



Steele County 4-H County Fair Premium Book 2026

Steele County Fair - August 17-23, 2026



18 USC 707

2026 Steele County Premium Book

Steele County 4-H Information

4-H Youth Development is a hands-on learning program for Minnesota Youth. We offer online, small group and independent learning experiences for youth of all ages. In 4-H, youth choose the topics they find interesting while caring adults support their learning and leadership. From livestock projects to agronomy to space exploration and creative arts to gardening and outdoor adventures, 4-H has just the right learning experience for all young people. 4-H is all about project-based learning. What are you into? From animal science to creative arts, and more, there's something for everyone. Choose something that interests you and dive in.

Animal science projects

Learn how to raise, feed, care for, judge, train and show different species of animals, or explore careers working with animals! For some species, animals may be owned or leased, so you can do a project even if you don't have your own animal.

Beef cattle	Dairy cattle	Dairy goats	Dogs	Horses	Llama-Alpaca
Meat goats	Poultry	Rabbits	Sheep	Swine	

General projects

Choose a project and learn all about it. You can then create a 4-H exhibit to show at the fair or other showcase event to demonstrate what you have learned in the project area. You can also track your project learning and experiences with 4-H project record keeping. General projects include

Aerospace, Bicycle, Child and family development, Citizenship, Clothing and textiles, Cloverbuds, Consumer education and money management, Crafts and fine arts, Creative writing, Electricity, Engineering design, Entomology, Environmental science, Exploring animals, Fishing sports, Foods and nutrition, Forest resources, Geology, Global connections, Health and wellness, Home environment, Horticulture (flowers, indoor gardening and landscape), Industrial technology (shop, metal work and woodworking), Needle arts, Performing arts, Mechanical science (auto/marine, tractors and small engines), Pets, Photography, Public presentations, Plant science (crops, weeds and pests, ag tech and soil), Quilting, Safety, Science inquiry, Self-determined, Shooting sports, Technology (computers and robotics), Vegetable, fruit and herb gardening, Veterinary science, Video and filmmaking, Water resources, Wildlife biology and management, and Youth leadership

The Steele County Free Fair is one of the highlights of the 4-H year. It is an opportunity for youth to showcase their special efforts, interests, and talents by exhibiting projects. Your County Fair experience should be a fun and enjoyable learning experience. The ribbon or recognition is only secondary; the skill and knowledge of the project are what will really help you down the road in life. Ribbons and recognition are short-lived, but skills and knowledge are for life.

Steele County 4-H Program & Staff

The 4-H program is part of the total educational program provided by the University of Minnesota Extension - Steele County. The Steele County Extension Office is located in the Steele County Annex,

635 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, MN. We can be reached at 507- 444-7685 or mnnext-steele@umn.edu.

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Pre-Fair: Registration & Preparation

The Premium Book & Preparation of Your Projects

This document is used for planning and registering projects to exhibit at the Steele County Free Fair. Please review it carefully, as it contains all rules and other information pertinent to exhibiting as a 4-H'er at the Steele County Fair. You are responsible for adhering to the rules in the Premium Book. Information provided in the Premium Book is subject to change at the discretion of the Extension Office.

When reviewing this book, note the wide variety of projects you can exhibit - there is a category for everything! If you have a project idea but don't know where it fits, reach out to the office. Take note that some projects are judged at slightly different times/days than others. This is to improve the quality of the judging experience. These events include: Clothing, Quilting, Fashion Revue, Public Presentations, Creative Writing, and Demonstrations. More information on these can be found in their respective sections.

County Fair Registration

If you're bringing a livestock project, animals need to meet the **February 17 (Market Beef & Dairy Steer) and May 15 (all other species) animal ID deadlines. July 15 is the county fair project registration deadline**, where you will register for classes for your animals and all general (non-livestock) projects on the FairEntry website, which will go live on June 15.

Our fair registration process helps us prepare materials for you and the judges for the showcase experience. Here are a few things to keep in mind when registering:

1. The website for fair registration is <https://steele-mn.fairentry.com>
2. Steele County Fairentry website will take you directly to the Steele County FairEntry page where you will sign in using your 4HOnline username and password. Help guides and videos are posted on the Minnesota 4-H website:
<https://extension.umn.edu/minnesota-4-h-county-fairs/register-4-h-entries-your-county-fair>
3. Registration through Fairentry will open June 15 and close on July 15, 2026 at 5:00 pm.
4. If grades are specified, please register for the grade you completed this May/June. Cloverbud entries are for youth who have completed Kindergarten through 2nd grade.
5. The FairEntry deadline is for everyone! If you are showing animals, you need to register for the classes in which you are participating, in addition to ID'ing the animal in 4-H Online.
6. Choose the correct quantity when adding projects in FairEntry. You can show up to 2 general projects per class (unless otherwise noted), so if you plan to bring more than one project in a category, make sure to indicate that.
7. Cloverbuds - Make sure to register your Cloverbud projects. Cloverbuds are allowed up to 5 general projects and 1 Cloverbud animal in each animal species area.

4-H County Fair Schedule of Activities

PRE-Fair Evaluations and Events		
NOTE: All exhibits that are evaluated prior to the fair WILL be on display at the fair.		
TUESDAY, July 28th		
3:30 PM	4-H Dog Show – Obedience, Rally & Showmanship	Steele County Fairgrounds – Foundation Building
WEDNESDAY, August 5th		
9:00 AM	All Clothing, Textiles & Quilting Evaluations	St. John Lutheran Church 1301 Lincoln Ave S. Owatonna, MN
9:00 AM	All Fashion Revue Evaluations & Practice	St. John Lutheran Church
1:00 PM	Creative Writing Evaluations	St. John Lutheran Church
2:00 PM	Performing Arts Evaluations & Public Performances - Interview evaluations are held prior to the Performances held during Public Fashion Revue	St. John Lutheran Church 1301 Lincoln Ave. S. Owatonna, MN
6:00 PM	Public Fashion Revue & Public Performance of Performing Arts	St. John Lutheran Church
MONDAY, August 10		
1:00 – 3:00 PM	4-H Demonstration Judging	Steele County Community Center
1:00 – 6:00 PM	4-H Livestock Conference Interviews - All Livestock Exhibitors must participate <u>in at least ONE species interview</u> to be eligible for Special Interview Awards. "Call Back" lists will be published by Thursday, August 13. "Call Backs" to determine final Interview placings will be held on Monday, August 17, at noon 12 PM at the Community Center	Cattle Show Arena
6:00 PM	4-H Horse Class Verification (No Horses)	Radel Pavilion
MONDAY, August 17		
9 AM – 2 PM	4-H Rabbits Enter – ID and Weight Verifications will be held in the barn during this time. (Rabbits not in their cages and verified by 2 PM may not show.)	4-H Rabbit Barn
10:30 AM – 6 PM	4-H General Project Conference Interviews & Exhibit Judging (Judges will take a break from 2:00 to 2:30)	4-H General Exhibit Building (Gymnastics Building on Fairgrounds)
12:00 PM Noon	4-H Livestock Interview Call Backs	Steele County Community Center
5:30 PM	4-H Rabbit Show	Show Arena

5:00 – 9:00 PM	4-H Swine Enter – All MUST be in place by 10:00 PM	Round Roof Barn (North End)
5:00 – 9:00 PM	4-H Sheep Enter	Foundation Building

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

7:30 AM - Noon	4-H Swine Weigh-in & ID Verification by club (Schedules posted in barns)	Swine Barn
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	4-H Poultry Enter, check in and weigh in	Poultry Barn
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	4-H Sheep Weigh In & ID Verification	Foundation Barn
12 Noon	4-H Poultry, Pigeon & Dove Show	Poultry Barn
12 Noon	All 4-H Livestock (except goats & horses) in place	
1 PM - 3 PM	4-H Breeding Beef Verification and Market Beef Weigh In	Radel Pavilion
2 PM	Farm Family of the Year & Livestock Hall of Fame Recognition	Show Arena
4 – 8:00 PM	4-H Dairy Cattle ID Verification (4-H'ers need to be present during ID)	Cattle Haven
5 PM	STEELE COUNTY FREE FAIR OFFICIALLY BEGINS & 4-H Exhibit Building Open	
6 PM	4-H Sheep Show	Foundation Barn

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

7:30 AM	4-H Swine Show	Swine Arena
3:00 Pm	Registration Opens for 4-H Market Sale on FairEntry	On FairEntry
5:00 – 6:00 PM	ALL 4-H Sheep Leave Fairgrounds	
5:30 PM	4-H Beef Show	Show Arena
8 PM	4-H Horses Enter	Radel Pavilion
8 – 9 PM	4-H Goats Enter	Foundation Barn
9 PM	4-H Horse ID/Verification	Radel Pavilion

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

8 - 9 AM	4-H Goats Enter	Foundation Barn
8:30 AM	4-H Dairy Show	Show Arena
9 AM	4-H Horse Show Horses will leave the grounds one hour after the conclusion of the 4-H horse show. All decorations, tack must be removed and stalls cleaned out before leaving.	Horse Arena
9 - 10 AM	4-H Goats Weigh In & ID Verification	Foundation Barn
3:00 PM	4-H Dairy Goat Show	Foundation Barn
6:00 PM	4-H Meat Goat & Market Goat Show	Foundation Barn

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21		
10 AM	4-H State Fair <i>LIVESTOCK TRIP</i> REGISTRATION Deadline	
Noon	4-H MARKET SALE REGISTRATION Deadline on FairEntry	On FairEntry
1 PM	All State Fair Paperwork DUE	4-H Office 4-H Exhibit Building
1 PM	4-H State Fair <i>GENERAL TRIP</i> REGISTRATION Deadline & Planning Meeting	Swine Arena
2 PM	4-H State Fair <i>LIVESTOCK TRIP</i> Planning Meeting	Swine Arena
3 PM	4-H Ag Olympics	Swine Arena
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22		
9 AM	4-H MARKET Livestock Sale	Show Arena
2 PM	4-H Premier Showmanship Contest	Show Arena
4 PM	4-H MN Meats Contest	By 4-H Food Stand
SUNDAY, August 23		
2 PM	4-H Parade of Champions – Public Invited	Show Arena
5 – 10 PM	Check Out Time for ALL 4-H LIVESTOCK	
6 – 8 PM	Check Out Time for 4-H GENERAL Project Exhibits	4-H Exhibit Building
MONDAY, August 24		
4:30 – 5:30 PM	Check Out Time for Remaining GENERAL Project Exhibits	4-H Exhibit Building
RELEASE TIME FOR LIVESTOCK , with the exception of sheep, horses & animals going to the State Fair, all other livestock will be released at 5:00 pm Sunday, August 23. State Fair animals will be given a Livestock Release Form at the time that the 4-H'er accepts their State Fair trip in the 4-H office and receives the State Fair paperwork. This livestock release form states the specific animal that the 4-H'er will be taking to the State Fair. This animal as designated on form may leave the County Fairgrounds anytime thereafter receiving paperwork.		
MINNESOTA STATE FAIR – August 27 – Labor Day, September 7, 2026 Steele County General Encampment – August 30 - September 1		
MINNESOTA 4-H STATE HORSE SHOW – September 17-21, 2026 - Minnesota Fair Grounds		
MINNESOTA 4-H STATE DOG SHOW – September 26-27, 2026 - Minnesota Fair Grounds		

4-H Exhibit Rules & Requirements for all Exhibitors

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](https://z.umn.edu/4h-policies) (z.umn.edu/4h-policies) include but are not limited to:

- [Absentee judging of projects](https://z.umn.edu/4h-absentee-judging) (z.umn.edu/4h-absentee-judging)

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

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

General 4-H Exhibits

1. 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.
2. NOTE - All General Projects, Individual, Cloverbud and Club Exhibits, will be conferenced judged on **Monday, August 17, 2026, from 10:30 AM to 6:00 PM** in the 4-H General Exhibit Building (Gymnastics Building located on the Fairgrounds) unless noted otherwise.
3. 4-H'ers can exhibit 2 (two) general projects per class (unless otherwise noted).
4. Exhibit release times for general projects is 6:00 pm on Sunday, August 23. All livestock, with the exception of horses, sheep, and state fair animals, may leave at 5:00 pm on Sunday, August 23. If other livestock exhibits are removed prior to 5:00 PM Sunday and/or if General exhibits are removed before 6 PM Sunday, the 4-H'er will forfeit all 4-H premiums received and State Fair trips won. In addition, the 4-H family will not be permitted to re-enroll 4-H members in the violated project areas for one year.
5. Youth will be eligible for all show-related premiums, awards, and participation in all events when exhibition requirements are met and appropriate permissions are granted by 4-H Program Staff. Approved early release is an exception to the rule and becomes a 4-H staff, in partnership with the county fair board, decision based on each situation.
6. Cloverbuds are youth who have completed Kindergarten through 2nd Grade. Cloverbuds is a non-competitive program that emphasizes exploratory learning and group activities. The Minnesota 4-H Youth Development Cloverbud policy creates a uniform set of rules for participation to maintain developmental appropriateness and safety for our youngest 4-H members. Regardless of show experience, all Cloverbuds must follow the UPDATED MN 4-H policy. Cloverbud exhibitions will continue to be non-competitive. Cloverbud exhibits, including livestock posters, will not be judged blue, red and white. Instead, all will receive participation recognition.
7. 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
8. Poster exhibits may not exceed 22" wide x 28" high. They may be smaller.
9. 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.)
10. 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-Hers knowledge, involvement and ability to explain - 50%
 - The decision of the judge is final and may not be appealed.
11. Floor space for any exhibit should not exceed 20 square feet. If your exhibit exceeds this space limitation, contact the Extension office.
 12. 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.
 13. 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.
 14. The Steele County Fair is a family-oriented fair. The fair board reserves the right to approve or disapprove of certain displays. They may request questionable exhibits to be removed from the fairgrounds.
 15. 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.
 16. 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.
 17. 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.
 18. Community Impact Recognition
 - Minnesota 4-H wants to recognize youth who are making a difference in their community and are sharing their story through their project(s) and exhibit(s).
 - Judges at local and state showcases will place a recognition sticker on each exhibit where the 4-Her clearly articulates how their efforts made a positive community impact.
 - Exhibits and presentations may demonstrate the youth's community impact efforts through:
 - Direct Service: Involves face-to-face interactions with the people, animals, or environment being served - such as distributing meals or cleaning up a park
 - Indirect Service: Involves benefiting a cause or group, but there isn't direct contact with those that benefit - such as fundraising or knitting blankets
 - Advocacy: Involves researching issues of public interest and then encouraging action or promoting awareness - such as promoting mindfulness practices to a school curriculum committee, collecting water quality data for a community organization.

