

# 2026 Hancock County



## 4-H Fair

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R O T C A R T D C S C R O P S  
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R C A C H P I U H N N Y A E T

Head  
livestock  
tractor  
gardening  
horses

hands  
fun  
clay  
cooking  
crops

heart  
friends  
babysitting  
swine  
weather

health  
welding  
floriculture  
goats  
geology

Maci Huls

Basco Firecrackers 4-H Club

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# Hancock County 4-H Fair

## July 7-9, 2026

Welcome to the 2026 Hancock County 4-H Fair!

This is always a busy, yet exciting week and we hope that you are preparing early for your projects. This is a great time to showcase your efforts, invite family and friends to visit, and join the fellowship with others. Remember to mark your calendar for the 4-H Barbeque, which includes the 4-H Foundation Live Auction, Fashion Revue, and the Awards Ceremony. It is always nice to see the support that is extended from friends and family! Look for more information in your newsletter and emails about other opportunities during the fair!

Please keep the following in mind as you prepare and exhibit your projects:

- Judging times are approximate. Please be patient and courteous during judging. Our judges, superintendents, and fair assistants are volunteers, so we need to respect their time and decisions.
- Read all General Rules and Livestock General Requirements in addition to the specific exhibit requirements.
- Double-check project requirements as they may change year to year.
- Members are to remain with their projects during judging.
- Parents are to refrain from being with their 4-H member during conference judging.
- If you cannot attend judging in person, you must contact the 4-H office for instructions.
- Please contact the office as soon as possible with any dropped projects. If you drop a project the morning of judging, please bring your exhibit tag to check-in.
- Always thank your sponsors for trophies and awards. These will be announced during the fair.
- General show projects will be released after the Awards Ceremony on Wednesday evening. Any projects left after Wednesday will only be held at the 4-H office through Friday, July 10.
- Read your newsletter and emails for additional information and changes that have occurred since the printing of the fair book.

If you have any questions or need reasonable accommodations, please call us at 217-357-2150 or email Madeline Davis at [mdavis13@illinois.edu](mailto:mdavis13@illinois.edu).

**HAVE A GREAT WEEK AT THE FAIR!**

*Shelby Crow - County Director*  
*Kristin Huls - 4-H Youth Development Educator*  
*Madeline Davis - 4-H Program Coordinator*  
*Holly Whitaker - 4-H Staff/Federation Leader*  
*Dawn Weinberg - Ag Literacy Program Coordinator*  
*Cynthia Colvin - Youth Development Coordinator*  
*Stephani Hardy - Office Support Specialist*



# Timeline

## Preparing for the 4-H Fair:

### ENTRY DEADLINES: NO EXCEPTIONS

- December 15: Last day to add animal projects on ZSuite ([4h.zsuite.org](http://4h.zsuite.org))
- April 15: Last day to add general show projects on ZSuite. ([4h.zsuite.org](http://4h.zsuite.org))
- May 1: Horses ownership or lease papers & photos due to Extension Office.
- May 31: Last day to add entries to Fair Entry. ([faireentry.com](http://faireentry.com)). YQCA & QAEC certification deadline.
- June 1: State Fair Horse Show entries due with entry fees.
- July 15: State Fair Junior Livestock Show entries due with entry fees (ShoWorks Entry).

### 2 MONTHS BEFORE THE FAIR

- Horse Projects: Check for when your Coggins is up for renewal. Bring your proof of Coggins with you to the 4-H fair for check-in. State Fair Horse entries are due by June 1.
- General Projects: Get the major projects started. Don't wait until the last minute.
- Attend Club Meetings: Make sure that you have done your talk/demonstration for this 4-H year.

### 1 MONTH BEFORE THE FAIR

- Read your newsletter & emails for any changes that occurred after the printing of the 4-H Fair Book.
- Promote the 4-H BBQ and other fair activities!
- Gather donation items for the Foundation auction according to your club's decisions.
- Finish major projects.
- Read the Fair Book very carefully. Some project area requirements change year to year.
- Check with your club leaders about volunteering for setup, tear down, and maintenance during the fair so you can plan accordingly.

### 1 WEEK BEFORE THE FAIR

- Finish projects. Look for project tags to come in the mail. Check that they have the correct class number. Check that you have received all the tags for the projects that you have signed up for. Attach them securely to your project. You will not receive project tags for beef, dogs, dairy, goats, horses, llama/alpaca, sheep, or swine.

**Setup of the barns and buildings will be July 1 starting at 9 AM until we are finished. Stall and pen setup will be available upon request to accommodate those who cannot make it during the morning.**

**If you show livestock of any kind, it is your responsibility to help with set-up and tear down of your pens and clean up on Thursday after the auction!**

### General Show Project Days:

- Exhibitors must accompany their exhibits to the Fair and must be present for Conference Judging. If there is a conflict, you **MUST** call the office for specific instructions at least a week prior to show day.
- All your projects should have their tag securely attached **BEFORE** arriving at the fair.
- If you are dropping a project, the day of judging, please bring that project tag to check-in.
- Double check the schedule so you are aware when projects will be shown on each day.
- You will check-in your projects before you are conference judged. The check-in table will be near the southeast corner of the back room of the extension office.
- You may start judging in whatever general project area you wish. For example: if the 4-H member sees that there is only one person waiting to be judged in the Entomology area, but there are four people waiting for the Veterinary Science area, the 4-H member should choose to wait at Entomology then move to the next project area. There will be chairs at each project area for the members to wait for their turn to be judged. **Parents are to refrain from being with their children while waiting for a judge to become available.**
- Conference judging involves interacting and responding to questions as exhibits are being judged. Judges consider the knowledge exhibited by the member and the appearance of the exhibit in determining awards. **JUDGES DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**
- General show projects will be released at the conclusion of the Foundation's Live Auction on Wednesday evening, July 8. **Any projects left after Wednesday evening will only be held at the office until Friday, July 10.**
- If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate please contact the Extension office at least two weeks prior to show day.

### Livestock Check-in

- Beef must be checked in between 6-7 PM on Tuesday, July 7. All must be in place by 7 PM. Exhibitors must check-in with vet, 4-H staff, and superintendent before 7 PM. Any beef not checked in before 7 PM will be considered dropped.
  - Steers will be weighed following the Federation Olympics on Tuesday, July 7
- Sheep & Goats are to be checked in between 6-7 PM on Tuesday, July 7. You will be responsible for setting up and tearing down your own pens. Pens are to be made with the wooden gates and wire that will be provided.
- Swine will be weighed at 8 AM on Wednesday, July 8 and will be in place by 9 AM. Health papers will be checked before unloading.
- All entries, registration and health papers will be checked prior to judging. **Members MUST have health papers present when unloading animals or may be asked to remove the animal from the property.**

### Clean Up

- Clean up will start Thursday, July 9, immediately after the livestock auction. **ALL LIVESTOCK EXHIBITORS ARE EXPECTED TO STAY AND CLEAN UNTIL THE SUPERINTENDENTS HAVE DISMISSED THEM.**

# Hancock County 4-H Fair Schedule

July 7-9, 2026

All events are open to the public

## Tuesday, July 7

- 8:30-10:00 AM Project Check-In: Rabbits, Cats, Poultry, Cloverbuds, and General Projects (Except Visual Arts, Photography, Clothing, and Foods)  
**\*All general projects except Visual Arts, Photography, Clothing & Foods must be checked in before 10 AM. Projects not checked in before 10 AM will be considered dropped\***
- 9:00 AM Rabbit Judging in Open Barn; Cat Judging to follow in Show Barn
- 9:00 AM Cloverbud & General Project Judging Begins (Except Visual Arts, Photography, Clothing, & Foods)
- 10:00 AM Poultry Judging in Open Barn
- 12:00-1:00 PM Floriculture Centerpiece Display, Live Activity
- 12:00-1:00 PM Project Check-in: Visual Arts, Photography, Clothing, & Foods Projects  
**\*All above listed projects must be checked in before 1 PM. Projects not checked in before 1 PM will be considered dropped\***
- 1:00 PM Visual Arts, Photography, Clothing, & Foods Judging Begins
- 5:00 PM 4-H Federation Family Night (Cookout, Olympics & Senior Recognition)
- 6:00-7:00 PM Beef, Sheep, and Goat Check-In  
**\*Exhibitors must check-in with vet, 4-H staff, and superintendent before 7 PM. Any animal not checked in before 7 PM will be considered dropped\***  
Beef Weigh-In following the Federation Olympics

## Wednesday, July 8

- 8:00 AM Swine Weigh-In. All swine in place by 9 AM.
- 9:00 AM 4-H Sheep & Goat Show  
Hancock County Beef Association Bucket Calf Show immediately following sheep & goat show
- 10:00 AM 4-H Beef Show
- 5:00 PM 4-H BBQ (Drive-thru service available at WIEC)
- 5:30 PM Fashion Revue, 4-H Awards
- 6:00 PM 4-H Foundation Live Auction  
**\*All general projects released immediately following the Live Auction\***

## Thursday, July 9

- 8:00 AM 4-H Swine Show  
Pee Wee Swine Show immediately following 4-H swine show  
Master Showmanship Contest immediately following Pee Wee Swine Show
- 12:30 PM Livestock Auction  
**\*Clean up to begin following the auction. All livestock exhibitors are expected to help with clean up\***

**EVENTS TAKING PLACE BEFORE & AFTER 4-H FAIR WEEK:**

March 21	1:00 PM	Public Speaking	Adams County Extension Center
June 24	5:00 PM	Horse Show	Hancock County Saddle Club
		*Horse Show Rain Date - July 1 at 5:00 PM	
July 1	9:00 AM	Fair Setup	Hancock County Extension Center
July 20	6:00 PM	Dog Show	Quincy Kennel Club
July 31	1:00 PM	Dairy Show	Adams County Fairgrounds

# LIVESTOCK REQUIREMENTS

**Only one premium per class is allowed per Ag Premium Funds.**

1. All livestock exhibitors are required to wear show attire in the arena. Collared, tucked in shirts unless otherwise stated for that species.
2. Each exhibitor will furnish feed boxes, feed, bedding, and water containers for their animals. On Thursday, following the Livestock Auction, each exhibitor is responsible for removing their own livestock bedding, putting their gates away, removing any waste from their pen(s), and raking the area smooth.
3. Livestock will be released at the end of the livestock auction. No livestock can be taken off the grounds before or during the Livestock Auction. All livestock pens must be taken down, gates taken back to the show barn and all straw and other bedding removed by the 4-H member showing livestock. Members not cleaning their stall area will be called back to the 4-H grounds to finish the job. If members leave the stall without cleaning, premiums could be forfeited. General grounds clean-up will take place after the Livestock Auction. All 4-H members exhibiting livestock are expected to help.
4. Stall assignments will be made to each 4-H member on the day of Fair Clean-up.
5. 4-H Members must exhibit their own livestock projects unless they have permission by the superintendent of their division. Parents are not allowed to exhibit.
6. No animal will be shown that cannot be safely handled by the 4-H member.
7. Fans deemed unsafe by the superintendent(s) or Extension Staff will not be allowed.
8. Check-in times are listed under the 4-H Fair Schedule and under the class listings.
9. All 4-H members are to groom their own animals. No professional grooming service is permitted. Fitting should be kept to a minimum.
10. Livestock trailers and trucks will be parked in the lot north of the main building along the tree line. Anything parked immediately north of the office, and south or east of the barns must have authorization. Vehicles parked inappropriately will be asked to move.

## **Attention 4-H Youth Enrolled in Livestock Projects:**

**QAEC:** Quality Assurance and Ethics training is required for all youth that enroll in Horses, Dogs, Cats, Rabbits, Poultry. 4-H members must complete this training ONCE in their 4-H career. The online training can be accessed at [www.web.extension.illinois.edu/qaec](http://www.web.extension.illinois.edu/qaec). **Training for the 2026 4-H Fair must be completed by May 31st.**

**YQCA:** Youth for the Quality Care of Animals training must be taken ANUALLY by all 4-H members that enroll in Dairy Cattle, Beef Cattle, Swine, Sheep, and Goats. Members may choose to complete the YQCA training online at [www.yqcaprogram.org](http://www.yqcaprogram.org) for \$12 OR attend an in-person training for \$3. Training for the 2026 4-H Fair must be completed by May 31st. We will be offering two in-person sessions on April 3 at 9 AM and 1 PM. Visit the YQCA website to register for the in-person training as well.

We know this can be a confusing process! If you need additional clarification, please contact Madeline Davis at [mdavis13@illinois.edu](mailto:mdavis13@illinois.edu) or 217-357-2150.

## **Livestock Health Requirements:**

**2026 Exhibition Livestock County Fair Health Requirements** can be found at [go.illinois.edu/FairHealthRequirements](http://go.illinois.edu/FairHealthRequirements)



# **BUCKET CALF AND PEE WEE SWINE SHOW**

**Sponsored and Organized by Hancock County Beef Association  
and Hancock County Friends of 4-H**

## **BUCKET CALF SHOW**

Wednesday, July 8, immediately following the sheep/goat show

Bucket calves (born on or after 1/1/26) are to be brought to the fairgrounds on Wednesday morning by 9:00 AM. Participants must be 8 years old or younger on the day of the show and be accompanied by an experienced 4-H member or adult.

Participants must be signed up by 9:30 am on Wednesday, July 8. Each participant's parent/guardian must complete a waiver before participating. For more information, please contact a Hancock County Beef Association member.

## **PEE WEE SWINE SHOW**

Thursday, July 9, immediately following the swine show

Swine can be borrowed from 4-H exhibitors for the Pee Wee Swine show. Participants must be 8 years old or younger on the day of the show. For more information, please contact a Friends of 4-H committee member.

## **SHOWMANSHIP AWARDS**

- Novice Class – Ages 8-10 by September 1, of current 4-H year. The judge will select one 4-H member in this class to receive the trophy for Novice Showmanship. Once a member has won the Novice Class, they automatically advance to the Junior Class, regardless of age.
- Junior Class – Ages 11-13 by September 1, of current 4-H year. The judge will select one 4-H member in this class to receive the trophy for Junior Showmanship. Once a member has won the Junior Class, they automatically advance to the Senior Class, regardless of age.
- Senior Class – Ages 14 and above by September 1, of current 4-H year. The judge will select one 4-H member in this class to receive the trophy for Senior Showmanship. A 4-H member may win this honor more than one time in their 4-H career, but are ineligible for competition the year directly following the year they won the trophy. Example: 2024-Eligible to compete and wins; 2025-NOT eligible to compete; 2026-Eligible to compete.

Note: Each division is separate. Example: One year a member may not be eligible to compete in Swine but may be eligible in Beef. Premiums are not awarded for showmanship classes.

## **DANNEN LATHEROW AWARD**

**Given in Memory of 4-H member, Dannen Latherow**

The Hancock County Farm Bureau will donate a special award to a 4-H member based on their involvement in the livestock industry, mentorship, and sportsmanship. Members will nominate themselves with an application: [go.illinois.edu/dannenlatherow](http://go.illinois.edu/dannenlatherow). Applicants must be at least 14 years old as of 9/1/25. Applications are due May 31. This award will be presented at the awards ceremony, Wednesday evening of fair week.

## **MASTER SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST**

**July 9 - Show Barn**

This is a contest that will test your showmanship abilities along with your general knowledge of livestock.

### **Who is eligible?**

- 4-H members who are, 14 years of age or older on the day of the contest, enrolled in a livestock project, completed YQCA training by May 31st

### **How does it work?**

- Each contestant will show one ring of beef, swine, and sheep (if available).
- If they do not personally own these species, it is their responsibility to borrow livestock from willing owners on the fairgrounds.
- They will be asked questions about each species by the judge
- Each contestant will be rated on a point system.
- One winner will be selected from each division (beef, swine, and sheep), and an overall winner will be selected. Prizes will be awarded to each division's winner and the overall winner.
- The overall winner will attend the competition during the IL State Fair in the Junior Livestock Barn. Again, the contestant does not have to own the animals - animals may be borrowed from other willing exhibitors at the fair.

# **HANCOCK COUNTY LIVESTOCK PREMIUM AUCTION**

**Thursday, July 9**

**12:30 PM (Sale Preview at 12:00 PM)**

The Hancock County Livestock Premium Auction is organized by the Hancock County Friends of 4-H. Buyers will not be purchasing any livestock. They will only be rewarding 4-H members with an extra premium for the effort and responsibility of exhibiting a livestock project. 4-H members will take all animals home with them following the livestock auction.

Buyers will be invited to a Sale Preview, beginning at 12:00 PM. During this time, 4-H members who plan to sell at the auction should be prepared to be at their stall/pen to talk with the buyers about their livestock project and highlight any awards they received during the fair. This is a great opportunity to network with ag professionals and show off your hard work!

1. Livestock in the project areas of Beef, Goats, Sheep, and Swine are allowed to sell at the livestock premium auction.
2. Each 4-H member may only sell ONE animal at the livestock premium auction, which they have shown at the 2026 Hancock County 4-H Fair.
3. Animals to be sold at the auction must be presented by the 4-H member who owns and exhibits the animal. No substitutions will be allowed.
4. 4-H members are responsible for contacting potential buyers prior to the livestock premium auction.
5. 4-H members are expected to dress in show attire (no T-shirts). Back numbers do not need to be worn.
6. ALL PARTICIPANTS are expected to assist with setting up the sale ring and cleaning up after the auction, including livestock pens in the open barn. Failure to comply may result in deduction from your check!
7. The Grand Champion in each species must bring top dollar, Reserve Grand Champion next, followed by the rest of the animals in said species. Other maximum bid limits may apply and will be announced the day of the sale.
8. 4-H members should consider donating a portion of their sale proceeds to a 4-H organization, such as Hancock County 4-H Federation, Hancock County 4-H Foundation, or Hancock County Friends of 4-H.
9. Checks will be available for 4-H members to pick up at the Hancock County Farm Bureau Office (544 Wabash, Carthage) after August 1, 2026. 4-H members must bring a thank you card with sufficient postage attached, or proof that the buyer has been acknowledged (picture of thank you, newspaper ad, etc.) in order to receive their check. Checks will NOT be mailed.

Questions about the Livestock Premium Auction can be directed to Michelle Merritt at 217-357-1470 or [merritmama6@gmail.com](mailto:merritmama6@gmail.com).

# Livestock Exhibit Guidelines

## **BEEF**

1. Read all General Rules & Livestock General Requirements and follow all health requirements.
2. All beef must comply with the Illinois State Health Requirements.
3. Members enrolled in Beef may exhibit a maximum of 6 head, not exceeding 2 per class, and collect a total of 6 monies, with only one premium per class.
4. 4-H exhibitors that must have another member exhibit for them, must tell the superintendents and Extension Staff at the time of check-in.
5. Purebred beef will be divided by breeds with the same premium for all breeds. Purebred Heifer classes must have 3 animals to represent a breed or will be entered into the AOB class.
6. Classes will require 2 head per breed to create a separate class (except Purebred Heifer classes).
7. There will be a division for British breed steers and an exotic crossbred division.
8. All steers must be naturally polled or dehorned.
9. Steers will officially weigh-in following the Federation Olympics on Tuesday of fair week. All beef should be in place by 7 PM – any animals not in place by 7 PM will be considered dropped.
10. Proper show attire must be worn in the arena: collared, tucked in shirts only (no T-shirts).
11. Steer weight classes will be broken with no more than 6 animals in a weight group. If a weight group has more than 6 animals, that group will be further divided into A and B subgroups.
12. The area East of the cattle barn will be reserved for cattle tie-out all day Wednesday and Thursday.
13. Fans deemed unsafe by the superintendent(s) or Extension Staff will not be allowed.

Youth for Quality Care for Animals (YQCA) certification is mandatory for anyone showing a live beef, dairy, goat, sheep, or swine project and must be completed before making fair entries in the Fair Entry system. Members may choose to complete the YQCA training online at <https://yqcaprogram.org> or attend an in-person training. For more information, please see page 10 in this book or contact your 4-H Program Coordinator.

<b>Class B1</b>	Jr. Bull Calf – Born on or after January 1, 2026
<b>Class B2</b>	Jr. Heifer Calf – Born on or after January 1, 2026
<b>Class B3</b>	Sr. Heifer Calf – Born between September 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025
<b>Class B4</b>	Summer Yearling Heifer – Born between May 1, 2025, and August 31, 2025
<b>Class B5</b>	Spring Yearling Heifer – Born between March 1, 2025, and April 30, 2025
<b>Class B6</b>	Winter Yearling Heifer – Born between January 1, 2025, and February 28, 2025
<b>Class B7</b>	Senior Yearling – Born between August 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024
<b>Class B8</b>	Cow/Calf Pair – Any age cow; Calf born between Jan. 1, 2026, and July 1, 2026

- Class B9** Steer – Born on or after January 1, 2025  
**Class B10** Pair of Beef Steers – Born on or after January 1, 2025  
**Class B11** Rate of Gain Steer(s) – The beef superintendents must have tattooed and tagged the animal. A 4-H member is allowed to enter two steers in this class.

**Beef Awards: Pending enrollment.**

Grand Champion & Reserve for: Steer, Pair of Steers, Bull Calf, Rate of Gain Steer, Heifer (within each breed), Heifer Overall, Cow/Calf Overall Breeds, and Supreme Beef Animal.

Senior, Junior, and Novice Showmanship

## **CATS**

1. Read all General Rules and Livestock General Requirements and follow all health requirements.
2. Cat should be cared for – in all aspects – by the exhibitor for at least 6 months prior to the fair. Exhibitors must be knowledgeable of care when questioned.
3. Cat exhibitors must furnish satisfactory kennels in which to confine their animals.
4. 4-H members will be asked various questions regarding information from the project manual.
5. Cats will be released upon announcement from the superintendent following the close of the Cat judging.
6. To exhibit in the Cat show, the owner must have a certificate from a veterinarian showing that the cat is up to date on rabies and FVR-C-P vaccines. Verification must be shown to the superintendent prior to the opening of the show.
7. Cats only – no folders, pictures, posters, etc. – should be exhibited at the Cat show.

The Quality Assurance and Ethics (QAEC) training is required for all youth that enroll in Cats, Dogs, Horses, Poultry, and Rabbits. 4-H members must complete this training ONCE in their 4-H career. The online training can be accessed on ZSuite.

**Cat Care** – Cat to be judged on condition of coat, eyes, ears, body, teeth, gums, leg structure, and temperament. In addition, exhibitors must adequately answer questions from the judge.

**Cat Awards: Pending enrollment.**

Best Overall Cat Exhibit

## DAIRY

\*Show will be held during the Adams County Fair, Friday, July 31

9:00 AM All dairy animals must be checked-in  
1:00 PM 4-H Dairy Show (all dairy animals released immediately following the show.)

