



DATE: JULY 15-17 2026
LOCATION:

CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH, STARK
COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, GREYHORSE FARM,
LINDEN HILLS DAIRY FARM



RED, WHITE,

AND BLUE AND

CLOVER TOO!!

PEORIA COUNTY 4-H FAIR
SHOWBOOK 2026



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Welcome to the 2026 Peoria County 4-H Show

The University of Illinois Extension Staff in Peoria County, volunteers and personnel of our host facilities extends a warm welcome to participants and guests attending the 2026 Peoria County 4-H Show.

The Peoria County 4-H Show provides an exciting and interesting community setting to showcase the projects of Peoria County 4-H members. It is a wonderful opportunity for parents, friends, and relatives to view the many project areas in which the youth of Peoria County have been involved. The 4-H Show offers many fun experiences and learning opportunities for all. Make the 2026 4-H Show part of your summer activities. Help us demonstrate our support to our youth as we give them well-deserved recognition for their successful endeavors.

On behalf of the Extension Staff, we want to take this opportunity to thank all the 4-H leaders, parents, 4-H youth, superintendents, committee members, other volunteer groups and program supporters for your commitment to making 4-H a very memorable and worthwhile learning experience for our most valuable youth. We appreciate each and every one of you. Your dedication and commitment allow this program to be successful.

We hope to see you at the 4-H Show! Everyone is welcome. Enjoy the animals, displays, projects and activities associated with this year's event.

The Peoria County Staff also wish to express their gratitude to the Stark County Fair Board and Cedar Hills Baptist Church for their partnership in the 2026 4-H Show.

Yours in 4-H,

Earl Allen

Earl Allen
County Director

Judy Schmidt

Judy Schmidt
4-H Metro Youth Educator

Kristi Smith

Kristi Smith
4-H Program Coordinator



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Congratulations to:

Brantley Richmond

Kickapoo Kickers

**Designer of the 2026
4-H Show Book Cover**

2026 PEORIA COUNTY 4-H SHOW

CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
 12716 N Allen Rd
 Dunlap, IL 61525
 July 15, 2026

STARK CO. FAIRGROUNDS
 310 Diagonal St
 Wyoming, IL 61491
 July 16 & 17, 2026

GRAY HORSE FARM
 14323 N Savage Rd
 Brimfield, IL 61517
 TBD

LINDEN HILL FARMS
 8412 W Middle Rd
 Peoria, IL 61607
 July 10, 2026

DEPARTMENTS & PAGE #'S

SUPERINTENDENTS

PHONE

Livestock:

Beef Show – (Page 17)	Steve Kellstadt	231-0279
Cat Show – (Page 19)	Jessica Westerman	258-2626
Dairy Show – (Page 21)	Fred Rosenbohm	697-4041
Dog Show – (Page 23)	Hannah Martin	657-9763
Goat Show – (Page 26)	Scott & Missy Stevens	635-0009
Horse & Pony Show – (Page 27)	Martha Eberley	369-7224
Poultry Show – (Page 34)	Robin/Zachery Forney	231-3793
Rabbit Show – (Page 36)	Amber Wasson	370-4670
Sheep Show – (Page 38)	Sarah Lueschow	256-3115
Swine Show – (Page 41)	Jeff & Karla Smith	678-7678

General Projects: (starting Page 48)

Clothing & Textiles Department – (Page 55)	Carol Cowser	639-4395
	Sally Ohlson	243-7508
Communications Department – (Page 67)	Susan Unsicker	256-3358
Community Dev. & Global Awareness (Page 46)	Susan Unsicker	256-3358
Food & Nutrition Department – (Page 62)	Neva Rynearson	224-9736
Human Development Department – (Page 52)	Carol Cowser	639-4395
	Sally Ohlson	243-7508
Mechanicals & Technology Department – (Page 83)	Carol Krosse	274-9276
Natural Resources Department – (Page 92)	Carol Krosse	274-9276
Personal Development – (Page 79)	Susan Unsicker	256-3358
Plants & Soils Department – (Page 99)	Mary Plumer	678-4530
Visual Arts Department – (Page 72)	Lisa Sweet	389-5039

Illinois Extension Staff, serving Peoria 4-H

County Director..... Earl Allen
 4-H Metro Educator Judy Schmidt
 4-H Program Coordinator Kristi Smith
 Extension Office Support Angela Sassine
 4-H Summer Assistant..... Rylie Walsh
 Communications Coordinator..... Anita Wilkinson

For more information, visit: extension.illinois.edu/fmpt/4-h-peoria-county

4-H SHOW SCHEDULE

DAY ONE/WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026 / CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH	
7:30 AM	Set up for staff and superintendents at Cedar Hills Baptist Church
8:30 AM	Judges Orientation
8:45 AM	PROJECT CHECK IN BEGINS
9 AM	General Project judging begins
11:30-Noon	Clothing & Textiles and Human Development Department Lunch Break
11:45-12:15 PM	Communications, Community Development and Global Awareness and Personal Development Lunch Break
Noon	PROJECT CHECK IN CONCLUDES – ALL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN AND ON SITE
Noon-12:30 PM	Foods & Nutrition Lunch Break
12:15-12:45 PM	Mechanics & Technology and Natural Resources Lunch break
12:30-1 PM	Plants & Soils Department Lunch Break
12:45-1:15 PM	Visual Arts Lunch Break
2 PM	Judging concludes
2-5 PM	Exhibits closed to the public (Trophy & State Fair Selections)
TBD	Tractor Driving Contest
5 PM	Cook out Party to celebrate Cathy Ludolph, Exhibit Hall open for Viewing
5:30 PM	Share the Fun Contest
7 PM	Projects Released (Pictures must be taken of winners)
8 PM	All Projects must be picked up.
DAY TWO/ THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026 / STARK CO. FAIRGROUNDS	
8 AM	All Poultry must be on the Grounds at Stark County Fairgrounds
	Scales open for Weigh In of Livestock
9 AM	Poultry Show at Stark Co. Fairgrounds
9 AM	Dog Show at Stark Co. Fairgrounds
NOON	Sheep and Goats must be on the Grounds at Stark County Fairgrounds
	Following Poultry Show - Sheep Show
	Following Sheep Show - Goat Show
	Master Showmanship and the Showmanship Adventure follow each class of Challenge Showmanship
4:30 PM	Barnyard Games Weigh In
6 PM	National Anthem and Opening Ceremonies for Barnyard Games
6:10 PM	Barnyard Games
	ALL Livestock will be released following the conclusion of their species.
	Clean up of Livestock Barns MUST be completed prior to release
DAY THREE/ FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026 / STARK CO. FAIRGROUNDS AND TBD	
8 AM	Rabbits must be on Grounds at Stark County Fair Grounds
9 AM	Rabbit show at Stark Co. Fairgrounds
9 AM	Swine and Cattle must be on Grounds at Stark County Fairgrounds
	Following Rabbit show - Swine Show
	Following Swine Show - Beef Show

	Master Showmanship and the Showmanship Adventure follow each class of Challenge Showmanship
Noon	Cat Show at Stark Co. Fairgrounds
5-7 PM	Pork Chop Dinner Location TBD
5:30 PM	Fashion Review
6:45 PM	Volunteer and Scholarship Recognitions, Cloverbud Graduation
7 PM	4-H Livestock Auction
	All members and families are expected to stay and help with clean up!
HORSE SHOW /TBD/ GRAY HORSE FARM	
8 AM	Horse Show Check In
9 AM	Horse & Pony Show - Halter Classes
	Costume, Walk/Trot, Hunter & English/ Western Performance Classes & Trail
	Speed Events
	Horse Project Release after Horse Show
DAIRY SHOW/ July 10, 2026/ LINDEN HILL FARMS	
2 PM	Dairy Show

PREMIUM RATES FOR 2026

IMPORTANT NOTE: "The Department of Agriculture shall use its best efforts to secure sufficient appropriations to fund premiums. In any year for which the General Assembly of the State of Illinois fails to make an appropriation sufficient to pay such premiums, premium amounts may not be accurately reflected in this Premium Book."

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 (over \$100) 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.

The premium payment is outlined below. Premiums will be calculated using the "unit" system. Premiums are listed according to their "X" value rather than their dollar value.

Area I Projects

Blue	Red	White	
8X	7X	6X	Beef, Dairy, Goats, Horse & Pony, Sheep & Swine

Area II Projects

Blue	Red	White	
6X	5X	4X	Cats, Dogs, Poultry, Rabbits, & Clothing

Area III Projects

Blue	Red	White	
4X	3X	2X	Aerospace, Agronomy, Animal Science, Babysitting, Career Development, Civic Engagement, Communications, Computer Science, Consumer Education, Creating with Building Bricks, Creative Writing, Drones, Electricity, Entomology, eSports, Family Heritage, Foods and Nutrition, Forestry, Geology, Health, Horticulture, Intercultural, Interior Design, Leadership, Maker, Natural Resources, Photography, Ready4Life, Robotics, Service Learning, Shooting Sports, Small Engines, Theatre Arts, Tractor, Vet Science, Video/ Filmmaking, Visual Arts, Weather, Welding, Woodworking

1. **The actual dollar value of the "X" will not be determined until after the completion of the 4-H Show.** Premium checks will be mailed out after the show.
2. **COUNTY PROJECTS THAT DO NOT RECEIVE A PREMIUM ARE:** Bicycle and Reading.

NON-LIVESTOCK PROJECT EVALUATION

All non-livestock exhibits will be judged at Cedar Hills Baptist Church, where they will be displayed. There the exhibits will be displayed and considered for trophies and State Fair.

General projects will be evaluated using “interview” type of judging. 4-H members should expect to discuss their work with the judge and be prepared to answer questions about what they learned and how the project was completed. Refer to individual departments and class project listings for rules and requirements.

General project judging is Wednesday, July 15, starting at 9 a.m. Please consult the schedule on the previous page for lunch times. **ALL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON.** Trophy & State Fair selections will be made beginning at 2 p.m. **EXHIBIT AREAS WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL THESE SELECTIONS ARE COMPLETE.**

All projects will remain on display until project release on Wednesday, July 15, at 7 p.m. NO EXCEPTIONS. All Champions and State Fair Delegates and Alternates MUST have a picture taken with their project. If you are unable to pick up your projects at this time, it is your responsibility to make arrangements with someone to pick them up for you. All projects MUST be picked up by 8 pm.

LIVESTOCK PROJECT EVALUATIONS

Exhibitors must have been enrolled in their livestock project prior to December 31 at 11:59 PM. Livestock projects will be shown and evaluated on Thursday, July 16 – Friday, July 17, as well as July 10, and late July/ Early August when we have the horse show. Standard judging methods will be used. Refer to the 4-H Show schedule for specific times and locations. Refer to each animal department for Health Requirements and Show Rules. Contact the Superintendent listed or the Extension office (685-3140) if you have questions

TAX IMPLICATIONS

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 (\$100 or more) 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.

ILLINOIS STATE FAIR

AUGUST 13-23, 2026

PEORIA COUNTY EXHIBIT DAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

All projects selected for State Fair will be judged on Sunday, August 16. All projects must be checked in from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Project judging times will vary and will be available to you after project check-in.

- **April 25, 2026** / Illinois State 4-H Public Presentation Contest, Parkland Community College in Champaign, Illinois
- **July 20-27, 2026**/ State Fair Junior Horse Show / Illinois State Fairgrounds
- **August 22, 2026** / Illinois State 4-H Dog Show / Interstate Center, Bloomington, IL

QUALITY ASSURANCE & ETHICS

CERTIFICATION – (QA&E)

The Quality Assurance and Ethics training is required for all youth that enroll in horses, rabbits, poultry, dogs, and cats. Members must take the training whether they own a live animal or not. Members only need to take this once. The QAEC training can be accessed in the Clover Academy section of the ZSuite Enrollment System. ZSuite can be accessed at 4h.zsuite.org/. Families can access directions for completing the course at go.illinois.edu/TakeQAEC.

YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS (YQCA)

The YQCA is the livestock quality assurance program that is required for youth in the following species: dairy cattle, beef cattle, swine, sheep, and goats. All 4-H exhibitors of these animals will be required to certify in the YQCA program yearly. Youth must either attend a face to face class or certify on-line via the website yqcaprogram.org The cost for face-to-face training is \$3 and \$12 for the online version.

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

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GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Any 4-H member who knowingly violates a rule as printed in Show Book, established by the Peoria County 4-H Staff and Superintendents shall be disqualified from the show and forfeit all premiums and awards. This does not apply to all situations.
 - a. If an exhibitor disputes a disqualification of their project(s), the exhibitor may request a hearing before an impartial group of individuals. If the hearing cannot be held before the completion of project judging the exhibitor may exhibit their project with the understanding that awards and/or premiums will be withheld until a decision has been made.
 - b. If another exhibitor or any member of the public has reason to believe that a project (livestock or non-livestock) should be disqualified, he/she must contact Extension staff or the appropriate superintendent and present his/her evidence in writing. Evidence must be filed after official check-in of the project or before the completion of judging. If after reviewing the evidence, the disqualified project and disqualified exhibitor requests a hearing, the complaining person shall be required to testify at the hearing and present his/her evidence. If the complaining person refuses to testify, no disqualification will be made based on that complaining person's evidence.
2. To be eligible for 4-H membership, youth must have had their eighth birthday before **September 1, 2025**, and not reached their nineteenth birthday by **September 1, 2025**.
3. Participation in the Peoria County 4-H Show is subject to the following deadlines:
 - a. Enrollment in the Peoria County 4-H program as a member by **May 1, 2026**. 4-H Show entries must be submitted to the county office by **June 4, 2026**.
 - b. For all Livestock Projects, members must be enrolled in the Livestock project **BEFORE January 1, 2026** (December 31, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.)
4. All exhibits in the 4-H Show must be current year's work, beginning **Sept. 1, 2025**, to date of show.
5. All exhibits should be the work of the 4-H member. **NO** project including both **livestock & non-livestock** can be exhibited at any other county 4-H show by you or another 4-H member. The same project or animal cannot be shown twice.
 - a. For example, a member cannot exhibit a project (livestock or non-livestock) at the Peoria County 4-H Show and then exhibit the same project at another county 4-H show.
 - b. Another example is that a member exhibits a project at one county 4-H Show, the same project cannot be exhibited by another 4-H member at a different county 4-H Show.
6. If a 4-H member cannot exhibit his/her project at the 4-H Show, they should register for pre-judging. In extreme cases, another 4-H member may exhibit the project for the absent 4-H member. Include a short-written report that tells how you made the project, what you did in the project, or what you learned from doing the project.
7. To be eligible to exhibit at State Fair, the 4-H member must be 8 years old as of **Sept. 1, 2025**.
8. Illinois Extension will do everything possible to ensure the safety of all 4-H members and their exhibits during the county 4-H Show.
9. Sale of 4-H projects will be allowed in accordance with 4-H Auction Guidelines (page 9).
10. Anyone having a protest/complaint **must** submit the same in writing to Extension staff or the appropriate Superintendent. There is a fee of **\$25** to file a complaint. (A complaint form is located in the back of the show book or available from Extension Staff during the 4-H Show.)
11. All exhibits will remain on the grounds and in place until dismissed by the department Superintendent. Any individual picking up another 4-H member's project must have a written permission slip from that 4-H member.
12. Exhibit tags need to be **COMPLETELY FILLED OUT** and **SECURELY ATTACHED** before a project can be judged or exhibited. Tags should be placed on projects where the information can be seen from the front of the project while on exhibit.
13. **No use of any tobacco products will be allowed on the grounds.** The "No Smoking" rule in the barns must be observed.
14. No alcoholic beverages and other controlled substances will be permitted on the fairgrounds anytime by anyone. Possession and/or use of these prohibited substances will result in disqualification of all exhibitors associated with their use or possession.

15. **Sportsmanship** - All 4-H members and their families are expected to practice good sportsmanship at the 4-H show. Good sportsmanship is dependent on respect – respect for the rules of the show, for other 4-H members and their families, for superintendents, leaders, other volunteers, and Extension staff. Sportsmanship is awareness that your actions, attitudes, and behavior affect everyone, and how much they enjoy the 4-H Show.

Sportsmanship expresses an attitude that having your project judged and exhibited will be enjoyed for its own sake, with proper consideration for fairness, ethics, respect, and a sense of fellowship with 4-H members competing in the same class. (*Poor sports play, and live by the “win at all costs” mentality*). Being a “good sport” involves being a “good winner” as well as being a “good loser”.

The following are a few examples (**but not limited to**) of good sportsmanship behavior from 4-H members and their families that is encouraged and admired:

- Acting towards others in an honest, straightforward, firm, and dignified manner even when others do not play or exhibit fairly. Treating others fairly as you would like to be treated.
- Maintaining self-control in dealing with others.
- Showing respect for authority and 4-H members you may compete against.
- Helping or showing support for an opponent and shaking hands or offering congratulations to a Class Champion.

The following are of few examples (**but not limited to**) of poor sportsmanship behavior that are unacceptable at a 4-H event and may be grounds for disqualification and/or forfeiture of premiums and awards.

- Rude conversation or inappropriate laughter directed towards youth while exhibiting.
 - Blaming others and not taking responsibility for personal actions.
 - Reacting immaturely or improperly, making excuses for your loss, referring to unfavorable conditions or other petty issues.
 - Damaging or destroying another’s 4-H exhibit or property that is not your own.
16. We rely on parents, 4-H Leaders and other adults associated with the 4-H Show to set the example by also complying with these rules. Some rules are necessary to assure a high quality 4-H Show and to provide the wholesome atmosphere that every parent wants for their children.
17. Premiums will be paid for only ONE entry in a particular class. Premiums will be paid after show once funds are acquired. **IMPORTANT NOTE: “The Department of Agriculture shall use its best efforts to secure sufficient appropriations to fund premiums. In any year for which the General Assembly of the State of Illinois fails to make an appropriation sufficient to pay such premiums, premium amounts may not be accurately reflected in this Premium Book.”**
18. **NOTE:** 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 (\$100 or more) 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.
19. Only projects with (SF-#####) after the class name will have State Fair delegates and alternates chosen. Classes that do not have this after the class names do not advance to state. (Example: Animal Sciences (SF-50135A) advances to State Fair. Candy Making does NOT advance to State.)
20. ***NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!***
21. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the Peoria County 4-H Show, please contact Kristi Smith, 4-H Program Coordinator, at least two weeks prior to the event at University of Illinois Extension, Peoria County, (309) 685-3140.