- Note: to qualify as “community impact”, the project should primarily benefit someone or something more than you individually, or your family
- If you are showing an animal/livestock project and would like to participate - you can submit an additional exhibit in the related General Projects category (i.e. Leadership, Citizenship, Self-Determined, Horseless Horse, etc).
 - Ex: A 4-H member raises chickens for eggs and supports a local food pantry.
 - Ex. A 4-H member trains and certifies their dog for therapy work, and visits local hospitals, nursing homes, or schools to provide comfort and companionship to patients, residents or students.
- Recipients will be recognized with a sticker and will be invited to apply for additional leadership awards and recognitions.

Livestock (Animal Science) Projects

1. **ID Forms & Deadlines** - 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 the following deadlines: February 17 - Beef steers, dairy steers, market beef heifers; May 15 - Breeding beef heifers, cow/calf pairs, prospect calf, spring breeding heifer, dogs-ID form with vaccination certification. horses-ID form (copy of the Coggins test) are due before attending trainings), llamas, breeding ewes, market lambs, market barrows, market gilts, breeding gilts, dairy cattle (also prior to their first freshening), breeding rabbits, does of market rabbits and dairy, market and meat breeding goats (except Jr. Kids); June 1 - Meat Junior Doe Kids & Dairy - Spring (Junior Calf); July 1 - Dairy Junior Doe Kids; July 15 - Junior beef and junior dairy steers; August 1 - Market rabbits (dam must be owned & ID'd by May 15). NOTE: Market rabbits must be purebred to be eligible for State Fair. Poultry, pigeon and dove projects should be started by suggested times in species section and required health certificates submitted prior to County Fair.
2. **Ownership** - All animals exhibited must be owned solely by the member, member's family, or leased by agreement. The family includes the 4-H'ers parents or guardians and siblings living together as a family unit. The definition of family includes an extended family where the animals may be owned by grandparents with the 4-H'er's parents actively involved with and working on the farm. Animals owned in partnership with non-family members (as defined above) must be leased and follow guidelines within the lease information.
3. **Leased Livestock** - Non-market animals may be leased under the following conditions: 1) Lease agreements must be signed by parties involved and on record in 4honline.com by each species' regular ID deadline; 2) Leased animals are to be exhibited by the 4-H member ONLY (owner/others may not show the animal) while lease is in effect; 3) Leased animals may be shown at local and regional shows if they are led by the 4-H'er leasing the animal; 4) Only leased dairy calves or yearlings may be shown unless the cow was ID'd previously as a calf/yearling by the 4-H'er as his/her leased animal;
4. **Responsibility of animal care** - 4-H'ers exhibiting livestock at the County Fair are responsible for the care and feeding of animals they exhibit.
5. **Cloverbuds** are youth who have completed Kindergarten through 2nd Grade. Cloverbuds is a non-competitive program that emphasizes exploratory learning and group activities. The Minnesota 4-H Youth Development Cloverbud policy creates a uniform set of rules for participation to maintain developmental appropriateness and safety for our youngest 4-H members. Regardless of show experience, all Cloverbuds must follow the UPDATED MN 4-H policy. Cloverbud exhibitions will continue to be non-competitive. Cloverbud exhibits,

including livestock posters, will not be judged blue, red and white. Instead, all will receive participation recognition. For the safety of K-2 participants, the following rules apply to cloverbud experiences. Parents/guardians/mentors are responsible for ensuring their "cloverbud" understands and follows the rules. Extension 4-H staff members and designated volunteer(s) are positioned to intervene when rules are not followed and/or if safety becomes a concern for another reason.

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

- A responsible person must be with the cloverbud to guide and monitor their involvement at all times, including but not limited to movement within and to and from the trailers, barns, wash racks, and show arena.
 - Families may choose one of two acceptable ways to guide and monitor involvement in non-mounted activities:
 - The responsible person is in control of the animal with the cloverbud at their side.
 - The cloverbud is in control of the animal with the responsible person at their side to assist or take control of the animal when needed or as directed by staff, volunteers or show managers.
 - When a cloverbud is mounted on a horse, the horse must always have a lead line and be under the control of the responsible person¹.
 - Cloverbuds may safely interact with their animal through participation in a limited number of non-competitive classes at 4-H sponsored practice sessions/clinics, fun shows and county fairs. The purpose is to provide youth an opportunity to experience being in the ring with a judge present and to feel the pride that comes with this experience
6. **Multiple Animals per class** - 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. **Showmanship** - All 4-H'ers exhibiting livestock at the county fair are eligible to participate in showmanship **and must show their own animal**. Showmanship judging is based on how well the animal is fitted and shown. In showmanship, these three divisions are now in effect for every species: Juniors - 3rd - 5th grade completed; Intermediates - 6th - 8th grade completed; and Seniors - 9th grade and older completed. 4-H'ers will show in class according to their ages and will not advance to the next level until they meet the grade for the next level. Pre-registration for showmanship for any species area is not required.
 8. **Advertising** animals for sale, displaying farm, ranch, or sale signs, or wearing farm branded clothing in the show ring is not allowed. The only permissible signs are 4-H stall cards, champion/reserve champion signs, educational signs with performance or pedigree information, and signs with the animal's name. Additionally, only decorations that support the 4-H Youth Development Program are allowed.
 9. **Grooming & Fitting Rule:**
 - **Steele County Grooming & Fitting Rule:** All grooming of livestock, including clipping, trimming, doing top lines and blocking (all species) must be done by the exhibitor, members of the exhibitor's immediate family, past Steele County 4-H'er or family member, resident of Steele County, or any other enrolled MN 4-H member. Immediate family members are defined as parents, stepparents, legal guardians, grandparents, brothers or sisters. The 4-H'er exhibiting the animal should be present and involved in the fitting process at the fair. Any exhibitor found in violation of this rule will be eliminated from further competition in the show and will not be eligible for any livestock awards or premiums including championships, the auction, and

showmanship. Enforcement of this rule will be the responsibility of the Livestock PDC and County Extension Office. Please, note, that 4-H'ers winning trips to State Fair must follow State Fair grooming rules while exhibiting there. No artificial color may be used above the flank on beef animals. They are acceptable to be applied to the legs and hooves only. Any animals found to be in violation are not eligible for purple ribbons, champions, or 4-H auction.

- **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 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. **Registered breeding animals** - To show in the registered breed classes, animals must meet the registration requirements for that breed and registration papers must be available. Animals without proper registration papers (crossbreeds and grades) must be shown as commercial.
- 12. **All animal health regulations** will be in effect as stipulated by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health and the County Agricultural Society.
- 13. **Fluid Administration** - The use of drenching, mechanical pumping devices or other abnormal methods to administer water or fluids into animals will not be permitted. Administration of fluids for dehydration or other animal health reasons may be done only after receiving approval from a veterinarian and show management. Any exhibitor found in violation of this rule will be eliminated from further competition in the show and will not be eligible for any livestock awards, including (but not limited to) championships, the 4-H auction, showmanship, or interview awards
- 14. **Livestock Exhibits Release** - Only State Fair animals with exception of Horse & Sheep may be released early from the Steele County Fair. 4-H Horses leave on Thursday, August 20, an hour after the 4-H horse show has ended. All sheep leave on Wednesday, August 19 at 5:00 PM. Early removal of any other exhibits is prohibited. Once a 4-Her has accepted their livestock State Fair trip in the 4-H office and 4-Her has received the State Fair paperwork, they will be given a Livestock Release Form designating the specific animal that they are taking to the State Fair may then leave the County Fairgrounds anytime thereafter. If other livestock exhibits are removed prior to 5:00 PM Sunday, the 4-Her will forfeit all 4-H premiums received and State Fair trips won. In addition, the 4-H family will not be permitted to re-enroll 4-H members in the violated project areas for one year.
- 15. **Family Livestock Exhibitor Packets** will be available for pickup on Monday, August 17 starting at 9:00am at the 4-H Fair Office in the Steele County 4-H Exhibit Building (aka Owatonna Gymnastics Building) located on the fairgrounds. This will include important information and materials for your judging experience. 4-H'ers will need this information before they Check-in/ID animals at the fair.
- 16. **Livestock Exhibitor Parking Passes** - The Steele County Fair Board will provide one "parking pass" per family that has livestock at the Fair (EXCEPT for those who exhibit dogs only). In addition, families showing beef, llamas, sheep, swine, dairy, goat, and horse will receive a "supply pass" to accommodate herdsman duties. Families are asked to write their cell phone # on their parking/supply passes for quick contact to avoid being towed if parked in a

non-parking area. Use of parking passes and supply passes are limited. Be sure to follow the guidelines set out by the Fair Board. Transportation on the north side of the barns will be limited. Watch for "NO PARKING" signs and RESPECT them! Parking passes along with Supply passes must be displayed together in the front driver's side dash of your vehicle. Supply passes allow families to enter north of the barns in order to perform herdsman duties and deliver livestock supplies. If you have questions, contact the Extension Office. Parking and supply passes will be in the Family Livestock Exhibitor Packets.

17. **Livestock Species Interviews:** Livestock Interviews will take place at the Cattle Show Arena on the Fairgrounds from 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM on the Monday BEFORE fair week – August 10. Call Back lists will be published by Thursday, August 13. Call Backs to determine Interview placings will be held at 12 PM-Noon at the Steele County Community Center on Monday of fair week, August 17. In addition, livestock exhibitors may participate in as many species interviews as desired but **MUST** participate in at least ONE Livestock Interview to be eligible for special Interview awards. All species will select a Livestock Interview Champion. Champions receive a trophy that will be given out at the Parade of Champions. This will also be announced at the Livestock Shows. All interview champions (except horse and dog) will be given one state fair trip. If they have a livestock trip, they must take the animal trip. Interview winners will be placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd. If the 1st place 4-H'er has a livestock trip, they must take the animal trip; then the interview trip is given to the 2nd place interviewer. If this 4-H'er has an animal trip, they must take the livestock trip. The interview trip is then given to the 3rd place interviewer. If they have an animal trip or if they choose not to go to the State Fair, the trip goes back to that livestock species. Interviewees can expect to introduce themselves, talk about goals, their animals, marketing and breeding, animal health and career opportunities. **NOTE: Cell phones are not allowed in the Call-Back testing area. They must be left outside the area or will be collected until testing has been completed.**

State Fair or State Show Eligibility

1. **Eligibility** - Members selected to represent the county at the State Fair and State Horse Show must have completed sixth grade and not more than one year past high school.
2. **State Fair Trip Limits** - 4-H'ers may accept only one livestock and one general State Fair individual trip but may also participate in a group event or demonstration at the State Fair. In addition, 4-H'ers may also accept a State Horse Show and/or State Dog Show trip. 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.
3. **State Fair Trip Selection Process** - Trips for State Fair, State Horse Show, State Dog Show, and State Lama Show will be selected from blue ribbon exhibits only (see exceptions for the Dog Show under the Dog Training section.)
 - Checking for Awarded Trips - All 4-H'ers who have completed 6th grade or higher must check the State Trip board in the 4-H exhibit building to see if they have won a State trip. Members should check the board starting at 5 PM Tuesday and at least daily thereafter.
 - Accepting or Declining Trips - 4-H'ers should tell 4-H office staff which trips they WOULD take whether the trip has reached them yet or not. 4-H'ers who win more than one individual State trip must notify the 4-H Extension Office which trip(s) they accept and which one(s) they decline as soon as possible after each trip is won.
 - Consequences of Inaction - Any 4-H'er, who has not notified the Extension Office of the trip(s) they want to take by **10 AM on Friday, August 21**, will FORFEIT any

unaccepted trip(s) for which they were eligible and those trip(s) will pass to the next eligible 4-H'er.