Members are allowed two entries in each class but are only eligible for one premium per class. Exhibitors may show in as many breeds as they wish in the 4-H Dairy Division. A member may receive a maximum of 15 premiums in Dairy.

A Junior and Senior Champion of each breed will be awarded ribbons.

Youth for Quality Care for Animals (YQCA) certification is mandatory for anyone showing a live dairy, beef, swine, sheep or goat project and must be completed before making fair entries in the Fair Entry system. Members may choose to complete the YQCA training online at <https://yqcaprogram.org> or attend an in-person training. For more information, please see page 10 in this book or contact your 4-H Program Coordinator.

### Dairy Cattle Classes:

#### Aryshire Breed:

- D1 - Junior Heifer Calf**, born on or after March 1, 2026
- D2 - Intermediate Heifer Calf**, born between December 1, 2025 and February 28, 2026
- D3 - Senior Heifer Calf**, born between September 1, 2025 and November 30, 2025
- D4 - Summer Yearling Heifer**, born between June 1, 2025 and August 31, 2025
- D5 - Junior Yearling Heifer**, born between March 1, 2025 and May 31, 2025
- D6 - Intermediate Yearling Heifer**, born between Dec. 1, 2024 and Feb. 28, 2025
- D7 - Senior Yearling Heifer**, born between September 1, 2024 and November 30, 2024
- D8 - 2 Year Old Cow**, born between September 1, 2023 and August 31, 2024
- D9 - 3 Year Old Cow**, born between September 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023
- D10 - 4 Year Old Cow**, born between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2022
- D11 - 5 Year Old Cow and Older**, born before September 1, 2021

#### Guernsey Breed:

- D12 - Junior Heifer Calf**, born on or after March 1, 2026
- D13 - Intermediate Heifer Calf**, born between December 1, 2025 and February 28, 2026
- D14 - Senior Heifer Calf**, born between September 1, 2025 and November 30, 2025
- D15 - Summer Yearling Heifer**, born between June 1, 2025 and August 31, 2025
- D16 - Junior Yearling Heifer**, born between March 1, 2025 and May 31, 2025
- D17 - Intermediate Yearling Heifer**, born between Dec. 1, 2024 and Feb. 28, 2025
- D18 - Senior Yearling Heifer**, born between September 1, 2024 and November 30, 2024
- D19 - 2 Year Old Cow**, born between September 1, 2023 and August 31, 2024
- D20 - 3 Year Old Cow**, born between September 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023
- D21 - 4 Year Old Cow**, born between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2022
- D22 - 5 Year Old Cow and Older**, born before September 1, 2021

Holstein Breed:

- D23 - Junior Heifer Calf**, born on or after March 1, 2026
- D24 - Intermediate Heifer Calf**, born between December 1, 2025 and February 28, 2026
- D25 - Senior Heifer Calf**, born between September 1, 2025 and November 30, 2025
- D26 - Summer Yearling Heifer**, born between June 1, 2025 and August 31, 2025
- D27 - Junior Yearling Heifer**, born between March 1, 2025 and May 31, 2025
- D28 - Intermediate Yearling Heifer**, born between Dec. 1, 2024 and Feb. 28, 2025
- D29 - Senior Yearling Heifer**, born between September 1, 2024 and November 30, 2024
- D30 - 2 Year Old Cow**, born between September 1, 2023 and August 31, 2024
- D31 - 3 Year Old Cow**, born between September 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023
- D32 - 4 Year Old Cow**, born between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2022
- D33 - 5 Year Old Cow and Older**, born before September 1, 2021

Jersey Breed:

- D34 - Junior Heifer Calf**, born on or after March 1, 2026
- D35 - Intermediate Heifer Calf**, born between December 1, 2025 and February 28, 2026
- D36 - Senior Heifer Calf**, born between September 1, 2025 and November 30, 2025
- D37 - Summer Yearling Heifer**, born between June 1, 2025 and August 31, 2025
- D38 - Junior Yearling Heifer**, born between March 1, 2025 and May 31, 2025
- D39 - Intermediate Yearling Heifer**, born between Dec. 1, 2024 and Feb. 28, 2025
- D40 - Senior Yearling Heifer**, born between September 1, 2024 and November 30, 2024
- D41 - 2 Year Old Cow**, born between September 1, 2023 and August 31, 2024
- D42 - 3 Year Old Cow**, born between September 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023
- D43 - 4 Year Old Cow**, born between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2022
- D44 - 5 Year Old Cow and Older**, born before September 1, 2021

Brown Swiss Breed:

- D45 - Junior Heifer Calf**, born on or after March 1, 2026
- D46 - Intermediate Heifer Calf**, born between December 1, 2025 and February 28, 2026
- D47 - Senior Heifer Calf**, born between September 1, 2025 and November 30, 2025
- D48 - Summer Yearling Heifer**, born between June 1, 2025 and August 31, 2025
- D49 - Junior Yearling Heifer**, born between March 1, 2025 and May 31, 2025
- D50 - Intermediate Yearling Heifer**, born between December 1, 2024 and February 28, 2025
- D51 - Senior Yearling Heifer**, born between September 1, 2025 and November 30, 2025
- D52 - 2 Year Old Cow**, born between September 1, 2023 and August 31, 2024
- D53 - 3 Year Old Cow**, born between September 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023
- D54 - 4 Year Old Cow**, born between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2022
- D55 - 5 Year Old Cow and Older**, born before September 1, 2021

**Dairy Awards: Pending Enrollment.**

Champion and Reserve Champion Female for each breed; Champion and Reserve Champion Female overall; Senior & Junior Showmanship

## DOGS

The Hancock County 4-H Dog show will be combined with Adams, Brown/Schuyler, and Pike counties. The multi-county 4-H dog show will be hosted on July 20 at 6 PM at the Quincy Kennel Club.

**To compete in Obedience or Rally Obedience at the Dog Show, handlers and dogs must have successfully completed the Quincy Kennel Club's dog obedience classes or have the consent of the judge or staff prior to the show.** Participants are strongly encouraged to complete at least 8 weeks of obedience training prior to the show. For more information, contact your county 4-H coordinator.

### **Dog Awards: Pending Enrollment**

Best Dog Obedience, Jr. Showmanship, Sr. Showmanship, Best Rally Obedience, Best Dog Care

1. Read all General Rules and Livestock General Requirements and follow all health requirements.
2. Exhibitors are limited to enter no more than three classes and collect a total of 3 premiums for dogs. One entry per class. The same dog cannot be shown in more than one Obedience Class or by more than one exhibitor.
3. To exhibit in the Dog Show, the owner must have a current certificate from a veterinarian showing the dog has had its rabies vaccine (1 or 3 years), Parvo-virus vaccine, and distemper shot. No un-entered dogs will be allowed on the grounds during the Dog Show.
4. A dog being shown in the Dog Show must belong to the exhibitor or to a member of his/her immediate family.
5. All dogs must be brought to the show on a leather, canvas, or nylon leash with a maximum length of 6 feet. No chain, flexy, or retractable leashes allowed.
6. No spike collars or harnesses. All tags must be removed from the collar. For members qualifying for State, please note: no slip chain "training" or pinch/prong collars will be allowed at the State Dog Show.
7. Female dogs in season cannot participate in the show.
8. If your dog has a cough, do not attend the Dog Show.

The 2026 Illinois State 4-H Dog show will be held on August 22, 2026 in Bloomington, IL. For more information, visit the event website: [4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/state-events/illinois-4-h-dog-show](https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/state-events/illinois-4-h-dog-show). Handlers must receive a qualifying score at the local level to advance to the state Dog Show.

The Quality Assurance and Ethics training is required for all youth that enroll in Horses, Dogs, Cats, Rabbits and Poultry. 4-H members must complete this training ONCE in their 4-H career. The online training can be accessed on ZSuite.

## DOG CARE

### Dog Care

For handlers and dogs who did not complete obedience training at the Quincy Kennel Club and/or did not receive consent from the judge or staff.

Scoring will be based on the dog's coat, weight, eyes, mouth, ears, feet, and the handler's knowledge of care and breed.

## SHOWMANSHIP

**Junior Showmanship** – For handlers, ages 8-13 years (as of 9/1/25)

**Senior Showmanship** – For handlers, ages 14-18 years (as of 9/1/25)

1. Exhibitors will be judged on handling skill, knowledge of breed standards of their dog, dog show terminology and elementary dog anatomy. The judge has the right to question exhibitors in one or all these areas.
2. Dogs will be judged on cleanliness, general health, and grooming.
3. Purebred and non-purebred dogs are eligible for this class. The breed of dog has no influence.
4. A dog eligible for Showmanship that must be withdrawn for good and sufficient reason may be replaced by another dog owned by the handler or the family. This must be in writing at the beginning of the show.
5. Judges' decisions are final.

## OBEDIENCE

### Beginner Novice I Class

(For inexperienced handlers and inexperienced dogs)

Heel on leash (forward, halt, right turn, left turn, about turn, slow, normal, and fast). The last order signifies that the handler and dog must break pace. These orders will be given by utilizing posted signs.

Figure Eight (on leash)	Maximum points 40
Sit for Exam (on leash)	Maximum points 40
Sit Stay (walk around ring)	Maximum points 40
Recall (off leash front/no finish)	Maximum points 40

### Beginner Novice II Class

(For experienced handlers and inexperienced dogs or experienced dogs and inexperienced handlers.)

Heel on Leash (forward, halt, right turn, left turn, about turn, slow, normal, and fast). The last order signifies that the handler and dog must break pace. These orders will be given by utilizing posted signs.

Figure Eight (on leash)	Maximum points 40
Sit for Exam (on leash)	Maximum points 40
Sit Stay (walk around ring)	Maximum points 40
Recall (off leash front/no finish)	Maximum points 40

### **Preferred Novice Class**

Heel on Leash and Figure 8	Maximum points 40
Stand for Examination (off leash)	Maximum points 30
Heel Free (off leash)	Maximum points 40
Recall (off leash with finish)	Maximum points 30
Sit or Down Stay-Walk around the Ring	Maximum points 30
Sit Stay-Get Your Leash (off leash)	Maximum points 30

### **Novice Class**

Heel on Leash and Figure 8 (on leash)	Maximum points 40
Stand for Examination (off leash)	Maximum points 30
Heel Free (off leash)	Maximum points 40
Recall (off leash)	Maximum points 30
Sit Stay - Get your leash (off leash)	Maximum points 30
Group Exercise - Sit & Down Stay (on leash)	Maximum points 30

### **Graduate Novice Class**

Heel Free and Figure 8 (off leash)	Maximum points 40
Drop on Recall	Maximum points 40
Dumbbell Recall	Maximum points 30
Dumbbell Recall over High Jump	Maximum points 30
Recall over Broad Jump	Maximum points 30
Stay-Get your leash (sit, Down)	Maximum points 30

### **Preferred Open Class**

Heel Free and Figure 8	Maximum points 40
Command Discrimination (Stand, Down, Sit)	Maximum points 30
Drop on Recall	Maximum points 30
Retrieve on Flat	Maximum points 20
Retrieve over High Jump	Maximum points 30
Broad Jump	Maximum points 20
Stay-Get your leash (Sit, Down)	Maximum points 30

### **Open Class**

Heel Free and Figure 8	Maximum points 40
Command Discrimination (Stand, Down, Sit)	Maximum points 30
Drop on Recall	Maximum points 30
Retrieve on Flat	Maximum points 20
Retrieve over High Jump	Maximum points 30
Broad Jump	Maximum points 20
Stay-Get your leash (Sit, Down)	Maximum points 30

### **Graduate Open Class**

Signal Exercise	Maximum points 40
Scent Discrimination	Maximum points 30
Go Out	Maximum points 30
Directed Jumping	Maximum points 40
Moving Stand and Examination	Maximum points 30

Directed Retrieve

Maximum points 30

### **Preferred Utility Class**

Signal Exercise

Maximum points 40

Scent Discrimination Article #1

Maximum points 30

Scent Discrimination Article #2

Maximum points 30

Directed Retrieve

Maximum points 30

Moving Stand & Examination

Maximum points 30

Directed Jumping

Maximum points 40

### **Utility Class**

Signal Exercise

Maximum points 40

Scent Discrimination Article #1

Maximum points 30

Scent Discrimination Article #2

Maximum points 30

Directed Retrieve

Maximum points 30

Moving, Stand and Examination

Maximum points 30

Directed Jumping

Maximum points 40

## **RALLY OBEDIENCE**

1. Dog/Handler team must receive a qualifying score of 70 out of 100 to compete at the state level.
2. The event will be timed. In the event of a tie score, the fastest time will break the tie.
3. A Dog/Handler team can receive up to 3 qualifying scores before advancing to the next level.
4. Rally rings will be at least 2000 - 3000 square feet with a minimum width of 30feet.
5. Courses will be from the collections of AKS Virtual Rally: [www.akc.org/sports/rally](http://www.akc.org/sports/rally)

### **Rally Novice**

10-15 signs are used (not including start and finish). 3-7 of the signs must be "stationary" signs. Performed on leash. The Canine Good Citizen (CGC) is required prior to competing. In the Novice class, the handler may speak to the dog, pat their leg, or clap their hands to encourage.

### **Rally Intermediate**

12-17 signs are used (not including start and finish). 3-7 of the signs must be "stationary" signs. At least 3 "advanced" signs. Performed on leash.

### **Rally Advance**

12-17 signs are used (not including start and finish). 3-7 of the signs must be "stationary" signs. At least 3 "advanced" signs. Dog must jump once. Performed off leash. Cannot pat leg or clap hands for encouragement.

### **Rally Excellent**

15-20 signs are used (not including start, finish, or call marker). Dog must jump twice. 2 or more of the signs must be "advanced" signs. 3 or more of the signs

must be “excellent” signs. Must include a “Sit Stay” sign. Performed off leash. Cannot pat leg or clap hands for encouragement.

## **GOATS**

1. Check In – Tuesday from 6-7 PM. Must set up your own pens. Wooden gates and wire will be provided.
2. Read all General Rules and Livestock General Requirements and follow all health requirements.
3. Each member will be limited to two entries per class, receiving only one premium per class.
4. Exhibitors may bring a maximum of 6 head and collect a maximum of 6 premiums.

Youth for Quality Care for Animals (YQCA) certification is mandatory for anyone showing a live dairy, beef, swine, sheep or goat project and must be completed before making fair entries in the Fair Entry system. Members may choose to complete the YQCA training online at <https://yqcaprogram.org> or attend an in-person training. For more information, please see page 10 in this book or contact your 4-H Program Coordinator.

### **Dairy Goats**

- G1.** Junior Doe (under 1 year & never freshened)
- G2.** Dry Doe (12-24 months of age)
- G3.** Dry Doe (24 months and over)
- G4.** Milking Doe (currently in milk)
- G5.** Junior Buck (0-6 months of age)
- G6.** Market Goat/Wether (born on or after 10/1/2025)

### **Meat Goats**

- G7.** Junior Doe (0-6 months of age)
- G8.** Junior Doe (6-12 months of age)
- G9.** Yearling Doe (12-24 months of age)
- G10.** Senior Doe (24+ months of age)
- G11.** Junior Buck (0-6 months of age)
- G12.** Market Goat/Wether (born on or after 10/1/2025)

### **Pygmy Goats**

- G13.** Pygmy Goat

### **Goat Awards: Pending enrollment**

Senior, Junior, and Novice Showmanship  
Grand Champion/Reserve Grand Champion Dairy/Meat Buck, Grand  
Champion/Reserve Grand Champion Dairy/Meat Doe, Grand Champion/  
Reserve Grand Champion Dairy/Meat Market Goat

# HORSE

The Hancock County 4-H Horse Show will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 5 PM at the Hancock County Saddle Club in Carthage. This show is open to the public. In the event of a weather cancellation, a makeup date will be July 1, 2026 at 5 PM.

1. Read all General Rules and Livestock General Requirements and follow all health requirements.
2. Horses 56 inches or under will be declared ponies. Horses over 56 inches will be declared horses.
3. Members enrolled in Horses will be limited to one entry in each class and shall receive a maximum of 6 monies. No premium will be given for classes designated, "Ribbon Class Only".
4. All Western horse project exhibitors must show in proper Western attire.
5. All English horse project exhibitors must show in proper English attire.
6. Equestrian helmets are required for ALL riding classes and practicing in the arena.
7. 4-H members planning to exhibit at the local 4-H fair must file ownership or lease papers as well as one color photo of the animal on all equine that they may potentially show by May 1st.
8. Each exhibitor must have their own horse. The same horse cannot be shown by multiple exhibitors.

The Quality Assurance and Ethics (QAEC) training is required for all youth that enroll in Cats, Dogs, Horses, Poultry, and Rabbits. 4-H members must complete this training ONCE in their 4-H career. The online training can be accessed on ZSuite.

**H1. Pony Halter** – Mare or gelding not to exceed 56 inches; 2 years and older

**H2. Open Halter** – Mare or gelding over 56 inches; 2 years and older

**H3. Other Equine Halter** – Includes miniatures, mules, and other equine

**Showmanship at Halter** will follow other equine halter classes. All members who show at halter are encouraged to participate in showmanship. Ages are September 1 of the current 4-H year. No premium.

Senior (14 and above)

Junior (11-13)

Novice (8-10)

**H4. English Pleasure** – Horse or pony

**H5. Walk & Whoa** – Exhibitors not eligible to participate in other classes requiring a trot or lope

**H6. Jr. Walk/Trot** – Rider aged 12 and under

**H7. Sr. Walk/Trot** – Rider aged 13 and above

**H8. Pony Western Pleasure**

**H9. Open Western Pleasure**

**H10. Senior Horsemanship** – Horse or pony; Rider aged 13 and above as of Sept. 1, 2025

**H11. Junior Horsemanship** – Horse or pony; Rider aged 12 and under as of Sept. 1, 2025

- H12. Egg & Spoon** – Ribbon Class Only
- H13. Catalog Race** – Ribbon Class Only
- H14. Open Driving Class** – Horse or pony (may be held at the end of the horse show)
- H15. Trot Barrels** – Ribbon Class Only
- H16. Open Barrels** – Ribbon Class Only
- H17. Trot Poles** – Ribbon Class Only
- H18. Open Poles** – Ribbon Class Only
- H19. Trail**

**Horse Awards: Pending enrollment.**

Pony Halter; Open Halter; Senior Showmanship; Junior Showmanship; Novice Showmanship; Walk & Woah; Jr. Walk/Trot; Sr. Walk/Trot; Pony Western Pleasure; Open Western Pleasure; Senior Horsemanship; Junior Horsemanship; Trail

**For required paperwork, due by May 1, visit:** [go.illinois.edu/horse\\_papers](http://go.illinois.edu/horse_papers)

## **LLAMA/ALPACA**

**\*\*See Animal Science\*\***

For the 2026 Hancock County 4-H Fair, exhibitors interested in the Llama/Alpaca project should enter one of the Animal Science classes and exhibit an Animal Science poster. Exhibit opportunities will be evaluated each year based on project enrollment.

## **POULTRY**

1. Read all General Rules and Livestock General Requirements and follow all health requirements.
2. All crates, boxes, containers, and vehicles should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to being used to transport poultry to and from the show.
3. Members may exhibit two entries per class and collect one premium per class, with a total of 6 premiums for poultry.
4. Poultry must be in place by 9:30 AM on Tuesday of fair week.
5. All poultry will be released by the superintendent directly following judging.
6. In the event of live poultry shows being prohibited due to health regulations, exhibitors will be asked to exhibit posters in the Animal Science general project area. Extension staff will notify exhibitors at least a week before show day. Egg production will be judged per usual.

The Quality Assurance and Ethics (QAEC) training is required for all youth that enroll in Cats, Dogs, Horses, Poultry, and Rabbits. 4-H members must complete this training ONCE in their 4-H career. The online training can be accessed on ZSuite.

- P1. Single Cockerel** (hatched after January 1, 2026)
- P2. Single Pullet** (hatched after January 1, 2026)
- P3. Single Rooster** (hatched before January 1, 2026)
- P4. Single Hen** (hatched before January 1, 2026)
- P5. Egg Production** – One dozen eggs. Eggs will be released immediately after judging.
- P6. Single Miscellaneous Waterfowl** – Ducks or Geese
- P7. Single Miscellaneous Poultry** – Turkey, Guineas, Pheasants, or Quail
- P8. Pen of Three Poultry** – 1 male and 2 females

**Poultry Awards: Pending enrollment.**

Best Overall Poultry Exhibit; Best Female; Best Male; Best Egg Production

## **RABBITS**

1. Read all General Rules and Livestock General Requirements and follow all health requirements.
2. Rabbits must be examined at home for ringworms and mites. If there is evidence of either, rabbits should not be brought to the show.
3. Members may exhibit two entries per class and collect a total of six monies for rabbits.
4. Rabbits must be in place by 8:30 AM.
5. All rabbits will be released by the superintendent directly following judging.

The Quality Assurance and Ethics (QAEC) training is required for all youth that enroll in Cats, Dogs, Horses, Poultry, and Rabbits. 4-H members must complete this training ONCE in their 4-H career. The online training can be accessed on ZSuite.

### **4 Class Rabbits**

(Includes Mini Lop, Mini Rex, Woolies, Havana, Dutch, Standard Rex, and Misc. Purebred breeds)

- Class R1. Senior Doe** – Over 6 months
- Class R2. Senior Buck** – Over 6 months
- Class R3. Junior Buck** – Up to 6 months
- Class R4. Junior Doe** – Up to 6 months

### **6 Class Rabbits**

(Includes California, New Zealand, 6-Class Purebred, and Misc. Purebred breeds)

- Class R5. Senior Buck** – Over 6 months
- Class R6. Senior Doe** – Over 6 months
- Class R7. Intermediate Buck** – 6 to 9 months
- Class R8. Intermediate Doe** – 6 to 9 months
- Class R9. Junior Buck** – Up to 6 months
- Class R10. Junior Doe** – Up to 6 months

**Class R11. Pen of Three (Meat)** – 3 offspring from the same litter. Each rabbit must weigh 3-5 pounds.

**Class R12. Single Fryer**

**Rabbit Awards: Pending enrollment.**

Best Overall Rabbit Exhibit; Best Doe; Best Buck; Best Pen of Three; Best Fryer

## **SHEEP**

1. Check In – Tuesday from 6-7 PM. Must set up your own pens. Wooden gates and wire will be provided.
2. Read all General Rules and Livestock General Requirements and follow all health requirements.
3. Purebred sheep will be divided by breeds with the same premium for all breeds.
4. All male animals must be purebred.
5. All entries in market classes must be sheared and cannot be shown in any other class.
6. Each member is allowed two entries per class, except Pair of Lambs, with a maximum of 6 head and 1 premium per class with a maximum of 6 premiums.

