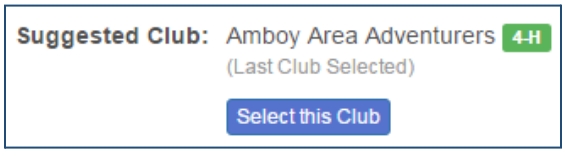
The next step is to create entries

- Click "Continue to Entries", then "Add an Entry".
- Select the desired Department.
- Select the desired Division.
- Click on "Choose"



At this point, the registration option you see will depend on the Class being entered:
Option 1 - Selecting from a list of Classes.
Option 2 - Select to enter multiple entries (exhibits) in one more Class at one time.
Option 3 - Select a single animal Class and then (in some cases) choose a specific animal.
Option 4 - Selecting a specific animal, and then entering that animal into one or more Classes.

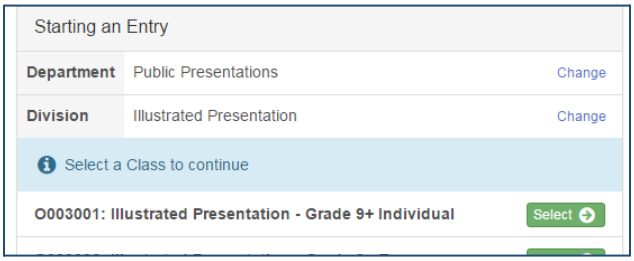
In all options, you will at some point see the member's 4-H Club displayed.
In some cases, you must "Select" (or change) the club. Options for doing that may vary, but generally, the suggested club can most easily be selected with a blue "Select this Club" button. In other cases, the club will already be selected.



Selecting a class

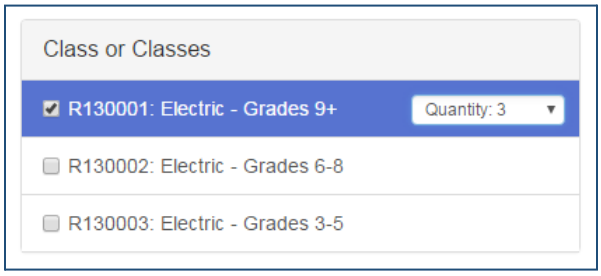
OPTION 1 - Selecting from a list of Classes

- Click on "Select" to register one entry in that Class



OPTION 2 - Selecting to enter multiple entries in one more Class at one time (IF allowed in the Class)

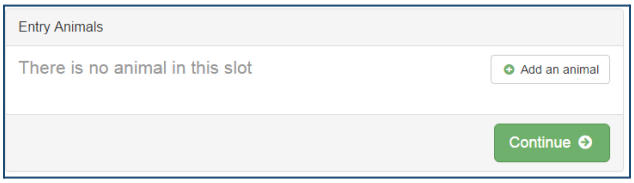
- Check the box to the left of the desired Class
- Change the Quantity as desired
- Click "Continue."
- Review Entries and then click on "Create Entries."



OPTION 3 - Selecting a single animal Class and then (in some cases) choosing a specific animal.

- Click on "Select" to register one entry in the desired Class.
- Click "Continue."
- Select your Club (see above note about selecting a Club)
- If an animal is required, click on "Add an animal" to choose from previously ID'd and available animals
- Click "Continue."





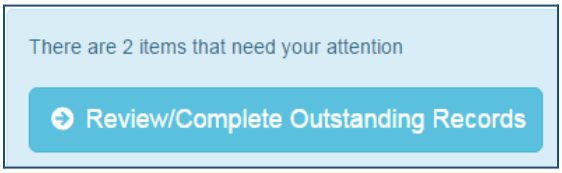
OPTION 4 - Selecting a specific animal, and then entering that animal into one or more Classes.

- The first step in this option is to select the animal to be entered. (Only one animal at a time can be entered with this option.)
- If this is the first time entering this particular animal, it must be "added" to the screen by clicking on "Add Animal".
- Once the animal is listed, click on the radio button to select it.
- Then, choose the Class(es) that this animal will be entered into
- Click on [Continue] to review entries
- Click on [Create Entries] to complete the process.

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Other questions and incomplete entries

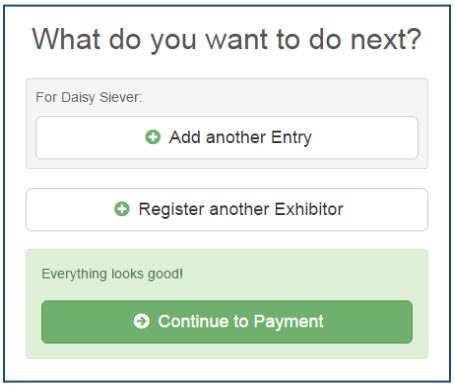
In the process of registering entries, some entries will have additional questions you must answer. Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the questions and proceed with registration. In some cases, you may run into errors or situations where you cannot proceed. If you see a "blue" button or information, follow the instructions to complete the tasks indicated. There may be situations where you cannot proceed with your fair entries for some reason or another. For example, you may need to enter an animal that is not showing up as being available for entry, or you may be unsure about the correct Class to enter. In these cases, **contact your County Extension Staff at 218-299-5020 or mnext-clay@umn.edu.**



Continuing on

After successfully completing an entry, you can:

- Click "Add another Entry" to continue adding entries.
- Click "Register another Exhibitor" to change to another 4-H member in the family.
- Click "Continue to Payment". (There are no fees or payments needed, but this step is required to complete your registration.) Click "Continue to Payment" to finish, following the steps as prompted to submit the "invoice".
- You can log back in at any time to review entries previously created or to add additional exhibitors and/or entries.

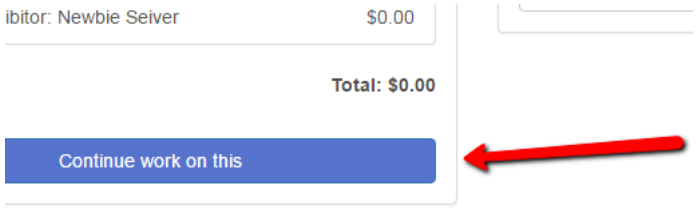


Logging back in another time

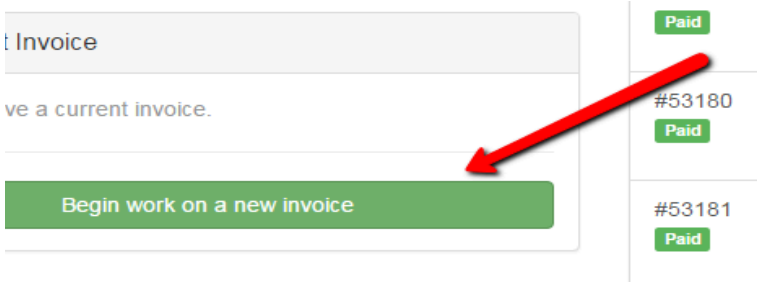
When logging back in, you will find your family profile in one of three "invoice statuses."

Invoice un-submitted
You can continue adding or completing entries on that invoice.
Entries cannot be changed, but they can be deleted from an unsubmitted invoice.