4. **LQA&E Requirements** - To be eligible for a livestock trip to the State Fair, 4-H'ers must have completed Livestock Quality Assurance Training. State Policy: All youth participating as a State Fair 4-H livestock exhibitor in beef, dairy, dairy goat, llama-alpaca, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep and swine must have completed a livestock quality assurance training. There are two training options 1) a 3 hour in-person workshop (LQA&E), or 2) a 1 hour on-line training (YQCA). Youth completing either quality assurance training option will receive a certificate of completion. Steele County Exhibitors must complete LQA training by **Friday, August 7**.
5. [Competitive events, deadlines, consequences and exemption options](#). Every Minnesota 4-H member is eligible for a "one-time" member exemption. This exemption provides the ability (one-time in a 4-H member's career) for the 4-H member to acknowledge they missed a 4-H deadline related to enrollment or competitive event participation and waive the consequences for the named deadline. Exemptions may be used for county fair pre-entry registration requirements but may not be used for State Fair trip sign-up deadlines.
6. **Livestock Release** - 4-H youth who have been awarded a 4-H State Fair livestock trip through the local 4-H qualifying show must keep their designated trip animal on the county fairgrounds until the official release time to remain eligible for the 4-H State Fair trip. In the event that a youth/family requests an early release to travel/attend a national junior livestock show and education event, prior arrangements for early release must be made with and approved by the local 4-H program staff, in partnership with the county fair board. Proof of national junior show participation (program with youth's name, printed class placing information) must be presented to local 4-H staff upon return to the county to maintain eligibility for the Minnesota State Fair 4-H livestock shows.
7. **General Project Release** - 4-H youth that have been awarded a 4-H State Fair general project trip through the local 4-H qualifying show must keep their designated trip project on the county fairgrounds until the official release time to remain eligible for the 4-H State Fair trip.
8. **State Fair Paperwork** - As soon as a trip is accepted and no later than 10 AM on Friday, August 21, 4-H'ers must pick up their State trip paperwork from the 4-H Extension Office. Once a 4-H'er has accepted their State Fair trip in the 4-H office and has received the State Fair paperwork, they will be given a livestock release form that states the designated animal that they are taking to State Fair may leave the County Fairgrounds at that time. All State Fair trip forms must be completed, signed and returned to the County Fair Extension Office at or before the State Fair meetings take place – that is 1 PM on Friday, August 21 for Non-Livestock State Fair trips and 2 PM on Friday, August 21 for Livestock State Fair trips. State Dog & Horse Show forms & paperwork must be completed and turned in by 3 PM Friday, August 21 at the County Fair.
9. **State Fair Trip Meetings** - The General (non-livestock) trip meeting will be held at 1 PM on Friday, August 21, in the Swine Show Arena. The Livestock trip meeting will be held at 2 PM on Friday, August 21, in the Swine Show Arena. Attendance by 4-H'ers and parents at the State Fair meetings is REQUIRED. Check with Extension Staff if you have questions.
10. **State Fair Chaperones** - Chaperones will need to be identified before the State Fair meetings in order for 4-H'ers to go to the State Fair. Chaperones for ALL state trips must be screened 4-H volunteers. If a potential chaperone has not yet been screened, the volunteer screening paperwork must be submitted immediately upon accepting the assignment so that the screening process may be completed before the event begins. Check with Extension Staff. Chaperones will be trained by Extension Staff prior to their assignments.

4-H Market Livestock Sale

1. **Registration for Sale:** A 4-H'er may enter one market animal in the 4-H Market Livestock Sale held Saturday, August 22. Registration will be done through FairEntry. Registration will open on Wednesday, August 19, at 3 PM and will close at Noon on Friday, August 21.
2. **Eligible Animals** - Steele County 4-H livestock project members must exhibit the animal at the County Fair that is entered in the Market Sale. All 4-H'ers participating in the 4-H Market Sale must take their own animal through the sale ring unless prior arrangements have been made with the Extension Office. No White Ribbon animals can be sold. Animal ownership can NOT be transferred.
3. **Cloverbuds** - Cloverbuds may NOT sell an animal in the Market Sale.
4. **Sale Details** - This is a non-terminal sale.
5. **Minimum Weights** - To sell in the market sale, animals must weigh a minimum of: Swine-220 lbs./ Sheep-105 lbs./ Beef-1,000 lbs./ Goats-40 lbs./ Rabbits-3.5 lbs. each.
6. **Disposal of Non-Sale Market Animals** -: Additional animals that were weighed at the County Fair weigh-in day, may be shipped to market via 4-H arrangements. Arrangements must be made at the County Fair 4-H Office by 10 AM on Friday, August 21.
7. **4-H'er & 4-H Program Payment Schedule** - This is a PREMIUM ONLY sale. Bidding at the auction is on the premiums associated with the ribbon the animal was awarded. Premium bids are split between the 4-H'er and Steele County 4-H. The 4-H'er receives 60% and the Steele County 4-H receives 40%. Funds raised by Steele County 4-H are used to benefit 4-H youth programs throughout Steele County.

Meaning of Ribbon Colors

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

- Cloverbuds: receive 'participation' ribbons
- White: "I've tried; I've learned, but there is room for improvement, and more learning, to reach a standard of skills and knowledge appropriate for my age and my years of experience in the project."
- Red: "I've tried; I've learned, and I've achieved a level of skill meeting expectations for my age and years of experience, but still have room to learn and do more."
- Blue: "I've tried; I've learned, and have reached most of my goals in this project. I've exceeded the level of achievement expected of me for my age and years of experience, but there still is room to learn and do more."
- Purple/Champion: "I've tried, I've learned, and succeeded in reaching a high level of achievement. I know that I can still challenge myself to reach even higher levels of knowledge and skills in my project." Only one Grand Champion and one Reserve Champion ribbon are given out per project area. Additional purple ribbons are offered in some projects.

Premiums

<u>Project Area</u>	<u>Blue</u>	<u>Red</u>	<u>White</u>
All General Exhibits	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$2.00
Demonstrations/Public Presentations	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$2.00
Fashion Revue	\$2.00	Participation Ribbon	
Cloverbud - General & Livestock	\$2.00	Participation Ribbon	
Club Exhibits	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$8.00
Beef	\$10.00	\$8.00	\$5.00
Dairy	\$10.00	\$8.00	\$5.00
Dairy Genetics & Production	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$2.00
Meat Goat & Dairy Goat	\$7.00	\$6.00	\$5.00
Poultry	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00
Rabbits	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00
Sheep	\$7.00	\$6.00	\$5.00
Swine	\$7.00	\$6.00	\$5.00
Dog	\$7.00	\$6.00	\$5.00
Horse	\$7.00	\$6.00	\$5.00

Thank you to the Steele County Agricultural Society for supporting our Steele County 4-H'ers.

A special thank you to all those that
volunteer their time & talents in making
4-H possible in Steele County.



Animal Science 4-H Projects

Beef

Check-In/Weigh In - Tuesday, August 18, 1-3 pm

- Beef may enter barn any time after 5:00 pm Monday, August 17, Must be in place before verification begins.
- Beef exhibitor meeting at 1 pm around the scale in the beef barn prior to weigh-in.
- Verification will take place immediately after exhibitor meeting.

Beef Show - Wednesday, August 19 at 5:30 pm in Show Arena

- Beginning at 5:30 pm with cow/calf at the pens in the Radel Pavilion and continue to the Cattle Show Arena.
- Classes that contain less than three head, will be combined with other breeds and/or registered and commercial breeds will be combined, when possible, to assure a level of competition.
- Show Order - Cow/calf at pen, Cow/calf in arena, Cloverbuds, Calves, Breeding Beef, Market Beef, Dairy Steers, & Showmanship - Junior, Intermediate, & Senior.

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

Cow and Calf (Limit of 1 pair - shown at pen and/or ring)

Beef - Cow and Calf Pair at Pens - Registered
 Beef - Cow and Calf Pair at Pens - Commercial
 Beef - Cow and Calf Pair in Ring - Registered
 Beef - Cow and Calf Pair in Ring - Commercial

Prospect Calf - Limit 2 per class

Jr Dairy Steer - (Grades 3-5 only)
 Jr Beef Calf - (Grades 3-5 only)
 Beef - Heifer Calf
 Beef - Steer Calf
 Beef - Breeding Heifer - Spring Calf

Breeding Heifer - Total Limit of 2

Beef - Registered Breeding Heifer

Beef - Commercial Breeding Heifer

Market Beef - Limit of 2 per class

Beef - Market Steer

Beef - Market Heifer

Dairy Steer - Limit of 2 per class

Beef - Pure Breed Dairy Steer

Beef - Crossbred Dairy Steer

Beef Cloverbud - Limit 1

Show Requirements

- **Ownership** ID forms and/or lease agreements must be uploaded online by May 15, or February 17, for Market Beef/Dairy Steers and July 15, for Junior beef and Junior dairy steers.
- **Registered Animals** - Exhibitors must present a copy of the registration papers for that animal and verification at the time of beef entry in order to show in purebred class. Entries that do not meet these requirements will show in the Commercial Class.
- **Females** may be shown as either breeding or market, but NOT both.
- **Market Beef** will be mouthed at the County Fair scale to assure that age qualifications are met. Market beef showing permanent teeth can show for ribbon and premium only and will not be eligible for special awards or trips. An eruption is a pair of teeth. If only one tooth of the second eruption is visible it counts as a second eruption.
- **Market Beef Weight** - Recommended minimum weight for State Fair is 1,000 pounds; recommended maximum weight is 1,500 pounds.
- **Purebred Dairy Steers** will be shown separately from the beef steers. Any beef-dairy crossbred steer will show with the beef steers. Pure Breed Dairy Steers must be 100% of one of the following Dairy Breeds to be accepted without registration papers in the dairy steer show: 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.
- **Crossbred Dairy Steers** must be at least 50% from the acceptable breeds in any combination: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, Jersey, Milking Shorthorn, Montbeliarde, Normande (dairy), Red & White, Norwegian Red and Viking Red (Swedish, Danish & Finnish Red). However, the steers must show adequate dairy steer characteristics, as determined by the Market Sale committee. Exhibitors should be prepared to identify the breeds of their crossbred dairy steer.
 - Recommended minimum weight for State Fair is 1,000 pounds; recommended maximum weight is 1,600 pounds.
- **Show Divisions** - If more than one market steer, market heifer, or dairy steer class is needed, they will be divided and shown by weight divisions, if possible.
- **Beef breeding heifer classes** will be separated by breed, Purebred/Crossbreed, or age when numbers merit.
- **Cow/calf**- There will be two divisions of the Cow/Calf project. The first division will have the pair penned and judged on production and knowledge of the 4-H'er. The second division will have the pair shown in the ring and judged on conformation and animal quality. Cow/Calf state fair awards will be based on animal quality and awarded to cow/calf pairs that are shown in the ring. Cow/Calf pairs can be shown in either or both divisions. Any bonafide 4-H members are allowed to assist the 4-H'er by showing one of the animals in the arena for the cow/calf judging. Parents may assist as a third person.
- **Calves** - can be shown in only one of the following classes: junior beef calf, prospect calf, or the spring breeding heifer class. Calves do not have to be from the Cow/Calf project.
 - **Calves of Cow/Calf** pairs born after May 15 must be ID'd within 5 days of birth. Supply Extension staff with the calf data for entry into the 4honline ID system. Calves must be ID'd with a State 4-H ear tag or tattoo by the County Fair. This may or may not be

the continuation of a heifer project. Bull, steer, and heifer calves are eligible for cow/calf pairs. They should be clipped and halter broken.

- **Prospect calf class** (steers and heifers) is either for calves from an identified and exhibited cow/calf project or from a prospect calf only project (cow is not identified). Prospect Calves must have a state 4-H ear tag or a tattoo if registered. Heifers and steers are eligible and will show separately. Prospect calves may be leased.
- **Junior Beef Calf** is only for beef project members who are in 3rd through 5th grade on January 1, 2026. This calf may or may not be from the cow/calf pair of an immediate member of the family.
- **Junior Dairy Steer** is for beef project members who were in 3rd through 5th grade on January 1, 2026.
- **Spring Breeding Heifer Calf** does not have to come from a cow/calf pair. Calf must be weaned if not from a cow/calf pair. Registered calves must have a tattoo or tag matching the registration papers.

Dairy

Check-In/Weigh In - Tuesday, August 18 4-8 pm

- Dairy may enter barn any time after 5:00 pm Monday, August 17. Must be in place before verification begins.
- 4-H'er or family must be present during the ID Process.

Dairy Show - Thursday, August 20 8:30 am in Cattle Show Arena

- Show Order will be Cows, Cloverbuds, Calves, and Showmanship.
- Classes that contain less than three head, will be combined with other breeds and/or registered and commercial breeds will be combined, when possible, to assure a level of competition.

Birth Dates

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

Breeds:

- Dairy breed classes (divisions) include Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Crossbred, Guernsey, Jersey, Milking Shorthorn, Registered Red & White and Grade Red & White, Registered Holstein and Grade Holstein.

- Animals must be shown in the "Crossbred and Other Breeds" class if they are less than 7/8's or 87% of any one of the seven purebred breeds listed above or if they are a dairy breed other than Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Jersey, Milking Shorthorn, Red & White or Holstein.
- All color breeds will be shown with registered and grade in the same class (i.e. – Grade Jerseys show together with Registered Jerseys.)
- Senior Yearlings that have calved must compete in the Milking Yearling cow class.