GENERAL LIVESTOCK/ ANIMALS RULES & REGULATIONS

All youth exhibiting livestock **MUST** sign a “Code of Practice & Behavior Statement” The Code of Practice & Behavior Statement is in the back of the show book or may be obtained from the Extension office.

The exhibitor must certify that his/her project has been cared for and maintained by himself/herself and his/her immediate family during the required tenure of ownership and this project has not been cared for by a professional fitter or maintained at a professional fitter’s facilities. In case of horse and pony projects, the standard shall be no person other than the project member should fit or train animals on the grounds. Physical assistance with tack, equipment, and appointments during the show by immediate family members or project leaders is acceptable.

***BEEF, SWINE, DAIRY, GOATS, SHEEP** exhibitors **MUST** have visited the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) website to complete online training OR take a face-to-face class before county show time. This training is done annually.

***HORSES, RABBITS, POULTRY, DOGS & CATS** exhibitors **MUST** have visited the Clover Academy section of the ZSuite Enrollment system, and have a valid Ethics Certificate before county show time. Directions for completing the course can be found at <https://go.illinois.edu/TakeQAEC>. Members are only required to do this once. This does not need to be done annually.

1. In cases where a 4-H member cannot exhibit his/her animal, another 4-H member may do so in his/her place after first getting written permission from the department Superintendent.
2. All exhibits should be the work of the 4-H member. **NO** animal can be exhibited at any other county 4-H show by you or another 4-H member. The same animal cannot be shown twice. (i.e., A member exhibits an animal at the Peoria County 4-H Show, the same animal cannot be exhibited by that member or any other 4-H member at a different county 4-H show.)
3. Show management are the only individuals that may approach a judge during a show. If another individual(s) approach’s a judge during the show, it may be grounds for disqualification.
4. **WEIGH IN TIMES** - Swine, Wethers, and Cattle must be in place at the designated times for weighing. See **4-H Show Schedule** for times.
5. **ANIMALS MUST BE IN PLACE BY:**

a)	Poultry	8:00 AM	July 16
b)	Sheep, Goats	NOON	July 16
c)	Rabbits	8:00 AM	July 17
d)	Swine, Beef	10:00 AM	July 17
e)	Dairy	1:00 PM	July 10
f)	Horses (Grey Horse Farm)	8:00 AM	TBD
6. **UNLOADING OF ANIMALS** - All animals must be inspected or approved for unloading by the Health Official or appropriate committee member with presentation of required papers (see individual animal regulations starting on page 10).
7. Cedar Hills Baptist Church, Stark County Fairgrounds and Illinois Extension do not provide any insurance or liability coverage prior to show dates July 15, 16, & 17, 2026. We will be setting up some pens and stalls Monday, July 13, 2026. The 4-H Show will begin Wednesday, July 15 at 9 AM.

8. All youth exhibiting a livestock project are **required** to wear appropriate footwear in the show arena. This includes Beef, Dairy, Swine, Sheep, Goats, Rabbits, Poultry & Horse projects. (Open toed or open heeled shoes, sandals, slippers, moccasins, crocs, etc. are prohibited.) Also, appropriate show attire is recommended when exhibiting in the show arena.
9. **PROPER PAPERS** - All purebred animals except horses (see Horse Dept. rule # 1) or Dogs (see Dog Dept. Rule #6) must be registered in the 4-H exhibitor's name (no partnership or family registrations) and the proper papers must be available for inspection by Superintendent or **authorized** personnel on the day of the show.
10. All livestock may be leased for the Peoria County 4-H Show. Lease forms must be on file in the Extension Office by May 1. Lease forms are available on Peoria County Extension Website. Important note: If exhibitor plans to show animal (other than horses & dogs) at State Fair, papers **must** be in exhibitor's name. They cannot be leased.
11. **HEALTH PAPERS** for beef, dairy, goats, sheep, swine, and poultry must be complete and available for inspection by the Health Official and/or department Superintendent. Poultry and rabbits will be visually inspected for evidence of disease or parasites.
12. **PROPER CARE OF ANIMALS** – 4-H members **MUST ALWAYS** have adequate feed and water for their livestock. Failure to comply may result in being banned from showing in next year's show. Also, if a Superintendent feels that a 4-H member is being abusive to the animal in the arena or show ring, they may approach the member and inform them this is unacceptable behavior. A verbal or written warning will be given. If it continues, they will not be able to participate in the 4-H show the next year or two as determined by the Superintendent & Extension Staff.
13. All exhibitors of animals at any Illinois Fair or exhibition shall comply with the provisions of the Illinois Humane Care for Animals Act. Any practice or deviation from normal humane husbandry practices, including, but not limited to artificial manipulations, physical abuse, medical treatments, or mechanical applications of any substance, other than on the prescription of a licensed veterinarian, will constitute a violation. If violations are observed by fair officials, the animal will be excused from exhibition, disqualified, and be ordered to be removed immediately from the grounds with all awards previously earned at this fair being forfeited.
14. **ONLY ONE ENTRY PER CLASS** will be permitted with the following exceptions: all swine, beef, goat, and sheep classes, and rabbit purebred classes. **However, premiums, if they are available, will be paid for only one entry per class.**
15. **SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES** - **No advance entry is required for ANY of the showmanship classes, except HORSES.** Animals exhibited in the showmanship classes **MUST** have been previously exhibited in another class. **NO PREMIUM PAYMENT** is awarded for exhibits in showmanship or challenge classes in any species. Ribbons and awards still apply for winners. This includes **HORSE ENGLISH EQUITATION AND WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP CLASSES.**
16. **TO STAY OVERNIGHT** on the Fair Grounds 4-H members exhibiting livestock in the 4-H Show must provide the following information to an Extension staff person any time before 6 PM on the evening you plan to stay:
 - a) Permission slip with parent's *and* chaperone's signatures
 - b) Every chaperone or parent who plans to stay overnight on the fairgrounds must be 21 years old or older and have a **VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM** and **CANTS** check on file at the Extension office prior to the 4-H Show. (This volunteer background screening takes two weeks or more; forms are available at the Extension office.)
 - c) Behavior and safety guidelines including curfew and "lights out" policy will be enforced.

17. **LIVESTOCK RELEASE** - All livestock will be released at the conclusion of the auction. Early removal may result in forfeiture of premiums and awards. All livestock exhibitors must have a release form for every species they exhibit signed by the Superintendent of that species before removing animals from the fairgrounds. This is to ensure that stall areas are completely cleaned. All straw, manure, and other debris must be placed **IN** designated containers. Bring your own equipment for the removal of bedding and debris. Bedding should be minimized to defray the cost of debris removal. Horses will be released following the show on the day of the show. Check with your Superintendent for exact times.
18. **STATE FAIR ENTRIES - NO LATE ENTRIES FOR JUNIOR LIVESTOCK EXHIBITS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Entries for Horses must be in the Extension office by **June 1, 2026**. (statefair.illinois.gov/competitions/competitive-events/equine-events) See link for details. Livestock entries for Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy, Goats, Rabbits & Poultry must be entered in ShowWorks by **July 15, 2026**. (statefair.illinois.gov/competitions/competitive-events/livestock-events) See link for details. It is recommended that you submit those entries prior to July 13th so that they can be approved by county staff.
19. Decisions of the Judges and/or Superintendents are **FINAL**. All special requests must be presented to the Superintendent in writing before the 4-H Show (if applicable), with approval or denial of requests decided on an individual basis by the Superintendent.

RIBBONS AND TROPHIES

1. **ALL trophy winners are responsible for sending the trophy donor a THANK-YOU note.** Address labels are on trophies or available from the Extension office.
2. All **non-livestock** projects judged and exhibited will receive a BLUE, RED or WHITE ribbon. Superior exhibits will be awarded a PINK ribbon. Not all exhibits will qualify for a Superior ribbon.
3. For every class, ONE exhibit will be chosen as a Class Champion. These exhibits will receive a PURPLE ribbon.
4. Trophies will be awarded to one of the Class Champions **only in those classes with trophy sponsors** (some project areas are combined). Individuals or clubs interested in sponsoring a trophy may do so by calling the Extension office before May 1, 2026.
5. **Livestock** ribbons and trophy awards will vary according to species and number of exhibitors. Awards may be A, B, or C rating, Class Champion, Grand Champion, and/or Reserve Class Champion.

STATE FAIR JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW

1. To exhibit in the Illinois State Fair Junior Show, 4-H youth must be 8 years old as of September 1, 2025.
2. Entry DEADLINES for State Fair Junior Livestock Shows are:
 - a. Horses Monday, June 1, 2026
 - b. All other Livestock..... Wednesday, July 15, 2026
 - c. Dogs..... Saturday, August 1, 2026
 - d. **All entries are due in the Extension office by 4:00 p.m. the day of deadline or Friday if due on Saturday.**
3. All State Fair Junior Livestock entries **MUST** go through the ShoWorks for an Extension Staff approval. Please let Kristi know when you submit your entries so that she can approve them.

4. All Junior Livestock exhibitors in Horses, Rabbits, Poultry, and Dogs must have taken the Quality Assurance and Ethics Training **before** July 1, 2026. Certification can only be accessed on the Clover Academy section of the ZSuite Enrollment System. ZSuite can be accessed at <https://4h.zsuite.org/>.
5. All Junior Livestock exhibitors in Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goats, and Dairy must have taken the Youth for Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) **before** July 1, 2026. Certification can be done on the web or a face-to-face class. Web site is: yqcaprogram.org. Members are required to take this annually. (There is a cost for this certification.)
6. The 26th Annual Illinois State Fair Master Showmanship contest will take place at the Illinois State Fair on Friday, August 14 at 6 PM OR 30 minutes following the conclusion of all Junior Livestock Shows.

AUCTION GUIDELINES

INTENT TO PARTICIPATE forms, available from the Extension office or in the back of the Show Book, must be in the Extension office, Peoria by *June 15, 2026*. Failure to have a completed form on file prohibits participation in the 2026 Auction. NO Auction entries can be added to the sale list on the day of the Auction. Youth must confirm their entries on the day of the sale with an Auction Committee member or Extension staff. Withdrawals will be allowed. Decisions of Auction Committee are FINAL.

The auction entry must be an enrolled 4-H project in the current 4-H year and must be judged in the current year 4-H Show. **Youth are required to recruit 2 bidders for the auction. Auction Forms will not be accepted without potential buyer information. All terms of sale must be completed by September 15.**

MARKET LIVESTOCK ENTRY GUIDELINES

- The 4-H member reserves the right to continue to exhibit the animal through the State Fair. However, the 4-H member is responsible for the health and security of the animal. Death loss of the animal is the 4-H member's loss. Money will be held in escrow until after the State Fair. **Also, if exhibitor continues to show animal (i.e., State Fair) all terms of sale must be completed by September 15.**
- If the member sells the animal as Grand Champion at the State Fair, the local buyer will be fully reimbursed.
- A minimum of 3% with no more than a maximum of 15% "fee" will be deducted from the total sale of the animal to cover Auction expenses.
- Buyers' checks will be made payable to the Peoria County 4-H Auction Committee, then processed to the member after transaction requirements are complete. The member will receive payment at a later date.
- The seller will provide transportation suitable to the buyer within a reasonable distance. However, the 4-H member is responsible for the care of the animal until arrangements can be made with a locker for processing within one week of the auction.
- The buyer assumes responsibility and loss of animal upon possession of the animal.
- The animal will be weighed and sold by the pound on the day of their respective shows.
- Minimum weight guideline: Sheep 100 - lbs., Swine 215 - lbs., Beef 950 - lbs. and above.
- It is the responsibility of the 4-H member (seller) to bring the animal up to market weight for the buyer (if the buyer should request it) as follows: Sheep 110 lbs.; Swine 240 lbs.; Beef 1100 lbs.
- Youth participating in the auction are required to help with the set up and clean up for the auction. A release form must be signed for verification of helping. **If youth do not help, an additional 20% fee could be deducted from their auction earnings, and he/she may not be able to participate in the 2027 4-H Auction.**
- Youth participating must be lined up in chairs at the front of the room before the auction begins.
- All animals being offered must be castrated male market animals. **NO MARKET FEMALES WILL BE OFFERED.** The only exceptions will be poultry and rabbits.

PREMIUM OPTION FOR MARKET ANIMALS

- 1) Buyer pays full price and buyer has the option of taking the animal to market or whatever else they may want to do with it or 2) The buyer can pay only the premium and youth will take the animal home or whatever else they may want to do with it.

ALL OTHER PROJECT ENTRY GUIDELINES

- The 4-H member reserves the right to continue to exhibit all projects at the State Fair. The 4-H member is responsible for preserving the integrity of the project during the duration of their possession of the project. The 4-H member is responsible for contacting and delivering the project to the buyer as soon as State Fair exhibiting is completed.
- A minimum of 3% with no more than a maximum of 15% "fee" will be deducted from the total sale of the project sold to cover Auction expenses.
- Buyers' checks will be made payable to Peoria County 4-H Auction Committee, then processed to the 4-H member after transaction requirements are complete.
- A minimum price may be set to assist the auctioneer.

It is the 4-H member's responsibility to send a THANK YOU note to the buyer.

For Health Requirement Information:
Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare
State Fairgrounds P.O. Box 19281 Springfield, IL 62794-9281 Phone (217) 782-4944

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2026 Exhibition Livestock Health Requirements for Illinois County Fairs

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. These Exhibition Health Requirements apply to all livestock present on County Fairgrounds, including livestock that are not entered in competitive events. Species specific information follows the general requirements.
2. Exhibitors are required to familiarize themselves with all rules applicable to their exhibits.
3. All out-of-state animals must have an entry permit. Entry permit numbers are available online at entrypermit.agr.illinois.gov/Login.aspx.
4. All animals, except as noted in species specific information below, shall be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI).
5. All animals must be officially identified.
6. All livestock shall be subject to examination upon entry to County Fairgrounds. Examination may include but is not limited to ultrasound, urine testing, blood testing, and similar actions.
7. Definitions, abbreviations, and administration:
 - a. The Illinois Department of Agriculture may be referred to as “Department” or “IDOA”
 - b. The Department contains a Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare, which receives all CVIs.
 - c. Department or IDOA staff, as used in this document, includes all Bureaus
8. IDOA will continue to monitor state and federal trends in animal health as it relates to this document. Any updates to these requirements will be posted on our website.

II. CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

1. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) means a legible record, made on an official form from the state of origin, containing an accurate description or identification of the animal including age, sex, breed, health status, and vaccination information.
2. The CVI must be signed, dated, and issued by a licensed and accredited veterinarian in that state.
3. Submitted CVIs must be as originally issued by the veterinarian; no CVIs with alterations, edits, or changes, will be accepted. The CVI must show that the animal meets all health requirements for the State of Illinois (species specific information noted later in this guidance)
4. CVI must show the name and address of the animal’s owner or exhibitor.
5. CVI must include the animal’s Animal Identification Number.
 - a. Animal identification number (AIN): A numbering system for the official identification of individual animals in the United States that provides a nationally unique identification number for each animal. The AIN consists of 15 digits, with the first 3 being the country code (840 for the United States or a unique country code for any U.S. territory that has such a code and elects to use it in place of the 840 code).
6. If one CVI is used for multiple animals, each animal identification must be on a separate line.
7. Exhibitors are strongly encouraged to obtain electronic CVIs whenever possible; IDOA is moving toward only accepting electronic CVIs.
8. Exhibitors shall make CVIs available to Department of Agriculture and County Fair staff on request.
 - a. If an official electronic CVI is utilized, the exhibitor should be able to log on and show County Fair staff or Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare Personnel the completed CVI.
9. If animals are from tuberculosis accredited, brucellosis certified, pseudorabies qualified, or brucellosis validated herds, the identifying herd number(s) along with the date of the last herd test(s) shall appear on the CVI.
10. CVIs for out-of-state livestock shall be void thirty (30) days after issuance.
11. CVIs for Illinois-origin livestock shall be void ninety (90) days after issuance.

III. QUARANTINE AND REMOVAL

1. Quarantine shall be at the animal owner (or exhibitor) risk and expense.
2. Quarantine and removal from the Fairgrounds shall be as determined appropriate by the County Fair Veterinarian, State Veterinarian, or their designee(s).
3. Quarantine will be required until the animal has been properly treated and recovered, or the animal can be released to return to the owner's premise, both in the opinion of the County Fair Veterinarian, State Veterinarian, or their designee(s).
4. Any animal presenting with a condition that would subject it to quarantine must be withdrawn from any/all entered competitions and are not permitted to exhibit.
5. Any condition meriting quarantine may also result in required removal of the animal from the Fairgrounds, as determined appropriate by the County Fair Veterinarian, State Veterinarian, or their designee(s).
6. Conditions subject to quarantine (not an exhaustive list)
 - a. Any animal showing evidence of infectious, contagious or communicable diseases shall be held in quarantine.
 - b. Any livestock infected with scabies, mange, active lesions of ringworm, soremouth, or multiple warts which are easily visible without close examination
 - c. Sheep and goats with caseous lymphadenitis as evidenced by draining abscesses
 - d. Suspicion of or diagnosis of a foreign animal disease, emerging animal disease, or other actionable disease, animals may be subject to quarantine on the fairgrounds until such time that it is determined that the disease is no longer a threat.
7. Any Illinois cattle, bison, cervidae or goats being exhibited in non-accredited free states must be isolated from the remainder of the herd/flock upon return to Illinois and retested for tuberculosis 60-120 days post-entry back into the state.

IV. SPECIES SPECIFIC INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The information included below for any species is in addition to the requirements noted above. There are no additional species-specific information or requirements for llamas, pigeons, or rabbits.

CATTLE

Identification:

Individual identification of each animal shall be by a USDA official animal identification number ear tag, ("840" tag). The identification tag must be able to be read both visually and electronically.

Illinois Cattle:

- Illinois is a Bovine Brucellosis Class-Free State and an Accredited Tuberculosis-Free State. Brucellosis and Tuberculin testing are not required for Illinois cattle.
- Illinois calves under 6 months of age are not required to have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.