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Invoice submitted and/or invoice approved
You can add new entries by starting a new invoice.
Previously submitted entries cannot be deleted or changed.



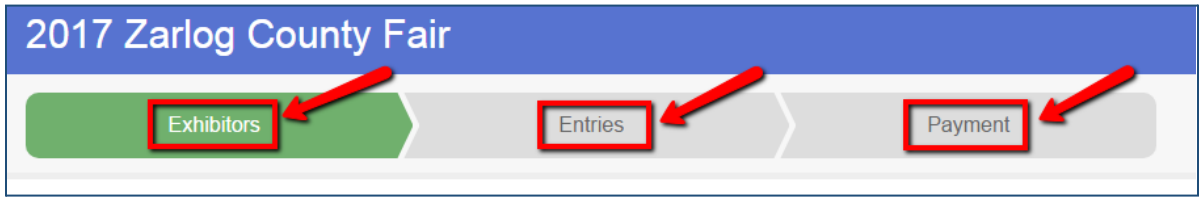
Navigation hints



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

- This is where you'll be able to find completed/ approved invoices and printable lists of entries.

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



FairEntry user guides & video tutorials

Minnesota 4-H has developed two guides and videos to help walk you through the steps of the FairEntry registration process. Visit the website to view the full guides and videos. (https://extension.umn.edu/minnesota-4-h-county-fairs/register-4-h-entries-your-county-fair)

FairEntry video tutorials

Logging in (1:55 minutes)
Logging back in, after you have logged out (2:57 minutes)
Exhibitors and Entries (6:23 minutes)

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Pre-registering team exhibits

Team exhibits are only allowed in Public Presentations, Plastic Sculpture Challenge, and Engineering Design Challenge. These exhibits can be prepared and shown by a team of youths. Please refer to the specific project area requirements to see how many youth members are allowed per team.

All team members must be present for judging. In addition, each team member must pre-register their team exhibit in FairEntry using the individual exhibit pre-registration method. During pre-registration, you will be asked to list all team members. This ensures that each team member will receive their share of the cash premium payout after the fair.

Pre-registering club exhibits

Club exhibits must be pre-registered by club leaders no later than June 15. Use the Club Exhibit Registration (z.umn.edu/clayclubexhibits) online form to complete pre-registration. If exhibiting a Community Pride project, please indicate 1-2 club youth members who will be present for judging.

After pre-registering your exhibits

Congratulations! You've finished pre-registering your exhibits, yay! We can't wait to see you at the Clay County Fair in July. Now that you have submitted your exhibit entries, you should watch for the County Fair Exhibitor Guide (z.umn.edu/clay4hexhibitorguide). This will be mailed directly to your home mailbox after June 15. This publication should answer any questions you may have about what to do once you arrive at the fair.

Save important county fair dates

Now is also the time to save the date for your exhibit judging days, your club food stand shift & exhibit building shifts! The county fair 4-H Schedule of Events (z.umn.edu/clay4hfairschedule) lists the dates and times for all 4-H activities and events at the Clay County Fair. It also includes exhibit pre-registration deadlines, animal ID deadlines, 4-H showtimes, and livestock & general exhibit release times.

REMEMBER–You can find all of our county fair resources and information in the "County Fair" tab in our app. This tab is active year-round for your convenience.

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Clay 4-H is investing in our youth!

Together, the Clay County 4-H Federation & generous sponsors **provide all 4-H youth exhibitors with a county fair t-shirt and special awards during the county fair**. In 2025, this averaged out to $33.03 per exhibitor! With 225 exhibitors, this was a total investment of $7,433.54 in our young people.

4-H members who exhibited at the county fair last year received $33 in support from the 4-H Federation!

"4-H pushed me out of my comfort zone & allowed me to do things I love"
–Monica W., 4-H member



But the investment doesn't stop there. The Federation is also investing in our youth who participate in regional and state events. **Each 4-H exhibitor who earns and accepts a State Trip will have their gate passes & 50% of the State Fair and/or State Horse Show registration fee provided by the Federation at no cost to the family.** Mileage reimbursement is also available for families who carpool. In 2025, this totaled $5,549.60 for the 69 young people who represented Clay County 4-H at the Minnesota State Fair, State Horse Show, and State Shoot.





Clay 4-H's state fair exhibitors received an extra $80 last year. This support from the 4-H Federation, totaled $113 for each exhibitor!

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Why we recognize our young people

Youth want to be recognized and have their accomplishments seen—attending our public events, sharing photos with the Extension Office, and sharing ideas with the Project Development Committees are all ways to help us get our 4-H youth the recognition they deserve. During the fair, you will see the wide array of 4-H exhibits and the youth who created them. These exhibits represent the life skills gained during their year-long project learning experience.

The Clay County 4-H Awards & Recognition Program is the overarching plan for how Clay County 4-H acknowledges the accomplishments and contributions of young people and volunteers throughout the countywide program.

Ways we showcase our young people and their accomplishments

- Have exhibits on display during the fair, in the 4-H exhibit buildings.
- Feature images of local youth on our marketing materials.
- Present youth awards during the 4-H showcases at the fair.
- Publish articles in our local newspapers.
- Create social media posts throughout the year recognizing the accomplishments of clubs, members, and volunteers.

How do we recognize our young people during the county fair

- Champion plaques are a long-standing tradition in Clay County 4-H. Families and individuals are asked to sponsor these plaques each year.
- Champion premiums, introduced in 2025, are a new way for businesses to provide direct support to Clay County 4-H and our youth members during the fair. Businesses are asked to donate to the pool of funds used to provide these premium checks.
- Project awards are chosen and provided by the Project Development Committees each year. These awards are unique to each project committee and may include jackets, belt buckles, brushes, candy, and other fun items. Project committees ask for donations to help purchase these awards each year.







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4-H Premium Schedule

All 4-H members & Cloverbuds earn cash awards, called premiums, for each exhibit they bring to the county fair. Exhibits are awarded ribbons by judges during the fair. Each of those ribbons will have a premium amount paid out to the exhibitor. The premium per ribbon varies by project area. The Clay County Fair Board pays out premiums for the blue/red/white ribbons, cloverbud & participation ribbons, and for 4-H club exhibits at the county fair.

The Clay County 4-H Federation requests sponsors to provide special awards (e.g., plaques & champion premiums). These awards are sponsored by families and local business owners. Special awards vary from year to year based on donor contributions.

The 4-H Premium Schedule outlines how much exhibitors can earn in each project category and for each entry type.

Project Area	Blue	Red	White	Clvbd.	Partic.
General Exhibits	$3	$2	$1		
Public Presentations	$3	$2	$1		
Beef, Dairy	$15	$12	$10		
Goat (dairy/meat), Sheep, Swine	$10	$9	$8		
Horse	$4	$3	$2		
Rabbit, Poultry	$3	$2	$1		
Science of Animals	$3	$2	$1		
Showmanship (all)					$3
Interviews (horse/livestock)					$3
Cloverbud (all)				$3	
Club Exhibits	$25	$20	$10		

***Champion Ribbon Premiums are TBD based on the amount fundraised each year.**

How do I receive my premium?