Holstein Registered

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

Holstein Grade

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

Crossbreds and Color Breeds Registered and Grade

Dairy - Spring Calf
 Dairy - Winter Calf
 Dairy - Fall Calf
 Dairy - Summer Yearling
 Dairy - Spring Yearling
 Dairy - Winter Yearling
 Dairy - Fall Yearling
 Dairy - Milking Yearling
 Dairy - Junior Two-Year-Old Cow

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

Dairy Cloverbud - Limit 1

Dairy Genetics - Limit 1 per class

- (must show animal) calves, yearlings, non-milking 2 yr olds. Limit 1 per class

Dairy Production - Limit 1 per class

- (must show animal) (2 yr+ with at least 305 days in milk)

Show Requirements

- **Ownership ID** forms and/or lease agreements must be ID'd online by May 15, except for Spring Calf which is June 1.
- **Exhibit Limits** - 4-H'ers are not limited on the number of animals per division (breed), but not more than two per class (i.e. Jr Calf, Wtr Sr Calf, Spr Jr Yrlg, Jr 2 Yr Old etc.) except for advanced cows (3 yr+ lactating cows) where an unlimited number may be shown.
- **Dairy production class** - Details and applications for production entries will be sent to members in time to return information to the Extension Office by August 1. The Production Class is limited to two-year-old or older animals that have completed a 305-day lactation record with an official DHIA test record (type test code less than 40). Cows must have at least 305 days in milk. First lactation animals with less than 305 days in milk should be entered in the Dairy Genetics class. Cows should be identified with DHI herd code, computer number, registration or 9-digit ear tag number, and barn name. Provide the calving date of the cow's production record as well as the 2-digit type test code. Report the cow's most recent 305 - 2x - M.E. record (complete or more than 305 days in milk). Ranking will be based on value of product at the last completed lactation 305-day M.E. Cloverbuds are not eligible for the Production class.
- **Dairy genetics class** - Details and applications for Genetics entries will be sent to members in time to return information to the Extension Office by August 1. Genetics is limited to animals less than 3 years old that have not completed a 305-day lactation record. Other animals should be entered in the Dairy Production Class. All heifers entered must be sired by a bull with a published sire summary or by a young A.I. bull with a Pedigree Index available on the sire summary tape. (A Pedigree Index will have a "***" printed next to the dollar value on the DHI Report.) Dam must be identified by register or ear tag number with DHI herd code, herd code computer number, and farm name. Cloverbuds are not eligible for the Genetics class.
- **Exhibitor Clothing** - White clothing is traditionally worn at dairy shows. The official judge will be instructed to disregard whether 4-H'ers wear white or not, when placing classes and in showmanship.
- **State Fair Line-up** - Only 4-H'ers and animals eligible and wanting to be considered for State Fair will be allowed in the State Fair Lineup.
- **4-H Dairy Star Awards** - This year, the dairy project will continue the Steele County 4-H Dairy Stars Awards program. This program mimics the 4-H Dairy Showcase at the Minnesota State Fair and will recognize and reward youth for their involvement and project development in the 4-H dairy project. It will recognize efforts in mentorship, leadership, 4-H involvement, 4-H activities, and accomplishments. Awards will be distributed in a scholarship form to five Juniors (Grades 3-5), three Intermediates (Grades 6-8), and five Seniors (Grades 9-13) during the 4-H Dairy Show. Applications will be mailed out and be due back to the Extension Office by August 1.

Dairy Goat

Check-In/Weigh In - Thursday, August 20, 9-10 am

- Dairy goats may enter the Foundation Building any time after 8:00 pm Wednesday, August 19. Must be in place before verification begins.

Dairy Goat Show - Thursday, August 20 at 3:00 pm in Foundation Building

- Show Order will be Cloverbuds, followed by Kid Does, Milking, Showmanship (Junior, Intermediate & Senior).
- Classes that contain less than three head, will be combined with other breeds and/or registered and commercial breeds will be combined, when possible, to assure a level of competition.

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 - Limit 2 per class

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

Dairy Goat Cloverbud - Limit 1

Show Requirements

- **Ownership forms** and/or lease agreements must be ID'd online by May 15, except for Dairy Junior Doe Kids which are July 1.
- **Classes** will be determined by age of goat (junior doe kids, senior doe kids, dry yearling does, milking yearlings, 2 Yr old milking does and 3 Yr+ milking does). There will not be a breakdown by breed or purebred and grade until enrollment numbers justify it. Alpine, LaMancha, Nigerian Dwarf, Nubian, Oberhasli, Saanen, Sables, Toggenburg, Recorded Grades, Unrecorded Grades (from the eight recognized ADGA breeds or combinations) are eligible to be shown as dairy goats. Fainting, Kinder, Cashmere, Angora, Pygmy, and Boer breeds of goats or their crosses are not allowed in dairy classes and are classed as meat goats. All animals must be trimmed and fitted for show.
- **Horns** - For safety reasons all dairy goats must be dis-budded/dehorned. Regrowth of less than one inch is allowed.

Dog

Dog Show - Tuesday, July 28, at 3:30 pm in Foundation Building

- Show Order will be given out in advance.
- Dogs will be verified before the show begins.

Dog Agility

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

Dog Rally

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

Dog Obedience

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

Dog Showmanship

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

Show Requirements

- 4-H'ers - 3rd grade and up are eligible for county and state dog show.
- 4-H'ers shall exhibit in the classes corresponding to the level of training they and their dog have received. Additional information, class requirements, and rules/regulations can be found in the Minnesota 4-H Agility, Obedience, Rally and Showmanship rules and guidelines (four separate publications) available on the [MN 4-H dog project website](http://z.umn.edu/mn4hdogproject) (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.
- 4-H'ers may show two dogs, but only one per class. 4-H'ers may not substitute or change dogs after the qualifying show in obedience or showmanship for any reason. A dog may be handled by only one 4-H'er in obedience, but may be handled by another family member in showmanship.

Horse

Check-In/ID - Wednesday, August 19, 8-9 pm

- 4-H horses may enter Wednesday, August 19 after 8:00 pm, Must be in place for ID verification by 9:00 pm.
- Class Verification - on Monday, August 10 at 6:00 pm inside the cattle show arena, no horses..

Horse Show - Thursday, August 20 at 9:00 am in the Horse Arena

- Classes may be combined or split depending on the number of entries.
- Show Order is as follows;

Horse Showmanship

Horse - Horseless/Horse Related Horse Halter Showmanship (Grades 3+)
 Horse - Showmanship Grades 3-5
 Horse - Showmanship Grades 6-8
 Horse - Showmanship Grades 9+

Walk-Trot

Horse - Walk-Trot Horsemanship/Equitation (Beginner Rider)
 Horse - Walk-Trot Horsemanship/Equitation (Advanced Rider)

Horse - Walk-Trot Pleasure (Beginner Rider)
 Horse - Walk-Trot Pleasure (Advanced Rider)

English Pleasure

Horse - English Pleasure - Grades 3-5

Horse - English Pleasure - Grades 6+

English Equitation

Horse - English Equitation - Grades 3-5

Horse - English Equitation - Grades 6+

Horse Cloverbud

Horse - Cloverbud Barrels

Horse - Cloverbud Western Pleasure

Horse - Cloverbud Horse Showmanship

Western Horsemanship

Horse - Western Horsemanship, All Gaits, Grades 3-5

Horse - Western Horsemanship, All Gaits, Grades 6-8

Horse - Western Horsemanship, All Gaits, Grades 9+

Western Pleasure - Can either participate in Western or Ranch Pleasure - Not Both

Horse - Western Pleasure, Grades 3-5

Horse - Western Pleasure, Grades 6-8

Horse - Western Pleasure, Grades 9+

Ranch Pleasure - Can either participate in Western or Ranch Pleasure - Not Both

Horse - Ranch Pleasure, Grades 3-5

Horse - Ranch Pleasure, Grades 6-8

Horse - Ranch Pleasure, Grades 9+

Trail Class

Horse - Walk-Trot - Trail, Grades 3+

Horse - Trail Class, Grades 3-5

Horse - Trail Class, Grades 6-8

Horse - Trail Class, Grades 9+

Egg & Spoon

Horse - Walk-Trot Egg & Spoon, Grades 3+

Horse - Egg & Spoon, Grades 3-8

Horse - Egg & Spoon, Grades 9+

Pole weaving

Horse - Pole Weaving, Grades 3-5

Horse - Pole Weaving, Grades 6-8

Horse - Pole Weaving, Grades 9+

Jumping Figure 8

Horse - Jumping Figure 8, Grades 3-5

Horse - Jumping Figure 8, Grades 6-8

Horse - Jumping Figure 8, Grades 9+

Key Race

Horse - Key Race, Grades 3-5

Horse - Key Race, Grades 6-8

Horse - Key Race, Grades 9+

Barrel Race

Horse - Barrel Race, Grades 3-5

Horse - Barrel Race, Grades 6-8

Horse - Barrel Race, Grades 9+

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 Training

Horse - Training Steps 1 - 6

Horse Achievement

Horse - Achievement Steps 1 - 6 (Level 6 may advance to State Fair)

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](https://z.umn.edu/4HHorseProject) (z.umn.edu/4HHorseProject)

Show Requirements

- **Eligible horses** - All horses shown must be identified in 4Honline by May 15th with a valid Coggins. 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 the year foaled. Only mares and geldings, regardless of age, will be allowed at County Fair. Yearling and older stallions are ineligible as 4-H projects. Mare with foal at side will be allowed to exhibit with prior approval.

- **Cloverbuds** -: Regardless of show experience, all Cloverbuds must follow the UPDATED MN 4-H policy: "When Cloverbuds and animals are together at a 4-H program, families may choose one of two acceptable ways to guide and monitor involvement in non-mounted activities: 1. The responsible person is in control of the animal with the Cloverbud at their side. 2. The Cloverbud is in control of the animal with the responsible person at their side to assist or take control of the animal when needed or as directed by staff, volunteers, or show managers. In the horse project, the second option does not apply to mounted activities. 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.
- **Release time** - Horses leave the grounds on Thursday, August 20, one hour after the conclusion of the 4-H horse show. All decorations and tack must be removed, and stalls cleaned out before leaving.
- **Exhibit Limits** - Two horses per exhibitor can be shown at the County Fair, but only one horse entered per event. A third, training horse only, may be exhibited with permission from the Extension Office. To help with stalling, members should contact the Extension office if they will be showing two horses. Each exhibitor is limited to showing in only one of the six western horsemanship classes, only one of the six western pleasure classes or ranch pleasure (cannot show in both), only one English Equitation class, and only one English Pleasure class. This includes anyone entering walk-trot classes. A horse may be used only once in any event per show. Age, grade, or type divisions are considered class divisions and not separate events. The horse may be used in an additional non-qualifying class in the same event. The exception being if a horse is shared between riders where one is showing in State Qualifying classes and one is showing in non-qualifying classes. The horse may be shown by both youth in the same event. A rider may ride only one horse in a Game class.
- **Exercising horses** - Horses will be exercised in the arena only. Helmets, boots, and long pants must be worn during the exercise time. Trainers and adults are not allowed to exercise, work out, or ride 4-Hers' horses at 4-H shows.
- **Riding Attire** - Only Western attire and equipment is allowed in Games classes. No chaps are allowed in horsemanship. Walk-trot classes may be done in either Western or English attire. For Ranch Pleasurer, chinks are optional.
- **Walk-Trot classes** are open to all ages. Rider can enter in either Beginner Rider Walk-Trot or Advanced Rider Walk-Trot, but not both. Beginner is for youth who have never won in a judged riding horse class. Animals will be shown at a walk and trot with the top exhibitor determined by points earned. Once an exhibitor and horse combo win a walk-trot class, they go into an advanced walk-trot or loping judged class except that a Beginner Rider Walk-Trot exhibitor can go to the Advanced Rider Walk-Trot class instead if they are not yet ready for a loping judged class. Rider may stay in advanced walk-trot class until they are comfortable with moving into loping class. No State Horse Show trips or counted points are available for walk-trot classes. If a horse-rider combination shows in any walk-trot class, that horse-rider combination is ineligible to show in a loping judged class.
- **Western Pleasure** - is an event judged on a horses' ability to be a pleasure to ride. The horse must be broken and quiet, soft and smooth and go with little restraint. Horse must meet the requirements of the class.
- **Ranch Pleasure** - Members can choose to participate in either Ranch or Western Pleasure, but not both. These classes have similarities but are not the same. If they aren't the same, why can't you participate in both? Each class is designed for a specific type of horse and for that type of horse to be successful in achieving what is asked of it in that class. So, let's see where you feel you and your horse fit best! General requirements, attire, and most equipment requirements are the same as in Western Pleasure. However, note that tail extensions are prohibited in Ranch Riding as well as hoof black, mane bands and braids are discouraged.