Out-of-State-Cattle:

- Brucellosis
 1. Female cattle six (6) months of age and older and bulls eighteen (18) months of age and older shall be negative to an official test for brucellosis within thirty (30) days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds, unless exempt by one (1) of the following:
 - a. Originate directly from a certified brucellosis-free herd.
 - b. Official vaccinates of dairy breeds under twenty (20) months of age or official vaccinates of beef breeds under twenty-four (24) months of age.
 - c. Animal originated from a “Class Free” state (if entire state is so classified).
 - d. Animal is a steer or spayed heifer.
 2. The negative brucellosis test shall be conducted at a state or federal laboratory within 30 days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds.
- Tuberculosis
 1. Accredited Tuberculosis Free States
 - a. No tuberculin test required.
 2. Non-Accredited Tuberculosis Free Areas or States (Not TB Free)
 3. Cattle must originate from a herd where a complete herd test was conducted within the past year.
 4. The individual animals entering Illinois must be negative to an additional tuberculin test conducted within 30 days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds.

ALL Dairy Cattle (In-State and Out-of-State):

A rRT-PCR test for Influenza A virus (IAV) on milk from lactating dairy cattle present at county fairs shall be conducted prior to livestock arriving on the fairgrounds. The animals must be sampled no more than seven days prior to the date of arrival, and a negative test record must be presented to event leaders.

SWINE

Identification:

Individual identification of each animal shall be by a USDA official animal identification number ear tag, (“840” tag). The identification tag must be able to be read both visually and electronically.

Illinois Swine:

Brucellosis and Pseudorabies testing are not required for Illinois swine.

Out-of-State Swine:

- Brucellosis
 1. Breeding swine 4 months of age and older shall be negative to an official test for brucellosis within 30 days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds unless exempt by one (1) of the following:
 - a. Originate immediately and directly from a validated brucellosis-free herd.
 - b. Originate directly from a validated brucellosis-free state.
 2. Swine brucellosis tests shall be conducted at a state or federal laboratory.
- Pseudorabies
 1. Swine originating from a Pseudorabies Stage IV or V state are exempt from the pseudorabies testing requirement.
 2. Swine originating from a Pseudorabies Stage III state shall be negative to an official test for pseudorabies conducted within thirty (30) days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds or originate immediately and directly from a qualified pseudorabies negative herd.
 3. Swine originating from a Pseudorabies Stage I or II state shall be negative to an official test for pseudorabies conducted within 10 days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds.
 4. Barrows and females in market classes must meet the same requirements as breeding swine.

SHEEP

Identification

- Individual identification of each animal shall be by an ear tattoo or official metal or plastic tag. A microchip ID is acceptable if the owner provides the reader.
- Ear tattoos may be used when a registration certificate, listing the tattoo number, accompanies the animal. If the tattoos are not visible, another form of official identification must be presented.
- When using ear tags, the tag must indicate the premises ID and state of origin. The tag number must be assigned by a state or APHIS representative and recorded in the Scrapie Record Database.

Market Lambs:

All market lambs must be slick shorn (show ring ready) before weigh-in so that show lamb fungus can be identified.

Scrapie:

Sheep originating from a flock that has previously been classified as either an infected or source flock can be exhibited in Illinois upon the completion of an approved flock plan.

CVI must include the flock of birth and the flock of origin, if different.

GOATS

Identification:

- Individual identification of each animal shall be by an ear tattoo or official metal or plastic tag. A microchip ID is acceptable if the owner provides the reader.
- Tattoos may be used when a registration certificate, listing the tattoo number, accompanies the animal. If the tattoos are not visible, another form of official identification must be presented.
 - o Ears should be used for tattooing when possible. If there is no space in the ear, the flank or tail fold may be used.
- When using ear tags, the tag must indicate the premises ID and state of origin. The tag number must be assigned by a state or APHIS representative and recorded in the Scrapie Record Database.

Scrapie:

Goats originating from a herd that has previously been classified as either an infected or source herd can be exhibited in Illinois upon the completion of an approved herd plan.

CVI must include the herd of birth and the herd of origin, if different.

Out-of-State Goats:

Goats from states that are not Accredited Bovine Tuberculosis Free, must also have the following information included on their CVI:

1. That the goats originated from a herd where a complete negative herd test has been conducted within the past twelve (12) months and
2. The individual animals are negative to a tuberculin test conducted within thirty (30) days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds.

HORSES, PONIES, MULES AND OTHER EQUIDAE

Equine Infectious Anemia

- All horses and other equidae, twelve (12) months of age and older entering the Fairgrounds, shall be accompanied by a negative test for equine infectious anemia (EIA) conducted within the last twelve (12) months.
- A copy of this test shall accompany the animal.
- AGID (Coggins) or ELISA tests are accepted.

Illinois Equine:

A CVI is not required for Illinois equine.

Out-of-State Equine:

All horses and other equidae shall be accompanied by a CVI issued within thirty (30) days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds.

POULTRY

1. All entries (except waterfowl, i.e., domesticated fowl that normally swim, such as ducks and geese) in a show or exhibition shall have originated from a U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean or equivalent hatchery or flock OR have a negative pullorum-typhoid test within 90 days prior to exhibition. Exhibitor shall show proper information as to name and address of owner or exhibitor, name and address of the authorized testing agent, date of the testing and the number, breed, and species of those tested.
2. Prior to being used to transport poultry to a show, all crates, boxes, containers and vehicles shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
3. Any poultry vaccinations must be performed at least 4 weeks prior to delivery to the show.
4. Upon admission to a show, all entries shall be examined by the State Veterinarian or their designee or qualified state personnel who shall also receive and examine all certificates necessary for admission of birds to a show. Birds not in show condition will be removed from exhibition and must be removed from the Fairgrounds.
5. Any fowl showing signs of illness during the Fair will be removed from the Fairgrounds.
6. All out-of-state turkeys must originate from flocks that are officially classified as U.S. Mycoplasma Gallisepticum Clean in accordance with the provisions of the National Poultry Improvement Plan or be negative to a test for Mycoplasma gallisepticum within 30 days prior to entry.

CERVIDAE: Deer, Elk, Reindeer, Caribou, Moose, Red Deer and other Related Species

Identification:

All animals shall be individually identified with an approved tag, microchip or tattoo. Elk are required to have two official/approved unique identifiers.

Illinois Cervidae:

- **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD):** For cervidae moving within the State, the owner must obtain a permit issued by the Illinois Department of Agriculture prior to movement. The cervid must originate from a herd that is enrolled in the Certified Monitored Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Program or the Contained Monitored Chronic Wasting Disease Program. The permit shall be obtained no more than 72 hours in advance of the movement of the cervids by providing the following information:
 - a) Name and complete mailing address of person exhibiting the cervids.
 - b) Certified Monitored Chronic Wasting Disease or Contained Monitored Chronic Wasting Disease Herd number.
 - c) Name and complete mailing address of location where the animals will be exhibited.
 - d) Number of animals and unique identification of the animals.
- **Tuberculosis:** Illinois is an Accredited Tuberculosis-Free State. Tuberculin test is not required for Illinois cervidae.

Out-of-State Cervidae:

All Cervidae entering Illinois must:

1. Be in compliance with the Illinois Wildlife Code [520 ILCS 5]. For more information, contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources at 217/782-6384.
2. Be accompanied by a permit from the Illinois Department of Agriculture
3. Have a CVI that:
 - a. shows that the cervidae are free from visible evidence of any contagious, infectious or communicable disease or exposure thereto, do not originate from a CWD endemic area (any county and surrounding counties where CWD has been diagnosed in the past five years);
 - b. shows that the cervidae are not originating from a herd under quarantine for any contagious, infectious or communicable disease.
 - c. shows that the animals originate from a herd that has been monitored for at least 5 years under a state-approved CWD certification program.
4. **Brucellosis:** Cervidae six (6) months of age and older must have a negative brucellosis card or PCFIA test within sixty (60) days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds.

5. Tuberculosis

- a. Accredited Tuberculosis Free States: All cervidae twelve (12) months of age and over shall be negative to two (2) tests for bovine TB no less than ninety (90) days apart with the second test conducted within ninety (90) days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds. These animals shall be isolated from all other members of the herd during the testing period unless they originate from an accredited, qualified or monitored herd.
 1. Cervidae from an accredited herd may be moved into Illinois without further TB testing provided that a certificate stating that such cervids originated from an accredited herd accompanies them.
 2. Cervidae originating from qualified or monitored herds may enter with a negative test within ninety (90) days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds and a certificate stating that the animals originate from a monitored herd.
- b. Non-Accredited Tuberculosis Free Areas or States (Not TB Free)
 1. All cervidae shall originate from a herd where a complete herd test was conducted within the past year.
 2. The individual animals entering Illinois must be negative to two (2) additional TB tests conducted within 180 and 30 days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds.

RATITES: Ostriches, Emus, Rheas, Cassowaries and Kiwis

Illinois Ratites:

There are no requirements governing the movement of ratites within Illinois.

Out-of-State Ratites:

1. Individually identified by leg band or microchip.
2. Negative test for Avian Influenza within 10 days prior to entry onto the Fairgrounds.

For clarification or additional information on health requirements, contact:

**Illinois Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare
Phone (217) 782-4944**

Or visit our webpage: agr.illinois.gov/animals/animalhealth.html



LIVESTOCK PROJECTS

BEEF

Superintendent: Steve Kellstadt

Phone: 231-0279

BEEF SHOW will be held on Friday, July 17, immediately following the Swine Show at Stark County Fairgrounds.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Health Requirements for can be found on pages 10-16.

Health requirements for the State Fair can be found here:

https://agr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/agr/animals/animalhealth/documents/2026%20State%20Fair%20Exhibition%20Health%20Requirements%20revised%202021_26.pdf

BEEF SHOW RULES

Enrollment and Ownership Deadlines:

- 4-H members must be enrolled in the Beef Project by January 1, 2026.
- Ownership of "Performance Cows" is January 1, 2026.
- Ownership of Steers is February 1, 2026.
- Ownership of Breeding Beef Females is June 1, 2026.
- All animals must be registered in the 4-H member's name OR have Livestock Lease Form on file in the Extension Office. Livestock lease forms are only appropriate for the 4-H Fair. Lease forms will NOT be accepted at the Illinois State Fair.
- YQCA is required to show Beef Cattle of any kind.
- All cattle **must** be either polled or dehorned. Cattle should NOT have horns or scurrs.
- Cattle will not be allowed to leave until the conclusion of Master Showmanship, at the end of the cattle show, and all stalls are cleaned.

All youth exhibiting livestock must sign a "Code of Practice & Behavior Statement" The Code of Practice & Behavior Statement is located in the back of the show book or may be obtained from the Extension office.

Weigh-In and Rate of Gain

1. All animals must go through the chute to the "Scales" on Friday, July 17 at 10 AM Health and registration papers will be checked at this time. All Rate of Gain papers will be turned in at the time your steer is weighed in or prior to AM.
2. The Beef Committee reserves the right to establish classes. There must be at least three animals of any breed in each sex to have a show. Breeds with less than three animals of each sex will be shown in a mixed-breed class.

BEEF CLASSES: (Angus, Hereford, Shorthorn, Simmental, AOB, Crossbred)

Junior Heifer Calf	Born Jan. 1, 2026, or later (7 mo. or younger)
Senior Heifer Calf	Born Sept. 1 - Dec. 31, 2025 (7-11 mo.)
Late Summer Yearling Heifer	Born July 10 - Aug. 31, 2025 (11-13 mo.)
Early Summer Yearling Heifer	Born May 1 - June 30, 2025 (13-15 mo.)
Late Jr. Yearling Heifer	Born Mar. 1 - April 30, 2025 (15-17 mo.)
Early Jr. Yearling Heifer	Born Jan. 1 - Feb. 28, 2025 (17-19 mo.)
Senior Yearling Heifer	Born Sept. 1 - Dec. 31, 2024 (20 mo. or older)
First Yr. Heifer & Calf	For any first-year heifer and calf born before June 1 of this year. Both dam and calf must be exhibited at halter.
Aged Cow & Calf	For cows and calves born before June 1 of this year. Both animals must be exhibited at halter.
Bucket Calf	For calves born between March 2 - May 1, 2026. Exhibitor must be 8-12 years old. Calf must be owned by May 1, 2026. Calf will be judged on health and appearance. Judge will ask questions about calf's care and condition. Must be shown on halter in show ring.

STEER SHOW

1. Steers must have been calved on or after January 1, 2025. Regardless of age, a steer must have no permanent teeth showing; only milk teeth will be allowed.
2. All steer classes will be divided by weight.
3. The 4-H member must own all steers by February 1, 2026. Steers to be shown at State Fair must be weighed and tattooed in January/February to be eligible for the State Fair Premiere and premiums.

STEER CLASSES: (Angus, Hereford, Shorthorn, Simmental, AOB, Crossbred)**Rate of Gain Class**

Members may nominate as many animals as they wish but will receive only one premium. Weighing and tattooing took place on February 7, 2026. The class will be judged on rate of gain. The class will be paraded at halter and the production records must be presented at the time of weigh-in Friday, July 17 at the 4-H Show and turned in prior to 10 AM. Steers will also be eligible for the Illinois State Fair Premiere, if entry forms are in the Extension Office no later than July 1, 2026.

SHOWMANSHIP

Novice	This is for first year members.
Junior	4-H members 8-13 years
Senior	4-H members 14-18 years
Challenge Class	To consist of this years' division winners and any Junior, Senior, or Challenge Division trophy winners of past years that have not moved up to the next age level yet

ANIMAL SCIENCE CLASS

- **Beef Animal Science Class** – No animal is shown. This project is included in the non-livestock judging schedule and is shown in the SCIENCE PROJECTS show and judging area. See specific directions in the SCIENCE PROJECTS section of the show book. (Page 44)

CAT

Superintendent: Jessica Westerman

Phone: 550-8747

CAT SHOW will be held on Friday, July 17 at Noon at the Stark County Fairgrounds.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Health Requirements for can be found on pages 10-16.

Health requirements for the State Fair can be found here:

https://agr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/agr/animals/animalhealth/documents/2026%20State%20Fair%20Exhibition%20Health%20Requirements%20revised%2002_19_26.pdf

CAT SHOW RULES:

1. 4-H Cat Show exhibitors must have owned the cat before May 15 of current year. Cats may be purebred or household cats.
2. Only members may show cats at the judging table. A 4-H cat entered but not presented or available will not be judged.
3. All cats must be taken to and from the show in secure carriers. A leash and collar or harness must be used. All exhibitors are expected to stay in the area with their cats during judging. Cats will be removed from their cages during judging. The member will stay and watch his or her cat being judged, then return the cat to its cage.
4. If the 4-H cat is not on the judging table at the time the class is judged, it will not be judged.
5. All cats show must be 4 months or older to be eligible to show.
6. Cat vaccination form can be found on the county website under Peoria County 4-H, Peoria County 4-H Show or at this link: https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/peoria_cat_vaccination_form_0.pdf
7. An overall Best in Show Cat will be selected.

CLASSES

General Cat Classes

Cat classes will be judging the cat, not the participant.

- Household Shorthair
- Purebred Shorthair
- Household Longhair
- Purebred Longhair

Cats are classified as follows:

- *Household* – Cats that are not registered as a recognized breed.
- *Purebred* – Cats of a recognized breed, kept pure for many generations. If the cat is registered, it must have a current registration number from one of the national cat registries (in the member's name).
- *Long Haired* – Cats whose coat has long top hairs, with a thick woolly undercoat. The length of hair on a cat's tail is often used as a determining factor. Long Hair length is normally 1 ½" in length.
- *Short Haired* – Cats whose coat has only short hairs and a smooth, textured coat. Cat tail hair is usually less than 1 ½" in length.

Showmanship

The purpose of this 4-H activity is to help 4-H members learn and become more aware of cat fanciers' knowledge, show techniques and related cat management. Judges will be speaking with the member about their knowledge of the following.

- Overall good health & grooming of the cat.
- Exhibitor's ability to handle and show their cat.
- Cat's presence with the judge.
- Knowledge of responsible ownership-including responsible care, training, and feeding of cat.
- Basic knowledge of cat behavior or breed characteristics.

Carrier Decoration

Item will be judged on safety, originality, neatness, creativity and theme.

- Safety for your cat must be #1 consideration, when decorating your cage.
- The cage must be covered on 2 sides, back and top with material that gives privacy and helps stop airborne diseases. Back corners must be able to be opened to allow ventilation on hot days.
- A proper litter pan must be in cage.
- Use separate non-breakable water and food dishes.
- Decorations above cage, if any, must be lightweight and not fragile.
- Include a written description of materials and techniques used.
- Items used for cage decorations cannot be entered in any other class.
- Each 4-H member must have a different theme every year.
- Cage Sizes: No smaller than 20"H x 24"W x 21"D and no larger than 24"H x 48"W x 24"D.

Costume Contest

Will your cat let you dress him/her up? Then show off your cat's cutest outfit.

Talented Trick Competition

Does your cat play fetch, sing, play the piano, ride a skateboard, walk on 2 legs, open doors, or any other neat trick? Show off your cat's amazing skills with a demonstration. You can bring a video on your phone or laptop of your cat performing their trick or skill at home, just in case your kitty gets stage fright! (Equipment to show video will not be provided.)

ANIMAL SCIENCE CLASS

- **Cat Animal Science Class** - No animal is shown. This project is included in the non-livestock judging schedule and is shown in the SCIENCE PROJECTS show and judging area. See specific directions in the SCIENCE PROJECTS section of the show book. (Page 44)



DAIRY

Superintendent: Fred Rosenbohm

Phone: 697-4041

DAIRY SHOW will be held at Linden Hill Farms. Friday, July 10 at 2 PM

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Health Requirements for can be found on pages 10-16.

Health requirements for the State Fair can be found here:

https://agr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/agr/animals/animalhealth/documents/2026%20State%20Fair%20Exhibition%20Health%20Requirements%20revised%2002_19_26.pdf

DAIRY SHOW RULES

1. Production records must be available.
2. Ownership of calves and heifers is June 1, 2026
3. Ownership of cows is January 1, 2026
4. All animals must be registered in the 4-H member's name OR have Livestock Lease Form on file in the Extension Office. Livestock lease forms are only appropriate for the 4-H Fair. Lease forms will NOT be accepted at the Illinois State Fair.
5. YQCA is required to show Dairy Cattle of any kind.