After the county fair, 4-H'ers' premium checks will be mailed. The amount of each check should correspond with the number and color of the ribbons earned at the county fair.

During the fair, results will be posted on the 4-H app following judging events. Exhibitors are encouraged to review their ribbon results and let staff know if there are any errors. We would be happy to correct any mistakes!

Premiums may be withheld from exhibits that violate the exhibit rules as outlined in the 4-H Exhibit Rules. See page 105 for further details.

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Preparing for judging

Judging is an important part of the county fair. In 4-H, you will experience different kinds of exhibit judging. Livestock judges, horse judges, and general project judges each use a unique process and set of standards for evaluating 4-H exhibits and exhibitors.

What is 4-H conference judging?

Conference judging is exciting and fun for both the 4-H'er and the judge. Youths participate in a safe, friendly environment and can establish a relationship with a caring adult. The 4-H'er can have fun with a caring adult who is willing to listen, evaluate, and instruct. Valuing the youth over the exhibit itself is most important in a conference judging experience. **Producing a blue ribbon 4-H'er is the goal; enhancing self-esteem is a result.**

This style of judging differs from open-class judging. In 4-H conference judging, the interview is just as important as the exhibit itself. The judge, who is knowledgeable in the project area, determines a ribbon placement based on both the exhibit and the project learning that the 4-H'er shares during the interview. At this time, the judge can observe, question, listen, and challenge the 4-H'er. Equal importance is placed on the exhibit and the interview; each component is worth 50% toward the ribbon placement. The judge offers encouraging and constructive feedback, as well as overall suggestions for further exploring the project area.

Why do we use this style of judging?

This judging process is a potentially powerful interaction between an adult and a youth that provides a sense of safety and structure; fosters a sense of pride and accountability that come with mastery of skill; encourages taking those mastered skills and turning them into meaningful contributions—in turn, furthering the youth's sense of self-worth; deepening the youth's sense of belonging; advancing the capacity to enjoy life and know that success is possible, and assisting the youth to further embrace basic values about the use of their skills and their role in the community.

When we consider the underlying meaning and dynamic of judging in 4-H, it becomes clear that open class judging—while perhaps valuable in its own right—is not what judging in 4-H is about. A young person's knowledge, skill, and integrated personal development are central to the process. After all, 4-H has always been about the development of the child—the whole child—**hence the four "H"s, HEAD, HEART, HANDS, HEALTH.**

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Special needs and accommodation plans for judging

We want judging to be a positive and safe experience for every young person. Please let us know if you would like to request special accommodations to ensure success in judging, volunteering, or general participation. Information will be shared with volunteers, staff, and judges as appropriate. While we will make every effort to meet all requests, late notice may limit our ability to provide certain accommodations.

If you or your 4-H participant needs disability-related or other accommodations to participate in this program or have questions about the physical accessibility of the event location, please contact **Monique Stelzer at 218-299-7346 or mnstelzer@umn.edu** at least 2 weeks before the fair.

Individual accommodation plans are developed based on each person's unique needs to create the best possible experience. To request printed sections of this material, please contact the Clay County Extension Office and specify which sections you would like.

Support Staff
Jen Erdahl
218-299-5020
erdah098@umn.edu

Extension Educator
Monique Stelzer
218-299-7346
mstelzer@umn.edu

Absentee judging

Youth are asked to be present in person for all of their judging events. However, we understand that sometimes life gets in the way of this. Absentee judging (z.umn.edu/4h-absentee-judging) is allowed for general exhibits but requires some pre-planning and preparation, including forms. And keep in mind, someone still needs to bring your exhibit for judging on the general exhibit judging day. Contact the Extension Office if you need to look into absentee judging.

Exhibit supplies required for judging general exhibits

Some project areas need special supplies for exhibiting. For example, all photographs should be mounted on a mat board for displaying–no frames or glass are allowed. All art objects are intended to be ready to hang or to be displayed on a table. You can find all of these details in the class list.

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Animal science interviews

All livestock and horse exhibitors are encouraged to participate in interviews. This is an opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge within your project area. Interviews are open to youth in grades 3-13 for each of the following animal species: beef, dairy, meat goat, dairy goat, sheep, swine, rabbit, poultry, and horse. **Livestock interviews will use the following age divisions: Junior (grades 3-7) and Senior (grades 8-13). Horse interviews will use the following age divisions: Junior (grades 3-5), Intermediate (grades 6-8), and Senior (grades 9-13)**. Please refer to the schedule of events for judging dates and times.

Round Robin eligibility

The grand and reserve champion beef, dairy, dairy goat, meat goat, swine, and sheep showmanship winners in both junior and senior age divisions are invited to participate in the Round Robin Showmanship competition. If a showman declines the invitation or earns more than one spot with two species, an alternate will be selected.

Herdsmanship and livestock ethics

In 4-H, young people represent the public face of animal agriculture, and nowhere is this more visible than at the county fair! This is why Herdsmanship and Livestock Quality Assurance are such an important part of every family's animal plan for the county fair.

Herdsmanship

Herdsmanship is important to the public image of agriculture, the 4-H program, your club, and your family! It helps 4-H youth learn how to present exhibits for the public, while developing skills in courtesy, cooperation, neatness, and proper animal care. **Herdsmanship will be judged six times throughout the fair: Thursday evening, Friday morning and evening, Saturday morning and evening, and Sunday morning.**

Livestock ethics

Livestock Quality Assurance training helps youth provide excellent care for their food animals and ensure a high level of food safety to consumers. That's why this training is designed to enhance the educational experience of 4-H animal science projects.

Youth in grades 6+ are required to participate in a **Livestock Quality Assurance (LQA) or Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training by July 1** to be eligible to participate in the Minnesota State Fair with a livestock project. More details about LQA & YQCA trainings can be found online at z.umn.edu/lqa.

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What the ribbons mean



Blue Ribbon - Indicates "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 is still room to learn and do more."

Red Ribbon - Indicates "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."

White Ribbon - Indicates "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."

Grand Champion Ribbon - Indicates "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."

Reserve Champion Ribbon - Indicates that the judge feels the exhibit is the second-best within a specific project area grouping. Generally, only blue ribbon exhibits are eligible.

Cloverbud Ribbon - Exhibits are not judged on a competitive basis. Emphasis is placed on encouraging the child to share what they liked or learned about their exhibit/work/activity, and developing their self-esteem and confidence.

Participation Ribbon - Indicates that the 4-H member participated.

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4-H Exhibit Rules

We strongly encourage families to read and understand the exhibit rules before creating and registering exhibits for the county fair. These rules apply to all 4-H members and Cloverbud exhibitors at the county fair.

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

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

Minnesota 4-H grievance policy

The 4-H grievance process allows members to raise their concerns. The 4-H member may file a grievance. A local volunteer grievance committee will address rule violations and alleged wrongdoing. This committee will not be convened for:

- Decisions made by judges are final.
- Missed deadlines that are covered through the "one-time member exemption process."
- Code of Conduct-related violations. These are addressed by 4-H staff according to an established process.