Youth for Quality Care for Animals (YQCA) certification is mandatory for anyone showing a live dairy, beef, swine, sheep or goat project and must be completed before making fair entries in the Fair Entry system. Members may choose to complete the YQCA training online at [yqcaprogram.org](http://yqcaprogram.org) or attend an in-person training. For more information, please see page 10 in this book or contact your 4-H Program Coordinator.

### Breeding Sheep

**Class S1. Ram Lamb** – Born on or after September 1, 2025

**Class S2. Ewe Lamb** – Born on or after September 1, 2025

**Class S3. Yearling Ewe** – Born between January 1, 2025-August 31, 2025

**Class S4. Aged Ewe** – Born between September 1, 2024 and January 1, 2025

### Market Lambs

**Class S5. Market Lamb** – One sheared wether or one sheared ewe born on or after January 1, 2026

**Class S6. Market Pair of Lambs** – Two ewes, two rams, or one ewe and one ram born on or after January 1, 2026  
(one entry per exhibitor for this class).

### **Sheep Awards: Pending enrollment.**

Senior, Junior, and Novice Showmanship

Grand Champion Trophy and Reserve Champion Rosette – Ewe Overall; Lamb Overall; Pair of Lambs; Market Class

# SWINE

1. All barrows and gilts will be weighed at 8 AM and in place by 9 AM on Wednesday.
2. Read all General Rules and Livestock General Requirements and follow all health requirements. Health papers will be checked before animals are unloaded.
3. All gilts and barrows must have been born after January 1, 2026.
4. Purebred gilts and crossbred gilts will be shown together in Class SW1.
5. Purebred barrows and crossbred barrows will be shown together in Class SW2 (unless there are enough entries to warrant two separate sub-classes.)
6. Each member is allowed two entries per class, but may only receive one premium per class, with a maximum of 5 premiums.

Youth for Quality Care for Animals (YQCA) certification is mandatory for anyone showing a live dairy, beef, swine, sheep or goat project and must be completed before making fair entries in the Fair Entry system. Members may choose to complete the YQCA training online at <https://yqcaprogram.org> or attend an in-person training. For more information, please see page 10 in this book or contact your 4-H Program Coordinator.

<b>Class SW1.</b>	<b>Breeding Gilt Class</b>
<b>Class SW2.</b>	<b>Market Barrow Class</b>
<b>Class SW3.</b>	<b>Market Gilt Class</b>
<b>Class SW4.</b>	<b>Purebred Barrow</b>
<b>Class SW5.</b>	<b>Purebred Gilt Class</b>

## **Swine Awards: Pending enrollment.**

Senior, Junior, and Novice Showmanship

Grand Champion and Reserve- Overall Gilt, Breeding Gilt, Market Animal

# PROJECT RULES AND INFORMATION

The following pages list the 4-H classes. All entries must be entered online at [fairentry.com](http://fairentry.com) by **May 31 in order to exhibit**.

Exhibiting in the 4-H Exhibit is a privilege. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to follow the general rules and the exhibit requirements for the specific class entered. The University of Illinois Extension personnel or their assigned agents do not assume liability for loss, theft, or damage to any exhibit.

## **RULES FOR THE HANCOCK COUNTY 4-H FAIR:**

- Smoking is prohibited on the entire 4-H Fairgrounds.
- No drugs, tobacco, or alcohol are allowed on the premises.
- Any person in violation of good conduct will result in forfeiture of premium money and/or removal from the grounds

## **EXHIBITORS:**

- Exhibitors must be currently enrolled as a 4-H member and have been at least 8 years old as of September 1, 2025. Parents and leaders should make provisions for the adequate care and supervision of exhibitors.
- 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](http://go.illinois.edu/4HDisplayTips).
- Accommodation requests must be received in advance by contacting your local Extension office.

## **GENERAL EXHIBIT GUIDELINES:**

- All exhibits must be products of the current 4-H year (September 1, 2025 - August 15, 2026).
- Exhibits illustrating inappropriate subject matter and/or graphics are not acceptable. The Superintendents/ Extension Staff reserve the right to remove exhibits deemed inappropriate or dangerous for youth audiences. The content of any 4-H competitive presentation does not necessarily reflect the beliefs or views of the University of Illinois Extension 4-H program.
- Some exhibit areas may have size limitations. Read the descriptions carefully. Please choose a display size which is most appropriate for the exhibit you are bringing. Larger does not always mean better; use good judgement in creating your exhibit. TABLES ARE PROVIDED. Do not bring your own.
- INNOVATION CLASSES are open to all 4-H members in the project areas listed. Members choosing to exhibit in the Innovation class decide the best way to show off their project mastery and knowledge for the year in that project category. Some suggestions are provided for each category, but

members may choose any method they want for demonstrating project learning as long as it does not fit in any other class in that category. Only selected projects categories have an Innovation option.

- **GROUP PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES HAVE EXPANDED.** They include Civic Engagement, Diversity and Cultural Awareness, Leadership, Passport to the World, Service Learning, and Video.
- **Project Manuals:** Some projects require a project manual, book, workbook, or guide. These are indicated with a book icon. Project books can be purchased from [shop4-h.org](http://shop4-h.org) or in some cases, have a free PDF resource available on the project's page on the Illinois 4-H website.
- **Hancock County 4-H uses an X factor in computing premiums.** Points assigned per award are tentative and do not represent dollars. Participation ribbons intended for Cloverbuds receive 0 points. Total dollars available are distributed to members based on the number of exhibits and points earned.
  - Level 1 (live animal projects): Blue 4 points, Red 3 points, White 2 points
  - Level 2 (general projects): Blue 3 points, Red 2 points, White 1 point
- **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.

**COPYRIGHT AND CLOVER USAGE:** See Visual Arts on page 73.

# 2026 Exhibit Guidelines

## AEROSPACE

### Model Rocketry (SF 50130)

Exhibit one model rocket assembled or made by the member. The exhibit will be a static display. The model rocket should be in good flying condition. DO NOT include the rocket engine with your exhibit. The rocket will not be launched. Attach the printed directions for construction of the rocket if any were used.

### Aerospace Display (SF 50131)

Prepare a display related to the aerospace project that does not fit in the model rocketry class. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters that you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

## AGRONOMY

### Soybeans (SF 50170) Record Book – Required

Exhibit five fresh plants (include root system that is washed) that are representative of member's 4-H project field; OR exhibit an experimental or educational project related to one experience from your project. Include explanation of the project in a report for public understanding. Include the member's crop records with the exhibit, such as the 4-H crop record found online at [go.illinois.edu/4HCropsRecord](http://go.illinois.edu/4HCropsRecord), or an FFA crops record.

### Corn (SF 50171) Record Book – Required

Exhibit two fresh plants of field corn (include root system that is washed) that are representative of member's 4-H project field; OR exhibit an experimental or educational project related to one experience from your project. Include explanation of the project in a report for public understanding. Sweet corn should be exhibited in Vegetable Gardening unless being raised under commercial contract by the exhibitor. Include the member's crop records with the exhibit, such as the 4-H crop record found online at [go.illinois.edu/4HCropsRecord](http://go.illinois.edu/4HCropsRecord), or an FFA crops record.

### Small Grains (SF 50172) Record Book – Required

Exhibit one gallon of the current year's crop of oats, wheat, rye, or barley that is representative of the member's 4-H project field; OR exhibit an experimental or educational project related to one experience from your project. Include explanation of the project in a report for public understanding. Include the member's crop records with the exhibit, such as the 4-H crop record found online at [go.illinois.edu/4HCropsRecord](http://go.illinois.edu/4HCropsRecord) or an FFA crops record.

### Hay (SF 50191) Record Book – Required

Exhibit one flake from a small bale (or the equivalent volume from a large or round bale) of dry hay in a clear plastic box with a lid or heavy-duty clear bag of the current year's hay crop that is representative of the member's 4-H project field; OR Exhibit an experimental or educational project related to one experience from your project. Include explanation of the project in a report for public understanding. Include the member's crop records with the

exhibit, such as the 4-H crop record found online at [go.illinois.edu/4HCropsRecord](http://go.illinois.edu/4HCropsRecord) or an FFA crops record.

### **Agronomy Innovation Class (SF 50173)**

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through the Agronomy project. This could be related to, but not limited to crop production, crop utilization or topics of interest to the member related to agronomy. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. Your exhibit should not fit in the other exhibit options for this project. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

## **ANIMAL SCIENCE**

Youth participating in the Animal Science General Project Show are not required to complete QAEC or YQCA.

### **Animal Science 1 (SF 50133a)**

For youth enrolled in this project 1-2 years.

Prepare a display focusing on any activity related to an animal project. Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through the animal project you studied. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period. Live animals are not permitted as exhibits in this area. For safety reasons, exhibits cannot include glass, syringes with needles, or any other sharp objects.

### **Animal Science 2 (SF 50133b)**

For youth enrolled in this project 3 or more years.

Prepare a display focusing on any activity related to an animal project. Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through the animal project you studied. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period. Live animals are not permitted as exhibits in this area. For safety reasons, exhibits cannot include glass, syringes with needles, or any other sharp objects.

### **LLAMA/ALPACA**

For the 2026 4-H show, exhibitors interested in the Llama/Alpaca project should enter one of the above project areas and exhibit an Animal Science poster. Exhibit opportunities will be evaluated each year based on project enrollment.

## **BABYSITTING**

Youth must furnish any equipment needed (laptop, tablet, etc.). Internet service is not guaranteed. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

### **Babysitting Display (SF 50141a)**

Prepare a display that demonstrates the skills and knowledge you have gained studying babysitting. Topics might include, but are not limited to, selecting age-appropriate toys and activities, explaining child behavior, or recognizing child safety concerns. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters that you have made. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. For safety reasons, exhibits cannot include glass, syringes with needles or any other sharp objects.

### **Babysitting Video Tutorial (SF 50141b)**

Create a short (1-5 minute) tutorial video intended for internet publishing that teaches the general public about a topic you learned about in your project learning. Topics for the tutorial video might include, but are not limited to, preparing healthy snacks for kids, looking for hazards in the home, things to avoid when selecting toys for kids, age-appropriate games or activities to use when babysitting, how to change a diaper, basic child first aid, etc.

- As part of the video, youth must cite the sources of the information they present (either vocally or on screen as text). Videos should not include video or photo content not recorded by the 4-H'er. Videos should not promote any products and should follow all copyright guidelines. Videos in this category will be judged on the quality and accuracy of the information shared, as well as clarity of presentation, and how engaging they are to a general audience (not on filmmaking techniques).
- Youth should have a signed model release for anyone appearing in the video besides themselves, and those should be brought to judging. Forms are available at [go.illinois.edu/modelrelease](http://go.illinois.edu/modelrelease).
- All Exhibitors should have a hard copy of the video downloaded to your device to play and a copy of their video on a USB flash drive, saved in .MP4 format as a backup. Fill out the video information sheet and bring it with you to judging: [go.illinois.edu/4HBabysittingVideo](http://go.illinois.edu/4HBabysittingVideo). Note: Exhibitors who advance to State Fair are encouraged to post their video on YouTube.com in advance; they are not required to do so. When uploading to YouTube, they may choose to make the video "public" (searchable on the site), or "public, unlisted" (link required to view). Youth ages 13-17 should only post content to the internet with parental permission. Parents must post for youth under 13.

## **CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

### **Build Your Future (SF 50365) Build Your Future Notebook – Required**

Develop a career portfolio which includes the items listed below. Members are encouraged to spend more than one year involved in this project, so they have time to thoroughly explore the learning modules and develop a greater understanding of planning and preparing for their future and develop a comprehensive career planning portfolio. The original OR photocopies of the completed activities from the project manual should be included in the portfolio. Each year enrolled in the project should build on the previous year's learning experiences.

- First Year – Complete a minimum of Activities 1-4 from the Build Your Future project manual which includes: Skills...Choices...Careers; Making Career Connections; Build Your Future Through Portfolios; and Education Pay\$.
- Second Year – Complete a minimum of Activities 5-7 from the Build Your Future project manual which includes: Career FUNds; Turn Your 4-H Passion Into Profit; and Pounding the

- Pavement.
- Third Year – Complete a minimum of Activities 8-9 from the Build Your Future project manual which includes: Putting the Pieces Together: Goals for the Future; and Pathways to Success.

## **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

Due to space restrictions, exhibits are limited to 36” x 48” and 15” deep.

### **Civic Engagement 1 (SF 50145)**

Exhibit a display illustrating one of the following options: 1) personal information about yourself – who you are, things you like to do, things you are good at, your favorites; 2) your feelings and how you handle these feelings; 3) your family, their responsibilities, how you work together.

### **Civic Engagement 2 (SF 50146) Citizenship: Level 2 – My Neighborhood – Required**

Exhibit a display illustrating one of the following options: 1) your neighborhood; 2) how you were a good neighbor or led a service project for your community; OR 3) a Citizenship Challenge that you helped organize and lead (see the project book for details).

### **Civic Engagement 3 (SF 50147) Citizenship: Level 3 – My Community and Me – Required**

Exhibit a display illustrating one of the activities that you completed within your project as it relates to one of the following categories in the manual: 1) Government; 2) Business and Industry; 3) Transportation, Communication & Utilities; 4) Culture & Heritage; 5) Natural Resources & Environment; 6) Education; 7) Organizations within your community; 8) Tourism; OR 9) Support Systems within your community.

### **Civic Engagement Group Exhibit (SF 50148)**

Exhibit a display illustrating how your group led a service project in your community. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period. The display must be accompanied by at least 3 and no more than 10 4-H members at the time of the judge's critique. Groups wishing to include more than 10 members must ask for an accommodation, one week prior to judging. Group members should make a 5- to 10-minute presentation to the judge. All group members present for the judge's critique should be able to discuss the project and answer questions. Only group members present for judging who participate in the actual critique and presentation are eligible for ribbons and premiums.

# CLOTHING & TEXTILES

## **COSTUME DESIGN & CLOTHING EMBELLISHMENT**


All exhibits entered in the Costume Design & Clothing Embellishment projects will be judged based on their creativity, planning, and execution. Exhibitors bringing garments should not wear their garments when they arrive for judging. The garment will be reviewed by the judges for construction first. Exhibitors will be asked to change into the garment as the second step of the judging process. For complicated costumes, judges may decide to waive the requirement to try on the outfit if they feel photos included in the Costume Design Workbook show the fit. If the garment was created for another individual, that person can come to judging to model the outfit, or photos of that person in the outfit can be supplied. (Only the exhibitor who made the garment is eligible for ribbon and premium.) If a pattern was used to make the item, the pattern instructions, either written or electronic, are to be included with the exhibit. Exhibit tags should be attached to the garment (preferably with a safety pin and string), not to the hanger. Garments may be worn before exhibiting but should be in good, clean condition. Both projects require youth to complete a project workbook and bring it to judging.


All clothing projects in these categories should follow copyright guidelines. See project resource guides for additional details.

Costume design members wishing to be judged primarily on the sewing construction techniques and fit of their costume should consider entering the Sewing projects instead of Costume Design. The level to be entered will depend on the sewing techniques used.

## **COSTUME DESIGN**

Exhibit one costume, created by the member. The costume may contain multiple items. The costume may include supporting accessory pieces (shoes, jewelry, hats, etc.) that complete the look. Accessory items will not remain on display. If the member created any prop weapons as part of their costume (e.g. swords, firearms, bows, etc.) they may not bring them to judging. Those props can be included in the photographs of the completed look in the Illinois 4-H Costume Design Workbook. Bring a completed copy of the Costume Design Workbook ([go.illinois.edu/4HCostumeWorkbook](http://go.illinois.edu/4HCostumeWorkbook)) to show your project journey. Youth should enter the class that aligns with their experience with costume design in any form (including outside of 4-H).

**Costume Design Beginner** (SF 50157a) Costume Design Workbook – Required   
For members with 2 or less years of experience in costume design (including this year)

**Costume Design Advanced** (SF 50157b) Costume Design Workbook – Required   
For members with 3 or more years of experience in costume design (including this year)

## **CLOTHING EMBELLISHMENT**

Exhibit one look or outfit, consisting of no more than three coordinated pieces that have been embellished with 1 or more clothing embellishment techniques. Bring a completed copy of the Clothing Embellishment workbook ([go.illinois.edu/4HEmbellishmentWorkbook](http://go.illinois.edu/4HEmbellishmentWorkbook)) to show your project journey. No accessory items (such as shoes, jewelry, hats, etc.) should be brought to judging (they can instead be used in the final look photos in the project workbook). Youth should enter the class that aligns with the technique(s) used in their outfit.

**Clothing Embellishment Applied** (SF 50158a) Clothing Embellishment Workbook – Required 

Decoration is attached by gluing, fusing, or painting. Examples: jewels, puff paints, appliqués, tie dye.

## **Clothing Embellishment Stitched** (SF 50158b) Clothing Embellishment Workbook – Required

Decoration is hand-or machine-stitched. Examples: machine or hand sewing, such as adding a collar or skirt, appliqué, satin stitch, embroidery, quilting, beading, knitting or crochet (4-H'er does not need to create the knit or crochet piece themselves, it could be purchased or made by others but attached by the 4-H'er).

## **Clothing Embellishment Combination** (SF 50158c) Clothing Embellishment Workbook – Required

Decoration includes any combination of both applied and stitched techniques across the outfit.

### **SEWING 1-3**

All exhibits entered in Sewing 1-3 will be judged based on their construction and fit (if applicable). Exhibitors bringing garments should not wear their garments when they arrive for judging. The garment will be reviewed by the judges for construction first. Exhibitors will be asked to change into the garment as the second step of the judging process. If the garment was constructed for another individual, that individual must be present to wear the garment for the judge. (Only the exhibitor who made the garment is eligible for ribbon and premium.) Construction and appearance will both be considered during judging. If a pattern was used to make the item, the pattern instructions, either written or electronic, are to be included with the exhibit. Exhibit tags should be attached to the garment, not to the hanger.

Members wishing to exhibit knitted items should enroll in Visual Arts Fiber (if original) or Visual Arts Heritage Arts (if made from a pattern). We strongly encourage youth interested in pursuing quilting to enroll and exhibit in the Visual Arts Quilting project area. Youth may still exhibit quilts in any level of Sewing as a "Sewn Non-Clothing" item, but these quilts will be judged using the Sewing rubric that evaluates the sewing skills and construction of the item. If exhibiting quilts in the Sewing area, all work on the quilt MUST be completed by the 4-H member. You cannot exhibit a quilt that was quilted by someone else. Quilts can be hand OR machine quilted as long as ALL work is completed by the exhibitor.

### **Sewing 1: Exhibit one of the following in either the Non-Clothing, or Clothing exhibit divisions**

Exhibits in Sewing 1 must be made from medium weight woven fabrics that will sew and press smoothly, flannel/fleece is acceptable. Solid color fabrics or those having an overall print are acceptable. We strongly advise youth do not select fabrics with plaid or stripe patterns as judges will expect stripes to match at seams, which is a more advanced-level skill. NO NAPPED or JERSEY KNIT fabric. Patterns should be simple WITHOUT DARTS, SET-IN SLEEVES, and COLLARS. Raglan and loose flowing sleeves are acceptable.

#### **Non-Clothing Exhibits** (SF 50151a)

Exhibit one of the following sewn items:

- Pillowcase
- Simple Pillow – no larger than 18" x 18"
- Bag/Purse – no zippers or button holes
- Other non-clothing item using skills learned in project manual

#### **Clothing Exhibits** (SF 50151b)

Exhibit one of the following sewn items:

- Simple top
- Simple pants, shorts, or skirt – no zipper or button holes
- Simple Dress – no zipper or button holes
- Other – other wearable item using skills learned in project manual (apron, vest, etc.)

## **Sewing 2: Exhibit one of the following in either the Non-Clothing, or Clothing exhibit divisions**

### **Non-Clothing Exhibits (SF 50152a)**

Exhibit one of the following sewn items:

- Recycled Clothing Accessory – Create a clothing accessory made from a used item. The item must be changed in some way in the redesign process. The finished accessory must reflect at least one skill learned in the project and exhibitor should be able to identify the skill used. A before picture and a description of the redesign process must accompany the exhibit. Clothing accessory may include: hat, bag, scarf, belt, etc. OR
- Non-Clothing Item OR Clothing Accessory – Create a non-clothing item or clothing accessory using at least one skill learned in this project. Exhibitor should be able to identify the skill used.

### **Clothing Exhibits (SF 50152b)**

Exhibit one of the following sewn items:

- Recycled Clothing – Create a garment from used textile-based items. The original used item must be redesigned (not just embellished or decorated) in some way to create a new wearable piece of clothing. The finished garment must reflect at least one skill learned in this project and exhibitor should be able to identify the skill used. A before picture and a description of the redesign process must accompany the exhibit. OR
- Constructed Garment – Any garment with facings or curves. Should use at least one skill learned in this project and exhibitor should be able to identify the skills used. Garment should be appropriate for the age and experience of the member.

## **Sewing 3: Exhibit one of the following in either the Non-Clothing, or Clothing exhibit divisions.**

### **Non-Clothing Exhibit (SF 50153a)**

Exhibit one of the following sewn items:

- Recycled Clothing Accessory – Create a clothing accessory made from a used item. The item must be changed in some way in the redesign process. The finished accessory must reflect at least one skill learned in the project and exhibitor should be able to identify the skill used. A before picture and a description of the redesign process must accompany the exhibit. OR
- Non-Clothing Item OR Clothing Accessory – Create a non-clothing item or clothing accessory using at least one skill learned in this project. Exhibitor should be able to identify the skill used.

### **Clothing Exhibit (SF 50153b)**

Exhibit one of the following sewn items:

- Recycled Clothing – Create a garment from used textile-based items. The original used item must be redesigned (not just embellished or decorated) in some way to create a new wearable piece of clothing. The finished garment must reflect at least one skill learned in this project and exhibitor should be able to identify the skill used. A before picture and a description of the redesign process must accompany the exhibit. OR
- Constructed Garment – Any garment constructed by the member which is appropriate for the age and experience of the exhibitor. Should use at least one skill learned in this project and exhibitor should be able to identify the skills used. Possible examples are wool garment, dress or jacket with set in sleeves and zipper or buttons and button holes, suit, evening gown or sport outfit.

## SHOPPING IN STYLE

Members are encouraged to spend more than one year involved in this project, so they have time to learn what clothing styles look best on them while they also gain skills in building a versatile wardrobe and staying within their budget. Each year enrolled in Shopping should build on previous year's learning experience. For all levels of this project, participants should bring a garment to display and model for the judge.

