
GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

FOR DEKALB COUNTY 4-H SHOW & FAIR

****Notice: Throughout the 4-H Fairbook the phrase "past year" will mean 2025 and the phrase "present year" will mean 2026.**

ELIGIBILITY

1. Each exhibitor in the DeKalb County 4-H Shows must be officially enrolled in a DeKalb County 4-H Club in the present year. Member must be enrolled online in the project by **April 15**, present year.
2. Any exhibitor who individually or in groups is responsible for any disturbance during a 4-H show shall be required to leave the premises with their exhibits and shall forfeit their premium money.
3. A minimum age of 8 as of September 1, 2025, is eligible to participate in all State Fair Junior Department livestock, horse and pony, and general projects classes.
4. 4-H members unable to attend the 4-H General Project Show should sign-up to drop off their project and written report to be judged.
5. All animals must be exhibited in the show ring by 4-H owners. In cases of sickness, two entries, or a judging conflict, another 4-H member may be secured to help.
6. 4-H'ers are limited to receive one premium per class exhibited in premium eligible projects.
7. For youth and families: Conference judging is not about preparing a presentation. Judging is meant to be a conversation between the judge and 4-H member (or group) about the project and the learning experience. You may bring notes if you wish. Tips on creating an engaging display board are available at go.illinois.edu/4HDisplayTips.
8. **If you need reasonable accommodations to participate, please contact the Extension office at 815-758-8194. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.**

ENTRIES

1. **Deadline to enroll in the General Project Show and Livestock Shows June 8, 2026.**
2. **Family Instructions to Enroll in Exhibits**
 - a. Navigate to FairEntry using the link: <http://dekalb4-hfair.fairentry.com>
 - b. If you did FairEntry last year you should type in your email and password and sign-in.
 - c. If you are new: Go to "Create a FairEntry Account". Note: If you receive a message that your email already has an account, go back to the sign in screen and choose "Forgot your password?". This will reset your account and allow you to continue.
 - d. Enter the email address you wish to use for this account.
 - e. Use your family's last name as account name.
 - f. Complete the account information, including your cell phone number, and create a password.

SECTION 1 – EXHIBITORS TAB

- a. Once logged in and on Welcome screen, select "Begin Registration."
- b. Click on "Individual" on the next screen and you will then need to complete the required information as
- c. requested. Click "Continue" to move through the screens.
- d. Once personal data is entered, click on the green "CONTINUE" box.
- e. **IMPORTANT!! THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU ARE REGISTERED FOR FAIR! YOU MUST CONTINUE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING STEPS AND CHOOSE CLASSES YOU PLAN TO EXHIBIT!**
- f. Click green "Continue" box in bottom right corner.
- g. If all information is correct, click green "Continue to Entries" in top right corner.

SECTION 2 – ENTRIES TAB -- MAKING AN ENTRY

- a. Click on the green “Add an Entry” or “Begin work on a new invoice”.
- b. Follow the screens to continue selecting your project entry.
- c. Click “Back to Entries.”
 - i. You have three options: 1) Add another entry for the same 4-H member OR, 2) Register another exhibitor OR 3) “Continue to Payment” (Choose this option ONLY if you are done adding entries and exhibitors). **When adding another entry, select “Add another Entry” and then select the light blue “Change” button to choose a new entry. This will NOT impact the previous entry.**
- d. NOTE: If there are any questions that need to be answered for a class, you will see a light blue box indicating incomplete items. You will need to click on “Review/Complete Outstanding Records” to complete any questions before you can continue to payment.

SECTION 3 – PAYMENT TAB

- a. The DeKalb County 4-H Fair does not charge entry fees or pen/stall fees. However, please continue with the payment tab to complete your entries.
- b. Click the green “Continue” button until you see the green “Submit” button.
- c. The Extension Office will approve or reject your entries. You will be sent another email accordingly.

ADDING NEW CLASSES FOR PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED YOUTH

- i. Log in to Fair Entry.
- ii. Choose “Begin work on a new invoice” button.
- iii. Choose “Create Entry” next to your exhibitor’s name.
- iv. Follow directions starting with SECTION 2 of these directions.

3. ENTRY RULES

- a. Entries may be made only in project areas in which the 4-H member is enrolled in.
- b. All entries MUST be the current work of the member making the exhibit or entry.