The grievance committee process outlines what may and may not be grieved, who may file a grievance, and the procedures for filing and hearing it. The Minnesota 4-H member and their family may complete a grievance form if they wish to file a grievance regarding an alleged wrongdoing or rule violation.

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Clay County 4-H exhibit rules

1. Project-area-specific requirements can be found in the Class List section of the Clay County 4-H Fair Book.
2. Pre-registration will be done online by each family. You will need to log in to FairEntry using your family's 4HOnline username and password to register your projects for the county fair. It is the member's responsibility to register what they will be bringing to the fair by **June 15**. **Failure to pre-register by the registration deadline results in ineligibility for grand/reserve champion ribbons and State Fair trips.**
3. All exhibits and animals must arrive during specified entry times and remain on display at the county fair until the scheduled release time on Sunday. **Premiums, awards, and participation in a state event will be withheld from any 4-H'er who does not comply.**
4. The Clay County 4-H Federation and Extension Office **will not** assume responsibility for objects lost, stolen, or broken.
5. Age Divisions
   4-H'ers must have completed the grade level they will be exhibiting in, and are grouped in the following ways:

   General projects and horse project:
   - **Cloverbuds** -Grades K-2
   - **Junior** -Grades 3-5
   - **Intermediate** -Grades 6-8
   - **Senior** -Grades 9-13

   Livestock projects:
   - **Cloverbuds** -Grades K-2
   - **Junior** -Grades 3-7
   - **Senior** -Grades 8-13

6. Youth members are expected to wear 4-H-branded shirts[1] for general exhibit judging (excluding fashion revue) or species-specific show attire[2] for animal judging events. Clay County 4-H provides a county fair t-shirt that can be worn during any 4-H judging event, as needed. Barn clothes are not acceptable show attire.
   [1] **"4-H branded shirts"** are defined as the county fair t-shirt, club t-shirts, or a 4-H patch sewn onto a solid-colored white, grey, or green shirt of your choice. Patches can be purchased at shop4-h.org. Fashion revue participants should wear their fashion revue exhibit for 4-H judging.
   [2] "**Species-specific show attire"** is encouraged. Livestock and horse exhibitors are encouraged to wear western attire or discipline-specific attire as appropriate for their species or event. This attire does not need to be 4-H branded. All animal exhibitors must wear long pants and closed-toed shoes and maintain an overall neat and tidy appearance during judging. e.g., English riding attire, showmanship whites, western-wear show attire, dairy whites, etc.
7. Process for 4-H Grievances: A grievance may be filed, and a local volunteer grievance committee convened to address rule violations and alleged wrongdoing. A grievance committee will not be convened for decisions made by judges, missed deadlines, or code-of-conduct violations; these will be addressed by staff according to an established process. To file a grievance, you must contact the local Extension Educator within 24 hours of the incident.

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8. Competitive events, deadlines, consequences, and exemption options (z.umn.edu/4h-policies). Every Minnesota 4-H member is eligible for a "one-time" member exemption. This exemption provides the ability (one-time in a 4-H member's career) for the 4-H member to acknowledge they missed a 4-H deadline related to enrollment or competitive event participation and waive the consequences for the named deadline. Exemptions may be used for county fair pre-entry registration requirements, but may not be used for State Fair trip sign-up deadlines.

General exhibit rules

1. Youth will be eligible for all show-related premiums, awards, and participation in the state event when exhibition requirements are met, and appropriate permissions are granted by 4-H Program Staff. (Auction participation is a county fair board decision.) Early release approval is an exception to the rule and is a decision made by 4-H staff, in partnership with the county fair board, on a case-by-case basis.
2. All youth must be enrolled in 4-H to exhibit, demonstrate, or take part in projects. All work on exhibits entered must be done by the 4-H member and completed during the current 4-H year unless otherwise noted.
3. Note - Cloverbud exhibits, including livestock posters, will not be judged blue, red, and white. Instead, all will receive recognition for participation.
4. There are lots of creative ways for youth to share what they've learned beyond a traditional poster or tri-fold display. Here are some engaging alternatives that 4-H'ers might consider:
    - 3D models
    - Virtual or digital displays
    - Videos
    - Interactive experiences
5. Poster exhibits may not exceed 22" wide x 28" high. They may be smaller.
6. Education/Science Tri-Fold Exhibits for all project areas may not exceed 12" deep x 24" wide x 36" high. (Center back 24" wide x 36" high, right and left wings each 12" wide x 36" high.)
7. All exhibits will be evaluated by a conference with the judge. Exhibit judging criteria:
    - Exhibit quality, educational value, attracts attention, and holds interest - 50%
    - 4-H'ers' knowledge, involvement, and ability to explain - 50%
    - The judge's decision is final and may not be appealed.
8. Floor space for any exhibit should not exceed 20 square feet. If your exhibit exceeds this space limitation, contact the Extension office.
9. All exhibits must be labeled with name, club/group, and county. Other appropriate information for the project (i.e., vegetable varieties) should be included. If the exhibit

has multiple pieces, each part needs to be labeled and should indicate 1 of 4, 2 of 4, etc.

10. General exhibits can only be exhibited once in their lifetime.
11. Opinions expressed through exhibits and presentations are those of the 4-H member and not necessarily those of MN 4-H, U of MN, or the county fair/agricultural society.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. The University of Minnesota and 4-H policies prohibit the endorsement of commercial products or services. References to 4-H exhibition cannot be used to indicate support or endorsement of anything that is not official University or 4-H business, whether through clothing, signage, social media, or by mentioning the name.
15. Community Impact Recognition
    - Minnesota 4-H wants to recognize youth who are making a difference in their community and are sharing their story through their project(s) and exhibit(s).
    - Judges at local and state showcases will place a recognition sticker on each exhibit where the 4-H'er clearly articulates how their efforts made a positive community impact.
    - Exhibits and presentations may demonstrate the youth's community impact efforts through:

    - Direct Service: Involves face-to-face interactions with the people, animals, or environment being served - such as distributing meals or cleaning up a park
    - Indirect Service: Involves benefiting a cause or group, but there isn't direct contact with those that benefit, such as fundraising or knitting blankets
    - Advocacy: Involves researching issues of public interest and then encouraging action or promoting awareness, such as promoting mindfulness practices to a school curriculum committee or collecting water quality data for a community organization.
- Note: to qualify as "community impact", the project should primarily benefit someone or something more than you individually, or your family
- If you are showing an animal/livestock project and would like to participate, you can submit an additional exhibit in the related General Projects category (i.e., Leadership, Citizenship, Self-Determined, Horseless Horse, etc).
    - Ex: A 4-H member raises chickens for eggs and supports a local food pantry.
    - Ex. A 4-H member trains and certifies their dog for therapy work, and visits local hospitals, nursing homes, or schools to provide comfort and companionship to patients, residents, or students.
- Recipients will be recognized with a sticker and invited to apply for additional leadership awards and recognition.

Animal science rules

Pre-Fair Reminder! Animal IDs that are not received by their species/type deadlines are eligible for blue, red, and white ribbons only. Late ID animals are ineligible for grand & reserve champion awards, and state trips.