- Horse Training** - Training evaluations are only open to 4-Hers who are actively enrolled in and working on the step-by-step 4-H Training Program as outlined in the 4-H Training Guide and Workbook. The horse used in the Training class can be of any age but cannot have had any prior training beyond halter breaking and lunging and cannot have been ground-driven or ridden when training began. The 4-Her must be enrolled in both the Horse project and the Horse Training project, must begin at Step 1 and follow step by step in both the Achievement Program workbook and in the Horse Training Program workbook, and must bring both workbooks to County Fair on the testing day. Members must receive a passing score of 70% or above to be eligible for a State Horse Show trip. Depending on the number of 4-Hers enrolled in this program; one or two State Horse Show trips could be awarded.
- Western Heritage** - This is an event available to 4-H Horse project members interested in exploring and preserving our Western Heritage. Events include breakaway roping, team roping, calf roping and cutting, team penning, goat tying, and horse and cow events. There is no Western Heritage event at the County Fair, but 4-Hers can become eligible for the regional event by participating in at least one Western Heritage Clinic. An award will be given at County Fair to the 4-Her with the highest score at a Regional Western Heritage event.
- Horseless Horse Halter Showmanship** - Members enrolled in the Horseless Horse project have the opportunity to work with one of the Horse Project members during the summer. They will learn about the care and handling of the horse as well as the cost of ownership. This class is for members in the Horseless Horse project who have completed grades 3 – 12+, who do not own or lease their own horse, and who have worked with a horse project member as described above. This is a showmanship class only – absolutely no riding.
- Game Classes** - Wide flat leather bat or your hand is permitted if used behind the cinch. Excessive use of bats or spurs or abuse of mount will be cause for disqualification. A two-handed ride is optional. The rider may change hands. Touching the saddle or holding on to the saddle horn or pommel is permitted. The arena gate must be closed before a contestant crosses the starting line. This is a safety issue, not a disqualification. A running start from outside the arena is not permitted. Faults- Knocking an obstacle down is a disqualification or a 5-second penalty for each obstacle knocked down. A penalty may be assessed only once per obstacle knocked down (i.e. once per pole, jump, barrel). Rider must still perform the pattern in the prescribed manner. Not going around an obstacle, even if knocked down, is a disqualification for not completing the prescribed pattern. Any break in pattern will mean disqualification. Backing, changing of direction, or similar is NOT considered breaking of pattern.
- Point System** - The Steele County Horse Project uses a six-point system, splitting points between the Performance classes and Games events (see quota determinations below). Points earned are for horse and rider combination. If the same horse/rider combination is entered in both Performance classes and Games events, they will have two separate point totals. Or, if a 4-Her brings two different horses, each horse/rider combination will have separate point totals. Points allocated for Performance classes will be assigned by the judge's lineup in each grade division. Points allocated for Games classes will be assigned by fastest time in each grade division. No red ribbons are eligible to earn points. The point system only gives points for the top six blue placings in a class - 6 points are given for 1st place blue, 5 points for 2nd place blue, etc. If an ineligible rider places, that rider's points stay unassigned (they do not pass to the next rider in the lineup). Trail and walk trot classes do not count toward point totals. Trail has its own State Show quota and will not be included in points earned since trail quota participants must come from State Trip winners.
- Awarding Trips** - 4-Hers may take both a State Fair Livestock and a State Horse Show trip if they qualify at the County Fair. A maximum of two Horse Training Program participants may advance to the State Horse Show as the Training Program Guidelines dictate. 4-Hers must

meet age/grade requirements to advance to state level and may only participate there in classes in which they received a blue ribbon at the County Fair. All State Horse Show trips will be awarded by quota and based on percentages of horses in each discipline (Performance or Games). (i.e. If there are 45 horses in Performance and 30 horses in Games then the formula is: $45/75 = 60\%$ of trips go to Performance and 40% to Games). If there is a tie in determining trip winners, the trip will be awarded according to the State policy: 1) Person with the most 1st places. 2) Person with the most 2nd places. 3) Person with the most 3rd places. 4) Draw out of a hat.

Horse Related Exhibit

Horse- Horse Related, Grades 6+

Horse - Horse Related, Grades 3-5

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

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+

Horse – Horseless Horse Level 2, Grades 3-5

Horse - Horseless Horse Level 3, Grades 6+

Horse - Horseless Horse Level 3, Grades 3-5

Horse - Horseless Horse Level 4, Grades 6+

Horse - Horseless Horse Level 4, Grads 3-5

Requirements

- Youth will complete a level in the [horseless horse booklet](#) prior to the show. The booklet will include answering knowledge questions and learning hands-on skills. An

example of a knowledge question would be to list 4 breeds of horses and describe their uses. An example of a skill to demonstrate would describe and demonstrate how to properly back a horse on the halter 4 steps.

- The booklet must be signed prior to the show by a Horseless Horse Volunteer, Mentor or 4-H Extension Staff attesting to that the youth has completed the booklet, can complete the skills and is prepared for the judging experience.
- Youth can only test and exhibit one level per year.
- They will use a mentor's horse in the ring. The horse will be used to aid in answering the judge's questions and demonstrating skills.
- Youth will demonstrate and interview one-on-one with the judge, 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).

Llama-Alpaca

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 – Costume (Exhibitor must be on foot)

Llama-Alpaca – Obstacle Course

Llama-Alpaca - Public Relations

Llama-Alpaca - Showmanship

Llama-Alpaca Cloverbud

Llama-Alpaca Cloverbud - Showmanship

Llama-Alpaca Cloverbud - Costume

Llama-Alpaca Cloverbud - Poster

NOTE: 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.

Meat Goat

Check-In/Weigh In - Thursday, August 20, 9-10 am

- Meat goats may enter the Foundation Building any time after 8:00 pm Wednesday, August 19. Must be in place before verification.

Meat Goat Show - Thursday, August 20 at 6:00 pm in Foundation Building

- Classes that contain less than three head, will be combined with other breeds and/or registered and commercial breeds will be combined, when possible, to assure a level of competition.
- Show Order - Cloverbuds, Junior Show (Meat Breeding Does, Wether Dams, Market Goats), Junior Showmanship, Senior Show (Meat Breeding Does, Wether Dams, Market Goats), Intermediate Showmanship & Senior Showmanship

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

Meat goat breeding does

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

Note: Pygmy Goats are classed as Meat Goats

Meat Goat Cloverbud - Limit 1

Meat Goat Breeding Doe - (Limit 4 but no more than 2 per class)

Meat Goat – Junior Meat Breeding Doe Kid, registered or grade (Jr: Grades 3-5)
 Meat Goat – Senior Meat Breeding Doe Kid, registered or grade (Jr: Grades 3-5)
 Meat Goat - Yearling Breeding Doe, registered or grade (never kidded) (Jr: Grades 3-5)

Meat Goat – Junior Meat Breeding Doe Kid, registered or grade (Sr. Grades 6+)
 Meat Goat – Senior Meat Breeding Doe Kid, registered or grade (Sr. Grades 6+)
 Meat Goat - Yearling Breeding Doe, registered or grade (never kidded) (Sr. Grades 6+)

Wether Dam (Limit 4, but no more than 2 per class)

Wether Dam Yearling (never kidded) (Jr. Grades 3-5)
 Wether Dam Kid (Jr. Grades 3-5)

Wether Dam Yearling (never kidded) (Sr. Grades 6+)
 Wether Dam Kid (Sr. Grades 6+)

Market Goat - (Limit 4, but no more than 2 per class)

Meat Market Goat - Wether (Jr. Grades 3-5)

Meat Market Goat - Doe (Jr. Grades 3-5)

Dairy Market Goat - Wether or Doe (Jr. Grades 3-5)

Meat Market Goat - Wether (Sr. Grades 6+)

Meat Market Goat - Doe (Sr. Grades 6+)

Dairy Market Goat - Wether or Doe (Sr. Grades 6+)

Show Requirements

- **Ownership** forms and/or lease agreements must be ID'd online by May 15, except for Meat Junior Doe Kid which is June 1.
- **Exhibit Limits** - 4-H'ers may show 4 market goats, but only 2 per class, female or male (wethers only – no bucks allowed). 4-H'ers may show two breeding animals per class.
- **Females** may be shown as either breeding or market, but NOT both.
- **Meat Market** Goats may be a purebred meat breed, a meat breed combination, and/or a meat/dairy breed combination. Dairy Market Goats must be from the following breeds in any combination but must be 100% dairy: Alpine, Nubian, Nigerian Dwarf, Oberhasli, Saanen, LaMancha, Sable, Toggenburg. Market goats may have lost one or more milk teeth but there may be no evidence of breaking skin or eruption of two permanent teeth. Market goats are completely clipped. It is optional to clip from the knee in the front and hock in the back down to the hoof line. ***Goats can be braced, BUT must be shown with all four feet on the ground. Animals must be shown with a chain or collar used only to control the animal. If you have two animals in the same weight class, you may move your heaviest animal up a class in order to show your own animal.
- **Meat Breeding Does** may be a purebred meat breed, a meat breed combination, and/or a meat/dairy breed combination. Classes will be determined by age of goat (junior doe, senior doe, and yearling doe). There will not be a breakdown by breed or purebred and grade until enrollment numbers justify it. Meat breeding does must be clipped and fitted for show.
- **Horns** - 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. However, if an animal is deemed a safety concern, additional safety measures may be required.
- **Recommended weights** - recommended minimum weight for Market Goats at the State Fair is 40 pounds, and the recommended maximum weight is 110 pounds.

Poultry

Check-In/Weigh In - Tuesday, August 18, 7:30 - 9:00am

- Bring your project birds to the Poultry barn from 7:30 – 9:00 AM for check in. Birds will be entered, weighed in, health certificates verified, and leg bands attached.
- Exhibit limits - 4-H'ers may exhibit one pen of birds in each poultry class listed herein.
- 4-H'ers should provide their own waterers, feeders for their birds.

Poultry Show - Tuesday, August 18 at 12:00 Noon in the Poultry Barn

- Show Order - Cloverbuds, Show & Hobby, Doves & Pigeons, Chickens, Ducks, Geese, Guineas, Turkeys, Showmanship - Junior, Intermediate, and Senior.

Hatch Dates

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

Doves

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

Pigeons

Young bird (one male or one female) January 1 or after

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

Suggested hatch dates:

Chickens

Market (two males or two females) 6 to 8 weeks before fair

Breeding (one male and two females) January

Egg production (two females) 20 weeks before fair

Ducks

Market (two males or two females) 7 to 8 weeks before fair

Breeding (one male and two females) January

Geese

Market (two males or two females) 15 to 20 weeks before fair

Breeding (one male and two females) January

Guinea

Market (two males or two females) 20 to 22 weeks before fair

Breeding (one male and two females) January

Turkey

Market (two males or two females) 18 to 20 weeks before fair

Breeding (one male and two females) January

Chickens - Limit 1 per class

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 or colored egg layers

Doves - Limit 1 per class

Doves - Purebred breeding pair

Ducks - Limit 1 per class

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 - Limit 1 per class

Geese - Market pen of two males or two females

Geese - Breeding pen of one male & two females

Guinea - Limit 1 per class

- ONLY Pearls, Whites and Lavender breeds can be shown:

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

Guinea - Breeding pen of one male & two females - same breed

Pigeons - Limit 1 per class

- The same birds may not be shown two years in a row, even by someone else.

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 - Limit 1 per class

Turkeys - Domestic Only - Market pen of two males or two females

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

Show & Hobby Birds - Limit 1 per class

Show and Hobby birds are those that do not fit into any of the other classes. They might be pheasants, partridge, quail, wild ducks other than mallards, etc. They must be a bird that is not listed in the Poultry Standard of Perfection Book.

Poultry Poster - Limit 1

Educational or promotional poster may be selected to advance to the State Fair. See State Fair poster requirements in the Poultry Information Sheet. Posters do not need to be exhibited at the County Fair to advance to the State Fair.

Poultry Cloverbud - Limit 1 per class

Poultry Cloverbud Animal Exhibit

Poultry Cloverbud Poster

Show Requirements

- **Health Requirements** - All birds except waterfowl, doves and pigeons must have a health certificate on file at the Extension office prior to County Fair or with them at the time of ID/verification.
- **Leg Bands** - Chicken, turkeys and game birds must be identified with a numbered leg band. Leg bands will be provided and placed on the birds at the verification check in on Tuesday morning. Pigeons & Doves must be banded by May 15, with a permanent seamless leg band in the correct size for the breed.
- All breeding birds must be purebred and listed as an American Poultry Association (APA) recognized breed. More information about APA recognized breeds can be found in the APA Standard of Perfection handbook or on the American Poultry Association website under [Accepted Breeds and Varieties](#).

- All pigeons and doves will be judged according to the National Pigeon Association (NPA) Book of Pigeon Standards.
- Commercial breeds are recommended for all market and egg production classes.
- **Poster Contest:**
 - Age divisions: grades K-2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8, grades 9+
 - Any 4-H'er enrolled in the poultry project may enter a poster. You do not have to be exhibiting a poultry exhibit at the State Fair to enter.
 - There are two categories: 1) Promoting 4-H Poultry, and 2) Education 4-H Poultry.
 - Poster size no larger than 14" x 22", hanging vertically (larger-sized posters will not be judged.) No foam board allowed.
 - Posters must be labeled on the back with the 4-H'ers name, grade completed, county and whether it's a promotional or educational poster.
 - Posters cannot use copywritten materials, i.e., slogans, designs.
 - Posters in grades K-2 will receive participation ribbons only.
 - Posters in grades 3-5, 6-8, 9+ are eligible for awards in Education and promotion.
 - Any 4-H'er in the Poultry project may enter a 14" w x 22" h poster with original design that either 1) Promotes the 4-H poultry project; or 2) Is an educational 4-H poster on poultry. A flat design with two colors and a clear, simple message is best. Do not use trademarked characters or themes. The poster should be reproducible, and must be labeled on the back with name, club, grade completed and county. All posters made by 4-H'ers of any age or grade are eligible for State Fair display, whether the 4-H'er exhibits at State Fair.

Rabbits

Check-In/Weigh In - Monday, August 17 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

- Rabbits should be in their cages at the County Fair before 2 pm on Monday, August 17. Rabbits that are not in their cages by 2 pm will not be able to compete.
- Each rabbit must be permanently tattooed in the left ear.
- 4-H members and/or family members must be present at the ID check in order to show.

Rabbit Show - Monday, August 17 at 5:30 pm in Cattle Show Arena

- Show Order will be Cloverbuds, Market Rabbits, Fur & Wool, Showmanship, Running Rabbits, and Breeding Rabbits.,
- Classes that contain less than three animals, will be combined with other breeds and/or registered and commercial breeds will be combined, when possible, to assure a level of competition.

Small Breeds - Limit 2 per class

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, Dutch, Dwarf Hotot, Dwarf Papillon, English Spot, Florida White, Harlequin,

Havana, Himalayan, Holland Lop, Jersey Wooly, Lilac, Lionhead, Mini Lop, Mini Rex, Mini Satin, Netherland Dwarf, Polish, Rex, Rhinelander, Silver, Silver Martin, Tan, and Trianta

Large Breeds - Limit 2 per class

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

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

Running Breeds - Limit 2 per class

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

Running Breeds include Checkered Giant, English Spot, Rhinelander and Tan

Market Rabbit - Limit 1 per class

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

Fur & Wool - Limit one

Rabbit - Fur & Wool

Rabbit Cloverbud - Limit 1 per class

Rabbit Cloverbud Animal Exhibit
 Rabbit Cloverbud Poster

Rabbit Poster

Educational or promotional poster may be selected to advance to the state fair. See state fair poster requirements in the Rabbit Information Sheet. Posters do not need to be exhibited at the county fair to advance to the State Fair.