All youth exhibiting livestock **must** sign a "Code of Practice & Behavior Statement" The Code of Practice & Behavior Statement is located in the back of the show book or may be obtained from the Extension office.

DAIRY CLASSES:

(Holstein, Brown Swiss, Jersey, Milking Shorthorn, Crossbred or All Other Breeds)

Spring Heifer Calf	Born on or after March 1, 2026
Winter Heifer Calf	Born Dec. 1, 2025 - Feb. 29, 2026
Fall Heifer Calf	Born Sept. 1, 2025 - Nov. 30, 2025
Summer Yearling Heifer	Born June 1, 2025 - Aug. 31, 2025
Spring Yearling Heifer	Born March 1, 2025 - May 31, 2025
Winter Yearling Heifer	Born Dec. 1, 2024 - Feb. 28, 2025
Fall Yearling Heifer	Born Sept. 1, 2024 - Nov. 30, 2024
Two-Year Old Cow	Born Sept 1, 2023 - Aug. 31, 2024
3 & 4 Year Old Cow	Born Sept. 1, 2022 - Aug. 31, 2023
Aged Cow	Born before Sept. 1, 2022
Best Uddered Female	May have two entries in this class.
Dam and Daughter	Both animals must be owned or leased by the 4-H member
Best Three Females	Animals must be owned or leased by the 4-H member
Produce of Dam	Two offspring from the same Dam. Animals must be owned by the 4-H member
Dry Cow	

SHOWMANSHIP

Junior	4-H members 8-13 years
Senior	4-H members 14-18 years
Challenge Class	To consist of this years' division winners and any Junior, Senior, or Challenge Division trophy winners of past year that have not moved up an age level.

ANIMAL SCIENCE CLASS

- **Dairy Animal Science Class** - No animal is shown. This project is included in the non-livestock judging schedule and is shown in the SCIENCE PROJECTS show and judging area. See specific directions in the SCIENCE PROJECTS section of the show book. (Page 44)

DOG

Superintendent: Hannah Martin
Phone: 657-9763

Illinois State 4-H Dog Show will be August 22, 2026. This year's show will be held
at The Interstate Center, Bloomington, IL

DOG SHOW will be held Thursday, July 19 at 9:00 AM at Stark County Fairgrounds

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Health Requirements for can be found on pages 10-16.

Health requirements for the State Fair can be found here:

https://agr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/agr/animals/animalhealth/documents/2026%20State%20Fair%20Exhibition%20Health%20Requirements%20revised%2002_19_26.pdf

DOG SHOW RULES:

1. Dogs do not have to be AKC registered to compete.
2. Starting in 2025, any member starting dog training must pass the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test.
 - a. This is not required for dog/handler teams who has participated previously, but it is encouraged.
 - b. More information can be found: <https://www.akc.org/products-services/training-programs/canine-good-citizen/>
3. All dogs in competition must be at least 6 months old.
4. All exhibitors are required to compete in the dog care and grooming class. All exhibitors wishing to enter the obedience and showmanship classes may do so. However, they will need instruction (classes) for obedience and showmanship by an experienced handler.
5. For safety, the judge and/or superintendent may remove from competition any dog whose handler does not control his personal conduct or the conduct of the dog or any dog that may appear ill.
6. A dog being shown in the dog obedience project must be trained by and belong to the exhibitor, to a member of his/her immediate family, or leased for the length of the project with a signed statement. (Forms available at the Extension Office.) **The ownership or lease agreement must be in effect by June 1 of the year in which the dog is being exhibited.**
7. In order to compete in the Rally division, the dog must have competed in Beginner Novice I or II in a previous year.
8. To be eligible for Illinois State 4-H Dog Show and Peoria County 4-H Fair competition, exhibitors must be 8 years old by September 1, 2025. Exhibitors must bring a score sheet signed and dated by the Judge of the County 4-H Show, or an AKC Obedience Trial. A dog must have a final score of at least 170 points for all classes. (See State Fair Junior Dept. Rules Dog Show division for any other info: <https://uofi.app.box.com/s/gnxpza6c80yn7lrbmpwqd30xzpqwq6/file/2124387498909>)
9. In case of a duplicate score, a runoff will be held. Exhibitors shall be limited to one entry per class. The same dog cannot be exhibited in more than one obedience class.
10. All dogs must be brought to the show on a 6-foot leather, nylon or canvas leash and a regulation slip chain or nylon training collar for obedience. A show lead is required for showmanship.
11. A score of 170 is required to go to State Competition for all classes. Anyone who does not qualify for State may compete at the same level the following year.
12. Only the handlers who have won the Jr. and Sr. Grand Championship in Showmanship at their 4-H Dog Show may represent the county. No substitutions are allowed! If the Grand Champion is unable to attend the county will be un-represented. **Handlers must be 4-H members enrolled in the county in which they win.** A verification form of county representation is to be sent with exhibitor's entry form. A dog may compete in only one showmanship class.
13. A handler may show more than one dog. The same 4-H member may handle no more than one dog in each class.
14. Obedience dogs passed from child to child must compete at the level appropriate for the dog. (A dog cannot be used by two family members in the same 4-H year.)
15. Any obedience dog that receives a score that would qualify for state must move up to the next class the following year. This does not depend on whether you attended the state fair.

GROOMING & SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES

Dog Care & Grooming

Judging based on the overall condition of the dog and knowledge of grooming and terms

SHOWMANSHIP

Judging will be based upon the handler's ability to present the dog to its best advantage. The dog must be trimmed and tidy. The handler must show knowledge of ring procedure and handling. Jr. and Sr. Showmanship classes must also know terms and structure.

Junior	4-H members 8 - 13 years as of September 1, 2025
Senior	4-H members 14 - 18 years as of September 1, 2025

There will be no CHALLENGE CLASS for dogs because nominations for State Fair entries are limited to one Junior Class Champion and one Senior Class Champion, which are chosen from the Showmanship Classes.

OBEDIENCE CLASSES

Current AKC obedience rules will apply.

Beginner Novice I - For inexperienced handlers and inexperienced dogs.

1. 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. The order may be given in any sequence and may be repeated if necessary.
2. Figure Eight (on leash)
3. Sit for Examination (on leash)
4. Sit Stay (walk around ring)
5. Recall (off leash front/no finish)

Beginner Novice II - For experienced handlers/inexperienced dogs or experienced dogs/inexperienced handlers.

Same commands as for Beginner Novice I above.

Preferred-Novice

1. Heel on leash and figure 8.
2. Stand for Examination (off leash)
3. Heel Free (off leash)
4. Recall (off leash with finish)
5. Sit or Down Stay-Walk around the Ring
6. Sit Stay-Get Your Leash (off leash)

Novice

1. Heel on leash and figure 8. (on leash)
2. Stand for Examination (off leash)
3. Heel Free (off leash)
4. Recall (off leash)
5. Sit Stay – Get your leash (off leash)
6. Group Exercise - Sit & Down Stay (on Leash)

Graduate Novice

1. Heel Free and Figure eight (off leash)
2. Drop on Recall
3. Dumbbell Recall
4. Dumbbell Recall over High Jump
5. Recall over Broad Jump
6. Stay-Get your leash (Sit, Down)

Preferred-Open

1. Heel Free and figure eight
2. Command Discrimination (Stand, Down, Sit)
3. Drop on Recall
4. Retrieve on Flat
5. Retrieve over High Jump
6. Broad Jump
7. Stay-Get your leash (Sit, Down)

Open

1. Heel Free and Figure 8
2. Command Discrimination (Stand, Down, Sit)
3. Drop on Recall
4. Retrieve on Flat.
5. Retrieve over High Jump
6. Broad Jump
7. Stay-Get your leash (Sit, Down)

Graduate Open

1. Signal Exercise
2. Scent Discrimination
3. Go Out
4. Directed Jumping
5. Moving Stand and Examination
6. Directed Retrieve

Preferred Utility

1. Signal Exercise
2. Scent Discrimination Article #1
3. Scent Discrimination Article #2
4. Directed Retrieve
5. Moving, Stand and Examination
6. Directed Jumping

Utility

1. Signal Exercise
2. Scent Discrimination Article #1
3. Scent Discrimination Article #2
4. Directed Retrieve
5. Moving, Stand and Examination
6. Directed Jumping

RALLY OBEDIENCE CLASSES

Dog/Handler must score at least 70 points out of 100 to compete at the state level. Unless otherwise noted, handler may speak to the dog, pat their leg, or clap their hands to encourage.

- **Rally Novice** - 10-15 signs are used (not including start and finish). Three to seven of the signs must be "stationary" signs. Performed on leash.
- **Rally Intermediate** – A total of 12-17 signs are used (not including start and finish). Three to seven of the signs must be "stationary" signs. At least three "advanced" signs. Performed on leash.
- **Rally Advanced** – A total of 12-17 signs are used (not including start and finish). Three to seven of the signs must be "stationary" signs. At least three "advanced" signs. Dog must jump once. Performed **off leash**.
- **Rally Excellent** – A total of 15-20 signs are used (not including start, finish, or call marker). Dog must jump twice. Two or more of the signs must be "advanced" signs. Three 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.

ANIMAL SCIENCE CLASS

- **Dog Animal Science Class** - No animal is shown. This project is included in the non-livestock judging schedule and is shown in the SCIENCE PROJECTS show and judging area. See specific directions in the SCIENCE PROJECTS section of the show book. (Page 44)



GOAT

Superintendent:
Missy & Scott Stevens
Phone: 635-1384

GOAT SHOW will be held on Thursday, July 16 immediately following the Poultry show at Stark County Fairgrounds

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Health Requirements for can be found on pages 10-16.

Health requirements for the State Fair can be found here:

https://agr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/agr/animals/animalhealth/documents/2026%20State%20Fair%20Exhibition%20Health%20Requirements%20revised%2002_19_26.pdf

GOAT SHOW RULES

1. Ownership dates for all Meat Goats is May 15, 2026
2. Ownership for Dairy goat kids and yearlings is June 1, 2026
3. Ownership for Dairy goat milking does is January 1, 2026
4. Ownership for all Pygmy goats is June 1, 2026
5. YQCA is required to show Goats of any kind.

All youth exhibiting livestock **must** sign a "Code of Practice & Behavior Statement" The Code of Practice & Behavior Statement is located in the back of the show book or may be obtained from the Extension office.

DAIRY CLASSES

<u>Doe</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>Wether</u>
Up to 6 mos.	Up to 6 mos.	Up to 6 mos.
6 mos. – 12 mos.		6 mos. – 12 mos.
Yearling Dry Doe 12 mos. – 24 mos.		12 mos. – 24 mos.
Yearling Doe 12 mos. – 24 mos.		Over 24 mos.
Dry Doe over 24 mos.		
Senior Doe over 24 mos.		

PYGMY, FIBER AND MEAT CLASSES

<u>Doe</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>Wether</u>
Up to 6 mos.	Up to 6 mos.	Up to 6 mos.
6 mos. – 12 mos.		6 mos. – 12 mos.
12 mos. – 24 mos.		12 mos. – 24 mos.
Over 24 mos.		Over 24 mos.

SHOWMANSHIP

Junior	4-H members 8-13 years
Senior	4-H members 14-18 years
Challenge Class	To consist of this years' trophy winners and any Junior, Senior, or Challenge Division trophy winners of past years.

ANIMAL SCIENCE CLASS

- Goat Animal Science Class - No animal is shown. This project is included in the non-livestock judging schedule and is shown in the SCIENCE PROJECTS show and judging area. See specific directions in the SCIENCE PROJECTS section of the show book. (Page 44)

HORSE

Superintendent: Martha Eberley
Phone: 369-7224

HORSE SHOW will be held TBD at 9:00 a.m. at Gray Horse Farm

Guidelines for Gray Horse Farm

1. Please be respectful of Gray Horse Farm. We are a guest at their facility.
2. Parents of Exhibitors must sign a release form.
3. Gray Horse Farm is located at 14323 Savage Rd, Brimfield, IL.
4. Youth should arrive the morning of the show.
5. The arena does not have a food stand. Please plan to bring your own food.
6. Some seating is available but may want to bring own lawn chairs.
7. **NO DOGS** allowed on grounds.
8. **Stalls will likely not be available. Please plan accordingly.**

4-H Exhibitor Fees

1. Illinois Extension is **NOT** responsible for additional fees charged by Grey Horse Farm.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Health Requirements for can be found on pages 10-16.

Health requirements for the State Fair can be found here:

https://agr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/agr/animals/animalhealth/documents/2026%20State%20Fair%20Exhibition%20Health%20Requirements%20revised%2002_19_26.pdf

Refer to “Guidelines for Junior Horse Shows” for complete horse show regulations, which can be found here:

[https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2025-](https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/ccdmajr_show_guidelines_updated_2022_fnl_reduced_file_size.pdf)

[01/ccdmajr_show_guidelines_updated_2022_fnl_reduced_file_size.pdf](https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/ccdmajr_show_guidelines_updated_2022_fnl_reduced_file_size.pdf)

Refer to “General Livestock Rules” in the show book for additional rules.

DATES & ENTRY DEADLINES

1. Exhibitors must place on file at the Extension Office, copies of ownership and/or lease papers for all animals the member plans to exhibit at the Peoria County 4-H Show and the State Fair Junior Horse Show. In addition, two sets of photos (one set consists of one photo of each side of the animal) must be placed on file to show proof of identification of the specific animals. This is mandatory for all animals, registered and grade. Papers and pictures are due in the Extension Office by **May 1, 2026**. Proof of Coggins test is due by the day of the show. Violation of the ownership/leasing rules will not be allowed. Violations may result in disqualification from current and/or future shows and forfeiture of all premiums and awards. Please contact the Extension Office with any questions.
2. A signed Agreement Statement (located at the back of the show book and on county website) is due in the Extension Office with 4-H Show entries by **June 1, 2026**. Quality Assurance & Ethics Certification must be done by **June 1, 2026**, if have not done one in the past.
3. Entries for the Peoria County 4-H Horse Show are due to the Extension Office by **June 4, 2026**. **Age of exhibitor for class divisions is as of September 1, 2025**.
4. Entries for the State Fair Junior Horse Show must be submitted to the ShoWorks no later than 4 p.m. on **June 1, 2026**. An Extension staff person must sign all State Fair entries.
5. All entries must be on the show grounds by 8 AM on the day of the show and will be released no earlier than the end of the horse show unless otherwise approved by the Superintendents.
6. **LIVESTOCK RELEASE** – Livestock will not be released unless a signed livestock release form is presented to the Superintendents to ensure that stalls have been cleaned. All bedding, manure and other debris must be placed in designated area. Exhibitors are responsible for bringing their own equipment to clean stalls.

HORSE SHOW RULES & REGULATIONS

1. All exhibitors participating at the horse show have the responsibility of being familiar with the rules that apply in each class. The Peoria County 4-H Show is not a member of the US Equestrian Federation or the American Quarter Horse Association. The Peoria County 4-H Show uses the mentioned organizations rulebooks as guidelines for this show. The Peoria County 4-H Horse Superintendents and/or Extension Staffs' 2010 Addendum supersedes all other rules in case of a conflict. This Addendum will be posted at the show and/or made available to all exhibitors. Violation of rules may result in disqualification of the entry. The decisions of the Superintendents and Judge regarding ANY matters at the show **ARE FINAL**.
2. Only horses entered in the 4-H show will be allowed on the grounds, unless they belong on the property.
3. Unsportsmanlike or discourteous conduct by an exhibitor or his/her family members or friends, may be grounds for disqualification by the Superintendents and/or Extension Staff.
4. **PROPER CARE OF ANIMALS** – 4-H members **MUST ALWAYS** have adequate feed and water for their livestock. Failure to comply may result in being banned from showing in next year's show. Also, if a Superintendent feels that a 4-H member is being abusive to the animal in the arena or show ring, they may approach the member and inform them this is unacceptable behavior. A verbal or written warning will be given and state that if it continues, they will not be able to participate in the 4-H show the next year or two (whatever is determined by the Superintendent & Extension Staff). All exhibitors of animals at any Illinois Fair or exhibition shall comply with the provisions of the Illinois Humane Care for Animals Act. Any practice or deviation from normal humane husbandry practices, including, but not limited to artificial manipulations, physical abuse, medical treatments, or mechanical applications of any substance, other than on the prescription of a licensed veterinarian, will constitute a violation. If violations are observed by fair officials, the animal will be excused from exhibition, disqualified, and be ordered to be removed immediately from the grounds with all awards previously earned at this fair being forfeited.
5. No judge may be approached by an exhibitor, parent/guardian, exhibitors' friends, or 4-H leader without first obtaining permission from the Superintendents. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification from the show.
6. All exhibitors must be checked in at the designated table prior to the start of the show.
7. Classes cannot be added the day of the show however classes can be dropped the day of the show. If a youth is entered in the wrong class, the show recorder can make the class change the day of the show.
8. **ENTRIES:**
 - a. Each exhibitor is allowed to show two animals (horse and/or pony). Exception – Additional animals (horse and/or pony) may be shown if exhibiting in the Mare & Foal Halter or Production Halter classes.
 - b. The exhibitor is limited to a total of (10) ten classes. (Showmanship, Challenge, English Equitation, and Western Horsemanship classes do not count towards the ten-class limit).
 - c. Exhibitors showing more than one horse should designate on the entry form which horse is to be shown in each class.
 - d. In the event during the show a change of horse is necessary, prior approval must be obtained from the Superintendent before entering the ring.
 - e. Animals need not be registered to exhibit.
 - f. **NO Stallion or stud colt** is allowed on the show grounds during the Peoria County 4-H show, except weanling colts born on or after January 1, 2026.
 - g. No animal may be shown by more than one exhibitor and no exhibitor may enter more than one animal in any class. (Exception: Horse Specialty Project)
 - h. Each exhibitor must show his/her animal in the ring without the assistance of another person. (Exception – Mare & Foal Class)
 - i. For the costume class, more than one 4-H member may be part of the entry, however only the exhibitor should enter the class. A leader and/or side walker is permitted for safety reasons in the **COSTUME CLASS** and riders with disabilities classes. At any time only 4-H members over 8 years of age or parents or leaders will be allowed in the show ring.
9. **PONIES:** All ponies will be measured or must show a 4-H Pony Card. 4-H Pony cards will be accepted only on ponies 5 years of age or older. If an exhibitor is showing a pony for which a valid 4-H Pony Height Card has already been obtained in the past, the exhibitor must present this card to the Superintendent at the time of checking in before numbers/packets can be obtained. Ponies will be measured at 8:45 am in the warm-up area prior to the start of the show.