### **Shopping in Style: Beginning** (SF 50154) Shopping in Style Digital – Required

Choose one of the following activities from Unit 1 or Unit 2 of the project book to exhibit:

- Exhibit should consist of a garment that reflects your personal style along with a poster or report that 1) explains how this garment reflects your style and how it influences what others think of you; OR 2) how your personal style either aligns or contradicts what is “in style” today. OR
- Exhibit should include a garment you purchased along with a poster or report that explains or illustrates how this garment is either 1) a modern version of a fad or fashion from an earlier decade; OR 2) how this garment reflects a different ethnic or cultural influence. Exhibit should include garment you purchased along with a poster or report that provides 1) a body shape discussion and how body shape influences clothing selections; OR 2) a color discussion that provides an overview of how different colors complement different hair colors and skin tones and how that influenced garment selection. Poster or report may include pictures from magazines, the internet or actual photos of garments. OR
- Exhibit should include garment you purchased along with a poster or report that 1) explains how this garment uses the principles of design lines to create an illusion to alter appearance; OR 2) explains how color and texture of fabrics can complement or enhance appearance. Poster or report may include pictures from magazines, the internet, or actual photos of garments.

### **Shopping in Style: Intermediate** (Levels 3 & 4) (SF 50155) Shopping in Style Digital – Required

Choose one of the following activities from Unit 3 or Unit 4 of the project book to exhibit:

- Exhibit should include two clothing items that were previously a part of your wardrobe that still fit but you don't wear anymore and pair them with something new to make them wearable again. Also include a report that explains why the garment was not being worn and what you did to transform it into a wearable garment again. OR
- Exhibit should include at least five pieces of clothing that exhibitor can mix and match to create multiple outfits. Include a poster or report that includes a clothing inventory AND describes what you have learned by completing this activity. Please bring at least one complete outfit from the selected clothing to display and model for the judge. OR
- Exhibit should include garment you purchased along with a poster or report that 1) includes a wardrobe inventory which indicates why you selected the garment you did, clothing budget, and cost of garment; OR 2) explains how advertising influences clothing purchases making a distinction between wants and needs; and how the purchase of this garment complements and/or extends your wardrobe. OR
- Exhibit should include garment you purchased along with a poster or report that 1) describes a cost comparison of this item completed by the exhibitor when purchasing the garment; should include variety of shopping options and/or price tracking at stores over a period of time; OR 2) provides a quality comparison rating the specific clothing item purchased based on care, construction, cost and unique features; should include construction quality details, design features that influenced selection, cost per wearing, and garment care.

## **Shopping in Style: Advanced** (Levels 5 & 6) (SF 50156) Shopping in Style Digital – Required

Choose one of the following activities from Unit 5 or Unit 6 of the project book to exhibit:

- Exhibit should include garment you purchased along with a poster or report that summarizes care requirements not only for this garment but also for garments made of other natural and synthetic fibers; exhibit should also include a care cost analysis for garments of different fibers. OR
- Exhibit should include garment you purchased which you have repaired or altered along with a poster or report that provides a clothing inventory list which includes cost savings for repaired items as compared to purchasing replacement garments. OR
- Exhibit should include multiple garments you purchased along with a poster or report that provides plans and commentary for a fashion show that would capture the attention of an audience. Fashion show plans should identify target audience, include show venue, purpose of the show, and logistical plan for the fashion show. This should also include a financial plan. Exhibitor should be prepared to demonstrate modeling skills and bring at least one garment to display and wear.

## **CLOVERBUD**

Cloverbud projects will be exhibited during General Project judging. All Cloverbud members participating will receive a ribbon and 4-H prize. These projects will not be competitively judged and will not receive premiums. Cloverbuds should be prepared to communicate with a volunteer about their project. Cloverbuds may be asked questions such as:

- How did you make your project?
- What did you learn from your project?
- How long did it take to make your project?
- What would you do differently?

Cloverbud projects will remain on display. For more details about Cloverbud project guidelines, contact your county 4-H program coordinator.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Communications 1, 2, 3** (SF 50368) Communications Module 1, 2 or 3 – Required

For 1st year enrolled in project: Exhibit a binder portfolio showcasing at least three activities from the project manual. Show basic activities and anything that extended lessons.

For 2nd and 3rd years in project: Include everything from earlier years' work and add a section showcasing at least four additional activities per year.

### **Journalism, News & Social Media** (SF 50369) Journalism, News & Social Media – Required

Exhibit a binder portfolio showing the results of the appropriate year's activities noted below:

- Year 1: Results of doing a minimum of 5, 2-star activities, answering all the questions in the activities.
- Year 2: Results of doing a minimum of 5, 2-star activities, answering all the questions in the activities.
- Year 3: Results of doing a minimum of 5, 3-star activities. One of the activities must include writing an advance story, a follow-up story, or a feature story.
- Year 4: Results of doing at least 2, 2-star activities and 3, 3-star activities. If the activities include making an audio or videotape, State Fair will provide a way for the judge to view or listen to it.

# COMMUNICATIONS: PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Adams, Brown, Hancock, Pike, and Schuyler Public Speaking Contest will be held on March 21, 2026, at the Adams County Extension Office beginning at 1 PM.

No live animals are allowed in speeches. A 4-H member may advance in one individual category and one team category. Participating youth turning 14 years of age on or before September 1, 2025, must enroll as advanced.

Available Resources:

- Finding your Voice: Public Speaking made Easy (Public Speaking)
- Refer to the AI policy at [go.illinois.edu/4hai](http://go.illinois.edu/4hai) for Public Speaking specific guidance

## Formal Speech

Self-written | Notes Allowed | No props | Individual | 4-5 minutes for beginners; 5-6 minutes for advanced

Formal Speech - Original Beginner Ages 8-13 (SF 50501A)

Formal Speech - Original Advanced Ages 14 & Up (SF 50501B)

Formal Speeches share the presenter's own unique view and are intended to motivate, persuade, or inform an audience and may include a call to action. Youth may deliver a speech on any topic they wish.

## Illustrated Speech

Self-written | Notes Allowed | Illustrations Required | Individual | 4-5 minutes for beginners; 5-6 minutes for advanced

Illustrated Speech - Beginner Ages 8-13 (SF 50503A)

Illustrated Speech - Advanced Ages 14 & Up (SF 50503B)

Illustrated Speeches may be used to inform, persuade, or motivate the audience while using a visual aid. Visual aids may be two dimensional, three-dimensional, or digital. Youth may include audience participation. Digital visual aids must be stored on a USB flash drive. Illustrated speeches may be:

- How-to demonstrations which show the audience how to do something.
- Object lessons which use objects as metaphors to share a message.
- Educational models where drawings or diagrams help explain a topic.

## Original Works

Self-written | Notes Allowed | Props and Costumes Allowed | Individual or 2-Person Team | Youth must provide manuscripts to judge | 4-6 minutes

Original Works - Individual (SF 50504)

Original Works - Team (SF 50505)

Original works must be written entirely by the presenter. It may be presented as an individual or a two-person team entry. Manuscripts must be brought to the contest. Presentations may be designed for TV, radio, or online media and must be presented live. The types of entries could include:

- Prose and Short Stories
- Poetry/Spoken Word
- Broadcast Media Program
- Theatrical
- Combined Program: Combine any number of the above elements along with other creative presentation forms

## **Oral Interpretation**

Published Work | Props and Costumes Allowed | Individual or 2-Person Team | Youth must provide manuscripts to judge | 4-6 minutes

Oral Interpretation – Individual (SF 50506)

Oral Interpretation – Team (SF 50507)

Presentations in Oral Interpretation must be published works, and manuscripts or transcripts must be brought to the event. They may be presented as an individual or a two-person team entry. The types of entries could include:

- Prose and Short Stories
- Poetry
- Theatrical Interpretation
- Published Speech Recitation: Excerpt from a spoken presentation delivered by a public figure, such as Winston Churchill, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., or Maya Angelou
- Combined Program: Combine any number of the above elements along with other creative presentation forms

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Exhibitors may bring computer equipment for demonstration purposes. Computers will not be furnished. Internet connections are not available for use by exhibitors. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period. Any member found to be using computer software in a manner that infringes on copyright laws will be disqualified.

### **Beginning Visual Programming (SF 50135)**

Exhibit a simple program using Scratch (or other simple visual programming language). The program should include 8 different commands including looping and getting input from the keyboard and mouse. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a poster or printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition.

### **Intermediate Visual Programming (SF 50136)**

Exhibit a program using Scratch (or other simple visual programming language) that you have downloaded from the internet and modified. Compare the two programs and demonstrate the changes you made to the original program; OR create an animated storybook using Scratch (or other simple graphical programming language). All exhibits must include something visual, such as a poster or printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition.

### **Advanced Visual Programming (SF 50137)**

Exhibit a video game you have created in Scratch (or other simple visual programming language). All exhibits must include something visual, such as a poster or printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition.

### **Website Design (SF 50138)**

Exhibit an original website that you have designed using a programming language such as HTML (cannot be made with website builder like Wix or Squarespace). Internet access will not be provided, so exhibitors must supply their own internet hotspot or the website must be hosted on the exhibitor's computer. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a poster or printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition.

### **Text-Based/Open Source Computer Science (SF 50139)**

Due to space limitations, exhibits are limited to a 3' x 2' space.

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through the Computer Science project using a text-based programming language (Python, Java, C, etc.). The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. Your exhibit should not fit in the other exhibit options for this project. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. Exhibits in this class may also demonstrate successful application of open source (publicly available) computing software and/or hardware, such as Raspberry Pi and Linux, to accomplish a task. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a poster or printed copy of a digital presentation or programming flowchart, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Exhibits in this area will be judged on the computer science programming.

## CONSUMER EDUCATION

### **Entrepreneurship: Be the E!** (SF 50166) Be the “E” Entrepreneurship Guide – Required 📖

Exhibit a binder portfolio or display that includes the results of at least two completed activities from each year the exhibitor has been enrolled in the project. Completed activities from previous years should be included.

### **My Financial Future 1 Beginner** (SF 50168) My Financial Future Beginner Youth Notebook – Required 📖

Develop a Financial Planning portfolio which includes the items listed below. This project can be completed all in one year; or a member may take several years to explore each of the activities and develop a more detailed financial plan. The original OR photocopies of the completed activities from the project manual should be included in the portfolio. Each year enrolled in the project should build on previous year's experiences.

- First Year – Complete a minimum of Activities 1-6 from the My Financial Future – Beginner project manual which includes: Who Needs This?; Let's get SMART; Bringing Home the Bacon; Managing Your Money Flow; My Money Personality; and Money Decisions.
- Second Year and Beyond – Complete a minimum of Activities 7-11 from the My Financial Future – Beginner project manual which includes: Banking your \$\$\$\$; Charging it Up; Check it Out; Better than a Piggy Bank!; and My Work; My Future.

### **My Financial Future 2 Advanced** (SF 50169) My Financial Future Advanced Notebook – Required 📖

Building on your previous work in My Financial Future – Beginner project, continue adding to your Financial Planning portfolio which includes the items listed below. Members are encouraged to spend more than one year involved in this project, so they have time to thoroughly explore the learning modules and develop a greater understanding of financial literacy, planning for their future, and develop a comprehensive career and financial planning portfolio. The original OR photocopies of the completed activities from the project manual should be included in the portfolio. Each year enrolled in the project should build on previous year's learning experiences.

- First Year – Complete a minimum of two activities from Module 1: Earning Income and Career Planning and Module 2: Organizing Your Flow.
- Second Year – Complete all activities not previously completed in Module 1: Earning Income and Career Planning and Module 2: Organizing Your Flow; AND a minimum of two of the activities from Module 3: Working with Banks and Credit Unions: Bank on It and Module 4: Making Your \$ Work 4 U.
- Third Year and Beyond – Complete all activities not previously completed in Module 3: Working with Banks and Credit Unions: Bank on It and Module 4: Making Your \$ Work 4 U; AND a minimum of two activities from Module 5: Credit and Consumer Breadcrumbs.

# CREATING WITH BUILDING BRICKS

All exhibits entered in the Creating with Building Bricks project must follow these guidelines:

- All projects must be original designs by the exhibitor built entirely with building brick elements (no kits or following build directions created by others are allowed). Exhibitors can use techniques learned from kits, build directions, and guides to create their own original designs.
- All projects should follow copyright guidelines. No re-creating copyrighted characters or logos out of bricks. No recreating copyrighted images in brick form, including as mosaics. Legally sourced branded items can be used as part of the exhibit (i.e. licensed minifigures and licensed printed parts). See project resource guide for additional details at [go.illinois.edu/4HBuildingBrickResources](http://go.illinois.edu/4HBuildingBrickResources).
- All physical builds (with the exception of hangable art) must be 30" by 30" (table space length and width) or less (i.e. 4 total of the 48 by 48 stud baseplate in a square formation or smaller). Pieces of the build should not extend horizontally beyond the maximum size. There is no height limit. Mosaics or other entries in the art category that are intended to be hung from a wall have a maximum size of 32" by 42" and a depth no greater than 3 inches. Virtual builds have no size restrictions.
- Builds should be 4-H appropriate and aligned with principles in the 4-H Code of Conduct.
- Youth should exhibit in only one build category.

## **Creating with Building Bricks: Art (SF 50101)**

Exhibit one visual art piece created with building bricks as the medium. This includes things like sculptures and mosaics. Pieces in this category are judged on art principles.

## **Creating with Building Bricks: Building (SF 50102)**

Exhibit one building constructed with building bricks, such as a house or skyscraper. Replicas of existing buildings, such as a personal home, are allowed in this category.

## **Creating with Building Bricks: Creature (SF 50103)**

Exhibit one real or imaginary animal, monster, or person created with building bricks. This category includes domestic animals (like pets and farm animals), wild animals (current or extinct), as well as fantasy creature builds (like dragons, aliens, monsters, and unicorns. All creatures must be brick built (no mixed and matched minifigures are allowed).

## **Creating with Building Bricks: Functional (SF 50104)**

Exhibit one non-mechanical item built from building bricks that can be used in the real world, like a jewelry box, pencil cup, or phone charging stand. Bring a printed picture of the build in use.

## **Creating with Building Bricks: Mechanical (SF 50105)**

Exhibit one device constructed with building bricks, which includes mechanical movement to accomplish a real-world task. Use of gears and technic style elements is encouraged. Example builds include a functioning clock, candy vending machine, etc. Mechanical builds will frequently combine various simple machines like levers, pulleys, screws, and axles to achieve tasks. Mechanical builds can use motor elements.

## **Creating with Building Bricks: Object (SF 50106)**

Exhibit one full-size or scaled (shrunk down or enlarged) replica of a real-world object, like a food item, household object, or plant, built from building bricks. Leave any brand logos off your replica. Bring a printed picture of the item you are replicating to judging so judges can compare your build to the real thing.

## **Creating with Building Bricks: Scene/Storytelling (SF 50107)**

Exhibit one scene that tells a story built with building bricks. Scenes will typically display

some type of action (or implied action). Scenes can be realistic or set in imaginary worlds. Builds can incorporate items from the other exhibit categories (such as creatures, buildings, and vehicles) as well as minifigures.

### **Creating with Building Bricks: Vehicle (SF 50108)**

Exhibit one vehicle built with building bricks. This category includes things like cars, boats, trains, airships, and spaceships.

### **Creating with Building Bricks: Virtual (SF 50109)**

Create an original build using virtual building brick software such as BrickLink Studio, MecaBricks Workshop, or LeoCAD. Exhibits in this category can be of anything that would fit in any of the other build categories but are instead built digitally. Export or screenshot a minimum of 6 images of the entire build from different angles (top, bottom, both sides, front, and back images are required) and bring printed copies of the images in a standard size pocket folder or 3-ring binder. Youth may include additional images (beyond the required 6) from different angles that they feel help capture the entirety of the build and may include shots focused on important build details that are not easy to see in the required images. Please label each image (i.e. "front view", "back view", "bottom view", "detail of front" etc.). Youth should be prepared to discuss what software they used with the judge.

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

### **Creative Writing (SF 50367)**

Submit one of the following. The entry is to be typewritten on 8 ½ x 11 paper and include exhibitor's name. Entries must be original and written for the 4-H project. Stories should be double-spaced. If you want to be judged on the artistic aspects of your graphic novel, this project should be entered in Visual Arts: Chalk, Carbon, Pigment.

- Short Story – A fiction piece comprised of three basic elements: a theme, a plot, and characters. Submit one story, maximum length – 2,000 words.
- Essay – A short nonfiction composition in which a theme is developed, or an idea is expressed. Submit one essay, maximum length – 500 words.
- Feature Story – Nonfiction human-interest story judged on interest to readers, writing style, readability, and thoroughness of coverage. Submit one story, maximum length – 1,000 words.

### **State Level Creative Writing: If promoted to state, follow the instructions below to submit your entry by August 1 to the State 4-H Office.**

- Members are strongly encouraged to upload their submission to the State Communications Box folder by August 1, prior to the beginning of State Fair. Members need to include their name and county in the title of the file. Upload files to: [go.illinois.edu/StateFairSubmissions](http://go.illinois.edu/StateFairSubmissions)
- Members are also required to bring a hard copy of their project to drop off the morning that their county is exhibiting at the state fair.

### **Poetry (SF 50371)**

Submit one of the following. The entry is to be typewritten on 8 ½ x 11 paper and include exhibitor's name. Entries must be original and written for the 4-H project. Poems may be single-spaced. The entries should be submitted by August 1 to the state 4-H office.

- Rhymed Poetry – An interpretation of a subject in rhymed verse. Submit a collection of three poems.
- Free Style Poetry– An interpretation of a subject in unrhymed verse. Submit a collection of three poems.

# DRONES: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles/Systems

Choose one of the following classes based on your interest and skill level. Each exhibitor must complete the first 2 sections, and at least 3 Real World Missions in the Quads Away Curriculum and display a completed mission logbook.

## **UAV Display** (SF 50375) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles/Systems: Drones – Required

Prepare a display related to the Drones/UAV project on the topic of your choosing. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. Youth must furnish any equipment needed for the exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period. Non-UAV/ Drone projects should not be entered in this class (see Aerospace Display).

## **UAV Unmanned Aerial Systems** (SF 50376) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles/Systems: Drones – Required

Exhibit one unmanned aerial vehicle and associated system assembled or made by the member. UAV or drone exhibits in this class must be either originally designed or built from a kit of reconfigurable parts and components. These displays are limited to multicopters (tri, quad, hex, and octocopters), as well as FPV airplanes and flying wings with wingspans up to 36". A detailed build log with pictures, as well as a mission logbook must be included. The UAV MUST have a flight controller and utilize a camera/video transmission system. The exhibit will be a static display. The drone should be in good flying condition with batteries fully charged, and all UAS components (including video system) ready to demonstrate. DO NOT display your UAV with the propellers on, but rather on the table to the side of your UAV. The drone will not be flown. Attach the printed directions/instructions of the UAV if any were used.

# ELECTRICITY

## **Electricity 1** (SF 50177)

May only be battery-powered projects using battery components and wiring. Exhibit a momentary switch, simple switch, basic circuit, electromagnet, galvanometer, OR an electric motor. All projects must include a report explaining how the project was constructed and the principles demonstrated. Projects using paper clips, cardboard, thumbtacks, and brads are not eligible for state fair exhibits in electricity. Members wishing to exhibit these types of projects should consider exhibiting in Junk Drawer Robotics 1 or 2.

## **Electricity 2** (SF 50178)

May only be battery-powered projects using battery components and wiring. Exhibit a circuit board demonstrating parallel and series switches, including a circuit diagram; 3-way or 4-way switch circuit using DC/battery; OR a basic electrical device (examples: rocket launcher, burglar alarm, etc.). All projects must include a report explaining how the project was constructed and the principles demonstrated. Projects using paper clips, cardboard, thumbtacks, and brads are not eligible for state fair exhibits in electricity. Members wishing to exhibit these types of projects should consider exhibiting in Junk Drawer Robotics 1 or 2.

## **Electricity 3** (SF 50179)

Exhibit a 120V lighting fixture or other appliance that uses a switch; OR two electrical household circuits using 120V materials to comply with National Electrical Code, one with a simple on/off switch to control bulb, and one using 3-way switches to control light from two

locations; OR other project which demonstrates principles in the Wired for Power book. All electricity projects must include a report, explaining how the project was constructed, and principles for its operation.

### **Electricity 4 (SF 50180)**

Exhibit any electronic or solid-state appliance. Exhibitor must be able to explain how the project was constructed, how it is to be used and how it works. When a project is being constructed, general safety and workmanship should be considered. All Electricity 4 projects must include a report explaining how the project was constructed, and principles for its operation.

## **ENTOMOLOGY**

### **GENERAL ENTOMOLOGY**

Size and number of exhibit cases should relate appropriately to the number of insects being displayed for a specified class. Cases should be no deeper than 4". Exhibitors should note that Entomology exhibits may be placed UPRIGHT for display. All displays should be comprised of non-living specimens properly prepared for display. Rules for pinning and labeling insects are available at the following site: <https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/401Book/default.php?page=home>. Projects focused on Arachnids (Spiders) should be displayed in Nature: Natural Resources & Outdoor Adventures in the Exploring Your Environment (50257a or 50257b) class.

### **Entomology 1 (SF 50183) Teaming With Insects 1 – Required**

Exhibit 15-29 or more species representing four or more orders. The collection must be accurately labeled. Exhibitors must also include the Entomology 1 project manual, Teaming With Insects 1, with at least one completed activity for each year enrolled. For youth exhibiting the same collection over multiple years, at least 25% of the specimens in the collection must have been collected in the current 4-H year.

### **Entomology 2 (SF 50184) Teaming With Insects 2 – Required**

Exhibit 30-59 or more species representing eight or more orders. Collection must be accurately labeled. Exhibitors must also include the Entomology 2 project manual, Teaming With Insects 2, with at least one completed activity for each year enrolled. For youth exhibiting the same collection over multiple years, at least 25% of the specimens in the collection must have been collected in the current 4-H year.

### **Entomology 3 (SF 50185) Teaming With Insects 3 – Required**

Exhibit 60 or more species representing twelve or more orders. Collection must be accurately labeled. Exhibitors must also include the Entomology 3 project manual, Teaming With Insects 3, with at least one completed activity for each year enrolled. For youth exhibiting the same collection over multiple years, at least 10% of the specimens in the collection must have been collected in the current 4-H year.

### **Entomology Display (SF 50186)**

Exhibit any activity or display related to Entomology that does not fit into Entomology Classes 1, 2 or 3 above. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

## **BEEKEEPING**

Create an exhibit that shows the public what you learned in the beekeeping project this year. Note: No beehives may be exhibited. Honey moisture content will be measured at the State Fair for Level 2 & 3. Fill level: the honey should be filled to the jar shoulder, not over, nor under. Chunk honey should go in a wide-mouth jar, preferably one specially made for chunk honey (see beekeeping catalog HillCo LLC Beekeeping Equipment Catalog). Be careful to distinguish “chunk honey” (comb in jar) from “cut comb” (comb only in plastic box). Honey exhibited (including chunk, cut comb, and sections) must be collected since the previous year’s fair.