Requirements:

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

- Any 4-H'er enrolled in the Rabbit Project may enter a poster. You do not have to be exhibiting a rabbit at the state fair to enter.
- There are two categories: 1) Promoting 4-H Rabbits and 2) Education 4-H Rabbit.
- Poster size no larger than 14" x 22", hanging vertically (larger sized posters will not be judged). No foam board allowed.
- Posters must be labeled on the back with the 4-H'ers name, grade completed, county and whether it's a promotional or educational poster.
- Posters cannot use copy written materials, i.e., slogans, designs.
- Posters in grades K-2 will receive participation ribbons only.
- Posters in grades 3-5, 6-8, 9+ are eligible for awards in Education and promotion.

Show Requirements

- **Ownership** forms and/or lease agreements must be ID'd online by May 15 except for Market Rabbits. Fryers need to be ID'd and tattooed by August 1 by completing a market rabbit ID worksheet which should be submitted to the Extension office by August 1 for entry into 4honline by office staff.
- All rabbits must be purebred and an American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) recognized breed. More information about ARBA recognized breeds can be found in the ARBA Standard of Perfection or [ARBA website](#).
- Each rabbit must be permanently tattooed in the left ear for identification purposes.
- **Class Divisions** - All breeds have junior and senior classes. Large breeds have intermediate classes as well. The animal's proper class is determined by age of the animal on show day.
- **Fur & Wool** - Each 4-H member may enter one of their ID'd and verified breeding or market rabbits in the Fur & Wool class. This rabbit must also be shown in one of the breeding or market classes.
- **Judging Standards** - Judging is based on health and vigor, uniformity of development, coat, condition, and degree of fleshing. Standard recognized breed characteristics would be considered in judging breeding classes. Fryers are judged on conformity and condition only. Fryers should weigh 3 ½ - 5 ½ lbs. each.
- **Requirements for Market Rabbits** -
 - All market rabbits (fryers) are to be owned and raised by the 4-H'er.
 - They CANNOT be more than 70 days of age on the date of any show (County or State).
 - Does producing the fryers needs to be ID'd by May 15.
 - Fryers need to be ID'd and tattooed by August 1 by completing a market rabbit ID worksheet which should be submitted to the Extension office by August 1 for entry into 4honline by office staff.
 - A portion of the doe's tattoo must be in the fryer's tattoo. There may not be duplicate tattoos in single fryers and market pen rabbits.
 - A single fryer may also be part of a market pen. Market pens are composed of 3 fryers of the same breed and variety.
 - Ideal fryer weight is 3 ½ - 5 ½ lbs.
 - Only purebred fryers and those meeting the State Fair weight guidelines are eligible for State Fair.

Sheep

Check-In/Weigh In - Tuesday, August 18 9-10 am in the Foundation Building

- Sheep may enter between 5 PM Monday, August 17, and Tuesday, August 18, by 8:30 AM. Animals will be weighed and have IDs verified on Tuesday, August 18, (beginning at 8:30 AM).
- Release time - all sheep going home must leave the fairgrounds between 5:00 - 6:00 pm on Wednesday, August 19.

Sheep Show - Tuesday, August 18 at 6:00 pm in Foundation Building

- Classes that contain less than three head, will be combined with other breeds and/or registered and commercial breeds will be combined, when possible, to assure a level of competition.
- Show Order - Lamb Lead, Fleece, Cloverbuds, Breeding Ewes, Wether Dams, Market Lambs - Junior Show, Junior Showmanship, Market Lambs - Senior Show, Trio of Lambs, Intermediate Showmanship & Senior Showmanship

Birth Dates

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

Breeding Ewe Lambs - Limit 2 Crossbred & 2 Registered

- Sheep - Breeding Ewe Lamb - Registered Hampshire
- Sheep - Breeding Ewe Lamb - Registered Suffolk
- Sheep - Breeding Ewe Lamb - Registered Other Breed
- Sheep - Breeding Ewe Lamb - Crossbred

Breeding Yearlings - Limit 2 Crossbred & 2 Registered

- Sheep - Breeding Yearling Ewe - Registered (Lambled & Non-Lambled)
- Sheep - Breeding Yearling Ewe - Crossbred Non-Lambled)
- Sheep - Breeding Yearling Ewe - Crossbred (Lambled)

Wether Dams - Limit 2 per class

- Sheep - Breeding Ewe Lamb - Wether Dam Black Face-Mkt Type (Slick Shorn) (includes Natural)
- Sheep - Breeding Ewe Lamb - Wether Dam- White & Speckle Face-Mkt Type (Slick shorn)
- Sheep - Breeding Yearling Ewe - Wether Dam Black Face-Mkt Type (Slick Shorn) (includes Natural)
- Sheep - Breeding Yearling Ewe - Wether Dam- White & Speckle Face-Mkt Type (Slick shorn)

Market Lamb - Limit 2 per class with a limit of 6 total market lambs

Junior Show (Grades 3-5)

Market Lamb - Wether or Ewe - White Face (Gr. 3-5)
 Market Lamb - Wether or Ewe - Speckle Face (Gr. 3-5)
 Market Lamb - Wether or Ewe - Natural (Gr. 3-5)
 Market Lamb - Wether or Ewe - Hair Breeds (Gr. 3-5)
 Market Ewe Lamb - Black Face (Grades 3-5)
 Market Wether Lamb - Black Face (Grades 3-5)

Senior Show (Grades 6+)

Market Lamb - Wether or Ewe - White Face (Grades 6+)
 Market Lamb - Wether or Ewe - Speckle Face (Grades 6+)
 Market Lamb - Wether or Ewe - Natural (Grades 6+)
 Market Lamb - Wether or Ewe - Hair Breeds (Grades 6+)
 Market Ewe Lamb - Black Face (Grades 6+)
 Market Wether Lamb - Black Face (Grades 6+)

Market Trio (Limit 1)

Market Lambs - Trio of shown market lambs

Lamb Lead - Limit 1

Requirements

- The Lamb Lead class is open to any 4-H sheep exhibitor. This class gives 4-Hers a chance to combine their skills and knowledge of sheep production and fashion and clothing selection.
- Lamb lead exhibitors must groom and train a sheep and must wear a garment made from at least 60% wool. Garment is defined as a piece of clothing covering a main part of your body (not socks or accessories).
- Exhibitors will be judged based on project knowledge, poise, their outfit, and their lamb.
- Classes may be combined depending on number of entrants
- Note: 4-Hers 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-Hers must be grade eligible to participate at the State Fair.

Fleece - Limit 1

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

Show Requirements

- Ownership forms and/or lease agreements must be ID'd online by May 15.

- 4-H'ers may show a maximum of two market animals per class with a limit of six total market lambs.
- Females may be shown as either breeding or market but NOT both.
- Breeding ewes will be shown in individual breed classes if numbers permit, and there will be a commercial class. Ewe classes will be further separated by age. Yearling ewes must not show evidence of four permanent incisors.
- If you have two animals in the same weight class, you may move your heaviest animal up a class in order to show your own animal.
- Trio lambs must come from 4-H lambs identified by the 4-H member prior to May 15 as his/her wether and market ewe projects. Only one trio per member may be exhibited at the County Fair. Trios must be made up of lambs shown by the same 4-Her who showed it individually at the County Fair. You cannot bring an extra lamb for your trio. Breeding ewe lambs cannot be shown as one of the market trio of lambs. The trio may not sell in the sale.
- Recommended minimum weight for State Fair is 105 pounds; recommended maximum weight is 170 pounds.
- Lambs shown in the hair breeds division must be of straight hair sheep breeding. Crossbred hair sheep and wool breeding is not acceptable. See 2026 Animal Science Updates (z.umn.edu/4-HAnSciUpdates) for more information.

Swine

Check-In/Weigh In - Tuesday, August 18 7:30 am - 12 pm Noon

- Swine must enter Monday, August 17 from 5-9pm ONLY. All must be in place by 10 pm Monday. Swine will be weighed in and IDs verified on Tuesday, August 18, from 7:30 am to 12 Noon by club, per schedules posted in the barns.

Swine Show - Wednesday, August 19 at 7:30 am in Swine Arena

- Show Order - All Gilts, (breeding and market), Cloverbuds, Junior 4-H'ers Market Barrows, Senior 4-H'ers Market Barrows, Pen of Three and Showmanship at the end.
- Classes that contain less than three head, will be combined with other breeds and/or registered and commercial breeds will be combined, when possible, to assure a level of competition.

Birth Dates

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

Breeding Gilts - Limit 2

Swine - Breeding Gilt - Registered Duroc
 Swine - Breeding Gilt - Registered Hampshire
 Swine - Breeding Gilt - Registered Spotted
 Swine - Breeding Gilt - Registered Yorkshire

Swine - Breeding Gilt – Registered Other Breed

Swine - Breeding Gilt - Crossbred

Market Gilts - Limit 2

Swine -Market Gilt – Crossbred (Jr Grades 3-5)

Swine -Market Gilt - Crossbred (Sr Grades 6+)

Market Barrow - Limit 4 - 2 Purebred & 2 Crossbred

Swine - Market Barrow - Registered

Swine - Market Barrow - Crossbred (Sr Grades 6+)

Swine - Market Barrow - Crossbred (Jr Grades 3-5)

Pen of Three - Limit 1

Swine - Market Swine - pen of 3 shown market swine

Swine Cloverbud - Limit 1

Show Requirements

- Ownership forms and/or lease agreements must be ID'd online by May 15.
- 4-H'ers may show two breeding gilts, two market gilts, and up to four barrows (two must be Purebred and two Crossbred).
- Gilts - Females may be shown as either breeding or market, but NOT both.
- Market gilts will be divided and shown by weight. Barrows will be divided and shown by weight.
- If you have two animals in the same weight class, you may move your heaviest animal up a class in order to show your own animal.
- Pen of Three - Swine Pen of three exhibits must be composed of hogs identified by the 4-H member by May 15 as his/her barrow or market gilt project animals. Pen of three hogs must also be exhibited as individuals in a barrow or market gilt class at County Fair. Only one pen of three per 4-H'er may be exhibited. The pen of three may not sell in the Market Sale.
- Recommended minimum weight for State Fair is 220 pounds; maximum State Fair weight is 300. Market barrows and market gilts weighing less than 220 pounds will show in their own class--"Super Lightweights"--and those 301 pounds and over will show in their own class--"Super Heavyweights"--and will be eligible for blue, red or white ribbons and are not eligible for champions at State Fair.

Science of Animals Educational Exhibits

Health, Breeding, Production, Zoonotics, and Other Exhibits

These will be judged on Monday, August 17, during the general project judging day.

Note: The following animal types are eligible for Science of Animals exhibits: Beef, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Meat Goat, Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep, and 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 Livestock Encampment and 4-H'ers may exhibit both an animal (if awarded a trip from the county show) and a Science of Animal Educational Exhibit. NOTE: Llama-Alpaca, Poultry and Rabbit promotional and educational posters are an exhibit item at the state level and may be entered as a poster in each respective area.

Herdsmanship of 4-H Animal Exhibits at the Steele County Fair

The 4-H Herdsmanship Contest is designed to help 4-H members learn skills in making a presentable exhibit for the public as well as learning skills in courtesy, cooperation, neatness, and proper and ethical care of all animals.

Rules & Requirements

1. All 4-H clubs exhibiting 4-H livestock will participate.
2. "For Sale" signs are NOT allowed! No animals may be advertised for sale and no farm, ranch, or sale signs may be displayed or worn in the show ring. The only signs other than 4-H stall cards and champion/reserve champion signs that may be displayed are educationally based signs with performance or pedigree information and signs with animal's name.
3. Each club's numerical scores will be recorded daily, and the corresponding ribbon color posted on the Herdsmanship poster. Numerical ranges for each ribbon color are posted below.

<u>Ribbon Color</u>	<u>Score Range</u>
• Purple	17 & higher
• Blue	16-14
• Red	13-11
• White	10 & lower

4. Animal exhibits will be evaluated throughout the six days of the fair beginning Tuesday through noon Sunday. Designated times per species are posted at the Herdsmanship office in the show barn according to the schedule below. A reminder – Herdsmanship will be judged on Sunday - even if your animal has gone to market, you will still need to sweep and have a clean pen (see schedule below).
5. ALL SPECIES PEN CLEANOUT MUST BE DONE BY FRIDAY NOON. You will need to remove all wet bedding and manure from Beef and Dairy. Bedding must be completely removed from rabbits & swine and new bedding added for poultry. If your stall is not cleaned by Friday 3 PM, you will be FINED \$20 per animal up to a maximum of \$100 per family.