10. Only 4-H members may ride while on the show grounds, no adults.
11. **NO coaching or assistance from outside or inside the show ring may be given by anyone while the 4-H member is showing.**
12. Animals may only be ridden in the show arena and designated warm up areas. ANIMALS MUST BE HAND LED IN THE STALL AREAS OF THE BARN. (Weather permitting: Jumps will be exhibited outside, all other classes will be inside in the arena). The gravel drive between the barn and outdoor arena is a staging area only- it is not to be used for warm-up.
13. ONLY EXHIBITORS will be permitted to work horses on the grounds at any time.
14. NO riding double is allowed!
15. An appropriate ASTM/SEI approved safety helmet with chin strap buckled and fastened will be required by all riders whenever mounted on a horse or pony. This is MANDATORY! This is also for **all classes** including Hunter Hack, English & Western, Costume, Walk/Trot, Speed Events, and Trail classes and when practicing. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Exhibitors are also required to wear a shoe or boot with a heel and must ride with a saddle and bridle. Bareback riding will not be allowed on the show grounds at any time.
16. All patterns, rule additions and other announcements from the Superintendents and/or Extension Staff will be posted near the Announcers Stand. These items will be posted once, and copies will be available at the check in table near the announcers stand.
17. If a horse or pony is out of control and becomes a safety threat to the exhibitor or other participants in the arena, the Judge or Superintendents can ask the youth to leave the arena before judging is completed.
18. Due to weather and/or low number in classes, the schedule is subject to change.
19. It is the exhibitors' responsibility to pay attention and be ready for their classes. There will only be three calls for a class and then the class will proceed. If a tack change is required, please notify the show recorder or Superintendents ahead of time and they will hold up the class.
20. **The Superintendent may combine, or split classes based on number of entries on the day of show with no prior announcements.**
21. Exhibitor number must be worn on the exhibitors back for all classes.
22. Proper attire and safe, clean equipment are required. Silver accessories are optional and will not be given preference over good working equipment. See "Guidelines for Junior Horse Shows" for complete class rules. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to know the rules for any class in which they show. (A copy of the "Guidelines for Junior Horse Shows" may be obtained here: https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2025-01/ccdmajr_show_guidelines_updated_2022_fnl_reduced_file_size.pdf)
23. **Walk/Trot** exhibitors are not eligible to show in classes requiring a canter or lope. Walk/Trot exhibitors must not have shown previously in any class at any show requiring a canter or a lope, including open speed classes.
24. All exhibitors must demonstrate their ability to handle their horse/pony on the ground in either a halter or showmanship class before being eligible to exhibit in a riding class. If an exhibitor is showing more than one horse /pony they must both be shown in a halter or showmanship class. (Showmanship and Challenge classes do not count towards the ten-class limit).
25. Each animal may only be shown in one halter class, with the exception of Mare and Foal, which may be shown in one other appropriate class. Unregistered horses may be shown in either Grade Halter or one of the other halter classes. This decision must be made at the time entries are due on May 23, 2026.
26. Halter classes are classified as Society Type or Stock Type. Exhibitors may show their animals in the discipline/attire of their choice. Example a Quarter Horse may be shown in Hunt Seat attire and an Arabian may be shown in Western attire.
27. No lip chain may be used in any Halter or Showmanship classes.
28. NO exhibitor may be tied, buckled, or fastened to the horse or saddle in any manner or by any means (this includes wheelchairs). This rule overrides the Guidelines for Junior Horse Shows.
29. **All youth that receive a Class Champion Trophy should send a Thank You card to the donor. The donors' name and address are usually located on the back of the trophy or banner. Please contact the Extension office at 685-3140 if donors' information is needed.**

ANIMAL SCIENCE PROJECT

- **Horse Animal Science Class** - No animal is shown. This project is included in the non-livestock judging schedule and is shown in the SCIENCE PROJECTS show and judging schedule. See specific directions in the SCIENCE PROJECTS section of the show book (Page 44)

CHECK-IN BEGINS 8 AM

OPENING PROGRAM - Welcome and National Anthem

HALTER

The animal is judged on conformation, type, soundness, way of moving, and general balance and appearance. Each animal may only be shown in one Halter class, except Mare and Foal, which may be shown in one other appropriate class.

- **Mare & Foal Halter** - both mare and foal are judged
- **Production Halter** - weanlings and yearlings (born on or after January 1, 2024)
- **Stock Type Halter Mares** – 2 years and older, over 56"
- **Stock Type Halter Geldings** – 2 years and older, over 56"
- **Grade Halter** – unregistered horses over 56"
- **Society Type Halter Mares** – 2 years and older, over 56"
- **Society Type Halter Geldings** – 2 years and older, over 56"
- **Mule/Donkey Halter** – Mare & Gelding
- **Pony Halter - 34" to 56"**

SHOWMANSHIP

The exhibitor is judged on ability to fit, groom, and show an animal at halter and while executing a pattern. The animal is not judged on type or confirmation, but overall health, condition and cleanliness will be considered.

- **Junior** - 8-13 as of September 1, 2025
- **Senior** - 14-18 as of September 1, 2025
- **Challenge Class** - Youth who have won in the Junior and Senior Showmanship Division will be eligible for Challenge class until they reach the next age division.

COSTUME

Animals will be led, ridden, or driven at the walk only. The class will be judged on creativity of the costume and is not for authentic breed costumes. Safety helmet is required and must be part of the costume if ridden or driven. Costumes must be safe and appropriate for the age and experience of both the exhibitor and the animal. Please try out costumes at home before the Fair to make sure the animal and youth are comfortable. The judge has the authority to dismiss any exhibitor whose costume is unsafe or if the animal is not under control. Appropriate footwear must be worn: open-toed or open heeled shoes, sandals, slippers, moccasins, crocks, etc. are prohibited. A short description describing your costume (that will be read during judging) must be submitted when picking up your packet the morning of the show.

- **Open Costume**

HORSE SPECIALTY PROJECT

County Project - Youth must work with a 4-H member and horse, be able to show that they have learned to handle a live animal and be able to execute a simple showmanship pattern. In addition, youth must have a written report on all the things they have learned, including proper horse handling, care grooming and safety. Leader and/or helper cannot assist the youth while they are being judged. This is a non-competitive class, and no trophy will be awarded. Contact the Superintendent for more information.

WALK TROT

Judges the ability of a young rider to control the animal while maintaining proper seat, hand and leg positions. This class is evaluated as the combined performance of rider and mount on the rail. NOTE: Equitation class will also include a pattern. Exhibitor may show either English or Western. Tack is optional. Exhibitors may not show in any class requiring a canter. Walk/Trot exhibitors must not have shown previously in any class, at any show, requiring a canter or lope including open speed classes.

- **Walk/ Trot** - 8-18

WESTERN PLEASURE/STOCK TYPE

Stock Type breeds include: Quarter Horse, Appaloosa and Color Breeds, etc. The animal is judged on suitability, manners, and the ability to provide a quiet, comfortable, and pleasant ride. The animal should have a well-balanced frame with smooth, rhythmical strides that maintain forward momentum. Exhibitor may show project in either Stock Type Western Pleasure OR Society Type Western Pleasure, but not both.

- **Pony** - 8-18, animal under 56"
- **Junior** – 8-13
- **Senior** – 14-18
- **Donkey / Mule** – 8-18

WESTERN PLEASURE/SOCIETY TYPE

Society type Western Pleasure breeds include: Arabians, Morgans, Saddlebreds, Standardbreds, etc. The animal is judged on suitability, manners, and the ability to provide a quiet, comfortable, and pleasant ride. The animal should have a well-balanced frame with smooth, rhythmical strides that maintain forward momentum. Exhibitor may show project in either Stock Type Western Pleasure OR Society Type Western Pleasure, but not both.

- **Pony** – 8-18, animal under 56"
- **Junior** – 8-13
- **Senior** – 14-18

WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

Judges the ability of the exhibitor to control and show the animal, taking into consideration proper seat, hand, and leg positions. Horsemanship is evaluated as the combined performance of the rider and the mount on the rail and while executing a pattern.

- **Pony** - 8-18, animal under 56"
- **Junior** – 8-13
- **Senior** – 14-18
- **Donkey / Mule** – 8-18

TRAIL

Judged on the ability of the rider to navigate the animal through obstacles such as those encountered on a trail ride. (i.e.gate; four logs or poles; backing; serpentine; carry object; bridge; slicker; mail box; side pass or turn on forehand.) The animal should be well-mannered, quiet, and a pleasure to ride, with the ability to handle the obstacles with calm, willing attitude. After three refusals at an obstacle, the exhibitor must move on to the next obstacle.

- **Walk/Trot** – 8-18
- **Junior** – 8-13
- **Senior** – 14-18

HUNTER HACK CLASS

This will include rail work and two 2-foot jumps. Three refusals during fence work will result in disqualification. Jumps will be set at 48 feet apart.

OVER FENCES

Will be made up of six to eight obstacles. Each jump will not exceed 2' or 2'6" in height. Hunter Over Fences, the animal is judge on manners, way of going, style of jumping and soundness. In Equitation Over Fences, the rider is judged on ability to maneuver the animal through a course with control and even striding. Equitation is evaluated as the combined performance of the rider and the mount. Three cumulative refusals on the course will result in disqualification. Over Fences Classes are intended for the Advanced Horse and Rider with Experienced Instruction in Jumping. An Appropriate ASTM/SEI Approved Safety Helmet with chinstrap must be buckled and fastened whenever on a horse. Safety vests may be worn in place of jacket.

- **Hunter Over Fences** - 2'
- **Equitation Over Fences** - 2'
- **Hunter Over Fences** - 2'6"
- **Equitation Over Fences** - 2'6"

ENGLISH PLEASURE/STOCK TYPE

Stock Type breeds include: Quarter Horse, Appaloosa and Color Breeds, etc. The animal is judged on suitability to purpose and manners, providing a quiet and comfortable ride. The animal should have a well-balanced frame with long, smooth, rhythmical strides that cover ground. Exhibitor may show project in either Stock Type English Pleasure OR Society English Pleasure, but not both.

- **Pony** – 8-18, animal under 56"
- **Junior** – 8-13
- **Senior** – 14-18

ENGLISH PLEASURE/SOCIETY TYPE

Society Type breeds include: Arabians, Morgans, Saddlebreds, Standardbreds, etc. The animal is judged on suitability to purpose and manners, providing a quiet and comfortable ride. The animal should have a well-balanced frame with long, smooth, rhythmical strides that cover ground. Exhibitor may show project in either Society English Pleasure OR Stock Type English Pleasure, but not both.

- **Pony** – 8-18, animal under 56"
- **Junior** – 8-13
- **Senior** – 14-18

ENGLISH EQUITATION

Judges the ability of the exhibitor to control and show the animal, taking into consideration proper seat, hand, and leg positions. Equitation is evaluated as the combined performance of the rider and the mount on the rail and while executing a pattern.

- **Pony** – 8-18, animal under 56"
- **Junior** – 8-13
- **Senior** – 14-18



SPEED EVENTS

See rules below

- Trot Barrels – 8-18
- Trot Flags – 8-18
- Trot Poles – 8-18
- Junior Open Barrels – 8-13
- Junior Open Flags – 8-13
- Junior Open Poles – 8-13
- Senior Open Barrels – 14-18
- Senior Open Flags – 14-18
- Senior Open Poles – 14-18

Speed Class Rules

1. *Attire: Show attire including shirts with long sleeves and a collar is required. No tank tops, t-shirts, sleeveless/short sleeve shirts or ball caps are allowed. Chaps are optional. **An appropriate ASTM/SEI approved safety helmet with chinstrap (fastened and buckled) and show attire is required.***
2. *Tack: Western-type equipment must be used for the speed classes. (Exception: English equipment will be allowed for the Trot Speed Classes only.) Use of hackamore (including mechanical hackamores) or other types of bridles is the optional choice of the contestant; however, the judge may prohibit the use of bits or equipment he/she may consider severe. Tie-downs, running martingales, protective boots, leg wraps, and bandages are allowed for these classes.*
3. *Entry into the Arena: All horses MUST WALK through the in-gate. ANY EXHIBITOR RUNNING THROUGH THE GATE WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE DISQUALIFIED! For safety purposes, an exhibitor may have his/her horse led through the gate by one assistant. The assistant will immediately exit the ring when the horse and rider are through the gate. Exhibitors may lead the horse through the gate into the show arena and then mount. The gate will remain closed until the completion of the run.*
4. *Once inside arena, the horse and rider may have the option to circle once before beginning a run. When making the courteous circle being careful not to cross the starting line or this will result in a disqualification for that run.*
5. *Striking the horse with a bat, crop, whip, or rope in front of the saddle is prohibited.*
6. *For safety reasons, exhibitors may not have their feet tied to the stirrups or their legs or seat fastened to the saddle in any fashion.*
7. *The decisions of the Judge and Superintendents are final.*

BARREL RACE

1. *Barrel knocked over – 5 second penalty per barrel*
2. *Off pattern – no time/disqualification.*
3. *A contestant MAY touch a barrel with hands, legs, or feet.*

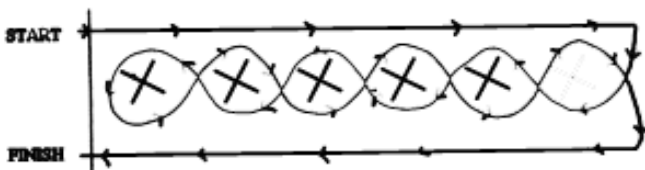
FLAG RACE

1. *Failure to pick up flag or stick flag – no time/disqualification. The flag must be stuck INSIDE the bucket.*
2. *Off pattern – no time/disqualification.*
3. *Hitting horse with the flag – no time/disqualification.*
4. *Circling to pick up or stick a flag will be considered off pattern.*
5. *Exhibitors will inform the check in personnel at the time of check in whether they wish to run the pattern with the barrels on the wall or off the wall.*
6. *Knocking over a barrel or bucket – no time/disqualification.*

POLE BENDING

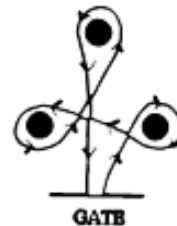
1. *Pole knocked over – 5 second penalty per pole*
2. *Off pattern – no time/disqualification*
3. *A contestant MAY touch a pole with hands, legs or feet.*

POLE BENDING PATTERN



Patterns may be run starting either right or left.

BARREL PATTERN



POULTRY

Superintendents:
 Robin Forney
 Phone: 231-3793
 Zachery Forney
 Phone: 231-2552

POULTRY SHOW will be held on Thursday, July 16 at 9:00 a.m. at the Stark County Fairgrounds.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Health Requirements for can be found on pages 10-16.

Health requirements for the State Fair can be found here:

https://agr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/agr/animals/animalhealth/documents/2026%20State%20Fair%20Exhibition%20Health%20Requirements%20revised%2002_19_26.pdf

POULTRY SHOW RULES

PLEASE BRING WHEELBARROWS, RAKES, SHOVELS, PLIERS, WIRE CUTTERS AND ANY OTHER NECESSARY TOOLS FOR SET UP AND CLEAN UP OF CAGE AREAS.

All youth exhibiting livestock must sign a "Code of Practice & Behavior Statement" The Code of Practice & Behavior Statement is located in the back of the show book or may be obtained from the Extension office.

1. All birds must be owned or leased by and in the possession of 4-H member by May 1 of the current year.
2. No bird may be shown in more than one class except when exhibiting in the trio class.
3. **Members may enter birds in two of the six Large Fowl Classes and only one entry in each Production Class.**
4. Pullet and cockerel exhibited must come from the trio. If a trio is not available, pullet and/or cockerel may be exhibited but will not be eligible for championships.
5. All poultry exhibits must be in place by 8:00 AM on Thursday.
6. Cages will be provided although exhibitors may provide their own if they wish. Cages for large turkeys, geese, etc. will not be provided. 4-H members should bring their own feed and water cups.
7. Egg projects must be removed promptly after judging.
8. **4-H members are allowed ONE entry per class.**
9. If a 4-H member has won their age group showmanship class in previous years, then they cannot enter Junior or Senior Showmanship class. However, they may enter Challenge showmanship class.
10. All exhibitors must be present for tear down of cages. **Poultry will be released immediately following the poultry show.**
11. Wood chips are provided.

CLASSES: (Large Fowl: American Breeds, Asiatic Breeds, English Breeds, Mediterranean Breeds, Continental Breeds, Other Standard Breeds. Small Fowl: Feathered Leg Bantams, Clean Leg Bantams) (A list of breeds can be found on the next page).

Pullet	Any female bird under one (1) year of age
Cockerel	Any male bird under one (1) year of age
Trio	One cockerel and two pullets of the same breed.
Market Pen (Broilers)	3 cockerels or 3 pullets weighing less than 5 lbs. each.
Market Pen (Roasters)	3 cockerels or 3 pullets weighing over 5 lbs. each.

Poultry Breeds					
American	Asiatic	Continental	English	Mediterranean	Miscellaneous
Buckeye	Brahmas	Barnvelder	Australorps	Ancona	Ameraucauna
Chanteclers	Cochins	Campines	Cornish	Andalusians	Araucana
Deleware	Langshans	Favorelles	Dorkings	Catalanas	Aseel
Hollands		Hamburgs	Orpingtons	Leghorns	Cubalaya
Javas		Houdans	Redcaps	Minorcas	Malay
Jersey Giants		LeFlech	Sussex	Sicilian	Game
New Hampshire		Lakenvelders		Spanish	Naked Neck
Plymouth Rocks		Marans			Phoenix
Rhode Island Reds		Polish			Shamo
Wyandottes		Welssumers			Sex-Linked

EGG PRODUCTION

- Hen Eggs (1 doz.)
- Production Hen – Any female bird over a year old. (May not be shown in any other class.)
- Pullet Eggs (1 doz.)
- Production Pullet – Any female bird under a year old. (May not be shown in any other class.)

NOTE: In egg classes, judge may break an egg of the dozen to judge freshness and quality.