4. **LIVESTOCK RULES - All animals exhibited at the 4-H Fair must be owned by the 4-H member. Professional fitters will not be allowed to assist in the 4-H Fair. 4-H'ers may be assisted by a family member (mother, father, brother, sister, grandparents, or legal guardians) or by another 4-H'er from DeKalb County.**

JUDGING

1. RATING & PREMIUMS

- a. 4-H General Projects are evaluated on an individual basis through conferences between the 4-H'er and the judge. 4-H livestock exhibits are evaluated on an individual basis within their classes. All 4-H exhibits receive a blue, red, or white rating.
- b. 4-H exhibitors will receive their 4-H premium checks if/when money is received from the state for this purpose. 4-H premiums will be paid using an x-factor. Checks will be mailed to exhibitors.
- c. Grievances/Protests - The 4-H Grievance Committee shall consist of the 4-H Fair Superintendent and 4-H Extension staff. Judging concerns/questions should go to the appropriate department superintendent first. If the concern cannot be resolved, then the department superintendent may refer the concern to the Grievance Committee. All grievances must be filed in writing. Grievances should be submitted to an Extension staff member. Complaints must be brought before the Grievance Committee within 24 hours of the incident.

All first time 4-H'ers showing horses, rabbits, cats, dogs and poultry will need to complete the QUALITY ASSURANCE & ETHICS PROGRAM on the internet. This should be completed by June 8. Failure to complete this program will result in the 4-H'ers being ineligible to show their animals at the fair.

Tax Implications for Prizes, Gifts, or Awards

Program Participants (including minors) will be required to provide their social security number or foreign national tax ID number prior to receiving a prize, gift, or award to ensure proper IRS reporting as required by law. This sensitive information is kept confidential and handled through security protected software (PEAR). Participants will not be eligible for prize, gift, or award if social security or foreign national tax ID information is not provided.

- ❖ **Articles lost, stolen, or damaged are not the responsibility of the University of Illinois Extension DeKalb County.**

4-H CODE OF CONDUCT

The opportunity to participate in or attend 4-H activities is a privilege and not a right. All 4-H participants – youth, families, volunteers, and Extension staff – who participate in or attend any activity or event sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Program are expected to uphold the values of the Illinois 4-H program and conduct themselves according to the following standards. These standards also apply to online 4-H activity, including social media and internet presence. Our priority is to create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing and collaboration that is welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Diversity includes, but is not limited to race, color, religion, political beliefs, national or ethnic origin, immigration or citizenship status, sex, gender identity and expression, transgender status, sexual orientation, age, marital or family 108 status, educational level, learning style, pregnancy, physical appearance, body size, and individuals with disabilities.

1. **Create a Welcoming Environment for All.** Encourage everyone to fully participate in 4-H. Recognize that all people have skills and talents that can help others and improve the community. Though we will not always agree, we must disagree respectfully. When we disagree, try to understand why.
2. **Bring Your Best Self.** Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity, self-control, and self-direction. Accept the results and outcomes of 4-H contests with grace and empathy for other participants. Accept the final opinions of judges and evaluators. Be open to new ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.
3. **Obey the Law.** Commit no illegal acts. Do not possess, offer to others, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco products which include e-pens, e-pipes, e-hookah, e-cigars, JUULs, vapes, vape pens or other electronic nicotine delivery systems. Do not possess or use weapons or firearms except as expressly permitted as part of supervised 4-H shooting sports programming. Do not attend 4-H activities under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.
4. **Honor Diversity – Yours and Others’.** Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all persons who participate in 4-H programs.
5. **Create a Safe Environment.** Do not carelessly or intentionally harm or intimidate anyone in any way (verbally, mentally, physically, or emotionally). Do not engage in romantic displays or sexual activities in either public or private situations. Be kind and compassionate toward others. Do not insult, harass, or bully others or engage in other hostile activities. Be considerate and courteous of all persons and their property.
6. **Be a Team Player.** Work cooperatively with all individuals involved in 4-H programs and activities. Be responsive to the reasonable requests of the person in charge. Respect the integrity of the group and the group’s decisions.
7. **Participate Fully.** Participate in and contribute to planned programs, be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities in a manner that fosters the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others. Have fun!
8. **Watch What You Wear.** Use good judgment. Wear clothing suited for the activity in which you will participate. Dress in a manner that is respectful to yourself and others. Clothing that displays or promotes violence, obscenity, illegal activities, discrimination, or intimidation is prohibited. Do not wear revealing clothing, such as short skirts or shorts, midriff-baring tops, or anything showing undergarments.
9. **Be a Positive Role Model.** Act in a mature, responsible manner, recognizing you are role models for others and that you are representing both yourself and the University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development Program. Be responsible for your behavior, use positive and affirming language, and uphold exemplary standards of conduct at all 4-H activities.

CONSEQUENCES Any of the following may be used, depending on severity of the situation:

1. Participant will receive a verbal warning.
2. Participant may remain at the event/activity but may be barred from future events.
3. Participant may be asked to leave the event/activity. If the participant is a youth, the parent(s) will be called, and the youth will be sent home at family’s expense.