- **February 17:** Market beef (beef steers, market heifers, and dairy steers)
- **May 15:** Breeding beef, prospect calves, dairy, dairy goats, dog, horse, llama-alpaca, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, swine. 4-H'er must own the doe of fryer rabbits, and the doe must be identified by May 15.
- **June 1**: Junior meat goat doe kids AND Dairy spring calves
- **July 1:** Junior dairy goat doe kids

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The Clay County 4-H horse and livestock programs and 4-H exhibitors of livestock will abide by the IAFE (International Association of Fairs and Expositions) Code of Show Ring Ethics. To obtain a hard copy of the Code of Show Ring Ethics, contact the Extension Office.

1. All beef, dairy, dairy goat, dog, horse, llama-alpaca, meat goat, poultry (doves/pigeons only), rabbit, sheep, and swine shown in 4-H livestock shows must have the required State 4-H ID system, ear tag, and/or tattoo. Animal ID data must be submitted online, arrive in the Extension office, or be postmarked no later than May 15, 2026 (with the exception of Market Beef due Feb. 17, 2026).
2. All animals exhibited must be owned solely by the member, the member's family, or leased by agreement. The family includes the 4-H'ers' parents or guardians and siblings living together as a family unit. The definition of family includes an extended family where the animals may be owned by grandparents, with the 4-Her's parents actively involved with and working on the farm. Animals owned in partnership with non-family members (as defined above) must be leased and follow the guidelines within the lease information.
3. 4-H'ers exhibiting livestock at the County Fair are responsible for the care and feeding of the animals they exhibit.
4. **Note - Cloverbud exhibits, including livestock posters, will not be judged blue, red, and white. Instead, all will receive recognition for participation.**
5. All livestock exhibits, including showmanship, must be pre-registered. Members in animal projects may exhibit multiple animals per class, unless stated otherwise, excluding horses. Horse exhibitors must refer to the horse show rules listed on page 113 for further details on the number of horses that can be exhibited.
6. 4-H'ers must show their own animal in the class. If the 4-H'er has multiple animals in one class, another 4-H member(s) from the same county can show the other animals.
7. All 4-H'ers exhibiting livestock at the county fair are eligible to participate in showmanship **and must show their own animal**.
8. Advertising animals for sale and displaying farm, ranch, or sale signs in the show ring is not allowed. The only permissible signs are stall cards, champion/reserve champion signs, educational signs with performance or pedigree information, and signs with the animal's name. Additionally, only decorations that support the 4-H Youth Development Program are allowed.
9. **State Grooming & Fitting Rule:**
    - 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.

10. 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 the 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 owner's name or farm name.
11. To show in the registered breed classes, animals must meet the breed's registration requirements, and registration papers must be available. Animals without proper registration papers (crossbreeds and grades) must be shown as commercial. Note exceptions for Dairy Steers as noted in the Beef class list notes.
12. All animal health regulations will be in effect as stipulated by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health and the County Agricultural Society.
13. 4-H members will need to let the Clay County Extension Office know their stall, coop, or cage needs during FairEntry registration. This allows staff to plan for stall space in the barns and meet MNBOAH policies.
14. Good sportsmanship must be exhibited at all times by youth exhibitors and parents. Cruel or rough handling of animals will not be allowed at any show/event. **An animal and exhibitor may be excused from the ring, show, or event for lack of control, cruelty, rough handling, or unsportsmanlike conduct.**
15. The judge, Extension staff, or the Specie Supervisor has the authority and will dismiss from the ring for that class any animal that is unruly or not in sufficient control for the safety of the handler or other exhibitors.
16. All horses, livestock, and small animals must be checked in on Thursday. Final check-in must be completed by the following times:
    - Poultry, 12:30 p.m.
    - Swine, 1 p.m.
    - Rabbit, 4:30 p.m.
    - All other species, 7 p.m.
17. Horses and livestock must stay on the grounds until 6 p.m. on Sunday. All stalls must be cleaned by the end of the post-fair clean-up on Sunday evening. **All premiums and participation in a state event will be withheld from any 4-H'er who does not comply.** Please follow these clean-up standards:
    - Horse Barns– all bedding, manure, and feed materials removed from stalls, and stalls cleaned. Walkways are swept and clean. Manure and bedding should be placed in designated manure bunkers.

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- Cattle Barn– all bedding, manure, and feed materials (hay, beet pulp, etc.) pulled no less than 3' away from the walls or any corner. Stalls cleaned to bare dirt.
- Swine Barn– all bedding, manure, and feed materials removed from pens and walkways. Manure and bedding should be placed in designated manure bunkers.
- Sheep/Goat Barn– all bedding, manure, and feed materials removed from pens and walkways. Gates should be left standing and closed. Manure and bedding should be placed in designated manure bunkers.
- Rabbit Barn– all bedding, manure, and feed materials swept from around/below pens and from walkways. Bedding and manure should be placed in designated manure bunkers near the cattle barn.
- Poultry Barn– all bedding, manure, and feed materials swept from coops, walkways, and around cages. Bedding and manure should be placed in designated manure bunkers near the cattle barn.

Horse and livestock health requirements

All livestock and horses 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 livestock or horse 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 livestock with warts and ringworm. Therefore, livestock affected by these diseases cannot be exhibited. A statement from a veterinarian that an animal is being treated for these diseases is not acceptable.

Poultry

All poultry, except waterfowl and pigeons, must be identified by leg or wing band and have a negative pullorum-typhoid test within 90 days, or have a record of origin from a flock that tested negative within the last 12 months. All poultry should arrive at the fair banded. If leg bands are needed, contact the Extension Office. **Test results or records of origin should be uploaded with the animal in 4HOnline or sent to the 4-H Office by July 1st.** Turkeys need to be tested negative for, or originate directly from, parent stock that is tested negative for Salmonella typhimurium, Mycoplasma gallisepticum, and Mycoplasma synoviae.

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Swine

All swine must be officially, individually identified. The 4-H tag plus ear notches will serve as an official form of ID.

Cattle

All cattle must be officially identified according to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health.

Sheep and goats

All sheep and goats, including wethers, must be identified with official identification approved for use in the scrapie eradication program. Sheep and goat producers should call the MN Board of Animal Health to order scrapie tags.

Horses

A negative Coggins test result within the past 12 months will be required for all horses attending a Clay County 4-H activity of any kind. A test is not required for suckling foals when the dam is negative.

Rabbits

A permanent tattoo in the rabbit's left ear will serve as an official form of ID.

Horse show rules

1. **Youth exhibitors in grades 3+ are required to bring the horse they will use in the Clay County 4-H Horse Show to the stall at the Clay County Fair. This does not include Cloverbud exhibitors, who may choose to stall their horse or bring their horse for just the day of the show.** All horses must be on the grounds no later than 7 p.m. on Thursday and will be released at 5 p.m. on Sunday. No exceptions!
    a. The Extension Office and Horse Project PDC will assign horse stalling. All horses will be stalled in individual horse stalls, with the exception of mares with foals.
    b. Late arrivals or early departures are grounds for forfeiture of premiums, state trips, and special awards.
    c. If a shortage of stalls should occur, some exhibitors may be asked to voluntarily keep their horse at home but would still be allowed to exhibit at the County Fair Horse Show, receive premiums, and be eligible for State Horse Show trips. Extension Staff will manage this process.