OTHER POULTRY

- Duck of Current Year
- Goose of Current Year
- Tom Turkey of Current Year
- Drake of Current Year
- Gander of Current year
- Pullet Turkey of Current Year
- Duck Trio
- Geese Trio
- Turkey Trio
- Other Fowl

SHOWMANSHIP

Junior	4-H members 8 - 13 years as of September 1
Senior	4-H members 14 - 18 years as of September 1
Challenge Class	Youth who have won in the Junior and Senior Showmanship Division will be eligible for Challenge Class only until they reach the next age division.

ANIMAL SCIENCE CLASS

- **Poultry Animal Science Report** - No animal is shown. This project is included in the non-livestock judging schedule and is shown in the SCIENCE PROJECTS show and judging schedule. See specific directions in the SCIENCE PROJECTS section of the show book (Page 44)
- **Embryology** - Report or display to show what you have done this year or an educational display. This is judged and displayed with the SCIENCE PROJECTS show. See specific directions in the SCIENCE PROJECTS section of the show book (Page 44)



RABBIT

Superintendent: Amber Wasson
Phone: 370-4670

RABBIT SHOW will be held on Friday, July 17 at 9:00 a.m., at the Stark County Fairgrounds

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Health Requirements for can be found on pages 10-16.

Health requirements for the State Fair can be found here:

https://agr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/agr/animals/animalhealth/documents/2026%20State%20Fair%20Exhibition%20Health%20Requirements%20revised%2002_19_26.pdf

RABBIT SHOW RULES

All youth exhibiting livestock **must** sign a “Code of Practice & Behavior Statement” The Code of Practice & Behavior Statement is located in the back of the show book or may be obtained from the Extension office.

PLEASE BRING WHEELBARROWS, RAKES, SHOVELS, PLIERS, WIRE CUTTERS AND ANY OTHER NECESSARY TOOLS FOR SET UP AND CLEAN UP OF CAGE AREAS.

1. Exhibitor may enter either Purebred Classes or My Pet Rabbit Class – not both.
2. Rabbits are to be owned or leased by May 1 of the current year.
3. Cages will be provided; however exhibitors may elect to keep animals in their own carriers. If exhibitors use cages, they will be responsible to tear down their own cages after the show.
4. Each exhibitor is encouraged to present his/her own rabbits to the judge.
5. The rabbit show will begin promptly at 8:00 AM on Thursday. Exhibitors must check all entries in with Superintendent by 8:30 a.m.
6. Members may exhibit two animals per Purebred class, however only one premium will be paid.
7. My Pet Rabbit Class will be limited to one doe and one buck per exhibitor.
8. Animals in the My Pet Rabbit class will be judged based on overall condition and appearance of the rabbit in addition to exhibitor’s responses to questions from the judge regarding responsible care and management.
9. Costume Class is open to all exhibitors who may “dress” their favorite animal for participation. (Use your imagination). Winner will be determined by popular vote of committee.
10. All General Animal rules apply and should be read for total information pertaining to the Rabbit Show.
11. Rabbits will be released immediately after the Rabbit Show.

CLASSES: All animals will be judged on their individual breed standard. If there are any questions regarding which class an animal belongs in please contact the superintendent.

6 Class Rabbits:

Senior Bucks	6 months of age and older and 8.5 - 10.5 lbs.
Senior Does	6 months of age and older and 9.5 - 11 lbs.
Inter. Bucks	6 - 8 months of age and up to 9.5 lbs.
Inter. Does	6 - 8 months of age and up to 10 lbs.
Junior Bucks	Under 6 months of age and not over 8 lbs.
Junior Does	Under 6 months of age and not over 9 lbs.

(Breeds may include New Zealands, Californians, and Other Purebreds)

4 Class Rabbits:

Senior Bucks	over 6 months of age
Senior Does	over 6 months of age
Junior Bucks	under 6 months of age
Junior Does	under 6 months of age

(Breeds may include Mini-Lops, Mini-Rex, Netherland Dwarf and Wool Rabbits.)

Meat Pen - Three of either sex from the same litter weighing 3 - 5 lbs. each.

1. All breeds are eligible and will be shown together.
2. Projects must have been started by May 1 of current year.
3. Animals will be judged on meat carrying qualities, firmness of flesh, uniformity, and finish of fur in that order.
4. Animals under 3 lbs. and over 5 lbs. will be cut in score accordingly.

SHOWMANSHIP

Junior	4-H members 8 - 13 years as of September 1
Senior	4-H members 14 - 18 years as of September 1
Challenge Class	Youth who have won in the Junior and Senior Showmanship Division will be eligible for Challenge Class only until they reach the next age division.

NOTE: Exhibitors entering in showmanship class will be given a written test at 8:45a.m. prior to showing. Exhibitors will be evaluated on their ability to handle their animal and respond to the judge. The combination of written test score and class score will determine winners.

MY PET RABBIT

- Buck (any age)
- Doe (any age)

COSTUME CLASS

Dress your favorite animal in some sort of costume. Use your imagination.

ANIMAL SCIENCE CLASS

- **Rabbit Animal Science Report** - No animal is shown. This project is included in the non-livestock judging schedule and is shown in the SCIENCE PROJECTS show and judging area. See specific directions in the SCIENCE PROJECTS section of the show book (Page 44)



SHEEP

Superintendent: Sarah Lueschow

Phone: 256-3115

SHEEP SHOW will be held on Thursday, July 16 following the Poultry Show at Stark County Fairgrounds.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Health Requirements for can be found on pages 10-16.

Health requirements for the State Fair can be found here:

https://agr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/agr/animals/animalhealth/documents/2026%20State%20Fair%20Exhibition%20Health%20Requirements%20revised%2002_19_26.pdf

SHEEP SHOW RULES

All youth exhibiting livestock **must** sign a "Code of Practice & Behavior Statement" The Code of Practice & Behavior Statement is located in the back of the show book or may be obtained from the Extension office.

1. All General Livestock Rules and health requirements will be enforced.
2. The 4-H exhibitor must own all animals. Purebred animals must be registered in the exhibitors' name only.
3. All sheep entered in the 4-H Show must be in the member's possession by May 15, 2026, for market lambs, and June 25, 2026, for breeding sheep.
4. The Sheep Committee reserves the right to drop, combine, or add classes the day of the Show.
5. All animals must be clean and fitted or they will be forbidden to show.
6. Purebred sheep should be groomed appropriately to their individual breed. No artificial coloring will be allowed.
7. Purebred sheep **MUST** have a pedigree or registration papers, or they will be shown in the Commercial classes.
8. Market lambs should be shorn within two weeks of the show.
9. Ewes can be shown in the Market class if they are not in the breeding stock class.
10. A mixed pair is a ewe lamb and a ram lamb of the same breed.
11. Each 4-H member may have two entries per class. However, only one premium will be paid.
12. YQCA is required to show sheep of any kind.

LEAD CLASS

To participate in the lead class the 4-H member must:

1. Must promote wool or wool blend garment by wearing a wool garment of at least 30% or more wool. The garment may be purchased or sewn but **WILL NOT** be judged within this class on the construction. Exhibitors are more than welcome to enter their constructed wool garment in Sewing and Textiles as well, found on page 56. They **WILL** be judged on the fit and appearance of the garment.
 2. The sheep will be exhibited at halter in an undressed condition. No paint, clothing, or costume on the animal.
 3. 4-H member will be judged on the overall appearance and training of the lamb/sheep to be led.
 4. A biography information sheet should be presented to Superintendents table prior to the start of the classes. This should include but not restricted to exhibitors name, age, club, number of years owning or exhibiting sheep, description of clothing chosen and being worn for the class, review of sheep experiences, name, and breed of sheep at halter.
- **Junior Lead Class** (8 - 13)
 - **Senior Lead Class** (14 – 19)

BREED CLASSES: (Corriedale, Dorset, Hampshire, Suffolk, Shropshire, Southdown, Meat Breeds, Wool Breeds & Primitive Breeds)

AOB Meat Breeds: Cheviot, Dorpers, Oxfords

AOB Wool Breeds: Border Leicesters, Rambouillets, Lincolns

AOB Hair Breeds: Dorper, Katahdin, Royal White

AOB Primitive Breeds: Shetlands, Icelandics, Jacobs

Fall Lambs	Lambled after Sept 1, 2025, and on or before Dec. 31, 2025
Early Lambs	Lambled after Jan. 1, 2026, and on or before Feb. 14, 2026
Late Lambs	Lambled after Feb. 14, 2026
Yearlings	Lambled after Sept. 1, 2024, and on or before Sept 1, 2025
Production Ewes	Lambled before Sept. 1, 2025

- Fall Ram Lamb
- Early Ram Lamb
- Late Ram Lamb
- Ram Lamb Pair
- Fall Ewe Lamb
- Early Ewe Lamb
- Late Ewe Lamb
- Ewe Lamb Pair
- Mixed Pair
- Yearling Ewe
- Yearling Ewe Pair
- Production Ewe

COMMERCIAL CLASSES

- Fall Ewe Lamb
- Early Ewe Lamb
- Late Ewe Lamb
- Ewe Lamb Pair
- Yearling Ewe
- Yearling Ewe Pair
- Production Ewe

MARKET CLASSES – Divided by Weight

Must have Lambed on or after January 1, 2026

- Market Lamb Ewe
- Market Lamb Wether
- Pair Ewe Market Lambs
- Pair Wether Market Lamb

FLEECE CLASS

Show will follow the Sheep Show. Exhibitors may exhibit two clean fleeces per class from this year’s clip, but will only receive one premium per class.

Fine Wool	17-20 microns (examples include Merino and Rambouillet)
Medium Wool	22-30 microns (examples include Corriedale, Cheviot, Dorset, Hampshire, Finnish, Icelandic, Shetland, Shropshire, Southdown, and Suffolk)
Coarse Wool	30-36 microns (examples include Border Leicesters, Oxford, and Romney)
Very Coarse Wool	36-40+ microns (examples include Cotswold and Lincoln)

SHOWMANSHIP

Junior	4-H members 8 - 13 years as of September 1, 2025
Senior	4-H members 14 - 18 years as of September 1, 2025
Challenge Class	Youth who have won in the Junior and Senior Showmanship Division will be eligible for Challenge Class only until they reach the next age division.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

FOR ANY 1ST YEAR SHEEP OWNER. To enter, exhibitor must submit a scrapbook to the Sheep Superintendent before the start of the Lead Classes. The scrapbook should include all the activities that have been experienced by the member during their first year in the Sheep project.

AGED WETHER

- Wether (any age)

COSTUME CLASS

Dress your favorite animal in some sort of costume. You are welcome to match. Use your imagination.

ANIMAL SCIENCE CLASS

- **Sheep Animal Science Class** - No animal is shown. This project is included in the non-livestock judging schedule and is shown in the SCIENCE PROJECTS show and judging area. See specific directions in the SCIENCE PROJECTS section of the show book (Page 44)

SWINE

Superintendents:
 Jeff & Karla Smith
 Phone: 678-7678

SWINE SHOW will be held on Friday, July 17 immediately following the Rabbit Show at Stark County

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Health Requirements for can be found on pages 10-16.

Health requirements for the State Fair can be found here:

https://agr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/agr/animals/animalhealth/documents/2026%20State%20Fair%20Exhibition%20Health%20Requirements%20revised%202022_19_26.pdf

SWINE SHOW RULES

All youth exhibiting livestock **must** sign a "Code of Practice & Behavior Statement" The Code of Practice & Behavior Statement is located in the back of the show book or may be obtained from the Extension office.

1. Health papers must be checked and stamped by the official in charge of animal health and then reported to the Swine Superintendent for final check-in.
2. Each 4-H'er may have two entries per class. However, only one premium will be paid.
3. All premiere swine must have been farrowed on or after February 1, 2026.
4. Barrows and gilts must all be farrowed on or after January 1, 2026. All swine must be owned by June 1, 2026.
5. Ear notches are required on all swine using the universal ear notching system. Identification cards must be on file at the Extension Office before July 1, 2026. THIS INCLUDES ALL SWINE. Notches must be fully healed by 4-H Show.
6. All barrows and crossbred gilts will be weighed at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, July 17.
7. Crossbred gilts will be divided and judged by weight depending on the number of entries in class.
8. No boars are allowed in the swine showmanship classes or to be sold at the auction.
9. If an animal entered in the swine show dies while on the grounds, the swine supt., the 4-H member and his/her family will meet with representatives of the Peoria County 4-H & Youth Committee to determine whether or not to have the animal posted.
10. Swine may be released with a Release Form signed by the swine superintendent. All loading and clean-up restrictions must be followed. (See General Livestock Rules starting on pages 5.
11. Pigs born in January, February, and March of current year can be entered in the 4-H Show.
12. Carcass animals must be farrowed on or after February 10, 2026. Tattooing within 35 days of farrowing will be set up by the Swine Committee and Extension office.
13. All 4-H swine must be tattooed to be eligible for the Premiere Carcass Show, and the Illinois State Fair.
14. YQCA is required to show swine of any kind.

PUREBRED SWINE CLASSES: (Berkshire, Chester White, Duroc, Hampshire, Hereford, Landrace, Poland China, Spot, Tamworth, Yorkshire & Other Breeds)

- January Gilt
- March Gilt
- February Pair/Gilts
- February Gilt
- January Pair/Gilts
- March Pair/Gilts

January	All January pigs must be farrowed on or after January 1, 2026
February	All February pigs must be farrowed on or after February 1, 2026
March	All March pigs must be farrowed on or after March 1, 2026

CROSSBRED GILTS – Any Class of Gilts will be divided by WEIGHT & NUMBER OF ENTRIES in Class.

- Gilt
- Pair of Gilts

MARKET SWINE - Any Class of Barrows will be divided by WEIGHT & NUMBER OF ENTRIES in Class.

- Barrow
- Pair of Barrows (only one pair may be shown)

SHOWMANSHIP

Youth	4-H members 8-10 years as of September 1, 2025
Junior	4-H members 11-13 years as of September 1, 2025
Senior	4-H members 14-18 years as of September 1, 2025
Challenge Class	Youth who have won in the Junior and Senior Showmanship Division will be eligible for Challenge Class only until they reach the next age division.

ANIMAL SCIENCE CLASS - No animal is shown. This project is included in the non-livestock judging schedule and is shown in the SCIENCE PROJECTS show and judging area. See specific directions Page 44.

SPECIAL LIVESTOCK CHALLENGES

Superintendents:
Livestock Superintendents

SPECIAL LIVESTOCK CHALLENGES RULES

1. All youth exhibiting livestock must sign a "Code of Practice & Behavior Statement" The Code of Practice & Behavior Statement is located in the back of the show book or may be obtained from the Extension office.
2. The exhibitor must be enrolled in a 4-H livestock event in Peoria County.
3. The judge of the event will score the participants in each species. The scores will be added together, and placings will be given.
4. Prizes for all three events will be presented before the 4-H Auction.
5. Contest organizers withhold the right to expel any individual who has violated any of the rules or regulations or exhibits improper conduct that is unbecoming of a 4-H member.

MASTER SHOWMANSHIP: Beef, Sheep, Swine

Thursday, July 16 through Friday, July 17 after each species' Challenge Showmanship Class. Showmanship is usually the last classes of each species. It will be evaluated by both the Beef and Swine judge and the Sheep and Goat Judge.

Entry Form: forms.gle/x446vkYMkXqYxq8u5

MASTER SHOWMANSHIP RULES

1. Participants must talk to their fellow 4-H members and find their own livestock for the competition. Each exhibitor must own or borrow each: a steer or heifer, a market or breeding lamb, and a market hog or breeding gilt.
2. To participate in the state contest, the exhibitor must have all paperwork filled out correctly with required information. The contest organizer must receive this information as quickly as possible.
3. In order to move onto the State Contest, the exhibitor must win at the county level. If the county winner cannot participate in the state contest, then the county University of Illinois Extension office may select an alternate.
4. Participants must be enrolled in a livestock project, and must be between the ages of 14 and 18 as of September 1, they must be at least 14, but cannot have reached their 19th birthday before September 1, 2025.

SHOWMANSHIP ADVENTURE: Goat, Poultry, Rabbit

Thursday, July 16 – Friday, July 17 after each species' Challenge Showmanship Class. Showmanship is usually the last classes of each species. It will be evaluated by the Poultry, Rabbit and Goat judges.

Entry Form: forms.gle/55BcwGEaYx5kWo7k9

SHOWMANSHIP ADVENTURE RULES

1. Participants must talk to their fellow 4-H members and find their own livestock for the competition. Each exhibitor must own or borrow each: a chicken, a rabbit, and a market, breeding, or dairy goat.
2. There is no state contest for this event, this is sheerly for experience and fun!

GOLDEN PITCHFORK COMPETITION: Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat, Rabbit, Poultry, Dairy, Horses

THE GOLDEN PITCHFORK COMPETITION will take place the day of each individual show. The Golden Pitchfork Competition is sponsored by the Peoria County Auction Committee. Make sure to send them a Thank you to show your appreciation!

Entry Form: forms.gle/we7XXM4XET7ePjag9 or with the superintendent of the animal species they are planning to compete in when checking in at the 4-H Show.

GOLDEN PITCHFORK RULES

1. The Golden Pitchfork Award competition is open to Peoria County 4-H members (regardless of age and #of years in project) enrolled in one of the eligible livestock project areas.
2. Youth may not win the Golden Pitchfork in a species two years in a row (i.e. won swine in 2025, they would not be eligible to win in 2026, but WOULD be eligible in 2027).
3. Youth may only enter the contest in one animal species area. For example, if a youth is exhibiting swine, sheep and beef, they may only enter the competition in one of the animal project areas.
4. Youth will be given an interview time, to determine their knowledge of their animal project.
5. Winning the Award is based on a combination of: Sportsmanship, Responsibility, Showmanship
6. Youth's behavior will be observed in **and** out of the show ring, during the 4-H Show.
7. Contestants will receive a button from the superintendent to recognize them as a participant.



GENERAL PROJECTS

SCIENCE

Superintendent:
Carol Krosse
Phone: 274-9276

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

ANIMAL SCIENCE

For youth enrolled in Beef, Cat, Dairy Cattle, Dog, Horse, Goat, Llama/Alpaca, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep, Small Pets, and Swine. Youth participating in the Animal Science General Project Show are not required to complete QAEC or YQCA. Each county may submit 1 entry from 50133a and 1 entry from 50133b

Animal Science 1 (SF50133a) 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 (SF50133b) 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.