Herdsmanship Judging Criteria by Species

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
Beef	5-6 PM	9-11 AM	9-11 AM 5-6:30 PM	9-11 AM 5-6:30 PM	11-11:30 AM 5-6:30 PM	9:30 – 10:30 AM

Dairy	5-6 PM	9-11 AM 5-6:30 PM	5-6:30 PM	9-11 AM 5-6:30 PM	11-11:30 AM 5-6:30 PM	9:30 – 10:30 AM
Goat	***	***	12-2 PM	9-11 AM 5-6:30 PM	11-11:30 AM 5-6:30 PM	9:30 – 10:30 AM
Horse	***	6-8 PM	***	***	***	***
Poultry	6-7 PM	9-11 AM 5-6:30 PM	9-11 AM 5-6:30 PM	9-11 AM 5-6:30 PM	11-11:30 AM 5-6:30 PM	9:30 – 10:30 AM
Rabbit	5-6 PM	9-11 AM 5-6:30 PM	9-11 AM 5-6:30 PM	9-11 AM 5-6:30 PM	11-11:30 AM 5-6:30 PM	9:30 – 10:30 AM
Sheep	12-2 PM	9-11 AM	***	***	***	***
Swine	3-5 PM	5-6:30 PM	9-11 AM 5-6:30 PM	9-11 AM 5-6:30 PM	11-11:30 AM 5-6:30 PM	9:30 – 10:30 AM

BEEF & DAIRY

Stalls

1. Bedding is dry, in place - free from manure with no urine spots, adequate but not excessive 4-6 inches minimum.
2. Animals tied securely.
3. Manure hauled out and deposited in proper place.
4. Stall cards arranged properly with all awards stickers displayed (no extra notes) replace soiled or torn if necessary.

Aisle

1. Clean, swept down with no puddles.
2. Alleys kept clean including side and center.
3. Arrangement of decorations and tack equipment.
4. Debris and garbage not in the aisle.

Tack Stall and Equipment

1. Clean, neat and organized.
2. All tack show box, show supplies, grooming equipment, brooms, forks and shovels should be neatly arranged.
3. Hay and straw neatly piled. Feed and equipment neatly kept.
4. No furniture.
5. Club card attached to tack stall(s) and fitting area.

Cattle

1. Clean and well groomed.
2. Animals are neatly arranged.

Exhibitor

1. 4-H'er contributing to work.
2. Friendly, polite, and courteous. Acts as a good Ambassador of Agriculture.
3. Cleans up after one's animal in the wash stall or in passing.

HORSE

Stalls

1. Bedding is free from manure with no urine spots, and adequate but not excessive - 2-3 inches minimum.
2. Water bucket securely fastened, chest high.
3. Stall card attached and stall number visible.

Aisle

1. Clean, swept down, no puddles.
2. Debris and garbage not in the aisle.
3. Arrangement of decorations.

Tack Stall and Equipment

1. All tack appointments, grooming equipment, forks, and shovels should be neatly arranged.
2. Electrical outlets used only for grooming equipment when in use.
3. Stall card attached to tack stall(s) and stall number visible.

Horse

1. Clean and well groomed.
2. Tack removed when unattended in stall. A work halter may be attached to the outside of the stall door when the horse is in the stall, in order to move horses quickly in case of an emergency.
3. Animal attended while tied or standing in the aisle.

Exhibitor

1. 4-H'er contributing to work.
2. Friendly, polite, and courteous. Acts as a good Ambassador of Agriculture.
3. No riding in the barn.
4. Cleans up after one's animal in the wash stall or in passing.

POULTRYPens

1. Shavings are dry, in place - free from manure with no urine spots, adequate but not excessive.
2. Animals adequately fed and watered. Waterers kept clean.
3. There are no carrying crates in project area or tack.
4. Space under cage kept neat and clean
5. Stall cards arranged properly with all awards stickers displayed (no extra notes). Replace soiled or torn if necessary.

Aisle

1. Clean, swept down with no puddles.
2. Arrangement of decorations and tack equipment.
3. Debris and garbage not in the aisle.
4. No furniture.

Tack Stall and Equipment

1. Clean, neat and organized.
2. All tack show box, show supplies, grooming equipment, brooms, and shovels should be neatly arranged.
3. Extra bedding and feed are neatly stored.
4. Club card attached to tack stall(s).

Birds

1. Clean and well groomed.
2. Animals separated if injured due to fighting.

Exhibitor

1. 4-H'er contributing to work.
2. Friendly, polite, and courteous. Acts as a good Ambassador of Agriculture,
3. Cleans up after one's birds in the wash stall or in passing.

RABBITPens

1. Shavings are dry, in place - free from manure with no urine spots, adequate but not excessive.

2. Cage should be clean, and area kept neat.
3. Animals should have adequate feed and water. They need to have water at all times and should have evidence of adequate care.
4. Carrying cages, boxes, or crates in project area or tack must be neatly placed under cages out of aisles.
5. Stall cards arranged properly with all awards stickers displayed (no extra notes) replace soiled or torn if necessary.

Aisle

1. Clean, swept down with no puddles.
2. Arrangement of decorations and tack equipment.
3. Debris and garbage not in the aisle.
4. No furniture

Tack Stall and Equipment

1. Clean, neat and organized
2. All tack show box, show supplies, grooming equipment, brooms and shovels should be neatly arranged.
3. Extra bedding and feed are neatly stored.
4. Club card attached to tack stall(s).

Rabbit

1. Clean and well groomed.
2. Animals separated if injured due to fighting.

Exhibitor

1. 4-H'er contributing to work.
2. Friendly, polite, and courteous. Acts as a good Ambassador of Agriculture.
3. Cleans up after one's animals in the wash stall or in passing.

SHEEP & GOATS

Stalls

1. Bedding is dry; in place - free from manure; with no urine spots; adequate, but not excessive; 2-3 inches minimum
2. Animals' pens fastened securely.
3. Manure hauled out and deposited in proper place.
4. Stall cards arranged properly with all awards stickers displayed (no extra notes). Replace soiled or torn, if necessary.

Aisle

1. Clean, swept down with no puddles.
2. Alleys kept clean including side and center.
3. Arrangement of decorations and tack equipment.
4. Debris and garbage not in the aisle.
5. No furniture.

Tack Stall and Equipment

Clean, neat and organized

1. All tack show box, show supplies, grooming equipment, brooms, forks, and shovels should be neatly arranged.
2. Hay and straw neatly piled. Feed and equipment neatly kept.

3. Club card attached to tack stall(s).

Sheep & Goats

1. Clean and well groomed.
2. Animals are neatly arranged.

Exhibitor

1. 4-H'er contributing to work.
2. Friendly, polite, and courteous. Acts as a good Ambassador of Agriculture.
3. Cleans up after one's animals in the wash stall or in passing.

SWINE

Stalls

1. Bedding is dry; in place - free from manure with no urine spots; adequate, but not excessive; 2-3 inches minimum.
2. Animals' pens fastened securely.
3. Feed pans and water pans only when 4-H'er is present.
4. Manure hauled out and deposited in proper place.
5. Stall cards arranged properly with all awards stickers displayed (no extra notes). Replace soiled or torn if necessary.

Aisle

1. Clean, swept down with no puddles.
2. Arrangement of decorations and tack equipment.
3. Debris and garbage not in the aisle.
4. No furniture.

Tack Stall and Equipment

1. Clean, neat and organized.
2. All tack show box, show supplies, grooming equipment, brooms, forks and shovels should be neatly arranged.
3. Bedding neatly piled.
4. Feed and equipment neatly kept.
5. Club card attached to tack stall(s) Swine.
6. Clean and well groomed.
7. Animals are neatly arranged.

Exhibitor

1. 4-H'er contributing to work.
2. Friendly, polite, and courteous. Acts as a good Ambassador of Agriculture.
3. Cleans up after one's animals in the wash stall or in passing.

General 4-H Projects

For rules and regulations of general projects, please refer to Page 7. You can exhibit 2 (two) general projects per class (unless otherwise noted).

*NOTE - All General Projects, Individual and Club Exhibits, will be conferenced judged on **Monday, August 17, 2026, from 10:30 AM to 6:00 PM** in the 4-H General Exhibit Building (Gymnastics Building located on the Fairgrounds) unless noted otherwise. Note the Judges will take a break from 2:00 – 2:30 PM. If you are exhibiting in the Rabbit Project, please make sure you allow yourself enough time for conference judging as it is on a first come, first judge process.*

Cloverbuds

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. There are no State Fair trips in this division.

Cloverbud General Exhibit

Cloverbuds can exhibit five (5) general projects.

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Aerospace

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Bicycle

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Child & Family Development

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Civic Engagement (Citizenship)

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Clothing and Textiles

All Clothing and textiles will be evaluated and conference judged on Wednesday, August 5 beginning at 9:00 AM at the St. John Lutheran Church, 1301 Lincoln Ave S., Owatonna.

Fashion Revue evaluations will be held during the clothing evaluations on Wednesday, August 5 beginning at 9:00 am at St. John Lutheran Church, Owatonna. Public Fashion Revue will take place later that day, Wednesday, August 5th, beginning at 6:00 pm.

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

Upcycled Clothing

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Purchased Clothing

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Sewn Non-Garment

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Fashion Revue

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

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

Consumer Education and Money Management

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Crafts and Fine Arts

Project Description

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

Crafts

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Fine Arts

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

- Each exhibit will be evaluated on its individual merit as an original fine art.

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

Creative Writing

All creative writing will be evaluated and conference judged on Wednesday, August 5 beginning at 1:00 pm at the St. John Lutheran Church, 1301 Lincoln Ave S., Owatonna. Please have your writing turned into the Steele County Extension Office by July 29 so that the judge has time to read them before meeting with you.

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Electricity

See "[Mechanical Science](#)" section

Engineering Design

Project Description

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

Engineering Design

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Engineering Design Challenge

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](http://z.umn.edu/4hedc) (z.umn.edu/4hedc) for complete details.
- Team size: 2 to 9 members
- The machine must complete a minimum of 10 steps (Rookie 5 steps)
- The machine must operate in 2 minutes or less
- Machine size is 36 inches by 36 inches (standard card table)
- Describe how an engineering design process was used to complete the project.

- Provide a journal record illustrating the process of completing the project.
- Teams advancing to the State Fair will need to submit a video prior to attending the State Fair.

Note:

- 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](https://z.umn.edu/4hedc) (z.umn.edu/4hedc) for complete details.

Entomology

See "[Natural Resources](#)" section

Environmental Science

See "[Natural Resources](#)" section

Exploring Animals

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Fishing Sports

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Foods and Nutrition

Project Description

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

Foods

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Notes:

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

Cake Decorating

Project Description

- Traditional Cakes or Cupcakes (ex. round or square cakes)
- Creative Cakes or Cupcakes (ex. Shaped as a character, car, or animal)
- Cookie Decorating

Exhibit Suggestions

- For a beginner, choose a cake project that teaches new techniques.
- For advanced, choose a cake project requiring masterful cake decorating.
- Bring photo, menu, & recipe to fair for display

Requirements

- Cake must be out of the pan and frosted.
- Cake should be on a platter to show to the judge.
- Frosting needs to be homemade.
- Cake needs to be baked at home.
- Frosting and cake/cupcakes should be homemade. Sheet cakes should be no larger than 1/2 sheet.
- Cupcakes should include 5 jumbo, 9 regular, or 18 mini size in one entry.
- All parts should be edible.

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.
- Make a food or fitness plan for yourself or someone else and show how it relates to nutritional and energy needs. (Example: an athlete on a volleyball team, a teen who doesn't have a lot of time).
- Adapt a recipe(s) to show healthier ingredient choices.
- Study of how physical fitness and/or food choices are related to disease (such as: cancer, heart disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, etc.).

- Study of labels from similar food items, comparing important nutrient content like fat, fiber, and sugar.
- Explore nutrition-related careers

Food Preservation

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

each, herbs - 1/4 cup of each in whole leaf form, 3 strips of meat (i.e. venison or beef jerky).

- Foods must be preserved within the past year.

Food Revue

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Forest Resources

See "[Natural Resources](#)" section

Geology

See "[Natural Resources](#)" section

Global Connections

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

- Explore your own culture. What are the important elements of your culture and how is it different from other cultures?
- Make a display of coins, stamps or postcards from other countries. How are they used? What is the meaning of the images on them?
- Record an oral history interview with someone from another culture living in your community.
- Service learning: Teach English to non-native English speaking people. What did you learn from doing this?

- Make a collection of foreign recipes and prepare them for others. Consider Hmong or Somali cuisine, or that of another Minnesota group.
- Develop a travel plan to a country of interest highlighting the important landmarks to visit and experiences to take part in.
- Prepare an exhibit of items, pictures, maps, charts, slides/tapes, drawings, illustrations, writings or displays that depict the heritage of the member's family or community or 4-H history.
- Illustrate what you have learned about a country's or U.S. region's geography, economy, agriculture, people, language, housing, culture, music, crafts, clothing, holidays or other aspects.
- Pick a country to study, then look up which one of the fifty U.S. states has a similar population to that country. Create a presentation documenting the similarities and differences between the identified country and the state based on the following topics:
 - Climate and weather
 - Culture and traditions
 - Food and cuisine
 - Language

Health & Wellness

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

- Research and report on a health issue of your choice.
- Report on a community service project that you conducted or volunteered with that relates to a health issue or addresses a community need.
 - Include objectives, audience, timetable, program description, materials, community support and evaluation.
 - Examples might include food distribution centers, homeless shelters, vaccine clinics, blood drives, community run/walk events such as a 5K,
 - Share the results of a service project you conducted in your community to address a health-related need.
 - Make a personal connection with an organization or group working to address health disparities or health inequities in your community (for example, availability and access to safe and affordable housing).
- Conduct a community health assessment for your county, tribe, city or school. What are they doing well to support people's wellbeing? What challenges have arisen? What solutions are they offering to support the community? What will you do now that you have this information?
- Research resources that are available to you in your community. Does this provide information useful to you or your peer group? What did you learn and do with the information?
- Organize a peer support group, conference, a seminar, a workshop, or a chemical-free party. What is your goal in creating this group?
- Promote health through campaigns, activities, and events centered on specific health issues.
 - Create a health day/week at school or arrange a health topic at your 4-H club meeting.