2. **The show will follow the state Horse Show General Rules found in the Minnesota 4-H Horse Program Rulebook.**
3. Cloverbuds are allowed to participate in arena practice sessions and Showmanship, Western Pleasure, and Barrels Game classes at the County 4-H Horse Show.
4. Each rider may register for each event only once.
5. An exhibitor can enter only one horse at the Clay County Fair Horse Show and only one horse in a horse training class. The same horse must be used in both Pleasure and Games events.
6. Male foals may be shown, but yearling and older stallions are ineligible as 4-H projects. The age of the horse shall be computed on the basis of a calendar year starting on January 1 of the year foaled; it is a weanling during the calendar year in which foaled, and a yearling during the first calendar year following its foaling date, regardless of the time of year foaled.
7. Horse show classes may be combined or split on show day at the discretion of Extension staff and the judge.
8. The following age divisions are used in the county horse show:
   Cloverbuds (grades K-2) **Junior** (grades 3-5)
   Intermediate (grades 6-8) **Senior** (grades 9-13)
9. Riders are responsible for their own horses. Only 4-H'ers are allowed to ride the horse at the 4-H Horse Show, at the fair, or at any 4-H-sponsored event.
10. Suitable, neat attire as stated in the show rules is required and must be worn in all classes and events. A full description of allowed and appropriate attire can be found in the rule book.
    a. **Western Clothing:** Western boots, western helmet, dress or western long-sleeved shirt; western pants or jeans; belt; vest, jacket, or sweater is optional, as are chaps.
    b. **Hunt Seat:** Clothing must be clean, neat, and appropriate for hunter classes. Riders must wear coats, boots, breeches, and hunting caps. The coat can be any tweed suitable for hunting, with matching neutral-colored breeches. High English boots and hunting caps are a necessity. Bats and gloves are optional; equitation gloves are recommended.
    c. Riding exhibitors must wear double exhibitor numbers, one on each side of the saddle pad, with the exception of Saddle Seat riders, who must wear the number on their backs. If the exhibitor has the wrong number on, OR fails to properly display the numbers, the exhibitor is disqualified from that class.

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11. **All 4-H'ers participating in any 4-H-sponsored mounted activity are required to wear properly fastened ASTM/SEI-approved protective headgear. Helmet use is required when mounted. This policy also extends to 4-H volunteers working with youth in a 4-H volunteer role during mounted activities. Helmets are required for all mounted classes.**
12. Good sportsmanship must be exhibited at all times by both riders and parents. Cruel or rough handling of horses will not be allowed at any show/event. **A horse and exhibitor may be excused from the ring, show, or event for lack of control, cruelty, rough handling, or unsportsmanlike conduct.**
13. The judge, Extension staff, or the Specie Supervisor has the authority and will dismiss from the ring for that class any animal that is unruly or not in sufficient control for the safety of the handler or other exhibitors.
14. Use of drugs as a tranquilizer or stimulant is prohibited.
15. Trainers and adults are welcome at shows to support youth, but are not allowed to exercise or work out 4-Hers' horses at Clay County 4-H horse events.

Horse show scoring

Points will only be calculated from blue ribbon placings, and only the top six placings in a class will receive points.

Points are awarded for blue ribbons (only) as follows:

1st - 6 points	**2nd - 5 points**	**3rd - 4 points**
4th - 3 points	**5th - 2 points**	**6th - 1 point**

Points will be used to determine games, pleasure, and overall awards and trips as follows:

1. Awards and points are not official until verified by the Extension Office within 2 business days of the end of the show.
2. Pleasure points will be awarded in all Showmanship, Horsemanship, Western Pleasure, Ranch Pleasure, English Pleasure, English Equitation, and Trail classes.
    a. All other pleasure classes do not count toward trips or awards.
    b. Points allocation: Intermediates and Seniors will be placed and awarded points separately.
3. Game points will be awarded in Poles, Barrels, Key Race, and Jumping Figure 8.
    a. All other game classes do not count toward trips or awards.
    b. A 3-second penalty will be added to your time for each obstacle knocked over.
    c. A broken pattern will result in no time.

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   d. Points allocation: Intermediates and Seniors will be placed and awarded points separately.
4. All points are to be counted separately for each horse-and-rider combination.
5. Tiebreakers:
   a. Person with the most 1st places in the discipline.
   b. Person with the most 2nd places in the discipline.
   c. Person with the most 3rd places in the discipline.
   d. Draw out of a hat.
6. The Grand Entry Rider for the State Horse Show will be the oldest State Horse Show trip winner; if they have previously participated, it goes to the next-oldest trip winner, and so on.

State trip eligibility

1. Trips for State Fair, State Horse Show, and State Dog Show will be selected from blue ribbon exhibits only (see State Dog Show Rules for exceptions).
2. Members selected to represent the county at the State Fair and State Horse Show must have completed sixth grade.
3. To be eligible for a livestock trip to the State Fair, 4-H'ers must have completed Livestock Quality Assurance Training. State Policy: All youth participating as a State Fair 4-H livestock exhibitor in beef, dairy, dairy goat, llama-alpaca, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, and swine must have completed a livestock quality assurance training. There are two training options: 1) a 3-hour in-person workshop (LQA&E), or 2) a 1-hour online training (YQCA). Youth completing either quality assurance training option will receive a certificate of completion.
4. **Exhibitors must complete LQA training by July 1.**
5. Along with their qualifying state fair exhibit trip(s), 4-H members may participate in activities such as Share-the-Fun, demonstrations, Arts-In, cooking events, animal science educational exhibits, or judging teams.
6. Competitive events, deadlines, consequences, and exemption options (z.umn.edu/4h-policies). Every Minnesota 4-H member is eligible for a "one-time" member exemption. This exemption provides the ability (one-time in a 4-H member's career) for the 4-H member to acknowledge they missed a 4-H deadline related to enrollment or competitive event participation and waive the consequences for the named deadline. Exemptions may be used for county fair pre-entry registration requirements, but may not be used for State Fair trip sign-up deadlines.

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7. 4-H youth who have been awarded a 4-H State Fair livestock trip through the local 4-H qualifying show must keep their designated trip animal on the county fairgrounds until the official release time to remain eligible for the 4-H State Fair trip. In the event that a youth/family requests an early release to travel/attend a national junior livestock show and educational 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 the 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.
8. 4-H youth who have been awarded a 4-H State Fair general project trip through the local 4-H qualifying show must keep their designated trip project on the county fairgrounds until the official release time to remain eligible for the 4-H State Fair trip.