VETERINARY SCIENCE

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 1 entry from 50320a and 1 entry from 50320b.

Veterinary Science 1 (SF 50320a)

Open to youth in Veterinary Science 1, 2, and 3. 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)

Open to youth in Veterinary Science 1, 2, and 3. 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.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & GLOBAL AWARENESS

Superintendent:
Susan Unsicker
Phone: 256-3358

INTERCULTURAL

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****


Each county may submit 1 individual entry from 50233a; 1 individual entry from 50234a; 1 group-entry from 50233b and one from 50234b. **Due to space restrictions, exhibits are limited to 36" X 48" and 15" deep.**


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

Prepare a display illustrating what you have learned about a country. This 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. 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. **Please note:** judging for the individual project should **not** include a planned presentation about the chosen country. Judging is meant to be a conversation between the judge and member about the project and the learning experience.

Passport to the World, Group (SF 50233b) *Passport to the World – Required*

Prepare a display illustrating what you have learned about a country. This 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. In addition to their display, groups should bring a copy of their group's Passport to the World project manual to judging. Sections of the book related to what the group focuses on in their display should be completed. 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, one week prior to judging. Group members should prepare a short (5 minutes maximum) presentation about their learning for the judge. The presentation should focus on key concepts learned and takeaways from the project experience. All group members present for judging should be able to discuss the project and answer questions. Only group members who participate in the judging are eligible for ribbons and premiums. Groups should not bring extra tables or items (beyond those that fit within the exhibit size requirements).

Diversity & Cultural Awareness, Individual (SF 50234a) *Diversity: The Source of Our Strength – Required* 
Create a display or binder that illustrates the results of a minimum of three completed activities from the project book.

Diversity & Cultural Awareness, Group (SF 50234b) *SEEING i2i Adventures – Required* 
Exhibit a display illustrating the steps the group completed, including reflection on activities completed: 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. Groups must furnish equipment needed for exhibit. No internet service provided. 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 personal judging time and will not remain on display. The display must be accompanied by 3 to 10 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 presentation are eligible for ribbons and premiums.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 2 entries total from classes 50145, 50146, 50147, 50148. **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)

Open to groups whose members are enrolled in any Civic Engagement project.

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.

CONSUMER EDUCATION

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 2 entries total from 50166, 50168, 50169.

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.

SERVICE LEARNING

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 2 entries total from classes 50150a, 50150b, 50149. **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)

Open to groups whose members are enrolled in any Service Learning project.

Due to space limitations, exhibits are limited to 36" X 48" and 15" deep. Group members should be enrolled in Service Learning – Agents of Change (Level 1) and/or Raise Your Voice (Level 2). Register community project at 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.

INTERIOR DESIGN

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 2 entries total from 50242, 50243, 50244, 50245.

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

Design Decisions, Beginning (SF 50242)

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

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, Intermediate (SF 50243)

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

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, Advanced (SF 50244)

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

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.

Interior Design Innovation Class (SF 50245)

Open to youth enrolled in Interior Design.

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.



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Superintendents:
Carol Cowser
Phone: 639-4395
Sally Ohlson
Phone: 243-7508



Indicates that a 4-H project manual is needed to complete all project requirements

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

BABYSITTING

Each county may submit 3 entries total from 50141a or 50141b.

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. 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. For safety reasons, exhibits cannot include glass, syringes with needles or any other sharp objects.

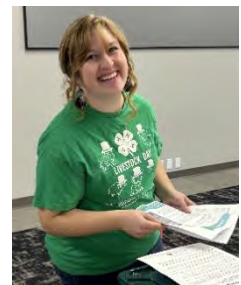
Babysitting Video Tutorial (SF 50141b)

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.

You must furnish any equipment you need to show your video to the judge (laptop, tablet, etc.). Internet service is not guaranteed, so please have a hard copy of the video downloaded to your device to play. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period. All Exhibitors should also bring a copy of their video to be judged on a USB flash drive and saved in .MP4 format as a backup. In order for something to be on display at your local fair or show, fill out the video information sheet and bring it with you to judging: go.illinois.edu/4HBabysittingVideo. *Note: While exhibitors are encouraged to post their video on YouTube.com in advance of the fair, they are not required to do so. If they choose to upload to YouTube they may choose whether to make the video "public" (the video is searchable on the site), or "public, unlisted" (someone must have the link to view it). This will allow fairgoers to view the exhibits on display. Youth ages 13 to 17 should only be posting content to the internet with parental permission. Youth under 13 would need their parents to post the video for them.*



HEALTH

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 3 entries total from 50226, 50227, 50228, 50229, 50230.

All display boards must include a reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving credit to the original author, to complete the 4-H member's exhibit. 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. Display boards should be no larger than 36" x 48" and 15" deep.

Everyday Food and Fitness (SF 50226) Replaces Health 1-3 *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. Your exhibit should include at least two activities to highlight what you learned from completing this project. You may also include live demonstrations of physical activities. Do not bring food made using the recipes but consider adding pictures of the completed recipes to your exhibit. Be ready to answer questions about how you shared the information you learned with others. Examples include talks, 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.

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 activity chapters in the manual that you completed. The activity chapters are listed by page number in the table of contents. Your 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 of yourself 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 your video to leave on display.
- Example B: Make a poster 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.

The exhibit should include the project manual with the pages of the activity completed. You may also include live demonstrations of physical activities. Do not bring food made using the recipes but consider adding pictures of the completed recipes to your exhibit. 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.

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*. 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 information you learned with others. Examples include talks and demonstrations and hosting or assisting with a workshop. Bring your project guide for others to see and for you to share as needed during conference judging.

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 you completed any two of activities 1 – 9 included in the curriculum; AND 2) the item you created in Activity 10 - the flyer, website, video, or other promotional tool that points individuals to the resources you found. Bring your project guide for others to see and for you to share as needed during conference judging.

Health Innovation Class (SF 50227)

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through the Health 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. No internet service provided. 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 judging time and will not remain on display.

CLOTHING & TEXTILES

Superintendents:
Carol Cowser
Phone: 639-4395
Sally Ohlson
Phone: 243-7508

CLOTHING JUDGING DAY will take place during the Peoria County 4-H Show.

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****



Indicates that a 4-H project manual is needed to complete all project requirements

CLOTHING SHOW RULES

1. All garments and items must be purchased or constructed during the current 4-H year.
2. **IMPORTANT! All garments/items must be brought for display at the Peoria County 4-H Show to be eligible for premiums and State Fair selection. Bring your garments on a wire hanger in a clear plastic bag. Garments will be displayed during the 4-H Show on July 15, 2026. If garments are not on display, premiums will be forfeited.** All exhibits entered in the clothing and textiles area will be judged based on their construction and fit (if applicable). Exhibitors bringing garments should not wear their garments when they arrive for judging as 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.
3. For constructed garments/items, bring your pattern instruction sheet with you as the judge may ask questions about various construction techniques you used.
4. Bring a description of your garment (regardless of whether it is constructed, purchased, non-clothing or restyled) for narration during the style show. It should be written neatly or typed on a large index card. Include your name, age, club, years in 4-H, description of your garment, fiber content, uses of garment, etc. Use the pattern envelope if you constructed the garment.
5. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Members **CANNOT** exhibit in more than one Level of Clothing & Textiles. These are based on your sewing skills. Thus, if you are in STEAM Clothing I, you should not also be in STEAM Clothing 1 or 3. Each level has different show opportunities which you may do, but they must be in the same level.
6. **JUDGING PROCEDURE:** First, you will have your garment judged for proper construction techniques OR purchasing techniques, depending on whether you chose **Clothing** or **Shopping in Style**. Next, you will put the garment on to model it and have it judged for fit and appearance on the individual.

Make sure you know when you are to be judged and when you are to be on the stage for modeling. Purchased and constructed garments will be evaluated on the member, in addition to the conference with the judge. Construction and appearance will both be considered.

Members wishing to exhibit knitted items should enroll in Visual Arts Fiber (if original) or Visual Arts Heritage Arts (if made from a pattern). **Youth interested in pursuing quilting should enroll and exhibit in the Visual Arts Quilting project area.** Youth may still exhibit quilts in any level of Clothing as a "Sewn Non-Clothing" item, but these quilts will be judged using the Clothing rubric that evaluates the sewing skills and construction of the item.

CLOTHING & TEXTILES CLASSES

FASHION REVUE (Not State Fair eligible)

All items constructed or purchased may be included in Fashion Revue and this includes pillows or other non-garment items. Exhibitors in this class may be enrolled in any of the following projects: STEAM Sewing 1-3 and/or Shopping in Style. (Please have a Clothing Revue Narration Form filled out and bring with you on Clothing Judging Day.)

FASHION REVUE WILL BE HELD AT THE PORK CHOP DINNER PROGRAM ON FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026, 5:30 PM

CLOTHING

1. *Garments constructed for another person are eligible for exhibiting classes 50151-50154.*
2. *If a pattern was used to make the garment, pattern instructions are to be included with the exhibit.*
3. ***Garments/items will not be placed on display unless covered in a clear plastic bag (no garment bags).***
4. *Construction and appearance will both be considered. **Attach exhibit tags to the GARMENT, not to the hanger.***

CLOTHING & TEXTILES

Each county may submit 3 sewing entries total from 50151 a-b, 50152 a-b, 50153 a-b; 2 total shopping entries from 50154, 50155, 50156, 1 total costume design entry from 50157 a-b, and 1 total clothing embellishment entry from 50158 a-c.

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. Attach exhibit tags 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 all 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. (Sewing level depends on the sewing techniques.)

COSTUME DESIGN

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Costume Design (SF 50157a, 50157b) *Costume Design Workbook – Required*

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) 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) – 2 or less years costume design experience (including this year)

Costume Design Advanced (SF 50157b) – 3 or more years costume design experience (including this year)

CLOTHING EMBELLISHMENT

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****


Clothing Embellishment (SF 50158a, 50158b, 50158c) *Clothing Embellishment Workbook – Required* 

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) 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)

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

Clothing Embellishment Stitched (SF 50158b)

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-Her does not need to create the knit or crochet piece themselves, it could be purchased or made by others but attached by the 4-Her).

Clothing Embellishment Combination (SF 50158c)

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 (SF 50151a, 50151b)

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.

Exhibit one of the following in either the Non-Clothing, or Clothing exhibit divisions:

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 (SF 50152a, 50152b)

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, 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. Include a before picture and a description of the redesign process. **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 (SF 50153a, 50153b)

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. Include a before picture and a description of the redesign process. **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. Include a before picture and a description of the redesign process. **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 (SF 50154, 50155, 50156) *Shopping in Style Digital – Required*

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.

Exhibit one of the following options that align with the Shopping in Style level:

Shopping in Style: Beginning (Levels 1 & 2) (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 (Level 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.



FOODS & NUTRITION

Superintendent:
Neva Rynearson
Phone: 224-9736

FOOD DISPLAY RULES

Recipes **must** come from the corresponding Project Manuals unless otherwise stated. Follow the exhibit instruction under your Nutrition Project title. All food exhibits must be on a disposable **WHITE** plate and should be displayed in a **self-sealing clear plastic bag**. (NO COLORED WRAP OR DESIGNER / DECORATED PLATES.) A plastic wrapped or bagged food project sample for the Judge to taste should come from the same batch that you are exhibiting and be attached to the food exhibit unless otherwise stated. **FOR THE STATE FAIR: Do NOT include a plastic wrapped or bagged food sample for the judge!**

NOTE: Members may have more than one entry in the Food classes where applicable.



Indicates that a 4-H project manual is needed to complete all project requirements

FOODS & NUTRITION

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

For Cooking 101, 201, 301, and 401 classes -

4-H Cooking 101 (SF 50200a, 50200b, 50200c) *4-H Cooking 101 – Required*

Using the recipes included in the project manual (go.illinois.edu/Cooking101Recipes), prepare an exhibit for **one** of the classes below. No icing should be on any products. **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. Bars, coffeecake, or cookies should be displayed on a disposable plate placed in a zip-sealing plastic bag. In addition to your food exhibit, complete the What's on Your Plate? Activity on pages 10-11 in the 4-H Cooking 101 project manual (*and for download at go.illinois.edu/Cooking101Activity*). 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. Pictures, graphics or photos are acceptable. Due to space limitations at State Fair, the size of the activity document should be no larger than an 8 ½" x 11" binder or folder.

- **Cereal Bars** (SF 50200a) - 3 cereal marshmallow bars
- **Coffeecake** (SF 50200b) - ¼ of 8" square or round coffeecake
- **Cookies** (SF 50200c) - 3 cookies

Youth interested in exhibiting a food item from the project book not listed in the class description, making changes to the provided recipes, or exhibiting a display related to information in the project manual should enter Foods Innovation class.

4-H Cooking 201 (SF 50201a, 50201b, 50201c) 4-H Cooking 201 – Required

Using the recipes included in the project manual (*which are also available at go.illinois.edu/Cooking201Recipes*), prepare an exhibit for **one** of the classes below. **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. Bread, biscuits, or scones should be displayed on a disposable plate placed in a zip-sealing plastic bag. In addition to your food exhibit, complete Experiment with Meal Planning Activity on page 91 in the 4-H Cooking 201 project manual (go.illinois.edu/Cooking201Activity). 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. Due to space limitations at State Fair, the size of the activity document should be no larger than an 8 ½" x 11" binder or folder.

- **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)

Youth interested in exhibiting a food item from the project book **not** listed in the class description, making changes to the provided recipes, or exhibiting a display related to information in the project manual should enter **Foods Innovation** class.

4-H Cooking 301 (SF 50202a, 50202b, 50202c, 50202d, 50202e) 4-H Cooking 301 – Required

Using the recipes included in the project manual (go.illinois.edu/Cooking301Recipes), 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. **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. Display exhibit on a disposable plate or pie tin and place in a zip-sealing plastic bag. In addition to your food exhibit, complete one of the six experiments: 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. go.illinois.edu/Cooking301Experiments. Bring a document with a printed picture of your experiment and the answers to the experiment questions to remain on display with your project. Due to space limitations at State Fair, the size of the experiment document should be no larger than an 8 ½" x 11" binder or folder.

- **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*)

Youth interested in exhibiting a food item from the project book not listed in the class description, making changes to the provided recipes, or exhibiting a display related to information in the project manual should enter Foods Innovation class.



4-H Cooking 401 (SF 50203a, 50203b, 50203c, 50203d) *4-H Cooking 401 – Required*

Using the recipes included in the project manual (go.illinois.edu/Cooking401Recipes), prepare an exhibit for **one** of the classes below. **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. Display exhibit on a disposable plate and place in a zip-sealing plastic bag. 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? Due to space limitations at State Fair, the size of the activity document should be no larger than an 8 ½" x 11" binder or folder.

- **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

Youth interested in exhibiting a food item from the project book not listed in the class description, making changes to the provided recipes, or exhibiting a display related to information in the project manual should enter Foods Innovation class.

Food Preservation (SF 50209a, 50209b, 50209c, 50209d, 50209e)

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).

All preserved products should be prepared and processed according to the current USDA/Extension information. USDA information at: www.homefoodpreservation.com or extension.illinois.edu/food-preservation/food-preservation. 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).

All food preservation exhibits must be labeled with: 1) The name of the food; 2) The date preserved; 3) Appropriate method(s) of food preservation (For canned projects: boiling water bath or pressure canner; For drying projects: Specify equipment used (food dehydrator, oven, etc.)). 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, 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.

Youth interested in exhibiting a food item from the project book not listed above, making changes to the provided recipes, or exhibiting a display related to information in the project manual should enter 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 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. For example, exhibit 1 jar of tomatoes (Fruits/Vegetables) and 1 half-pint of jelly (Jams, Jellies, and Preserves).

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.

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


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.



Foods Innovation Class (SF 50211)

Open to youth enrolled in any Foods project.


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. No internet service provided. 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.

- **Foods Innovation: BEGINNING CANDY MAKING (SF 50211)**
 - Exhibit 4 pieces of fudge using any recipe of your choosing. Place 3 pieces on a 6" **WHITE** disposable plate placed in a **self-sealing clear plastic bag**. A fourth piece of fudge should be wrapped in clear plastic wrap and attached for the judge to sample.
- **Foods Innovation: ADVANCED CANDY MAKING (SF 50211)**
 - Exhibit 3 pieces of candy of your choosing (other than fudge) on a 6" **WHITE** disposable plate placed in a **self-sealing clear plastic bag**. A fourth piece of candy should be wrapped in clear plastic wrap and attached for the judge to sample.



COMMUNICATIONS - ALL UNITS

Superintendent:
Susan Unsicker
Phone: 256-3358

 Indicates that a 4-H project manual is needed to complete all project requirements

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

COMMUNICATIONS

Each county may submit 2 entries total from 50368, 50369

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.

CREATIVE WRITING

Each county may submit 2 entries total from 50367, 50371

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
- 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.

COMMUNICATIONS: PUBLIC SPEAKING

Enrollment in the Public Presentations project is required to participate in this section. No live animals are allowed in speeches. **Counties may advance a total of 3 speech entries from any category to the state contest.** 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.

Resources:

Youth looking for resources to help prepare for this contest can reference the following:

- [Finding your Voice: Public Speaking made Easy](#) (Public Speaking)
- Refer to the AI policy at go.illinois.edu/4haj 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 | 4-5minutes 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

PHOTOGRAPHY

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 3 entries total from 50268, 50269, 50270, 50271

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 at: 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.

Additional details required for Photo Editing **ONLY**:

- 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.

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 5"x7" or 8"x10" photo which demonstrates your understanding of a technique you learned from your Photography 1 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 titled *Level 2 Next Level Photography*. 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 titled *Level 2 Next Level Photography*. 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)

Open to members in Photography 1, Photography 2, and Photography 3.

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.

VIDEO

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

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 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.

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)

Open to youth enrolled in Video/Filmmaking.

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

Superintendent:
Lisa Sweet
Phone: 389-5039

VISUAL ARTS

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Fine Art and 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.