### **Beekeeping 1 (SF 50188)**

Exhibit an educational display for one (1) of the following:

- Flowers used to make honey. Display pressed flowers from ten (10) different Illinois plants that bees use for making honey.
- Uses of honey and beeswax.
- Setting up a beehive.
- Safe handling of bees.
- Equipment needed by a beekeeper.

### **Beekeeping 2 (SF 50189)**

Exhibit one (1) of the following:

- Extracted honey: Three (3) pint jars (glass, screw-top), holding 1lb. of honey each.
- Chunk honey (comb in jar): Three (3) pint jars (wide-mouth, glass).
- Cut-comb honey: Three (3) 1lb. boxes (boxes are usually 4 ½” x 4 ½” in size).
- Section honey: Three (3) sections of comb honey (in basswood boxes or Ross rounds).
- Working with honey bees. Present a topic from your manual to teach fairgoers about working with honey bees. Use your knowledge and creativity to display this information on a poster or in a notebook.

### **Beekeeping 3 (SF 50190)**

Exhibit three (3) of the five (5) kinds of honey listed below (#1-5) or prepare an educational display about honey bees or beekeeping (#6).

1. Extracted honey: Three (3) pint jars (glass, screw-top), holding 1 lb. of honey each.
2. Chunk honey (comb in a jar): Three (3) pint jars (wide-mouth, glass) .
3. Cut-comb honey: Three (3) 1 lb. boxes (boxes are usually 4 ½” x 4 ½” in size).
4. Comb honey: Three (3) sections (honey built by bees in frames of wood commonly called “sections”) (boxes are usually 4 ½” x 4 ½” in size).
5. Section honey: Three (3) sections of comb honey (in basswood boxes or Ross rounds) OR
6. Prepare an educational display about honey bees or beekeeping.

## **ESPORTS**

All exhibitors must complete all activities in the Illinois 4-H eSports Curriculum.

### **Esports (SF 50378) Illinois 4-H Esports Curriculum – Required**

Compete in at least 1 ranked tournament online or in person (either as a team or solo), and fully document your progress throughout. Any game with a documentable bracket system, and at least 3 rounds counts. Be sure to include a description of the tournament, your match information, your win-loss record, and description of the game and platform being used to play the game (RAM requirements/capabilities of your machine, video card specs., etc.). Prepare a PowerPoint presentation describing your journey through Esports (including your 1 mandatory tournament), what you have learned about gaming/Esports, and why you think more youth should be involved. Also include a detailed description of your most important win, explaining your strategy in that victory. Be sure to include screenshots and video, if possible. Load your presentation to a USB drive. Must include a visual presentation.

## **EXPLORATORY** (not eligible for state fair)

### **Exploratory** - Welcome to 4-H - Required

Youth ages 8 - 10 may exhibit a display on one of the following topics from the project book:

- Windowsill gardening; OR
- 4-H animals; OR
- 4-H family; OR
- Coat of arms

### **Collectibles** - My Favorite Things (Collectibles) - Required

Bring your completed project book and your collection or examples of your collection (if it's too large to bring) with pictures of total collection, OR an exhibit or poster illustrating one feature of the project.

## **FAMILY HERITAGE**

### **Family Heritage** (SF 50197)

Due to space restrictions, exhibits are limited to 36" x 48" and 15" deep

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. Please note: Exhibits are entered at 4-H'ers own risk. 4-H is not responsible for loss or damage to family heirloom items or any items in this division.

## **FOODS & NUTRITION**

### **COOKING 101-401**

Exhibitors should choose only one level of Cooking and prepare an exhibit for only one of the classes per level. No ingredient additions or substitutions should be made to the recipes, unless they are to accommodate food allergies, sensitivities, or special diets (i.e. nut allergy, gluten intolerance, vegetarian/vegan diet, etc.). If you make changes to the recipe due to the reasons listed above, bring a copy of the recipe with your changes and be prepared to discuss them with the judge. All exhibits should be displayed on a disposable plate (or pie tin for 401) placed in a zip-sealing plastic bag. Due to space limitations, all documents should be no larger than an 8 ½" x 11" binder/folder. All required recipes, activities, and experiments are available to download for free. Youth interested in exhibiting a food item from the project book not already listed as a class, making changes to the provided recipes, or exhibiting a display related to information in the project manual should investigate the Foods Innovation class.

### **4-H Cooking 101** - Manual Required

([go.illinois.edu/Cooking101Recipes](http://go.illinois.edu/Cooking101Recipes)) ([go.illinois.edu/Cooking101Activity](http://go.illinois.edu/Cooking101Activity))

**Cereal Bars** (SF 50200a) - 3 cereal marshmallow bars

**Coffeecake** (SF 50200b) - ¼ of 8" square or round coffeecake

**Cookies** (SF 50200c) - 3 cookies

Using the recipes in the project manual, prepare an exhibit for one of the classes above. No icing should be on any products. In addition to your food exhibit, complete the What's on Your Plate? Activity on pages 10-11 in the project manual. Bring a document with printed pictures of your 3 or more plates and the answers to questions 1-7 to remain on display with your project. The words on the plates must be legible and clearly visible in the picture.

#### **4-H Cooking 201 - Manual Required**

([go.illinois.edu/Cooking201Recipes](http://go.illinois.edu/Cooking201Recipes)) ([go.illinois.edu/Cooking201Activity](http://go.illinois.edu/Cooking201Activity))

**Biscuits** (SF 50201a) - 3 rolled biscuits

**Scones** (SF 50201b) - 3 scones

**Nut Bread** (SF 50201c) - ½ loaf (9" x 5") of basic nut bread (no variations)

Using the recipes in the project manual prepare an exhibit for one of the classes above. In addition to your food exhibit, complete the activity on page 91 of the project manual (Experiment with Meal Planning). Bring either page 91 with your completed answers or a document with the answers to remain on display with your project along with a picture of the meal you prepared. You do not need to complete the Challenge Yourself section on page 91.

#### **4-H Cooking 301 - Manual Required**

([go.illinois.edu/Cooking301Recipes](http://go.illinois.edu/Cooking301Recipes)) ([go.illinois.edu/Cooking301Experiments](http://go.illinois.edu/Cooking301Experiments))

**Dinner Rolls** (50202a) - 3 dinner rolls

**Yeast Bread** (50202b) - loaf of yeast bread

**Tea Ring** (50202c) - 1 tea ring

**Sweet Rolls** (50202d) - 3 basic sweet dough rolls

**Cake** (50202e) - one layer of a rich white cake or rich chocolate cake, top side up (without frosting)

Using the recipes in the project manual, prepare an exhibit for one of the classes below. If icing is used on the tea ring or sweet rolls, the recipe for the icing must also come from the book. The yeast bread/roll dough may be prepared in a bread making machine; however prepared mixes are not permitted. In addition to your food exhibit, complete one experiment: Experiment with Flour p. 33-34, Experiment with Kneading p. 35-36, Experiment with Yeast p. 37-38 or 39, Experiment with Butter p. 62-63 or Experiment with Cheese p. 104-105. Bring a document with a printed picture of your experiment and the answers to the experiment questions to remain on display with your project.

#### **4-H Cooking 401 - 4-H Cooking 401 - Required** ([go.illinois.edu/Cooking401Recipes](http://go.illinois.edu/Cooking401Recipes))

**Focaccia Bread** (50203a) - ¼ of a 15" x 10" loaf of focaccia bread (do not include dipping oil)

**Pie Shell** (50203b) - one baked pie shell - traditional, oil, or whole wheat (no graham cracker)

**Sponge Cake** (50203c) - ¼ golden sponge cake, top side up, without frosting

**French Bread** (50203d) - ½ loaf French bread

Using the recipes included in the project manual, prepare an exhibit for one of the classes below. In addition to your food exhibit, pick one of the recipes from Cooking 401 that is not a choice for exhibit. Make the recipe and take a picture of the results. Bring a document with a printed picture of the food you made from the recipe and the answers to the following two questions: 1.) If you made this recipe again, what would you do differently? 2.) What did you learn that can help you in other ways besides preparing food?

#### **FOOD PRESERVATION**

Prepare an exhibit using ONE of the following food preservation methods: canning; drying; pickles/relishes; jams, jellies and preserves OR a combination of these (see Preservation Combination option below). Be sure to review all of the Food Preservation rules that follow the class list so you can follow all exhibit requirements. Youth interested in exhibiting a food

item not listed below, making changes to the provided recipes, or exhibiting a display related to information in the project manual should investigate the Foods Innovation class. Freezing exhibits, including freezer jams, should be entered in Foods Innovation.

### **Fruits/Vegetables (SF 50209a)**

The exhibit should include two different canned foods in appropriate jars for the products. Food may be fruit, vegetable, or tomato product (i.e. salsa, juice, etc.).

### **Drying (SF 50209b)**

Exhibit two (2) different dried foods packed in plastic food storage bags. Choose from fruit, vegetable, fruit leather or meat jerky.

### **Pickles and Relishes (SF 50209c)**

Exhibit two (2) pint jars of different recipes of pickles and/or relishes made from produce.

### **Jams, Jellies, and Preserves (SF 5020d)**

Exhibit two (2) half-pint jars of two different jams, jellies, and/or preserves. Freezer jams are not permitted.

### **Preservation Combination (SF 50208e)**

Exhibit two (2) different preserved food products from two different categories above, in appropriate jars/packaging (Drying). For example, exhibit 1 jar of tomatoes (Fruits/Vegetables) and 1 half-pint of jelly (Jams, Jellies, and Preserves).

## **EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS**

All preserved products should be prepared and processed according to the current USDA/ Extension information. USDA information on preserving food, including recipes, can be found at: [www.homefoodpreservation.com](http://www.homefoodpreservation.com) or <https://extension.illinois.edu/food-preservation/food-preservation>.

Canned recipes must be processed in a water-bath or pressure canner. Per the 4-H general show rules, entries must be produced (preserved) this 4-H year (between September 1, 2025 and August 31, 2026).

Exhibits must be labeled with: The name of the food; The date preserved; Appropriate method(s) of food preservation

Examples:

- Strawberry jam, boiling water bath. July 13, 2026.
- Green beans, pressure canner. July 13, 2026.
- Beef jerky, food dehydrator and oven. July 13, 2026.

All food preservation exhibits must be accompanied with the recipe(s) – typed or written, with the source of the recipe(s) listed. Required recipes and sources for food preservation exhibits – all food preservation recipes must be from an approved source. Those sources are:

- PUT IT UP! Food Preservation for Youth website or manuals
- National 4-H Home Food Preservation Project Manuals
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- National Center for Home Food Preservation
- Ball/Kerr Canning (recipes after 1985)
- Mrs. Wages

DO NOT BRING RECIPES FROM: Magazine or newspaper clippings, Pinterest (unless it is from a source listed above), a recipe from a family member or friend without a source, cookbooks (excluding the Ball, Kerr, Put It Up!, and 4-H Home Food Preservation books).

## **CANNING EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

All canned products must be canned in clear, standard jars in good condition (no chips or

cracks). Jars must be sealed using two-piece canning lids (flat lid and band). Must use a new, unused flat lid. Bands must not be rusty or severely worn.

## **FOOD SCIENCE**

The Chicagoland Food Science Foundation will be providing a \$50 Amazon Gift Card to the overall Food Science winner in each county.

### **Science Fun with Dairy Foods (SF 50207) Science Fun with Dairy Foods – Required**

Prepare a display, digital presentation, or poster on one of the activities you completed from the manual. Share 1) the topic you investigated; 2) process used to conduct the experiment; 3) results and observations; 4) what you learned; and 5) how you have applied this information. You must furnish any equipment you need for the exhibit. Internet service is not provided. Be ready to answer questions about how you shared this information with others. Examples include talks and demonstrations and hosting or assisting with a workshop. Be sure to bring your completed project guide for others to see and for you to share as needed during the conference judging.

### **Science Fun with Kitchen Chemistry (SF 50208) Science Fun with Kitchen Chemistry – Required**

Prepare a display, digital presentation, or poster on one of the activities you completed from the manual. Share 1) the topic you investigated; 2) process used to conduct the experiment; 3) results and observations; 4) what you learned; and 5) how you have applied this information. You must furnish any equipment you need for the exhibit. Internet service is not provided. Be ready to answer questions about how you shared this information with others. Examples include talks and demonstrations and hosting or assisting with a workshop. Be sure to bring your completed project guide for others to see and for you to share as needed during the conference judging.

### **What's on Your Plate, Exploring Food Science 1-4 (SF 50204) What's on Your Plate? Unit 1-4 Youth Science Journal – (Choose appropriate Level) - Required**

Prepare a display, digital presentation, or poster on one of the food science experiments from the manual that you completed. Share 1) the food science question you investigated; 2) process used to conduct the experiment; 3) results and observations; 4) what you learned; and 5) how you have applied this information. You must furnish any equipment you need for the exhibit. Internet service is not provided. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation. Electronic equipment will only be used during your judging time and will not remain on display during the exhibit period. Be sure to bring your completed project guide for others to see and for you to share as needed during the conference judging.

### **Global Gourmet (SF 50205) Global Gourmet – Required**

Prepare a display, digital presentation, or poster exhibit that demonstrates the knowledge and understanding gained through the completion of the Global Gourmet project. Your exhibit should include at least two activities to highlight what you learned from completing this project. Be ready to answer questions about how you shared the information you learned with others. Examples include talks and demonstrations and hosting or assisting with a workshop. Be sure to bring your completed project guide for others to see and for you to share as needed during the conference judging.

### **Kitchen Boss (SF 50206) Kitchen Boss – Required**

Prepare a display, digital presentation, or poster exhibit that demonstrates the knowledge and understanding gained through the completion of the Kitchen Boss Gourmet project. Your exhibit should include at least two activities to highlight what you learned from completing this project. Be ready to answer questions about how you shared the information you learned

with others. Examples include talks and demonstrations and hosting or assisting with a workshop. Be sure to bring your completed project guide for others to see and for you to share as needed during the conference judging.

### **Foods Innovation Class (SF 50211)**

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through the project. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original recipes, results of experiments not in the foods project books, variations on recipes or experimenting with unique cooking or baking methods. Your work can be displayed by a food product, demonstrations, digital presentations, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. Your exhibit should not fit in the other exhibit options for this project. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period. If you bring a food product, the food will NOT be tasted.

## **FORESTRY**

### **Forests of Fun 1 (SF 50212) Level 1: Follow the Path – Required**

Exhibit any product or display illustrating an activity from the book. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

### **Forests of Fun 2 (SF 50213) Level 2: Reach for the Canopy – Required**

Exhibit any product or display illustrating an activity from the book. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

### **Forests of Fun 3 (SF 50214) Level 3: Explore the Deep Woods – Required**

Exhibit any product or display illustrating an activity from the book. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

### **Forestry Innovation Class (SF 50215)**

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through your Forestry project. Exhibit may be the result of knowledge gained from project manuals; independent study, interaction with natural resource or conservation professionals. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows

what you've learned. Your exhibit should not fit in the other exhibit options for this project. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

## **GEOLOGY**

The size and number of exhibit cases should relate appropriately to the number of specimens being displayed for a specified class. Specimens are not limited to Illinois locations. All levels of Geology use the same manual, *Geology-Introduction to the Study of the Earth*. Do not identify your specimens any further than phylum and class. There is one exception to this for fossils that are identified to phylum OR class. Class identification should only be used for fossils of mollusks, back-boned animals, and arthropods.

### **Pebble Pups 1 (SF 50218)**

Display 8 to 19 rocks and mineral specimens with 3 minerals in the collection. Collection may include duplications that show variations. Label collection and note where found. For youth exhibiting the same collection over multiple years, at least 25% of the specimens in the collection must have been collected in the current 4-H year.

### **Pebble Pups 2 (SF 50219)**

Display at least 20, but no more than 29, rocks and mineral specimens with 7 minerals in the collection. Collection may include duplications that show variations. Label collection and note where found. For youth exhibiting the same collection over multiple years, at least 25% of the specimens in the collection must have been collected in the current 4-H year.

### **Rock Hounds 1 (SF 50220)**

Display at least 30, but no more than 40, rocks and mineral specimens with 10 minerals in the collection. Rocks should include at least three igneous, two metamorphic, and three sedimentary groups. Label collection and note where found. For youth exhibiting the same collection over multiple years, at least 25% of the specimens in the collection must have been collected in the current 4-H year.

### **Rock Hounds 2 (SF 50221)**

Display no more than 50 specimens that have been selected to illustrate a specific theme of the exhibitor's choosing. Be creative. Sample categories could include (but are not limited to): industrial minerals and their uses; a specific rock group and the variety that occurs in that group, including some minerals that occur in that environment; select fossils traced through the geologic ages; minerals and their crystal habits; rocks and minerals used in the lapidary arts.

### **Geology Innovation Class (SF 50222)**

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through the Geology project. Exhibit may be the result of knowledge gained from project manuals; independent study about Illinois rock(s) and mineral(s), interaction with geology professionals; and/or individual exploration in the area of geology. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. Your exhibit should not fit in the other exhibit options for this project. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display.

# HEALTH

Display boards should be no larger than 36" x 48" and 15" deep.

All display boards must include a reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving credit to the original author. This reference list should/might include website links, people and professionals interviewed, books, magazines, etc. This reference list should be attached to the back of a poster or display board or included as part of the display visible to the public. A judge is not to discredit an exhibit for the way references are listed.

Exhibits should include the completed project manuals. Live demonstrations of physical activity may also be included. Do not bring food made using the recipes but consider adding pictures of the completed recipes to the exhibit. Youth must furnish any equipment needed for the exhibit. Internet service is not provided. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation. Electronic equipment will only be used during the judging time and will not remain on display during the exhibit period. Be prepared to answer questions about how information learned was shared with others. Examples include talks and demonstrations and hosting or assisting with a workshop.

## **Everyday Food and Fitness (SF 50226) Everyday Food and Fitness – Required**

Prepare a display, digital presentation, or poster exhibit that demonstrates the knowledge and understanding gained through the completion of the Everyday Food and Fitness project. The exhibit should include at least two activities to highlight what was learned from completing this project. Live demonstrations of physical activities may be included. Do not bring food made using the recipes but consider adding pictures of the completed recipes to your exhibit.

## **Sports Nutrition: Ready, Set, Go (SF 50228) Sports Nutrition: Ready, Set, Go – Required**

Prepare a display, digital presentation, or poster exhibit on one of the completed activity chapters in the manual. The activity chapters are listed by page number in the table of contents. The exhibit should include, at minimum, information on one physical fitness component and one food/recipe component from the activity chapter.

- Example A: Make a video practicing flexibility, strength and endurance physical fitness activities and making pasta salad with different vegetable, pasta and dressing ideas. Bring a screenshot and brief description of the video to leave on display.
- Example B: Make a poster of pictures of flexibility, strength and endurance physical fitness activities and information on the results of making the spinach and mandarin orange salad. Include answers to the questions in the book.

## **Your Feelings Matter – Navigating Mental Health (SF 50229) Your Feelings Matter Guide – Required**

Prepare a display, digital presentation, or poster exhibit that demonstrates the knowledge and understanding gained through the completion of the Your Feelings Matter Member Project Guide. The exhibit should include at least two activities to highlight what was learned from completing this project.

## **Your Thoughts Matter – Navigating Mental Health (SF 50230) Your Thoughts Matter Guide – Required**

Prepare an exhibit that demonstrates the knowledge and understanding gained through completion of the Your Thoughts Matter Member Project Guide. Exhibit the following 1) a poster or display that highlights activities and knowledge gained as any two of activities 1 – 9 included in the curriculum were completed; AND 2) the item created in Activity 10 - the flyer, website, video, or other promotional tool that points individuals to the resources found.

### **Health Innovation Class (SF 50227)**

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through the Health project. The exhibit should not fit in the other exhibit options for this project. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what was learned.

## **HORTICULTURE: FLORICULTURE**

### **FLORAL DESIGN**

The art of arranging flowers and plant materials in a creative and visually pleasing way. Learn about color, balance, and shape while making beautiful arrangements for a variety of occasions. Flowers used can be purchased or harvested by the exhibitor.

#### **Round Arrangement (SF 50111)**

Exhibit a round fresh flower arrangement no larger than 12"x12"x15". Arrangement should be viewable from any side.

#### **Wearable Flowers (SF 50112)**

Exhibit a wearable fresh flower arrangement such as a corsage, boutonniere, pocket square flowers, floral crown, or other. The piece should demonstrate skills in wiring or gluing flowers appropriately.

#### **Wedding Bouquet (SF 50113)**

Exhibit a fresh wedding or special event bouquet at least 8" in diameter. A bouquet can be hand-tied or created using a foam holder. The bouquet should be finished and ready for use by the bride. The bouquet should be displayed in a clear vase with water accessible to the stems (if not in a foam holder).

#### **Centerpiece Display: Live activity (SF 50114)**

Exhibitor must make two arrangements suitable for use as a centerpiece(s) within one hour in front of the judge. Arrangements can be made from fresh and/or dried materials. No silks are permitted. The centerpiece should follow a cohesive theme. Final arrangements must fit on a tabletop and not exceed 2.5 ft x 2.5 ft. Exhibitors are not allowed to interact with anyone other than the judge and superintendent during the judging process. The judge may choose to ask the exhibitor about their process and other questions during the design time. The exhibitor is responsible for furnishing their own flowers, containers, and other supplies. Exhibitor is responsible for cleaning up their workspace at the end of judging. Table will be provided.

### **ORNAMENTAL DISPLAYS**

#### **Fairy Garden (SF 50124)**

Create an artistic mini garden of plants, flowers and/or herbs. Explain the process you utilized to prepare your fairy garden. Label your plants by name and explain how the plants were chosen to fit the theme. Fairy gardens must not exceed 18" x 18" x 18". Exhibitor responsible for transporting the planter to indoor judging space.

#### **Outdoor Mixed Planter (SF 50125)**

Display a mixed planter that may include herbs with foliage plants and/or flowering plants. The planter should include three or more kinds of plants. Include a list of the names and varieties of all plants used. The container exhibit space must be larger than 18"x18" and not exceed 3' x 3'. Exhibitor responsible for transporting the planter to indoor judging space.

### **Indoor Mixed European Planter (SF 50126)**

Display a mixed European planter (mostly green plants/ house plants). The planter should include three or more kinds of plants. Include a list of the names and variety of all plants used. The container exhibit space must not exceed 18" x 18" x 24". Exhibitor responsible for transporting the planter to indoor judging space.