State horse show trips

1. The number of trips per county may vary from year to year. Trip quotas are based on the number of unique rider/horse pairs in grades 3+ participating in games and pleasure classes each year.
2. State Horse Show trips are designated as Pleasure or Games based on the percentage of participation in each discipline (games and performance) in the previous year's horse show. For example, if the county is awarded 7 trips and 75% of the riders rode in Games, and 60% of riders rode in Pleasure events, then 4 Games trips and 3 Pleasure trips will be awarded. Unique youth/horse rider pairs in grades 6-13 are counted when calculating the percentage. Cloverbud and Equestrians with Disabilities riders do not count towards quotas. The following qualifying classes are:
    a. Performance: western pleasure, ranch pleasure, western horsemanship, western showmanship, hunt seat pleasure, hunt seat equitation, and English showmanship.
    b. Games: barrels, keyhole, pole weaving, and jumping figure 8.
3. Additionally, trips will be split between Intermediates and Seniors in each discipline. For example, if the county is awarded 4 games trips and 75% of the games riders in the previous year's show were Seniors and 40% of the riders were Intermediates, then 3 Senior and 1 Intermediate games trips will be awarded.
    a. Each age division in each discipline will be awarded at least one trip.

4. Horse PDC youth members will fill out horse show bonus trip applications each year.
5. If a youth rider is listed on multiple lineups, it is their choice which trip they would like to accept.
6. Each county is allotted trail trips based on their previous year's participation. Trail trips must be selected from horse/rider combinations that have already accepted a state trip. Trips will be offered to the highest-placed rider until all trips are filled. Trail trips may be offered to riders who have accepted performance or game trips. All ties will be awarded to the highest-scoring entry.
7. Training trips are awarded separately from the performance and games trips. Training trips are awarded based on the judge's placing. If an exhibitor is eligible for a performance/game trip and a training trip, they may only accept one trip. Training horses are eligible to show in all classes that they received a blue ribbon at the county qualifying show. If there are remaining training trips after all exhibitors on the state fair lineup have been offered a training trip, exhibitors who have accepted a performance or games trip may accept an additional trip for training.
8. Saddle Seat and Equestrians with Disabilities are their own state trips.
9. Horseless Horse county winners may advance to the state competition at the State Horse Show. The number of trips per county may vary from year to year.
10. Horse-Related state horse show 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 exhibit.
11. Horseless Horse winners with a blue ribbon in grades 6+ may advance to the state competition at the State Horse Show. The number of trips per county may vary from year to year.
12. Dan Patch and Youth Leadership trips are awarded separately from the performance and games trips. Dan Patch and Youth Leadership trips are awarded based on the award application process



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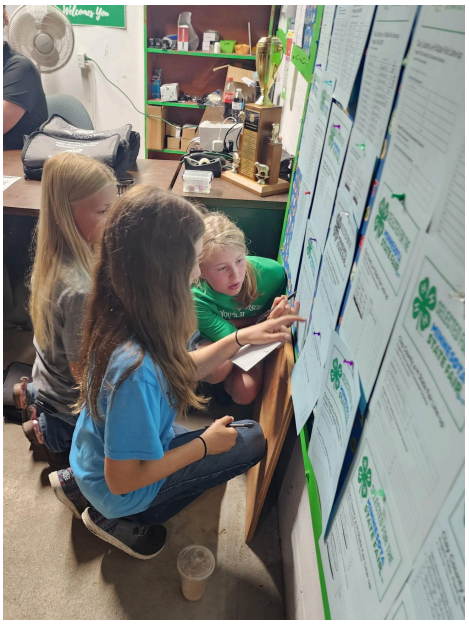
Accepting and declining state trips

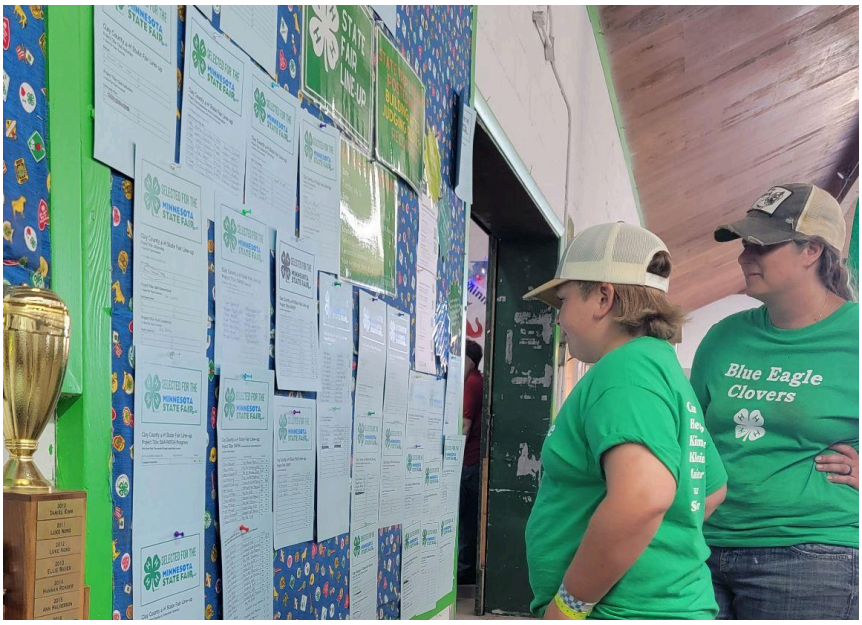
State Fair and State Horse Show trips will be posted in the 4-H Building shortly after judging is completed. It is the 4-H'er's responsibility to check State Trip postings and indicate their desire to accept the trip with 4-H staff by the county deadline. Trips may be accepted in the 4-H Building. This is Minnesota 4-H policy, and the one-time exemption cannot be used.

State Fair registration packets will be available for pick-up at the county fair in the 4-H General Exhibits Building at 3 p.m. Completed forms can be turned in, with payment, until 5 p.m. at the fair.

State Fair informational meeting will be hosted via Zoom on June 9. The recording will be available to watch after at z.umn.edu/clay4hexhibitormeeting. Posters with a QR Code directed to the recording will be displayed at the county fair.

All final State Fair registration paperwork must be received with payment in the Extension Office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday following the county fair. No late registrations will be accepted!





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Clay County 4-H Competitive Events: Deadline, Consequences, and Exemptions Table

Clay County 4-H Competitive Events: Deadlines, Consequences, and Exemptions for 2026

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 champion or reserve champion ribbon eligibility	State fair or state trip advancement	County fair herdsmanship, showmanship, and interview awards
Membership enrollment or re-enrollment received after May 15, 2026.	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 eligible3,4	Not eligible3,4	Eligible
Animal Science ID received after deadline (Feb 17, 2026, for market beef; May 15, 2026, for all others)	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 eligible3,5,6	Not eligible3,5,6	Eligible
Fair registration received after the county's pre-entry deadline	Youth must be enrolled as 4-H members and accepted in 4HOnline to register for the fair.1	Eligible to exhibit for blue, red, or white placing and related ribbon premium.	Not eligible3,4	Not eligible3,4	Eligible
State Fair trip acceptance received after the State Fair Trip acceptance deadline	Youth must be enrolled as 4-H members and accepted in 4HOnline to register for the fair.1	Eligible to exhibit for blue, red, or white placing and related ribbon premium.	Not applicable	Not eligible until the full trip lineup has been depleted.8	Eligible
Other county individual competitive event registration received after the 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.	Not eligible3,4	Not eligible3,4	Not applicable

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Deadlines, Consequences, and Exemptions for 2026 Footnotes
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, 2026, 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, 2026, will not be able to exhibit in animal science projects with full privileges.
3. A 4-H member 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 set 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'ed may only be shown by that same 4-H member at a 4-H county and/or state 4-H event. The late ID'ed 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 the possible outcome could affect another youth (e.g., State Fair trip acceptance deadline).
9. Central County ID options: 1) Attend designated county ID with animal(s); 2) Make arrangements with someone else to ID animal(s) at designated date/place; 3) Make arrangements 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 10/1/14, 1/27/17, 1/28/21, 5/23/2022, 1/9/2023, 1/22/2025

REMEMBER–You can find all of our county fair resources and information in the "County Fair" tab in our app. This tab is active year-round for your convenience.