- In collaboration with others (school, peers, etc.) develop an “anti-bullying” campaign to address Social Media Health.
- Create a Day in the Life Timeline to identify how you spend your day -
 - Where can you set goals to include more healthy practices such as mindfulness, fitness, movement, more fruits or vegetables, etc.?
 - Share some ways you incorporate self-care and/or mindfulness practices into your daily routines.
 - How do you manage schedules/Stress Management?
 - What steps do you take to ensure you are nourishing your body throughout the day?
- Create a video or musical production addressing a cause that's connected to health and wellness.
- Design a model of the human skeleton and label the bones or learn about other organs and systems of the human body
- How does fitness, motion, or athletics fit into a healthy lifestyle for you
- Careers in the health science industry

Home Environment

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Horticulture

Project Description

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

Flower Gardening

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

- Label each container according to kind or variety.
- Live plant material will be accepted if it can be maintained in a fresh condition with ease.
- Plastic or silk flowers are not permitted - fresh, live plants only
- The exhibit must be grown at home or with a relative, or mentor (no store purchased flowers)

Indoor and Outdoor Gardening

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Landscape Design

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

- Include a design (paper or 3D model)

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

Industrial Technology

Project Description

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

Metal Work

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Woodworking

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Note:

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

Mechanical Science

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

- An educational display of some aspect of a machine or a piece of equipment use, operation, modification, repair, care, reconditioning, etc.
- An educational display on the history, purpose, technology or design of a machine or a piece of equipment.
- Engine that has been reconditioned or repaired.
- A device constructed by a member utilizing a 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 with the study of insects and how they play a big part in our earth's ecosystem and food supply.

Exhibit Suggestions

- Projects can include but is not limited to life history displays (e.g. insect life cycle, honey production process, etc), scientific investigation (e.g. insect habitats or effects of environment factors on insects), insects in current events (e.g. pollinators, butterfly

tagging, invasive species, protected or declining species), insects in our ecosystem (food source, roles in food production, behaviors, health or disease, etc)

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

Requirements

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

Environmental Science

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Forest Resources

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

- Identify the parts of a tree and what they do with a poster or collection of leaves, seeds, needles, etc.
- Show tree growth; annual ring cross-sections; make a seed collection.
- Prepare a report with drawings about your favorite tree--include name of tree, drawings or pictures of tree, facts and uses of the tree, and other appropriate information.
- Show layers of the forest; renewable versus non-renewable resources; forestry careers; leaf and twig identification; taxonomic keys; nutrient road maps.

- Forest ecosystem health such as succession; tree and forest measurements; fire's effect on the forest; how trees grow; forest types; harvesting methods; pathology of the forest, invasive species, human impacts on the forest.
- Photographic display or report on forest products or industries, including maple syrup production; wood products; Christmas trees or others (recreation, wildlife, etc.).
- Woodland management such as policies created by the U.S. Forest Service or specialized design including shelterbelts/windbreaks and urban forestry.
- Human health benefits from trees, and what role trees play in global ecology.
- Organize or take part in a mass tree planting and calculate the amount of carbon that will be offset
- Explore the history of forestry through the lens of indigenous practices or the effects of treaties. How have these relationships impacted people and landscapes?

Requirements

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

Geology

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Water Resources

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Needle Arts

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

- This project area is for projects created using a hand needle, hook, shuttle or loom.

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

Performing Arts

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

Performing Arts evaluations will take place on Wednesday, July 30th at St. John Lutheran Church starting at 2:00 pm. Public Performance will begin at 6:00 pm.

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Non-Performance Based

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Pets

Note: To include; Cats, Dog and Pets projects.

Project Description

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

Cats

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Dogs

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Pets

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Photography

Project Description

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

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

Requirements for all photography

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

Notes for all photography

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

Note: Supervision of the drone operator is important until they understand not only how to use a drone but also understand the etiquette and rules for using the drone. For information visit the [Federal Aviation Administration on unmanned aircraft systems](http://www.faa.gov/uas).

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

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

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

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

Element of Photography

Project Description

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

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

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

triptych may consist of separate images that are variants on a theme, or maybe 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 softwares (all can be used on Android, iPhone, and iPad): Snapseed (easy to use and does a nice job), Adobe Photoshop Express (good option for those wanting to grow into Photoshop), Pixir (2nd to 6th grades only), PicsArt Photo Studio (powerful photo and video editing app).

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

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

- Enlarged Photo:
 - Show a 5"x7" or 8"x10" print that has been digitally enhanced and illustrates software skills. An unaltered 4 x6" print must be attached to the back of the exhibit.
- Publications:
 - Show calendars, brochures, posters that are created using computer software
- Photo Novelties:
 - Display mugs, puzzles, blankets, or other media on which photos have been printed
- Slide Show:
 - Make a compilation of photos with titles, voice-over or background music. For judging, exhibitors can show their exhibit on a 14" x 22" poster board, computer or tablet.

Plant Science

Project Description

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

Agricultural Technology

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Corn

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Forages

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Plant and Soil Science

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Small Grains

Exhibit Suggestions

- A jar or clear container (equalling 8 cups) of any small grain variety. This could include wheat, oats, rye, barley, etc.
- A dried sample, in a 3-5 inch tied, dried bundle of the same variety.

- An educational display illustrating one of the following ideas: plant reproduction, plant growth factors, plant characteristics, usage of plants, plant growth, food production, examples of a plant disease, etc. of small grain.

Requirements

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

Soybeans

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Specialty Crops

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Weeds and Pests

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Plastic Sculpture Challenge

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

- What materials you used.
- What you learned and how will it change your use of single-use plastics
- How others can reduce their use of single-use plastics

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

Quilting

All quilting will be evaluated and conferenced judged on Wednesday, August 5th between 9:00 AM and Noon (Exact time to be determined) at the St. John Lutheran Church, 1301 Lincoln Ave S., Owatonna.

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Safety

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

- A First Aid or Childcare Kit with explanations for the items you included.
- A Public Service Announcement and/or social media toolkit to promote a safety topic of your choice.

- List tips for being safe when home alone, such as emergency numbers to call, safety while preparing snacks, keeping doors locked, etc.
- Attend and report on a safety program such as farm/livestock/animal, fire, food, firearms, ATV, watercraft, wilderness/outdoor, traffic, bike, personal, online, sun/skincare or others.
- Interview a safety professional and showcase their advice.

Requirements

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

Science Inquiry

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Self-Determined

Project Description

The Self-Determined project area is intended for those projects that might not fit within other categories and for those learning experiences that members select, plan, and manage on their own. It

is distinct from learning experiences determined or guided by others (e.g. school work, club-determined projects). This is not a “catch-all” category but rather is focused on intentional self-directed learning. Members should be able to describe what they did, how they reflected on it, and how they applied what they learned.

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Shooting Sports

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

- Safety techniques applied to shooting activities (e.g., range commands and range safety, eye and ear protection, cleaning a firearm, dressing for safety-first aid, survival skills, etc.).

- Shooting Skills (e.g., basic safety rules, basic parts and functions of each piece of equipment, care and maintenance, accessories, position, etc.).
- Design and create shooting sports equipment (e.g., pellet stand, kneeling role, target stand, quiver, etc.).
- History and nomenclature of firearms.
- Sportsmanship: Ethical behavior and responsibility.

Requirements

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

Technology

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

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

- Remove batteries from technology exhibit after judging

Vegetable, Fruit and Herb Gardening

Project Description

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

Fruit

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Herb Gardening

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Largest Vegetable

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

Exhibit Suggestions

- Squash
- Cabbage
- Pumpkin
- Melons

Requirements

- Include an information card with name, plant variety and date planted.

- The exhibit must be produced at home or by a close relative. **Cannot be store purchased**

Potatoes

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Vegetable Container Garden Exhibit

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Vegetable Gardening Box

Clarification: Vegetable Variety is either Large, Medium or Small

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

- Label vegetables with proper variety names on an information card.

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

Vegetable Plate

Clarification: Vegetable Variety is either Large, Medium or Small

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Veterinary Science

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

- An exhibit focused on technology or industry advancements in veterinary science
- An exhibit on diseases of animals focusing on the history, management, prevention, etc.
- An exhibit on use of different medications in veterinary science focusing on dosage, records, implications of use, and impact on the industry
- An exhibit focused on surgical and nonsurgical procedures used in veterinary medicine (spaying/neutering pets, embryo transfer, wellness visit, etc.).

- An exhibit focused on careers in veterinary science exploration (such as job shadowing, interviews and opportunities)
- Create a 3-D model of the skeletal system of the animal of your choice

Video and Filmmaking

Project Description

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

Video/Filmmaking

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

- It is encouraged that when developing a 4-H video/filmmaking exhibit, members will develop skills beyond the classroom.
- It is recommended that the video/filmmaking exhibit be 3-5 minutes and no longer than 10 minutes.
- All video/filmmaking exhibits must be made by the exhibitor OR by a production team of which the exhibitor must be a member
- The exhibitor's name, grade, and club must be clearly printed on all exhibit pieces.
- All video/film footage exhibited must have been made/created DURING THE CURRENT 4-H YEAR. When appropriate, (i.e. historical sequences) older video clips can be used.
- The member should provide the video file even if sending it electronically.
- Video/film must be presented on DVD, flash drive or CD. Participants are also allowed to upload their video to YouTube.
- Videos can also be delivered via Youtube, Vimeo, Frame.io or similar online based presentation sites.
- Video/film needs to be in presentation form, including a title and credits

- The video/film must be original material. Any video/film exhibit, which appears to contain copyrighted material, including music, will not be publicly displayed unless the exhibitor has written permission from the producer to use the material in the video/film. Portions and music from other sources must be documented and have a copyright release. Learn more about copyrighted material and finding material that is public domain or released under the Creative Commons license at z.umn.edu/free4u.
- A computer must be brought for viewing the video/film during the conference judging, other arrangements need to be made in advance with the 4-H staff
- Video/film must be playable on Windows, use file format including .WMV, .FLV and .MPEG, .AVI, .MOV, .AVCHD, .MPEG-1, .MPEG-4, as well as a playable DVD.
- 4-H videos must adhere to G or PG (parental guidance) standards. The 4-H Code of Conduct requires respectful behavior, so you may not depict: violence, obscene language (or naughty words) including swearing, rude interactions or insults, or use or visibility of guns or fighting, etc. Remember not only teens and pre-teens view the videos but young children and their parents. Keep this in mind when creating your video.

Notes:

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

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

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

Water Resources

See "[Natural Resources](#)" section

Wildlife Biology & Management

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

- Develop a wildlife management plan--show practices related to land use and forest management for wildlife such as controlled burns, logging, planting, etc.

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

Requirements

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

Youth Leadership

Project Description

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

Exhibit Suggestions

- Share your youth leadership experience. This could include your 4-H youth leadership journey, or your leadership in an organization within your school or community.
- Share what you gained and shared from a conference or retreat you attended.
- Share a personal development plan you have implemented
- Develop a (career and/or college prep) portfolio
- Develop a presentation that illustrates how you've built understanding of self, developed communication skills, learned how to work with others, developed understanding of making decisions, and/or managing and/or working in groups.
- Lesson plan you've developed
- Meeting outline or agenda developed by youth
- Illustrate how you've shared 4-H with others.

- Scrapbook outlining participation in leadership programs. Includes personal reflection on leadership growth and development.
- Share how you have taken the lead on a service project, and what leadership skills you gained through the project.
- Share how you have served as a mentor and/or teacher to younger youth (could be with a project area, a club activity or officer role, etc)
- Share how you led your group's Food Partner Challenge

Public Presentations

Public Presentations may be related to any project that the 4-H member is enrolled in or of any area of interest or expertise the 4-H'er has. Presentations may be an individual or a two-person team. 4-H'ers must be grade eligible to participate at the State Fair. Please note that 4-H'ers who win a trip to the State Fair will be asked to submit a photo of them doing their demonstration to have it on display.

All public presentations will be judged on **Monday, August 10th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the Community Center.**

Demonstrations

Demonstration - Individual

Demonstration - Team

Demonstration - Cloverbud Individual

Demonstration - Cloverbud Team

Livestock Demonstrations

Livestock Demonstration - Individual

Livestock Demonstration - Team

Presentations and Speeches

Presentations & Speeches - Individual

Presentations & Speeches - Team

Interactive Demonstrations

Interactive Demonstration - Individual

Interactive Demonstration - Team

Exhibit Suggestions

- Demonstrations:
 - Teaching others a project or activity such as taekwondo, making lemonade, slime, macrame, etc.
- Livestock Demonstrations:
 - Demonstrate how to care for an animal or prepare it for showing at the fair.
 - Teaching others how to tie a halter.

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

Requirements

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

(This means one during Livestock Encampment, one during Llama/Alpaca Encampment and one during General Encampment).

- Note: 4-H'ers that win a trip to the State Fair will be asked to submit a photo of them doing their demonstration to have on display.
- Note: Due to H5N1, poultry demonstrations with live birds cannot take place on the Barn Stage in the Cattle Barn at the State Fair, but can take place on the Moo Stage outside the Cattle Barn. The Moo Stage outside does not have a screen, so a slide presentation is not an option. If you have a poultry demonstration with live birds and a slide presentation, you will need to do your demonstration in the 4-H Building.

Club and Group Activities

All Club and Group Activities should be submitted through a registration form that will be sent to all club leaders.

Club and Group Banner

Project Description

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

Two banners will be selected for the State Fair.

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

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

Community Pride

Project Description

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

Two exhibits will be selected for the State Fair.

Exhibit Suggestions

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

Requirements

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

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

Container Garden

Project Description

This is a project where a club designs two matching pots planted as a container garden.

This club activity exhibit is not eligible for a State Fair exhibit.

Plastic Sculpture Challenge

See "[Plastic Sculpture Challenge](#)" section within general project

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

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