### **Closed Terrarium (SF 50127)**

Create a terrarium. Selected plants should be started by the exhibitor from cuttings or seeds, or purchased plugs. The terrarium must be cared for by the exhibitor for at least 5 months. Exhibitor should be able to explain the different plant, soil, and environmental needs and watering requirements of a closed system. The container exhibit space must not exceed 18" x 18" x 24". Exhibitor responsible for transporting the planter to indoor judging space.

### **Ornamental Poster (SF 50128)**

Poster explaining the process of creating a terrarium/mini garden/or other related topic.

## **LANDSCAPE DESIGN**

Recommended for ages 14 and up.

### **Small Landscape Design (SF 50115)**

Develop a landscape design/drawing for a 10'x15' garden bed. Hand drawing is to be completed in top view (plan view) at a 1 in = 1 ft scale. Plan must include a title block showing: designer, scale, north arrow, sun exposure, numbered plant list of plants and shrubs/trees, and how many of each plant were used. Example: 1-Rose (6), 2-Hydrangea (3). The bed can be designed for a sunny, part-sun, or shady application.

### **Large Landscape Design (SF 50116)**

Develop a color landscape design/drawing for a residence using required basemap. Residence basemap drawing will be provided for youth via the state 4-H website. Hand drawing is to be completed in top view (plan view) at a 1 in = 10 ft scale. Drawing must include 2 hardscape elements. Walkways should be 3 - 5 ft wide. Plan must include a title block showing: designer, scale, north arrow, sun exposure, numbered plant list of plants and shrubs/trees, and how many of each plant were used. Example: 1-Rose (6), 2-Hydrangea (3). The bed can be designed for a sunny, part-sun, or shady application.

## **FLOWER PRESERVATION**

### **Posterboard - Dry/Preserve Flowers (SF 50122)**

Create a display focusing on an aspect of drying/preserving flowers. Topics may include, but are not limited to, different drying/preserving methods, tools used in preservation, experiments you completed & results.

### **Artistic Display - Dried Flowers/Herbs (SF 50123)**

Create an artistic display using dried flowers or herbs. The dried material used must have been dried by the exhibitor. Be prepared to discuss the drying process behind your piece.

## **PLANT PROPAGATION**

### **Photo Collage (SF 50117)**

Create a photo collage or a collection of pictures of flowers that you have raised. Label your flowers by name and tell if you started with a seed, cutting, or transplants. Mount pictures on a poster board.

## **Cut Flower Specimens (SF 50118)**

4-H members must bring 3 containers, each featuring a different flower variety.

Each container must include:

- 3 stems of the same flower variety (unless specimen list states otherwise)
- All stems must match in variety, color, shape, and size
- Keep natural foliage attached (foliage below waterline may be removed)
- Flowers must be grown by the exhibitor from seed, seedlings, bulbs, or rhizomes

### **Specimen List:**

Bachelor Buttons-3 stems

Celosia-3 plumes

Cleome-1 bloom

Cockscomb-1 bloom

Coneflower-3 stems

Dahlia-1 large bloom

Dahlia-3 small blooms

Daisy-3 blooms

Gladiola-1 spike

Lilies-1 stalk- Remove 1/3 of the foliage before exhibiting.

Marigold (dwarf)-3 stems

Marigold (large)-3 stems

Petunia (double)-3 stems

Petunia (single)-3 stems

Phlox-1 stalk

Rose-1 bloom

Rudbeckia-3 stems

Snap Dragons-3 stems

Sunflower-1 bloom

Zinnia (large)-3 stems

Zinnia (small)-3 stems

Other small bloom (not listed above)-3 stems or 3 blooms

Other large bloom (not listed above)-1 stems or 1 blooms

## **Propagated Plants Cuttings/Layer/Division/Seed (SF 50119)**

Exhibit a plant that you propagated from cuttings, layering, or division, or started from seed. Create a photo board showing the progression of growth. Tips for vegetative propagation of houseplants can be found in the University of Illinois Extension Gardener's Corner ([go.illinois.edu/gardenerscorner](http://go.illinois.edu/gardenerscorner)). Any type of house plant or outdoor plant is appropriate here.

## **Forced Bulbs (SF 50120)**

Create an exhibit of forced bulbs in a pot. Bulbs should be budding out or in bloom at the time of the exhibition.

## **Plant Propagation Poster (SF 50121)**

Poster on a topic related to plant propagation. Such as: Kinds of propagation, propagation methods, etc.

## **INNOVATION**

### **Floriculture Innovation (SF 50129)**

Present an exhibit of the member's choice that focuses on some aspect of floriculture that does not fit in the categories above. The exhibit may include, but is not limited to, dish gardens, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters that you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

## **HORTICULTURE: VEGETABLES, HERBS & FRUITS**

All exhibits must have been grown by the exhibitor as part of their current gardening 4-H project. Exhibitors should be knowledgeable about various aspects of the produce, including but not limited to different varieties, soil testing, fertilizers used, etc. Exhibits should be

prepared according to the Illinois Vegetable Garden Guide: [go.illinois.edu/4HVegetableGuide](http://go.illinois.edu/4HVegetableGuide). Waxes and oils may not be used on vegetables or fruits. Any plant infested with insects will be removed from the exhibit area and will not be eligible for champion awards. Gardening information can be found at [extension.illinois.edu/gardening](http://extension.illinois.edu/gardening).

### **Herb Container Display (SF 50313)**

Herbs should be grown in pots (8" maximum diameter). Categories: Mint, Oregano, Rosemary, Sage, Thyme, and all other herbs. Herbs should be labeled with common and Latin names. Herbs should be in your care for a minimum of three months for state fair exhibits. Remove dead leaves from plants and check that the soil is clear of debris such as dead leaves. When exhibiting herb plants, be sure to grow the plants in the container to be displayed to avoid transplant shock. Exhibits will be evaluated based on cleanliness, uniformity, condition, quality, and trueness to variety. Additional herb resources are located on the project resources section of the Illinois 4-H website.

- Display must include 4 or more different kinds of herbs. There may not be more than 2 different varieties of any herb. For example, peppermint and chocolate mint would be classified as two different herb varieties.
- In instances where containers display more than one variety of herb, special care should be taken that each distinct variety is accessible and clearly visible to the judges to ensure full points for cleanliness.

### **Vegetable/Fruit Display (SF 50314)**

- This class is allowed a 2'6" x 2'6" space for each display.
- Display must include 6 or more different kinds of vegetables or fruits. There may not be more than 2 different varieties of any vegetable/fruit. For example, red and white potatoes would be classified as two different varieties. Acorn squash and zucchini would be classified as two different vegetables.
- The number and type of vegetables/fruits used must conform to the Vegetable/Fruit Plate/Display List. Fruit Plate list is below Vegetable Plate list.
- Exhibitors must provide the name and variety of all vegetables/fruits used. (i.e. Cabbage – Golden Acre; Cucumber, slicing – Straight Eight; Tomatoes, slicing – Rocky Top; Snap Beans – Contender, etc.).

### **Vegetable Gardening Display - Other (SF 50316)**

Present an exhibit of the member's choice that focuses on some aspect of vegetable gardening which does not fit in the other categories. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

### **VEGETABLE & FRUIT PLATES**

- Exhibitors must provide the name and variety of all vegetables or fruits used. (i.e. Cabbage – Golden Acre; Cucumber, slicing – Straight Eight; Tomatoes, slicing – Rocky Top; Snap Beans – Contender, etc.).
- Number of vegetables or fruits on plates must conform to plate lists below.
- Only one variety on each plate.
- An exhibitor cannot show two plates of the same type of vegetables or fruits. (i.e.: Cannot exhibit red and white potatoes or zucchini and straightneck summer squash; Cannot exhibit Gala & Jonathan Apples, Mazzard & Gisela Cherries, etc.)
- When selecting vegetables or fruit, keep in mind the judge will evaluate based on cleanliness, uniformity, condition, quality, and trueness to variety

### **Vegetable Plates (SF 50315)**

Use produce only from the list labeled "Vegetable List". Include 2 single vegetable plates. (Exhibitor will furnish the disposable plates.)

### **Fruit Plates (SF 50317)**

Fruit will be judged for the stage of maturity normal for that season and growing location. Use only the list labeled "Fruit List". Include 2 single fruit plates. (Exhibitor will furnish the disposable plates.)

**Vegetable List** - Lists are provided by UI Extension Horticulturists; Items are listed according to the correct definition of vegetables.

Asparagus (5 spears)	Parsnips (5)
Beans, Lima (12 pods)	Peas, (12 pods)
Beets (5)	Peppers, large fruited (bell/banana) (5)
Broccoli (1 head)	Peppers, small fruited (chili/cherry) (12)
Brussels sprouts (12 sprouts)	Popcorn (5)
Cabbage (1 head)	Potatoes (any variety) (5)
Cauliflower (1 head)	Pumpkin (1)
Carrots (5)	Rhubarb, trimmed stalks (3)
Cucumber, pickling or slicing (5)	Rutabaga (5)
Eggplant (1)	Salsify (5)
Garlic (5)	Squash, summer (any variety) (3)
Kohlrabi (5)	Sweet corn, in husks (5)
Lettuce (1 head or plant)	Tomatoes, slicing (5)
Muskmelon incl. cantaloupe (1)	Tomatoes, small fruited (12)
Okra (12)	Turnip (5)
Onions, large, dry (5)	Watermelon (1)
Onions, green or set (12)	
Squash, winter (Acorn, butternut, buttercup, spaghetti, Hubbard, Turks's Turban) (1)	
Beans, Snap, Green Pod or Golden Wax (12 pods)	
Greens (collard, endive, escarole, kale, mustard, spinach, Swiss chard) (1 plant)	
Horseradish Root (1 marketable root specimen harvested this year)	

**Fruit List** - Lists are provided by UI Extension Horticulturists; Items are listed according to the correct definition of fruits.

Apples - 5	Wild Plums - 1 pint
Grapes - 2 bunches	Pears - 5
Strawberries (Everbearers) - 1 pint	
Other Small Fruit or Berries (Do not duplicate entries from the above fruits) - 1 pint	
Other Fruits or Nuts (Do not duplicate entries from the above fruits) - 5	

## **INTERCULTURAL**

Due to space restrictions, exhibits are limited to 36" X 48" and 15" deep.

### **PASSPORT TO THE WORLD**

Exhibits might include topics such as geography, economy, agriculture, people, language, housing, culture, music, crafts, clothing, environment, or holidays. Exhibits can focus on one or two topics in depth or cover more topics in brief. Exhibit should be educational in nature and should not promote one's beliefs over another person's beliefs. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for

your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period. Tips on creating an engaging display board are available at [go.illinois.edu/4HDisplayTips](http://go.illinois.edu/4HDisplayTips). In addition to their display, youth should bring a copy of their Passport to the World project manual to judging. Sections of the book related to what they focus on in their display should be completed.

**Passport to the World, Individual (SF 50233a) Passport to the World – Required** 📖

Prepare a display illustrating what you have learned about a country. Judging should not include a planned presentation about the chosen country. Judging is meant to be a conversation between about the project and the learning experience.

**Passport to the World, Group (SF 50233b) Passport to the World – Required**  
Exhibit a display illustrating what your group has learned about a country. The display must be accompanied by three to ten 4-H members at the time of judging. Groups of more than 10 members must ask for accommodation, one week prior to judging. Group members should prepare a short (5 min. max.) presentation about their learning experience. The presentation should focus on key concepts learned and takeaways. All group members present for judging should be able to discuss the project and answer questions. Only the group members who are judged will receive ribbons/premiums.

## **DIVERSITY & CULTURAL AWARENESS**

**Diversity & Cultural Awareness, Individual (SF 50234a) Diversity: The Source of Our Strength – Required** 📖

Create a display or binder portfolio that illustrates the results of a minimum of three (3) completed activities from the project book.

**Diversity & Cultural Awareness, Group (SF 50234b) SEEING i2i Adventures – Required** 📖

Exhibit a display illustrating the steps that the group has completed on the project selected for the year, including reflection on activities completed. Include a written outline or report of accomplishments and future goals. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what the group members have learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period. The display must be accompanied by at least 3 or no more than 10 4-H members at the time of the judge's critique. Groups wishing to include more than 10 members must ask for an accommodation, one week prior to judging. Group members should make a 5-7-minute presentation to the judge. All group members present for the judge's critique should be able to discuss the project and answer questions. Only group members present for judging who participate in the actual critique and presentation are eligible for ribbons and premiums.

# INTERIOR DESIGN

All interior design levels (beginning, intermediate, and advanced) are required to provide visual documentation of their project process. This can include photos or videos showing the steps took to create, refinish, or redesign furniture items.

Any exhibit must have been created or redesigned by the exhibitor as part of their current Interior Design 4-H project. Exhibitors should be knowledgeable about various aspects of the project. Exhibits could include items such as, but not limited to, comparison studies of different products or techniques; made accessories, wall-hangings, window coverings, or furniture items; refinished or redesigned furniture; or a plan to solve some type of interior design problem

## **Design Decisions, Beginning** (SF 50242)

For members with 2 or less years of experience in project area or related experiences.

## **Design Decisions, Intermediate** (SF 50243)

For members with 3 to 4 years of experience in project area or related experiences.

## **Design Decisions, Advanced** (SF 50244)

For members with 5 or more years of experience in project area or related experiences.

## **Interior Design Innovation Class** (SF 50245)

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through the Interior Design project. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. Your exhibit should not fit in the other exhibit options for this project. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

# LEADERSHIP

Due to space limitations, exhibits are limited to 36" X 48" and 15" deep.

Each level should exhibit a binder portfolio with a minimum of four completed activities each year from the areas noted below. After the first year in the level, build upon your previous year's work. Photocopies or original pages of the completed activities from the book should be included in the portfolio. Members should advance to the next level after 3 years.

- First Year – One activity from each of the following sections: Understanding Self; Communication; and Getting Along with Others, plus one activity of exhibitor's choice from the manual.
- Second Year – One activity from each of the following sections: Getting Along with Others; Learning to Learn; and Making Decisions, plus one activity of exhibitor's choice from the manual.
- Third Year – One activity from each of the following sections: Making Decisions; Managing; and Working with Groups, plus one activity of exhibitor's choice from the manual.

## **Leadership 1** (SF 50249) Skills You Never Outgrow 1 – Required

Create a binder portfolio with a minimum of four (4) completed activities each year from the areas noted above. Build upon your previous year's work if this is your second or third year in the project level.

## **Leadership 2 (SF 50250) Skills You Never Outgrow 2 – Required**

Building upon your previous work, continue adding to your binder portfolio with a minimum of four (4) completed activities each year from the areas noted above.

## **Leadership 3 (SF 50251) Skills You Never Outgrow 3 – Required**

Building upon your previous work, continue adding to your binder portfolio with a minimum of four (4) completed activities each year from the areas noted above.

## **Leadership Innovation Class (SF 50252)**

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through the Leadership project. Your exhibit should not fit in the other exhibit options for this project. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

## **Leadership Group Exhibit (SF 50254)**

Exhibit a display illustrating how your group has used the Teens As Leaders model effectively in your club, community, school, or state. Leadership activities might include planning, advising, promoting, mentoring, teaching or advocating for change. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period. The display must be accompanied by at least 3 or no more than 10 4-H members at the time of the judge's critique. For a larger group please reach out to staff with an accommodation request at least one week prior to the exhibit event. Group members should make a 5- to 10-minute presentation to the judge. All group members present for the judge's critique should be able to discuss the project and answer questions. Only group members present for judging who participate in the actual critique and presentation are eligible for ribbons and premiums. More information on Teens as Leaders Model found here: [go.illinois.edu/4-HLeadershipModel](http://go.illinois.edu/4-HLeadershipModel)

## **MAKER**

### **Maker (SF 50400) [go.illinois.edu/DIYMakeBuild](http://go.illinois.edu/DIYMakeBuild) – Required**

Exhibits in this category are designed to be multi-disciplinary in nature, innovative, and must not fit into any other exhibit category. To qualify for this category, your project MUST abide by the following guidelines:

- Exhibitors must complete at least two activities in the DIY Make & Build Curriculum and answer all the questions at the end of each lesson. You must display your answers to these questions, as well as your Maker Log from the DIY Make and Build curriculum.
- Exhibits must be an object or device that has an intended purpose and uses technology in either a mechanical way, digital (computer) way, or combination of the two. Your device or object cannot be one of the included activities in the DIY Make and Build Curriculum.
- The device must be something that can be used in everyday life by multiple people (a target audience), and MUST be manufactured/built by the exhibitor (If not fully manufactured by the exhibitor, the device MUST be modified structurally or be reprogrammed to perform a different function other than what it was designed to do).
- Exhibits MUST be able to interact with the outside world. (e.g. an on off switch, input sensors, feedback, etc.)




- Exhibits **MUST** include a detailed build log with instructions on how to make or build the exhibit, **AND** contain either a 3D rendering or detailed and labeled sketches of the device/product.
- All parts and software used in the design/build **MUST** be listed in a detailed Bill of Materials including cost per item and total cost. Total time spent on the build must be documented in your build log.

In addition, exhibitors are **HIGHLY** encouraged to use tools such as 3-D printers, laser cutters, routers and/or other hand/power tools to help in the manufacturing process (NOTE: Simply 3-D printing or laser cutting an object without the other specifications does not qualify as a Maker Project). It is also **HIGHLY** encouraged that exhibits use Open Source software and/or hardware in the build.

## NATURE: FISH AND WILDLIFE

### SPORTFISHING

Exhibit a product or display made to complete an activity in the project manual. For safety reasons, lures must be placed in a plastic case.

- **Sportfishing 1** (SF 50260) Level 1: Take the Bait – Required  Exhibit could include, but is not limited to, displays on: different types of fishing tackle, identifying different baits and their uses (no actual bait, please) or identifying the anatomy of a fish.
- **Sportfishing 2** (SF 50261) Level 2: Reel in the Fun – Required  Exhibit could include, but is not limited to, displays on: different types of knots or rigs and their use; a collection of fishing lures, labeled with their use; or information on preparing and cooking fish (not recipes).
- **Sportfishing 3** (SF 50262) Level 3: Cast Into the Future – Required  Exhibit could include, but is not limited to, displays on: making artificial flies and lures; researching effects of water temperature; sportfishing careers; or identifying insects that fish eat.

### WILDLIFE

Exhibit any activity developed from the project manual and explain the importance of and concept behind the exhibit.

- **Wildlife 1** (SF 50263) Wildlife Science Level 1 Digital – Required 
- **Wildlife 2** (SF 50264) Wildlife Science Level 2 Digital – Required 
- **Wildlife 3** (SF 50265) Wildlife Science Level 3 Digital – Required 

### Fish and Wildlife Innovation Class (SF 50266)



Exhibit may be the result of knowledge gained from project manuals, independent study, and/or interaction with professionals. Your exhibit should not fit in the other exhibit options for this project. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided. Exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your judging time and will not be displayed.

## NATURE: NATURAL RESOURCES AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Electricity and water are **NOT** available for these displays. All displays should be comprised of non-living specimens properly prepared for display. You must furnish any equipment you need. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit.

## EXPLORING YOUR ENVIRONMENT

Exhibit any item, project, or display made as it relates to an activity in the project manual. Include your project manual that documents activity recordkeeping, your answers to activity questions, and details personal thoughts and ideas.

- **Exploring Your Environment 1** (SF 50257a) Exploring Your Environment - Ecosystem Services – Required   
The display should demonstrate an understanding of natural and/or manmade environments, how humans affect the environment, or how the environment affects our lives.
- **Exploring Your Environment 2** (SF 50257b) Exploring Your Environment – Earth’s Capacity – Required   
The display should demonstrate an understanding of one of the following: stewardship of natural resources, investigating greenhouse effects on living organisms, methods of reducing or managing waste in your home or community, or calculating your ecological footprint.

## Outdoor Adventures 1-3 (SF 50256)

Exhibit a display illustrating an activity completed from the project manual (Level 1: Hiking Trails, Level 2: Camping Adventures or Level 3: Backpacking Expeditions).

## Natural Resources or Outdoor Adventures Innovation Class (SF 50258)

Exhibit may be the result of knowledge gained from project manuals, independent study, and/or interaction with professionals. Your exhibit should not fit in the other exhibit options for this project. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display. Electronic equipment will only be used during your judging time and will not be displayed.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

ALL photos in exhibits must have been taken by the exhibitor. Photo/Model releases from individuals pictured in the exhibitor's photographs are required unless the photograph is of a group in a public place where identification would not be an issue. Metadata must be included on the back of the picture. The photo release and metadata tip sheet can be obtained at: [go.illinois.edu/PhotographyProject](http://go.illinois.edu/PhotographyProject). Photos may be taken with a camera, an electronic tablet (i.e. iPad), or a cell phone.

ALL photos must be accompanied by details of the camera settings that include:

- Camera/device used; Aperture (F-stop); Exposure time (shutter speed); ISO (film/sensor sensitivity); Lighting used (flash, artificial, sunlight, other); Lens Filters (Ultra-Violet, Polarizing, etc.) if used.

All exhibitors must include unframed (taped to the back of the framed exhibit or attached to the project booklet) original or un-edited versions of either the same subject or the examples of the same technique that the framed image represents. This will assist the judge in understanding the choices made by the photographer to build the exhibited composition.

NOTE: Images taken with devices that apply an automatic filter will not be eligible for award.

## Photography 1 (SF 50268) Level 1: Photography Basics – Required

Exhibit one framed photo (5"x7" OR 8" x 10") which demonstrates your understanding of a technique you learned from the project manual. No photo editing is allowed in this class except cropping and red eye removal. Be prepared to show the page in the manual of the technique you are demonstrating.

## **Photography 2 (SF 50269) Level 2: Next Level Photography – Required**

Exhibit one of the options listed below:

- Exhibit one framed 8" x 10" close-up photograph using the skills learned on pages 58-61(section: Bits and Pieces) of the project manual. No photo editing is allowed in this class except cropping and red eye removal. Be prepared to show the page in the manual of the technique you are demonstrating. OR
- Exhibit one framed 8" x 24" or smaller panorama photograph using the skills learned on pages 62-65(section: Panorama) of the project manual. No photo editing is allowed in this class except cropping and red eye removal. Be prepared to show the page in the manual of the technique you are demonstrating. OR
- Exhibit one framed 8" x 10" photo which demonstrates your understanding of a technique you learned from your Photography 2 project manual. No photo editing is allowed in this class except cropping and red eye removal. Be prepared to show the page in the manual of the technique you are demonstrating.