Download the Minnesota 4-H App and stay up to date with our local county program!
Droid users: Play Store, **Apple users:** App Store

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Updated on 4/9/26

Clay County Fair Information

Clay County Fair gate hours

July 9 to 12, 2026
Thursday, Friday & Saturday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Grandstand Events Thursday, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday

Follow the fair on the web

Like the Clay County Fair Facebook page to stay up to date on the latest announcements and activities. You can also visit their website for up-to-date information.

General admission

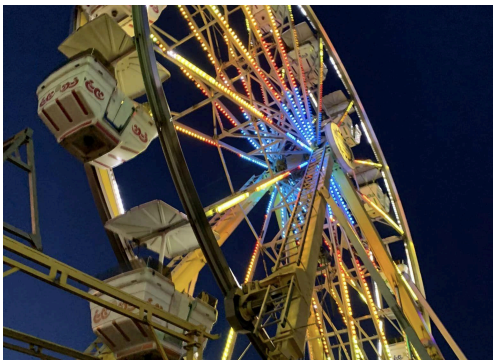
FREE GATE ADMISSION is available to every visitor & 4-H Youth member for the county fair. If interested in parking on the grounds, please plan ahead for these fees:

- $3 daily parking fee
- 4-Day parking pass: $10

Midway wristbands

Discounted wristbands can be purchased in advance in Barnesville, Dilworth, Hawley, Moorhead, and Sabin locations, or will be available for purchase at the fairgrounds for the regular price.

- **Barnesville:** Midwest Bank, Barnesville Grocery, Cenex General Store, Barnesville C-Store & Motel, Ratzo's Pool Hall
- **Dilworth:** Bell Bank
- **Hawley:** Tony's SuperValu, Kirk's Super Stop, Express Lane, Valley Premier Bank, Bell Bank
- **Moorhead:** Clay County Extension Office, Hornbacher's, Bell Bank
- **Sabin:** C-Store







Campsite reservations

Camping arrangements should be made with Fair Board member Jay Rehder at 701-799-9434.

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Minnesota State Fair Information

Earning a 4-H trip to the Minnesota State Fair is an honor! Judges select the most exemplary project exhibits at the county fair to represent Clay County 4-H at the state fair. And we are proud of the young people who will represent our county in St Paul!
Visit the Minnesota 4-H State Fair exhibitors resource website for more information, or **load the Minnesota 4-H State Fair container in the 4-H app** to find more information!

Dates to know

July 12	State Fair trip acceptance deadline, 2 p.m.
July 12	State Fair registration paperwork distributed, 3 to 5 p.m.
July 17	State Fair registration paperwork deadline, 4:30 p.m.
July 31	State Fair general exhibits needing transport must be packed and turned in to the Extension Office by 4:30 p.m.
Aug 25	MN State Fair Livestock interview deadline, 6 p.m.
Aug 26	Livestock arrival & check-in
Aug 27 to Sept 7	**Minnesota State Fair**
Aug 27 to 30	**Livestock encampment**
September 1 to 3	**General exhibit encampment**

Financial support for trip expenses

The Clay County 4-H Federation will cover the following expenses for youth who represent Clay County at state events:

- 50% of the Registration/Program fee.
- Transportation stipend for those who transport a non-relative, Clay County youth's livestock animal to and from the State Fair Livestock Encampment.
- One (1) gate admission to the State Fair for general exhibit encampment 4-H exhibitors. Additional daily gate admission tickets are available to 4-H youth livestock exhibitors who stay off the grounds.

The Clay County 4-H Federation will cover the following expenses for overnight, adult chaperones who represent Clay County at state events:

- Chaperones who stay in the dorms: 100% of dorm lodging, 4-H meal tickets, registration fee, and an overnight parking pass. General encampment will also receive one gate pass.

Families must purchase meal tickets at their own expense or make their own meal arrangements.

Transportation options

All exhibitors are responsible for their own transportation. Families are encouraged to explore carpool options for general exhibits, day trips, and/or livestock trips.
Note: General exhibits that require two people to safely transport and handle must be transported by 4-H families.

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Minnesota State Fair Chaperones

The Minnesota State Fair is often a highlight of the 4-H year for youth who attend. But this experience wouldn't be possible without State Fair Chaperones! Local 4-H programs designate Minnesota 4-H volunteers as chaperones who are responsible for the conduct of their assigned delegations during the Minnesota State Fair.

Expectations for adult chaperones

Chaperones have additional responsibilities when staying overnight with youth in dormitories. Both a male and a female adult 4-H volunteer must be designated for mixed delegations. Chaperones must be at least 21 years of age at the time of service, have successfully completed volunteer screening, and be accepted and enrolled as a Minnesota 4-H Volunteer.

Resources to support adult chaperones

Visit the Chaperones website to learn more about this role and to download the Chaperone Guide. All chaperones must watch the Chaperone Training video before attending the state fair. *Once you have watched this video, you must continue to the end of the survey to receive credit for completion.*

Financial support for adult chaperones

The Clay County 4-H Federation is grateful to our adult chaperones for helping our state trip winners have a great state experience! Some costs associated with the state trip for which chaperones are required will be covered by the Council. Chaperones must travel to and from the state fair with the youth they are chaperoning.

State Fair schedules, judging livestreams, and more

Load the Minnesota State Fair container in the 4-H app to find the State Fair event schedules, judging locations, and many more details regarding the State Fair!



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Helpful links

- https://mn.4HOnline.com
- z.umn.edu/ClayFairEntry
- z.umn.edu/clay4hfairschedule
- Minnesota 4-H at the State Fair

Let us know what you think

When you have finished registering for the fair, please complete this evaluation of the interactive/online county fair book and let us know what you think of it. Your input will help us make the county fair book more user-friendly every year!

Contact information

If you have any questions or would like a paper copy of this information, please contact the Clay County Extension Office and let us know which sections you want printed.

Clay County
Extension Office
218-299-5020
mnext-clay@umn.edu

Extension Educator
Monique Stelzer
218-299-7346
mstelzer@umn.edu

Information at your fingertips

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Things you can find under the County Fair tab in our app

Exhibit Planner, County Fair Book, Schedule of Events, Exhibit List, County Fair Exhibitor Guide, Links to 4-H Online & FairEntry, Animal ID & animal disease testing information, Livestock Quality Assurance training options, and FAQs.

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Updated on 4/9/26