## **Photography 3 (SF 50270) Level 3: Mastering Photography – Required**

Exhibit one of the options listed below:

- Exhibit one framed 8" x 10" still-life photo that demonstrates good composition, including color, form, texture, lighting and depth of field. No photo editing is allowed in this class except cropping and red eye removal. Be prepared to show the page in the manual of the technique you are demonstrating. OR
- Exhibit one framed 8" x 10" photo which demonstrates your understanding of a technique you learned from your Photography 3 project manual. No photo editing is allowed in this class except cropping and red eye removal. Be prepared to show the page in the manual of the technique you are demonstrating.

## **Photo Editing (SF 50271)**

Exhibit one framed 8" x 10" photo that has been altered using digital photo-editing techniques (beyond cropping and red-eye reduction). Include a print of the original photo(s), taped to the back of the photo frame. Photos in which an automatic filter was applied at the time the photograph was taken will not be eligible for award.

Additional details to accompany photos for Photo Editing:

- Photo editing software/application used (required for ALL edits and retouches except for cropping)
- Filters used (lens filters and or digital/software filters)

Members are allowed to shoot on a camera's automatic setting but should be able to find the metadata information on the photo to discuss the information above.

# **PLANTS & SOILS**

## **Cover Crops (SF 50280)**

Exhibit an experimental or educational activity related to one experience from your project; OR prepare a display focusing on any activity related to the cover crops project. This could be related, but not limited, to plant growth & development, cover crop benefits, land management, sustainability, or other topics of interest to the member related to cover crops. A cover crop might include any plant that is sown in between primary production crops for the benefit of overall farm health rather than crop yield (examples: pennycress, clover, radish, annual ryegrass, etc.). The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

### **Plants & Soils 1 (SF 50281a) It's More Than Just Dirt – Required**

Prepare a 36" X 48" display or a poster no larger than 36" X 48" and 15" deep that illustrates an activity from the project manual. The display should demonstrate an understanding of environmental and internal factors that affect plant growth and the function and characteristics of soil. Include your project journal that documents activity recordkeeping requirements, answers activity questions, and details personal thoughts and ideas in response to each activity.

### **Plants & Soils 2 (SF 50281b) Stems and Stamens – Required**

Prepare a 36" X 48" display or a poster no larger than 36" X 48" and 15" deep that illustrates an activity from the project manual. The display should demonstrate an understanding of the composition of plants, the functions of individual plant parts, plant life cycles, and the many ways plants reproduce. Include your project journal that documents activity recordkeeping requirements, answers activity questions, and details personal thoughts and ideas in response to each activity.

### **Plants & Soils 3 (SF 50281c) Sprouting Out and Growing UP – Required**

Prepare a 36" X 48" display or a poster no larger than 36" X 48" and 15" deep that illustrates an activity from the project manual. The display should demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between soil and other cycles found in nature. Displays should also provide an example of a leadership or service learning experience focused on environmental stewardship. Include your project journal that documents activity recordkeeping requirements, answers activity questions, and details personal thoughts and ideas in response to each activity.

## **READY4LIFE**

### **Ready4Life Career (50366a). Open to 11- to 18-year-olds.**

Exhibits in this category must include the following: a) a physical representation of the career such as a model, prototype or display/portfolio that includes images of accomplished work; b) verbal or written explanations that demonstrate knowledge of the related career or business fields, potential careers, and the appropriate requirements for achievement in those fields. The judging criteria for this class values thoroughness of career exploration and pursuit above the workmanship of the physical specimen on display.

### **Ready4Life Entrepreneurship (50366b). Open to 11- to 18-year-olds.**

Exhibits in this category must include the following: a) a physical representation of the business product such as a model, prototype or display/portfolio that includes images of accomplished work; b) verbal or written explanations that demonstrate knowledge of the related business fields, potential business opportunities, and the appropriate requirements for achievement in those fields. The judging criteria for this class values thoroughness of the business exploration and pursuit above the workmanship of the physical specimen on display.

## **ROBOTICS**

### **ROBOTICS 1-3**

If applicable for their class and display, exhibitors must bring their own computers for demonstration purposes; computers will not be provided. Exhibits in Robotics 1 & 2 are designed to be used with LEGO Mindstorms (NXT, EV3, Lego Inventor, Lego Spike Prime).

- Any other programmable robot kit such as Arduino or Raspberry Pi, should be exhibited in Robotics 3 (50292).
- Members should bring their robot to the fair.

**Robotics 1 (SF 50285) Robotics 1 with EV3 or [go.illinois.edu/RoboticsActivities1](http://go.illinois.edu/RoboticsActivities1) – Required** 

Exhibitors will design, build and program a robot that uses at least one sensor to autonomously follow a path, respond to and/or avoid obstacles. The robot must be autonomous and cannot be controlled remotely. Exhibitors in this class must use at least one sensor in their robot design. Exhibiting youth must complete and display a build log which contains a diagram (drawing or 3D rendering) of their robot with each of the key components labeled, an explanation of why they made the design/programming decisions they made, and a short journal sharing what they learned about the engineering design process and programming throughout their work in the project (as well as while preparing the exhibit). In addition, each youth must bring their program code (on laptop or on paper), and their robot to demonstrate. The robot and obstacles must be able to fit on a 4' x 8' robotics table when being judged, and a 2' x 2' area when being displayed.

**Robotics 2 (SF 50286) Robotics 2: EV3 N More or [go.illinois.edu/RoboticsActivities2](http://go.illinois.edu/RoboticsActivities2) – Required** 

Exhibitors will design, build and program a robot that uses sensors and programming to complete two of the selected challenges from the 2025 4-H State Robotics Challenge. The robot must be autonomous and cannot be controlled remotely. Eligible challenges will be marked in the Challenge Documents and on the Illinois 4-H Robotics website ([go.illinois.edu/4HRoboticsProjectPage](http://go.illinois.edu/4HRoboticsProjectPage)). Exhibiting youth must complete and display a build log which contains a diagram (drawing or 3D rendering) of their robot with each of the key components labeled, an explanation of why they made the design/programming decisions they made, and a short journal sharing what they learned about the engineering design process and programming throughout their work on the project (as well as while preparing the exhibit). In addition, each youth must bring their program code (on laptop or on paper), and their robot to demonstrate. The robot and obstacles must be able to fit on a 4' x 8' robotics table when being judged, and a 2' x 2' area when being displayed.


**Robotics 3 (SF 50292) [go.illinois.edu/4HRoboticsProjectPage](http://go.illinois.edu/4HRoboticsProjectPage) – Required** 

Exhibit an original robot, either homemade or a kit that does not fall under Robotics 1 or 2 that can complete a task using MULTIPLE sensors. The robot must be autonomous, Text Based (Python, C etc.) and cannot be controlled remotely. If a robot kit is used, then some parts of the robot must be built using other components such as wood, plastic or metal. The robot can include any type of motors, pneumatics or sensors. This class can also be used for LEGO Mindstorms/Spike Prime, etc. or Vex kits where the exhibit does not fall under Robotics 1 or 2 exhibit options. Autonomous control of the robot may also be achieved using an “open source” platform such as Arduino or Raspberry Pi and can be programmed using a coding language that is publicly available. Exhibitors must complete and display a build log which contains a diagram (drawing or 3D rendering) of their robot with each of the key components labeled, an explanation of why they made the design/programming decisions they made, and a short journal sharing what they learned about the engineering design process and programming throughout their work in the project (as well as while preparing the exhibit). In addition, each youth must bring their program code (on laptop or on paper), and their robot to demonstrate. Exhibits in this class must be able to fit on no more than a 6' x 2' table (or ground footprint) and must be fully assembled 15 minutes prior to the judging start time. No exceptions.

**JUNK DRAWER ROBOTICS**

All exhibits should be original designs made with everyday objects and materials. Exhibits with purchased kits will not be accepted. Exhibitors are also required to bring their Junk Drawer Robotics Youth Robotics Notebook with the sections completed for the project they are exhibiting, including the sections leading up to the activity they are exhibiting. For example, if a youth is bringing Activity E from Junk Drawer Level 1, they should have Youth Robotics Notebook sections A-E completed. For Innovation Class, all sections should be completed for your level.

**Junk Drawer Robotics 1 (SF 50287) Junk Drawer Level 1: Give Robotics A Hand project book & Youth Robotics Notebook – Required** 📖

Exhibit any item from the “To Make” activity from the Junk Drawer Robotics Level 1 project book. Be sure all robotics notebook sections within the module being exhibited are filled in.

**Junk Drawer Robotics 2 (SF 50288) Junk Drawer Level 2: Robots on the Move project book & Youth Robotics Notebook – Required** 📖

Exhibit any item from the “To Make” activity from the Junk Drawer Robotics Level 2 Book. Be sure all robotics notebook sections within the module being exhibited are filled in.

**Junk Drawer Robotics 3 (SF 50289) Junk Drawer Level 3: Mechatronics project book & Youth Robotics Notebook – Required** 📖

Exhibit any item from the “To Make” activity from the Junk Drawer Robotics Level 3 Book. Be sure all robotics notebook sections within the module being exhibited are filled in.

**Junk Drawer Innovation Class (SF 50290) Junk Drawer project book from appropriate level & Youth Robotics Notebook – Required** 📖

This class is open to any youth in Junk Drawer Robotics 1, 2, or 3.

Exhibit any item that incorporates two or more activities into a single robot/machine to accomplish a task. There must be a clear task being accomplished with an end goal in mind. Feel free to think outside of the box as you find ways to combine the principles and mechanics to make something new. You will be judged on your creativity and ability to explain your design choices in addition to the construction and performance of your robot.

## **SERVICE LEARNING**

Due to space restrictions, exhibits are limited to 36” X 48” and 15” deep.

**Service Learning 1 (SF 50150a)**

Exhibit a binder portfolio to reflect what the exhibitor accomplished in the four steps of service learning. This should include researching the need of the community and steps taken to serve that need. If exhibitor has been enrolled in project for multiple years, the binder portfolio should include previous years’ work. Use of page protectors is recommended. A display board may accompany the portfolio.

**Service Learning 2 (SF 50150b)**

Exhibit a binder portfolio to reflect what the exhibitor accomplished in the four steps of service learning. This should include a walk-about to observe needs, assessment of needs and assets in your community, surveys/interviews conducted to identify needs and the solution. If exhibitor has been enrolled in project for multiple years (including Service Learning 1), the binder portfolio should include previous years’ work. Use of page protectors is recommended. A display board may accompany the portfolio.

**Service Learning Group Exhibit (SF 50149)**

Register community project at [go.illinois.edu/4HCommunityProjectRegistration](http://go.illinois.edu/4HCommunityProjectRegistration), additional resources located on site.

Exhibit should be educational in nature and should inform others of steps taken to engage group members in 1) identifying a local need, conducting a local needs assessment to find a need that is already visible in the community; 2) determine types of activities group members can/want to do; 3) List all of the activities, projects, or needs identified to review with group members; 4) create a plan and timeline for completing the service project (including-project goals; tasks involved; time commitment; permission needed from community stakeholders; a budget, a source for securing those funds; insurance needs; equipment and supplies; publicity;

potential partners if additional help is needed; a risk management plan; and a process for evaluating the project; 5) prepare for group members to engage in the service project which may include instruction on completing specific tasks and/or educating members on how the project will benefit the community; 6) complete the project; 7) documentation of service experience with photos, videos; or written reports; 8) once project is completed, reflect on success and/or challenges encountered during execution of the service project; consider what you might do differently in future service projects.

Create a display which will educate the public regarding the impact of the service project for both the community and the group members. The display must be accompanied by at least 3 but no more than 10 4-H members at the time of the judge's critique. Groups wishing to include more than 10 members must ask for an accommodation, at least one week prior to judging. Group members should make a 5-10 minute presentation for the judge. Group members should create a display which showcases the service project and the steps needed to complete it. Only group members present for the judging and who participate in the critique and presentation are eligible for ribbons and premiums.

## **SHOOTING SPORTS**

Participants must be a member of an approved 4-H Shooting Sports Club in ZSuite to exhibit. Age restrictions apply to the different Shooting Sports disciplines and apply to exhibits. All exhibits should be posters or stand-alone items suitable for display to the general public. Stand-alone items have the intent to enhance the discipline such as a quiver, gun case, gun sling, locking cabinet, gun or target stand, sporting clays equipment wagon, etc. Exhibits deemed to be inappropriate by a superintendent will not be displayed.

### **SHOOTING SPORTS DISPLAYS**

Exhibit a poster or stand-alone display depicting safe handling, range safety, the components, tracking the target, target sighting, or another topic you have learned through the 4-H Shooting Sports program. Make sure there are no safety violations in your display. (Example: no earplugs or safety glasses in a picture of a person shooting a firearm.)

**Archery Display** (SF 50380) - Ages 8-18.

**Rifle Display** (SF 50381) - Ages 8-18 (air rifle); ages 10-18 (smallbore rifle).

**Shooting Sports: Shotgun Display** (SF 50382) - Ages 10-18.

**Shooting Sports: Pistol Display** (SF 50384) - Ages 10-18 (air pistol); ages 12-18 (.22 caliber pistol).

Shooting Sports Displays have the following restrictions:

- No live ammunition.
- Sharp items, such as knives, field points, hunting broadheads, etc. may be included if displayed securely and enclosed to prevent handling; unsafe entries may be removed at staff discretion.
- No functional or non-functional bows, firearms or firearm parts that could be reassembled are allowed.
- No humanoid shaped targets or reference to paintball, laser tag, air-soft, or pointing of any type of firearm or bow toward another person is allowed.
- No display involving primarily tactical design firearms (i.e. AR platform or military type firearms).
- No reference or use of the word "weapon" should be used in a display.

## SMALL ENGINES

Small Engine displays must be no larger than 4' x 4' display board. Exhibits must be portable. No complete engines, lawn tractors, tillers, chainsaws, etc. are permitted for display. No electrical power is available for displays/exhibits.

### Small Engines (SF 50294)

Exhibit a display, selecting one of the following items:

- Ignition/Electrical System: Identify the parts of the Ignition System and explain how magnetic energy is produced through the ignition system to ignite the spark plug; OR
- Compression System: Explain how heat energy is produced and engine power is measured by an engine and/or converted into mechanical energy through transmissions; OR
- Heat Transfer: Explain how heat is transferred through the cooling and lubrication system of an air cooled or water cooled engine; OR
- Filter Maintenance: Explain the proper maintenance and cleaning of the air, fuel and oil filters of an engine; OR
- What does a serial number reveal?: Explain the various information that can be learned from the serial number or identification number stamped on the shroud of a Briggs & Stratton engine; OR
- Tools to do the job: Identify and explain the function(s) of different specialty tools needed for small engine work; OR
- Experimentation: Explain through illustration an experiment you conducted from the project manual showing the results of your work.

## THEATRE ARTS

### Theatre Arts 1 (SF 50299)

Exhibit one of the following items:

- Portfolio of acting activities completed during the current year. This should include at least 3 of the following: list of roles/performances, pictures or description of hair or makeup, pictures or description of a favorite costume, pictures or description of a particular set piece or prop, ticket stubs or marketing materials, playbill, description of audition process, highlights of acting skills honed (such as stage directions, auditioning, projection, diction, character development, physicality, vocal expression, facial expressions, memorization, understanding of how to read a script, ability to take direction, confidence, collaboration with scene partners etc.) Note: A video of performances is not considered a portfolio and will not be accepted for exhibit. OR
- Display illustrating a picture story developed by the exhibitor. Your picture story should include a minimum of 3 boxes with a character, problem, and solution. OR
- Write a personal monologue. Create a character, decide what your character wants, what are the obstacles, and create your character's thoughts and struggles.

### Theatre Arts 2 (SF 50300)

Exhibit one of the following items:

- Block a scene. Choose a scene from a published play and become the director. Clearly mark stage directions, blocking, entrances and exits, and any additional notes you would want to share with the actors. OR
- Write a scene. Create a scene that includes at least 2 characters, has an established setting, plot, and time, and include stage directions. OR
- Create a mask that either represents a character of your choice or models a mask from a given historical time period integral to the history of theatre.

### **Theatre Arts 3 (SF 50301)**

Exhibit one of the following items:

- Portfolio of activities for set design; make-up; or sound, props, or costuming completed during the current year. This should include pictures of activities, information on the show or performance, details on your involvement. OR
- Display that includes sound, props and costume charts appropriate for a selected scene from a story or play (limited to no more than 8 items). OR
- Display a scenic design model to depict a scene from a script; OR
- Display illustrating a character with make-up drawn or colored in. Include a photograph of a person wearing the make-up and information on the character's personality or part in the play.

### **Theatre Arts Innovation Class (SF 50302)**

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through Theatre Arts project. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. Your exhibit should not fit in the other exhibit options for this project. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

## **TRACTOR**

### **Tractor A (SF 50306) Level A: Starting Up – Required**

Exhibit a display or poster that illustrates one of the following topics: tractor safety; care and maintenance; the tractor as a valuable farm machine; or an activity listed in the 4-H project manual.

### **Tractor B (SF 50307) Level B: Tractor Operation – Required**

Exhibit a display or poster that illustrates one of the following topics: cause and prevention of rollovers; diagram how an air cleaner works; diagram and identify an engine cooling system; regulations for battery & oil disposal; or another activity listed in the 4-H project manual.

### **Tractor C (SF 50308) Level C: Moving Out – Required**

Exhibit a display or poster that illustrates one of the following topics: wagon and bin hazards; diagram and identify open and closed hydraulic systems; mower types and safety features; conveyor types and safety features; or another activity listed in the 4-H project manual.

### **Tractor D (SF 50309) Level D: Learning More – Required**

Exhibit a display or poster that illustrates one of the following topics: method of winterizing a tractor; chemical uses and required safety equipment; parts and process of internal combustion engine; procedure for cleaning and flushing tractor radiator; or another activity.

### **Tractor Innovation Class (SF 50310)**

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through the Tractor project. This could be related to, but not limited to, advancements in technology, enhancements to crop production, or a topic of interest to the member related to tractors or farm machinery. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. Your exhibit should not fit in the other exhibit options for this project. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display

during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

## **VETERINARY SCIENCE**

### **Veterinary Science 1 (SF 50320a)**

For youth enrolled in this project 1-2 years.

Prepare a display focusing on any activity related to the veterinary science project. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period. Live animals are not permitted as exhibits in this area. For safety reasons, exhibits cannot include glass, syringes with needles or any other sharp objects. Exhibits may include activities from Veterinary Science projects OR from any other Animal project area.

### **Veterinary Science 2 (SF 50320b)**

For youth enrolled in this project 3 or more years.

Prepare a display focusing on any activity related to the veterinary science project. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period. Live animals are not permitted as exhibits in this area. For safety reasons, exhibits cannot include glass, syringes with needles or any other sharp objects. Exhibits may include activities from Veterinary Science projects OR from any other animal project area.

## **VIDEO**

All Exhibitors must bring their video to be judged on a USB flash drive and saved in .MP4 format at the State Fair. Wireless Internet access is not necessarily available. Exhibitors are encouraged to post their video on YouTube.com in advance of State Fair. Exhibitors may choose whether to make the video "public, unlisted" (someone must have the link to view it), or "private" (only people you choose may view it). This will allow fairgoers to view the exhibits on display. There will be TV monitors at the exhibit table for viewing videos so exhibitors will NOT need to bring a laptop or device for viewing at the State Fair. However, at the county level, you need to bring your own device (including a way for your judge to hear your video) for viewing. All Video/Filmmaking exhibitors must include a printed copy of materials which will remain on display.

Requirements that apply to ALL video classes:

- Videos can be produced as an individual or a group of up to 5 members.
- Video submissions should be no longer than five (5) minutes in length (unless noted differently in class description).
- Videos are to be original and a result of the member's current year's work.
- Image and sound quality will be considered in relation to equipment available to and used by exhibitor.
- All videos should comply with copyright regulations and display an image that is appropriate for 4-H audiences.
- No time or date should be imprinted on the video footage.

- All videos should include an opening title screen, as well as closing credits which include date of production, name of video exhibitor and research sources if appropriate.
- All videos should include (1) Evidence of story line; (2) Use of camera angles; (3) Use of zooming techniques; and (4) Smoothness of scene changes.
- Photo/Model releases from individuals appearing in the videos are required unless the video is of a group in a public place where identification would not be an issue. Youth should have a signed model release for anyone appearing in the video besides themselves, and those should be brought to judging. Forms are available at [go.illinois.edu/modelrelease](http://go.illinois.edu/modelrelease).

### **Commercial or Promotional Video Individual (SF 50324a) Group (SF 50234b)**

Prepare a short video (30 seconds to 1 minute in length) that promotes an event, advertises a specific project/product, or is a public service announcement. The video should demonstrate skills in making and editing video.

### **Animated Video Individual (SF 50325a) Group (SF50325b)**

Video in this class should represent creative animation of original artwork created by the exhibitor and may include stop motion techniques. Media might include images created with graphics software or hand-drawn images.

### **Documentary Individual (SF 50326a) Group (SF 50326b)**

Video in this class should represent a research-based investigation into a topic of choice. Video credits should list research sources and may include paper or electronically published materials, as well as interviews with experts or constituents related to the topic of investigation.

### **Short Story or Short Narrative Individual (SF 50327a) Group (SF50327b)**

Prepare a short video that tells a story. The video should demonstrate skills in making and editing video.

### **Video/Filmmaking Innovation Class Individual (SF 50328a) Group (SF 50328b)**

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through the Video project. Your exhibit should not fit in the other exhibit options for this project. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

## **VISUAL ARTS**

Exhibitors are encouraged to date the project when it is made. Exhibitors must be able to carry or cart their exhibits across the fairgrounds from the parking lots. All visual arts exhibits are evaluated using a visual arts rubric, which considers correct use of design elements, craftsmanship, and creativity.

Articles exhibited must be an original design created by the exhibitor (except in Heritage Arts, which may follow a pattern). Copyrighted or trademarked designs are not acceptable; this includes team, school logos, and/or characters from movies such as Mickey Mouse, Iron Man, etc. Kits and preformed molds are not considered original and are not acceptable in any Visual Arts Class. Combining parts of different patterns (pictures, photographs, images from the internet or a magazine) with the member's own ideas can result in an original design,

but simply changing the color, pattern, and/or size of a pattern does NOT make the design original. This also applies to ideas found on a site such as Pinterest. If you see something on Pinterest that you like, you can use that idea as your inspiration; however, create something that is fundamentally different. It MUST NOT BE AN EXACT REPLICA OF something the judge can search for and find on Pinterest. The exhibit may combine parts of different patterns and/or ideas with the concepts of the member; however, changing the color or changing the size of the item or pattern used does NOT make it original. If you create an exact replica of what you see somewhere else, it is not your original design. If a photo, sketch, or other idea source was used, submit it with your entry, firmly attached to your exhibit. Be prepared to explain how and where you got the idea for this project.

When utilizing repurposed materials, source wisely to avoid materials from old furniture, painted wood, or metal objects that may contain lead-based paint. Items manufactured before 1978 are particularly risky. If you are unsure, lead testing kits to check painted surfaces are available at hardware stores. Consider safely stripping or sealing unknown paint with a non-toxic barrier to prevent exposure.

Quilts entered in Visual Arts should ONLY be entered in the Quilting Project area in either Level 1 You Can Quilt (SF 50331) OR Level 2 Quilting the Best Better (SF 50331). All work on the quilt MUST be completed by the 4-H member. You cannot exhibit a quilt that was quilted by someone else.

Unless otherwise noted, due to space limitations, projects should be no larger than 48" x 48".

### **Use of the 4-H Clover:**

Chartered 4-H clubs and enrolled 4-H members are authorized to use the 4-H Name and Emblem. This includes permission for an enrolled 4-H member to use the 4-H name and emblem in exhibits created for personal use and as part of 4-H sponsored events. This includes 4-H decorated cookies, a 4-H clover printed for use in a scrapbook or included as part of any other 4-H exhibit. Use of the green clover shaped image is not protected. The 4-H "emblem" is distinguished by the four H's that signify Head, Heart, Hands and Health. No creative rendering, changes in color or shape of the official 4-H emblem is allowed.

NOTE - Any use of the 4-H name and emblem on items intended as gifts or for sale locally requires prior permission from your local Extension office. Your Extension office will be able to provide you with the form which must be signed by the Extension County Director. Any uses of the 4-H name and emblem for sale or promotion online, and/or in statewide events should be signed by the Illinois 4-H Program Leader ([Illinois4H@illinois.edu](mailto:Illinois4H@illinois.edu)).

## **FINE ART & DESIGN**

This category showcases original, expressive work created through hands-on techniques and personal design. A wide range of materials and methods, encouraging youth to explore traditional and contemporary forms of visual storytelling, is included in this category.

**Visual Arts Chalk/Carbon/Pigment (Drawing and Painting):** Division A, B, or C  
Enter the division based on the type of material on which the art was created.

### **Chalk/Carbon/Pigment (Drawing and Painting): Division A: Canvas (SF 50336a)**

Any original artwork created on canvas using traditional materials such as pencils, chalk, pens, ink, paint, charcoal, or dyes. All artwork must be either framed, matted, or otherwise prepared for display. Oil and acrylic paintings may be exhibited without glass or matting and are acceptable unframed if the canvas edges are finished and the piece is ready to hang. Watercolor, chalk, pen and ink, and similar media require protective covering, such as glass or a clear sleeve. Gallery-style frames and matted-only presentations are both acceptable, provided the piece is equipped for hanging. If the artwork is not designed to hang, exhibitors

must include a photo showing how it will be displayed (e.g., on a stand or easel). There is no restriction on the type of mat used.

### **Chalk/Carbon/Pigment (Drawing and Painting): Division B: Paper (SF 50336b)**

Any original artwork created on paper using traditional materials such as pencils, chalk, pens, ink, paint, charcoal, or dyes. All artwork must be either framed, matted, or otherwise prepared for display. Oil and acrylic paintings may be exhibited without glass or matting and are acceptable unframed if the piece is ready to hang. Watercolor, chalk, pen and ink, and similar media require protective covering, such as glass or a clear sleeve. Gallery-style frames and matted-only presentations are both acceptable, provided the piece is equipped for hanging. If the artwork is not designed to hang, exhibitors must include a photo showing how it will be displayed (e.g., on a stand or easel). There is no restriction on the type of mat used.

### **Chalk/Carbon/Pigment (Drawing and Painting): Division C: Clay, Glass, Wood, Metal, Textiles (SF 50336c)**

Any original artwork created on clay, glass, wood, metal, or textiles using traditional materials such as pencils, chalk, pens, ink, paint, charcoal, or dyes. Original glaze painting on pre-formed clay surfaces is acceptable, provided the design demonstrates creativity and artistic effort. Simply adding a single color or minimal decoration, for example, painting a frog entirely green, does not meet the criteria for original artwork. All artwork must be either framed, matted, or otherwise prepared for display. If the artwork is not designed to hang, exhibitors must include a photo showing how it will be displayed (e.g., on a stand or easel). There is no restriction on the type of mat used. If you are painting on clothing, consider entering your work in the "Clothing Embellishment" project, "Applied" class.

### **Visual Arts Clay (SF 50337)**

Any original item made of clay may be fired or unfired, hand-formed or thrown on a wheel. Ceramics, oven-cured, cornstarch, air-dry/self-hardening, and fire-cured clays are acceptable. Modeling clay is not recommended as it does not harden and risks melting. Items can include, but are not limited to, clay statues, bowls, jewelry, etc. Pre-formed ceramics should refer to Visual Arts Chalk/Carbon/Pigment for guidance.

### **Visual Arts Computer-Generated Art (SF 50338, SF 50370)**

- **Computer-Generated Art (SF 50338)**  
Any original artwork created using any software package, where all pixels must be entirely original. Exhibits may not contain scanned images, clip art, downloaded content, imported graphics, or photographs. Photo mosaics are not permitted. Wood and metal pieces created through laser cutting software should be entered in this class, as should plastic artworks produced with a 3-D printer if they have an artistic focus. If the artwork is designed to hang, it must include protective covering, such as a glass frame, and be prepared for hanging. Laser-cut pieces not intended for hanging do not require protective covering or hanging hardware.
- **Graphic Design (SF 50370)**  
Any original art created in any software package that displays visual information, such as an advertisement, publication, website, or any other type of visual communication, by effectively combining text and graphics. If using clip art, downloaded images, imported images, or photographs, they must be either royalty-free or owned by the exhibitor.

### **Visual Arts Glass & Plastic (SF 50340a, 50340b)**

Any original item made of glass or plastic.

- **Glass 50340a** - Possible items to exhibit include stained glass, etched glass (original design), mosaics made of glass, and glass beading.
- **Plastic 50340b** - Possible items to exhibit include plastic jewelry (friendly plastic); recycled plastic art; plastic that can be molded into 3D shapes.

Stepping stones can be entered as a Visual Arts exhibit in Glass & Plastic, however, they must have an intentional design created using glass and/or plastic, and the exhibitor must be prepared to discuss the design elements associated with their exhibit.

### **Visual Arts Metal (SF 50342)**

Any original item made of metal, such as a sculpture, a tin punch, an engraved metal, or jewelry. Items intended for industrial use (such as tools and/or shop items) are not considered part of this Visual Arts project and are not eligible for entry. Metal items that have been partially or totally created using laser cutting programs/devices should be entered in Computer-Generated Art.

### **Visual Arts Open Form and Emerging Techniques (SF 50350)**

Any original artwork that explores unconventional formats, mixed media, or emerging creative technologies that reflect technique or design. Materials must be safe and age-appropriate. This project encourages experimentation while upholding elements and principles of design. Exhibitors are encouraged to include a brief artist statement describing their technique, inspiration, and creative process. This category is ideal for youth blending disciplines or exploring new artistic technologies. If a project fits more clearly within an existing category, it should be entered there instead.

### **Visual Arts Three-Dimensional Design/Mixed Media (SF 50348)**

Art pieces in this class must be comprised of at least three different media. To ensure a true mixed media composition, no single medium should dominate the piece. As a guideline, each medium should contribute roughly equally to the overall design. One material should not appear to be the main focus or make up the majority of the work. The piece should be either freestanding or should be prepared to be hung, and viewable from at least three different sides. Originality and design are important concepts. Craft kits, preformed, or assembled projects are not acceptable. Due to space limitations, any single exhibit in the Three-Dimensional Design/Mixed Media project should NOT exceed 48" x 48".

### **Visual Arts Wood (SF 50349)**

Any original item made of wood (wood carving, sculpture, collage, wood burning, etc.). Utilitarian wood items made from patterns or kits (outdoor or indoor furniture, shelves, etc.) should be entered in woodworking, NOT Visual Arts. Popsicle stick crafts are not acceptable for State Fair entry. Wood items that have been partially or totally created using laser cutting devices or programs should be entered in Computer-Generated Art. All Visual Arts Wood exhibits MUST have an artistic element that the exhibitor can explain. If the exhibit is a piece of furniture, it should be entered in Woodworking unless the primary focus is an artistic element, such as wood carving or wood burning. Exhibits will be judged using a Visual Arts Rubric and not a woodworking construction rubric.

## **ARTISAN CRAFTS**

This category honors the intersection of craftsmanship, tradition, and personal creativity. It includes original and patterned work across a wide range of materials and techniques.

### **Visual Arts Fiber (SF 50339)**

Any original item made of fiber. Examples include but are not limited to fabric collage, soft sculpture, stitchery, weaving, embroidery, cross-stitch, wearable art, hooking, braiding, duct tape artistry, string art, and baskets. Original cross-stitched, knitted, or crocheted items belong in this Fiber class. Non-original cross-stitched, knitted, or crocheted items should be entered in Heritage Arts. Machine-knit items are not appropriate for this class.

**Visual Arts Food Decorating** – for more information about cake decorating techniques: [go.illinois.edu/caketechiniques](http://go.illinois.edu/caketechiniques)

### **Visual Arts Food Decorating Beginning (SF 50332)**

Exhibit one of the following:

- Exhibit four decorated cookies, using a minimum of four different Level 1 techniques. Exhibit may use cookies OR cookie forms.
- Exhibit four decorated cupcakes, using a minimum of four different Level 1 techniques. Exhibit may use cupcakes OR cupcake forms.
- Exhibit a single-layer decorated cake, using a minimum of four different Level 1 techniques. Exhibit may use cake OR cake form.

### **Visual Arts Food Decorating Intermediate (SF 50333)**

Exhibit one of the following:

- Exhibit four decorated cookies, using a minimum of five Level 2 techniques. Exhibit may use cookies OR cookie forms
- Exhibit four decorated cupcakes, using a minimum of five Level 2 techniques. Exhibit may use cupcakes OR cupcake forms.
- Exhibit a single-layer or two-layer cakes, using a minimum of five Level 2 techniques. Exhibit may use cake OR cake forms.

### **Visual Arts Food Decorating Advanced (SF 50334)**

Exhibit a decorated, stacked or multi-layer cake; or a tiered cake, using a minimum of four Level 3 techniques. Exhibit may use cake OR cake forms.

### **Visual Arts Food Decorating Master (SF 50335)**

Exhibit an original design decorated cake using more than five techniques. Exhibit may use cake OR cake forms. In addition, include a one-page written description of your project, including goals, plans, accomplishments, and evaluation of results. Up to four pictures of your accomplishments may be included in the description.

### **Visual Arts Heritage Arts (SF 50341)**

Heritage Arts includes any traditional artwork learned from another person or created using a pattern, excluding kits. Eligible items include non-original cross-stitched, knitted, and crocheted pieces (original versions should be entered in Fiber Arts), as well as needlepoint, counted cross-stitch, crewel, embroidery, cut work, hardanger embroidery, macramé, blacksmithing, pysanki (decorated eggs), baskets made from traditional patterns, handmade dolls with handmade costumes, and soaps or candles made using natural dyes. Exhibitors must bring a copy of the pattern used and be prepared to explain the traditional origins of their art. Forged knives may be included if displayed securely and enclosed to prevent handling; unsafe entries may be removed at staff discretion. Youth who would have previously shown under Non-Original Fiber (age 8-10) should enter this class instead.

### **Visual Arts Leather (SF 50321)**

Exhibit one of the following options using leather:

- Leather Stamping: Must feature one or more stamping techniques. Examples include belts, coasters, bookmarks, key chains, and wrist bracelets. OR
- Leather Carving or Tooling: Should use swivel knife tooling, either simple or patterned. Examples include belts, pictorial carvings, and key cases. OR
- Leather Lacing: Must incorporate stamping and/or carving along with lacing techniques. Examples include wallets and purses. OR
- Leather Stitching: May include stamping, carving, and/or lacing, and must feature hand or machine stitching completed by the exhibitor. Projects may be leather items or apparel.

### **Visual Arts Nature (SF 50343)**

Any original item made of natural material, such as wreaths, cornhusk dolls, and similar creations. Items should be made of natural materials, but securing elements such as glue and wire may be used in the inner construction as long as they do not detract from the overall

“natural” appearance. Engineered wood may be utilized as part of the exhibit to adhere natural materials, not as an element of the design. Articles such as dried pressed flowers may be displayed under glass if viewed as necessary for the protection/preservation of the natural materials. Candles and baskets are not suitable as entries and instead should be entered in Heritage Arts.

### **Visual Arts Paper (SF 50344a & SF 50344b)**

Any original item made of paper. Exhibitors should create an exhibit that aligns with one of the following categories:

- **Two-Dimensional Paper Art (SF 50344a)** - Exhibits should be a 2-dimensional image. Paper art, which falls into the 2-dimensional category, includes: Greeting Cards, paper-cut designs, hand-made paper, paper collage, and quilling.
- **Three-Dimensional Paper Art (SF 50344b)** - Exhibits should be a 3-dimensional image. Exhibits in the 3-dimensional category must have multiple layers and/or levels. This is defined as more than 3 layers, so the image truly has dimensions that can be viewed from at least three sides, or is at least ½” tall. Paper art which falls into the 3-dimensional category includes but is not limited to: Origami; Paper Mache; Paper models of architecture, paper-cut designs; quilling.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- Paper-cut designs and quilling have the potential, depending on the design, to align with either of the categories. The key design element is whether the design is 2-dimensional or 3-dimensional.
- Paper twist articles made from a kit or directions in a craft book or store ARE NOT original and not appropriate in the Visual Arts Paper exhibit area. Scrapbooks are also not eligible in Visual Arts Paper but should be exhibited in Visual Arts Scrapbooking.
- If creating origami, folded pieces should either be used to create a bigger project, such as a mobile or wreath, or multiple pieces of origami should be displayed. Exceptions would be if the exhibitor created their own folding pattern.

### **Visual Arts Quilting - You Can Quilt (Level 1) (SF 50331a)**

Exhibit one of the following quilting options. All exhibits should include a card which 1) Identifies the item as an original design created by the exhibitor; as a pattern created by someone else; OR as a pattern that has been adapted by the exhibitor. AND 2) Identifies the type of batting used. The item may be quilted using any method – tie, hand, or machine quilted. All work must be completed by the 4-H member. Exhibit one of the following:

- A Doll Quilt (maximum size of 24” x 30”); OR
- A Baby Quilt (maximum size of 48”x 48”); OR
- A Quilted Table Runner (maximum size of 18” x 36”);OR
- A small Wall Hanging (square or rectangular, maximum size of 36” x 36”). Hanging should include tabs or a pocket on the back for it to be hung.

### **Visual Arts Quilting - Quilting the Best Better (Level 2) (SF 50331b)**

Exhibit one of the following quilting options. All exhibits should include a card which 1) Identifies the item as an original design created by the exhibitor as a pattern created by someone else; OR as a pattern that has been adapted by the exhibitor; 2) Identifies the type of batting used; AND 3) Provides details on any special techniques that were used (applique, embroidery, free-motion quilting, etc.). The item may be quilted using any method – tie, hand, or machine quilted. All work must be completed by the 4-H member. Exhibit one of the following:

- A Lap Quilt (width ranging from 42” – 58” length ranging from 56” – 70”); OR
- A Large Quilted Wall Hanging (can be rectangular or square, sized larger than 36” x 36”). Hanging should include tabs or a pocket on the back for it to be hung; OR
- A Quilt that fits any size bed (Twin, Double, Queen or King).

### **Visual Arts Scrapbooking, Beginning (SF 50345)**

Exhibit one album or notebook, either 8 ½" x 11" or 12" x 12", with a front and back cover. The album/notebook must have a minimum of 4 pages (front and back, making it 8 sides), exhibited in page protectors. NOTE - the front and back album covers are NOT part of the "page" count. Scrapbooks may be created using traditional or digital methods. Digital scrapbooks must be printed and displayed in a physical album or notebook, following the same size and page requirements. All scrapbook entries must be original in design; use of pre-made templates or auto-generated layouts from websites or design software (e.g. Canva, Shutterfly, Adobe Express, etc.) is not permitted. Exhibitors must create their own layouts, embellishments, and design elements to reflect personal creativity and intent. "Embellishments" are defined as the decorations or special details and features that add to a page and make it more visually appealing. Embellishments may include, but are not limited to, ribbon, clips, stickers, special lettering, borders, textures, or graphic elements. Beginners must use a minimum of four embellishments in their 4 scrapbook pages (a minimum of four embellishments on the 4 required scrapbook pages, not four per page), 8 sides and tell a story with pictures

### **Visual Arts Scrapbooking, Intermediate (SF 50346)**

Exhibit one album or notebook, either 8 ½" x 11" or 12" x 12", with a front and back cover. The album/notebook must have a minimum of 6 pages (front and back, 12 sides), exhibited in page protectors. NOTE - the front and back album covers are NOT part of the "page" count. Scrapbooks may be created using traditional or digital methods. Digital scrapbooks must be printed and displayed in a physical album or notebook, following the same size and page requirements. All scrapbook entries must be original in design; use of pre-made templates or auto-generated layouts from websites or design software (e.g. Canva, Shutterfly, Adobe Express, etc.) is not permitted. Exhibitors must create their own layouts, embellishments, and design elements to reflect personal creativity and intent. "Embellishments" are defined as the decorations or special details and features that add to a page and make it more visually appealing. Embellishments may include, but are not limited to, ribbon, clips, stickers, special lettering, borders, textures, or graphic elements. Intermediate level exhibitors must use a minimum of eight embellishments in their 6 scrapbook pages (a minimum of eight embellishments on the 6 required scrapbook pages, not eight per page), 12 sides and tell a story with pictures and journaling.

### **Visual Arts Scrapbooking, Advanced (SF 50347)**

Exhibit one album or notebook, either 8 ½" x 11" or 12" x 12", with a front and back cover. The album/notebook must have a minimum of 8 pages (front and back, 16 sides), exhibited in page protectors. NOTE - the front and back album covers are NOT part of the "page" count. Scrapbooks may be created using traditional or digital methods. Digital scrapbooks must be printed and displayed in a physical album or notebook, following the same size and page requirements. All scrapbook entries must be original in design; use of pre-made templates or auto-generated layouts from websites or design software (e.g. Canva, Shutterfly, Adobe Express, etc.) is not permitted. Exhibitors must create their own layouts, embellishments, and design elements to reflect personal creativity and intent. "Embellishments" are defined as the decorations or special details and features that add to a page and make it more visually appealing. Embellishments may include, but are not limited to, ribbon, clips, stickers, special lettering, borders, textures, or graphic elements. Advanced level exhibitors must use a minimum of 12 embellishments in their 8 scrapbook pages (a minimum of twelve embellishments on the 8 required scrapbook pages, not twelve per page), 16 sides and tell a compelling story with pictures, journaling, and other media.

### **Visual Arts Three-Dimensional Design/Mixed Media - Diorama (SF 50351)**

Exhibit a model representing a scene with three-dimensional figures. The display must be built on rigid wood (i.e., plywood). Exhibits may include but are not limited to, farm displays, historical events, landmarks, habitats, or scenes from a book. Exhibits may include pre-manufactured items such as tractors, animals, or figurines, but should also include

artistic elements where possible. Due to space limitations, any single exhibit in the Three-Dimensional Design/Mixed Media: Diorama project should NOT exceed 48" x 48".

## **WEATHER**

### **Weather and Climate Science 1 (SF 50392) Level 1: Weather and Climate Science – Required**

Exhibit any product or display illustrating an activity from the book. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

### **Weather and Climate Science 2 (SF 50393) Level 2: Weather and Climate Science – Required**

Exhibit any product or display illustrating an activity from the book. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

### **Weather and Climate Science 3 (SF 50394) Level 3: Weather and Climate Science – Required**

Exhibit any product or display illustrating an activity from the book. The exhibit may include, but isn't limited to, original works, objects, demonstrations, digital presentations, programs, websites, games, apps, performances, or posters which you have made. Choose whatever method best shows what you've learned. You must furnish any equipment you need for your exhibit. Internet service will not be provided for the exhibit. All exhibits must include something visual, such as a printed copy of a digital presentation, which will remain on display during the exhibition. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period.

## **WELDING**

### **Welding (SF 50353) Arcs and Sparks – Required**

Exhibit one weldment/item demonstrating the skill level of the exhibitor. Members new to the project should select a weldment from the Weldment List found on page 43 of Arcs and Sparks. This class is for industrial welding only. (Members that wish to use welding to create objects with an artistic appeal should enter in Visual Arts – Metal class.) Exhibits must be portable and cannot be exhibited on a trailer.

# WOODWORKING

There are four reference books for this project in the Woodworker Wonders series: Level 1, Measuring Up, for grades of 3-4; Level 2, Making the Cut, for grades 4-6; Level 3, Nailing It Together, for grades 6-8; and Level 4, Finishing It Up for grades 9-12. Note: these reference books may be used by youth of any grade based on their prior knowledge of woodworking. These project guides are suggested reference materials but are not required.

Woodworking exhibits may display any item made of wood constructed by the 4-H member appropriate for their age, skills, and abilities. Youth pick what level to enter based on experience and skills demonstrated. Exhibits must be portable and cannot be exhibited on a trailer. Ability to discuss safety concerns and techniques of all tools, equipment and supplies utilized required as part of project.

Refinishing an existing wood item may be part of the project exhibit, but refinishing an item without performing additional woodworking skills to improve or repair the item would make it ineligible to show as a woodworking project.

## **Woodworking 1 (SF 50357)**

Create an item focusing on measuring, squaring & cutting boards with hand tools, driving nails, and/or screws as appropriate for a beginner's skill level project.

## **Woodworking 2 (SF 50358)**

Create an item including basic skills outlined in Level 1 with the addition of safely utilizing basic power tools (i.e. electric drill or vibrating sander), utilizing glue and clamps, applying a basic finish coating, and use of additional fasteners (i.e. bolts, staples, etc.) where appropriate relating to the specific item displayed.

## **Woodworking 3 (SF 50359)**

Create an item including skills outlined in Levels 1-2 with the addition of measuring angles, cutting dado and rabbet joints, dowel joints, and smoothing lumber with planes, and use of stain and finish coats where appropriate relating to the specific item displayed. Additional knowledge of tools, skills, and safety equipment utilized at this level may include power saws, sanders, and/or table routing as appropriate to project.

## **Woodworking 4 (SF 50360)**

Create an item including all skills from Levels 1-3 with the addition of utilizing a freehand router, planer and jointer, lathe, complex miters, use of blind mortise and tenon joints, dovetail joints, or various chemical wood strippers and/or finishes (including spray finishes) when and where appropriate relating to the specific item displayed.