Each county may submit ONE entry from each of these projects:

- Chalk/Carbon/Pigment (Drawing and Painting) on Canvas, Division A 50336a
- Chalk/Carbon/Pigment (Drawing and Painting) on Paper, Division B 50336b
- Chalk/Carbon/Pigment (Drawing and Painting) on Clay, Glass, Wood, Metal, or Textiles Division C 50336c
- Clay 50337
- Computer-Generated Art 50338
- Computer-Generated Art – Graphic Design 50370
- Metal 50342
- Three-Dimensional Design/Mixed Media 50348
- Wood 50349

Each county may submit TWO entries from:

- Glass & Plastic (2 total from 50340a and 50340b)
- Open Form and Emerging Techniques SF 50350

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.

Each county may submit ONE entry from each of these projects:

- Fiber 50339
- Heritage Arts 50341
- Leather 50321
- Nature 50343
- Paper 50344Aa
- Paper 50344Bb
- Quilting – You Can Quilt 50331
- Quilting – Quilting the Best Better 50331b
- Three-Dimensional Design/Mixed Media: Diorama (SF 50351)

Each county may submit TWO entries from:

- Food Decorating (2 total from 50332, 50333, 50334, 50335)
- Scrapbooking (2 total from 50345, 50346, 50347)

Exhibitors must be enrolled in the Visual Arts project category in which they are exhibiting. 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.

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).

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”.



FINE ART AND DESIGN

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

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

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

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

(SF 50332, SF 50333, SF 50334, SF 50335) – for more information about cake decorating techniques:

go.illinois.edu/caketechniques

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”.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Superintendent:
Susan Unsicker
Phone: 256-3358

 Indicates that a 4-H project manual is needed to complete all project requirements

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

FAMILY HERITAGE

Each county may submit 1 entry from 50197.

Family Heritage (SF 50197)


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's own risk. 4-H is not responsible for loss or damage to family heirloom items or any items in this division. **Due to space restrictions, exhibits are limited to 36" x 48" and 15" deep.**

EXPLORATORY (not eligible for state fair)

Exploratory - Welcome to 4-H - Required  (not eligible for state fair)

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  (not eligible for state fair)

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.

Bicycle 1 (not eligible for state fair)

Exhibitors will draw three situations from a bag that relate to activities from Level 1 and discuss/explain all three with the judge. Situations may include: selecting bicycle safety equipment; demonstrate how to fit a helmet; identify bike parts and their function; selecting the right size bike; how to check bicycle tires, brakes and chains; recognizing traffic signs and their meaning; general discussion of bicycling hazards; and items to consider when planning a bike trip.

Bicycle 2 (not eligible for state fair)

Exhibitors will draw three situations from a bag that relate to activities from Level 2 and discuss/explain all three with the judge. Situations may include: factors to consider when choosing a bike; comparing tire pressure, valve type and tread; steps in fixing a flat tire; steps to follow when cleaning, lubricating and replacing a bike chain; evaluating the braking system on a bicycle; factors to consider when mapping out a bike route; rules for smart bike riding; and planning a menu for an all-day bike ride.



READING (Not eligible for State Fair)

Exhibit one of the following options:

1. Create an item (bookmark, mobile, diorama, collage, book jacket) that represents a book you read this current 4-H year. Include a 3x5 note card that explains how your item represents your book.
2. Create a map representing where the story takes place OR write a resume of a character in a book/story OR write a newspaper article about an event in a book/story.
3. Write a descriptive report of any other activity completed during this project (i.e. story hour, book club, book exchange, and book drive). Include pictures or other supporting materials.

LEADERSHIP

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 3 entries total from 50249, 50250, 50251, 50252 and 2 entries from 50254.

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

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 below. Build upon your previous year's work. Photocopies or original pages of the completed activities from the book should be included.

- **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 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 completed activities each year from the areas noted below. Include Photocopies or original pages of the completed activities from the book.

- **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 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 below. Photocopies or original pages of the completed activities from the book.

- **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 Innovation Class (SF 50252)

Open to youth enrolled in Leadership 1, 2, or 3.

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)

Open to groups whose members are enrolled in any Leadership project.

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

READY4LIFE CAREER & ENTREPRENEURSHIP EXPLORATION

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may send 2 entries from 50366a and 2 entries from 50366b.

Ready4Life Career (50366a)

Open to 11- to 18-year-olds in all projects.

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 in all projects.

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.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Each county may submit 2 entries from 50365

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.

THEATRE ARTS

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 3 entries total for 50299, 50300, 50301, 50302.

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)

Open to youth enrolled in Theatre Arts.

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.

MECHANICS & TECHNOLOGY

Superintendent:
Carol Krosse
Phone: 274-9276



Indicates that a 4-H project manual is needed to complete all project requirements

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

AEROSPACE

Each county may send 2 entries total from 50130 and 50131.

Model Rocketry (SF 50130)

Open to youth in Aerospace 1, Aerospace 2, Aerospace 3, and Aerospace 4

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)

Open to youth in Aerospace 1, Aerospace 2, Aerospace 3, and Aerospace 4

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.

DRONES: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles/Systems

Each county may submit 2 entries total from 50375, 50376.

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. 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. 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.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 3 entries total from 50135, 50136, 50137, 50138, 50139.

Exhibitors may bring computer equipment for demonstration purposes. Computers will not be furnished. Internet connections are not available for use by exhibitors. Any member found to be using computer software in a manner that infringes on copyright laws will be disqualified.

Beginning Visual Programming (SF 50135)

Open to youth in Computer Science Visual Based Programming.

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

Intermediate Visual Programming (SF 50136)

Open to youth in Computer Science Visual Based Programming.

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

Advanced Visual Programming (SF 50137)

Open to youth in Computer Science Visual Based Programming.

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

Website Design (SF 50138)

Open to youth in any Computer Science Project Area.

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

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

Open to youth enrolled in any Computer Science or Robotics project

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. Electronic equipment will only be used during your personal judging time and will not remain on display during the entire exhibit period. Exhibits in this class must be able to fit on no more than a 3' x 2' space (or ground footprint).

CREATING WITH BUILDING BRICKS

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may send 3 building brick entries total from 50101, 50102, 50103, 50104, 50105, 50106, 50107, 50108, 50109
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.
- 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.

ESPORTS

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 3 entries from 50378.

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.

ROBOTICS

Each county may submit 3 entries total from 50285, 50286, 50287, 50288, 50289, 50290, 50292.

NOTE: If applicable for their class and display, exhibitors must bring their own computers for demonstration purposes; computers will not be provided. Exhibits in classes 50285, or 50286 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 – 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 – 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). 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 – Required

Open to youth enrolled in Robotics 3, but may also include youth in Robotics 1 or 2 if the exhibit meets the guidelines. 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 & 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 & 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 & 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 & 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.

ELECTRICITY

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 3 entries total from 50177, 50178, 50179, 50180.

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.

WOODWORKING

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 2 entries total from 50357, 50358, 50359, and 50360

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.

SMALL ENGINES

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 1 entry total for 50294.

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 1-3 (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;
- **Compression System:** Explain how heat energy is produced and engine power is measured by an engine and/or converted into mechanical energy through transmissions;
- **Heat Transfer:** Explain how heat is transferred through the cooling and lubrication system of an air cooled or water cooled engine;
- **Filter Maintenance:** Explain the proper maintenance and cleaning of the air, fuel and oil filters of an engine;
- **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;
- **Tools to do the job:** Identify and explain the function(s) of different specialty tools needed for small engine work;
- **Experimentation:** Illustrate an experiment you conducted from the project manual show the results of your work.

TRACTOR

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 2 entries total for 50306, 50307, 50308, 50309, 50310.

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)

Open to youth enrolled in Tractor A, B, C or D.

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.

TRACTOR DRIVING CONTEST

Two age categories: 8-9 years as of September 1, 2025
 10-18 years as of September 1, 2025

This will be announced at a later date!

WELDING

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 2 entries total from 50353.


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.



MAKER

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 3 entries from 50400.

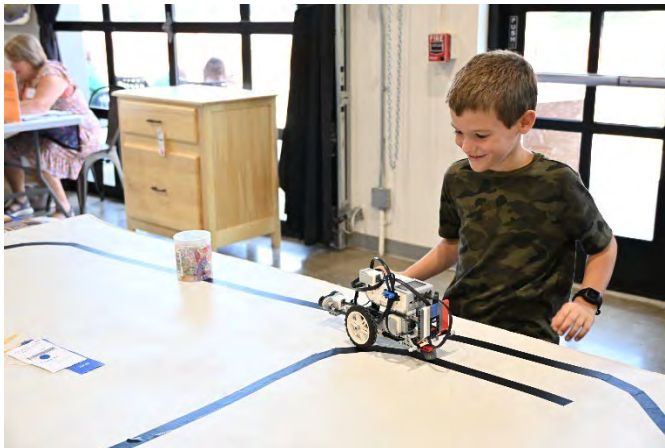
Maker (SF 50400) go.illinois.edu/DIYMakeBuild – Required 

Open to youth in all projects.

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.



NATURAL RESOURCES & OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Superintendent:
Carol Krosse
Phone: 274-9276

 Indicates that a 4-H project manual is needed to complete all project requirements

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

NATURE: NATURAL RESOURCES AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Each county may submit 3 entries from 50256, 50257a, 50257b, 50258.

Electricity and water are NOT available for these displays. All displays should be comprised of non-living specimens properly prepared for display.

Exploring Your Environment 1 (SF 50257a) *Exploring Your Environment - Ecosystem Services – Required*

Exhibit any item, project, or display made as it relates to an activity in the *Exploring Your Environment - Ecosystem Services* project manual. The display should demonstrate an understanding of natural and/or manmade environments, how humans affect the environment, or how the environment affects our lives. Include your project manual that documents activity recordkeeping, your answers to activity questions, and details personal thoughts and ideas.

Exploring Your Environment 2 (SF 50257b) *Exploring Your Environment – Earth’s Capacity – Required*

Exhibit any item, project, or display made as it relates to an activity in the *Exploring Your Environment – Earth’s Capacity* project manual. 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. Include your project manual that documents activity recordkeeping, your answers to activity questions, and details personal thoughts and ideas.

Outdoor Adventures 1-3 (SF 50256) *Choose the correct level project manual – Level 1: Hiking Trails, Level 2: Camping Adventures or Level 3: Backpacking Expeditions – Required*

Exhibit a display illustrating an activity completed from the project manual.

Natural Resources or Outdoor Adventures Innovation Class (SF 50258)

Open to youth enrolled in any Natural Resources or Outdoor Adventures project.

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through your Natural Resources or Outdoor Adventures 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.

NATURE: FISHING AND WILDLIFE

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 3 entries total from 50260, 50261, 50262, 50263, 50264, 50265, 50266

Sportfishing 1 (SF 50260) *Level 1: Take the Bait – Required*

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

Sportfishing 2 (SF 50261) *Level 2: Reel in the Fun – Required*

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

Sportfishing 3 (SF 50262) *Level 3: Cast Into the Future – Required*

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

Wildlife 1 (SF 50263) *Wildlife Science Level 1 Digital – Required*

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

Wildlife 2 (SF 50264) *Wildlife Science Level 2 Digital – Required*

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

Wildlife 3 (SF 50265) *Wildlife Science Level 3 Digital – Required*

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

Fish and Wildlife Innovation Class (SF 50266)

Open to youth enrolled in any Sportfishing or Wildlife project.

Demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained through your Sportfishing or Wildlife 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.

WEATHER

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 1 entry total 50392, 50393, 50394.

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

SHOOTING SPORTS

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 2 entries total from 50380, 50381, 50382, 50384.

Participants must be a member of an approved 4-H Shooting Sports Club 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.

NOTE: Shooting Sports Displays have the following prohibitions:

- 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.
- 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.)

Shooting Sports: Archery Display (SF 50380)

Exhibit a poster or stand-alone display depicting safe archery handling, range safety, the parts of the bow, tracking the target, target sighting, or another topic you have learned through the 4-H Shooting Sports program.

FORESTRY

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 2 entries total from 50212, 50213, 50214, 50215

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. No internet service provided. 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.



ENTOMOLOGY

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 2 entries total from 50183, 50184, 50185, 50186.

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 at: 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. 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% (level 1 & 2) and 10% (level 3) of the specimens in the collection must have been collected in the current 4-H year. The collection must be accurately labeled.

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, with at least one completed activity for each year enrolled. For youth exhibiting the same collection over multiple years, at least 25% (level 1 & 2) and 10% (level 3) of the specimens in the collection must have been collected in the current 4-H year. The collection must be accurately labeled.

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 with at least one completed activity for each year enrolled. For youth exhibiting the same collection over multiple years, at least 25% (level 1 & 2) and 10% (level 3) of the specimens in the collection must have been collected in the current 4-H year. The collection must be accurately labeled.

Entomology Display (SF 50186)

Open to youth enrolled in Entomology 1, 2 or 3. Exhibit any activity or display related to Entomology that does not fit into Entomology Classes 1, 2 or 3. 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. No internet service provided. 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.

BEEKEEPING

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may send 2 entries total from classes 50188, 50189, 50190.

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. Chunk honey should go in a wide-mouth jar, preferably one specially made for chunk honey (see [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 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 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 3 of the 5 kinds of honey listed below (#1-5) **or** prepare an educational display about honey bees or beekeeping (#6).

1. Extracted honey: 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: 3 sections, honey built by bees in frames of wood (boxes are usually 4 ½" x 4 ½" in size).
5. Section honey: 3 sections of comb honey (in basswood boxes or Ross rounds) **OR**
6. Prepare an educational display about honey bees or beekeeping.

GEOLOGY

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 3 entries total from 50218, 50219, 50220, 50221, 50222.

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 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 three minerals in the collection. Collection may include duplications that show variations. Label collection and note where found. 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 seven minerals in the collection. Collection may include duplications that show variations. Label collection and note where found. 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 ten minerals in the collection. Rocks should include at least three igneous, two metamorphic, and three sedimentary groups. Label collection and note where found. 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)

Open to youth enrolled in Geology.

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 during the entire exhibit period.



PLANTS & SOILS / HORTICULTURE

Superintendent:
Mary Plumer
Phone: 678-4530



Indicates that a 4-H project manual is needed to complete all project requirements

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

PLANTS & SOILS

Each county may submit 3 entries total from 50280, 50281a, 50281b, 50281c.

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.

AGRONOMY

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 3 entries total from 50170, 50171, 50172, 50173, 50191.

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, 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, 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 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 or an FFA crops record.

Agronomy Innovation Class (SF 50173)

Open to youth enrolled in any Agronomy project

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.



HORTICULTURE: FLORICULTURE

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

For youth in any level of Floriculture.

FLORAL DESIGN

Each county may submit 2 Entries from classes 50111, 50112, 50113, 50114.

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.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Each county may submit 1 entry from class 50115 and 50116.

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.

PLANT PROPAGATION

Each county may submit 2 entries from classes 50117, 50118, 50119, 50120, 50121.

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). 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

FLOWER PRESERVATION

Each county may submit 1 entry from classes 50122-50123.

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.

ORNAMENTAL DISPLAYS

Each county may submit 2 entries from classes 50124, 50125, 50126, 50127, 50128.

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

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

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Each county may submit 3 entries total for 50313, 50314, 50315, 50316, 50317.

For youth in any level of Vegetable Gardening.

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. 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. General gardening advice and information can be found at: <https://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 Plates (SF 50315)

- Exhibit must include 2 single vegetable plates. (Exhibitor will furnish the disposable plates.)
- 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.). Number of vegetables on plates must conform to plate list below.
- Only one variety on each plate.
- An exhibitor cannot show two plates of the same type vegetable. (i.e.: Cannot exhibit red *and* white potatoes or zucchini *and* straightneck summer squash.)



VEGETABLE PLATE/DISPLAY LIST

When selecting vegetables for exhibition, keep in mind that the judge will evaluate them on the basis of cleanliness, uniformity, condition, quality, and trueness to variety. *(Lists are provided by UI Extension Horticulturists; Items are listed according to the correct definition of vegetables)*

Asparagus (5 spears)	Lettuce (1 head or plant)	Potatoes (any variety) (5)
Beans, Lima (12 pods)	Muskmelon incl. cantaloupe (1)	Pumpkin (1)
Beets (5)	Okra (12)	Rhubarb, trimmed stalks (3)
Broccoli (1 head)	Onions, large, dry (5)	Rutabaga (5)
Brussels sprouts (12 sprouts)	Onions, green or set (12)	Salsify (5)
Cabbage (1 head)	Parsnips (5)	Squash, summer (any variety) (3)
Cauliflower (1 head)	Peas, (12 pods)	Sweet corn, in husks (5)
Carrots (5)	Peppers, large fruited (bell/banana) (5)	Tomatoes, slicing (5)
Cucumber, pickling or slicing (5)	Peppers, small fruited (chili/cherry) (12)	Tomatoes, small fruited (12)
Eggplant (1)	Popcorn (5)	Turnip (5)
Garlic (5)		Watermelon (1)
Kohlrabi (5)		
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)		

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 categories 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.

Fruit Plates (SF 50317)D

- Exhibit must include 2 single fruit plates. (Exhibitor will furnish the disposable plates.)
- Exhibitors must provide the name and variety of all fruits used. Number of fruits on plates must conform to plate list below.
- Only one variety on each plate.
- An exhibitor cannot show two plates of the same type fruit. (i.e.: Cannot exhibit Gala & Jonathan Apples, Mazzard & Gisela Cherries, etc.)

FRUIT PLATE LIST

Fruit will be judged using the same general criteria used for vegetables. Fruit will be judged for the stage of maturity normal for that season and growing location. Emphasis will be placed on how well fruit approaches market quality. When selecting fruits for exhibition, keep in mind that the judge will evaluate them on the basis of cleanliness, uniformity, condition, quality, and trueness to variety. *(Lists are provided by UI Extension Horticulturists; Items are listed according to the correct definition of fruit varieties at go.illinois.edu/fruittrees.)*

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

CLOVERBUDS

Other Fruits or Nuts (Do not duplicate entries from the above fruits) – 5

CLOVERBUDS

*****NEW FOR 2026: ALL GENERAL PROJECTS MUST BE CHECKED IN BY NOON AT CEDAR HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15!*****

Bring one or more exhibit items that were completed in 2025-2026 to display at the Cloverbud Exhibit Area. This is for ages 5-7 that are not eligible to exhibit in 4-H. Cloverbuds are not eligible to receive a premium or a trophy, but they can be judged, receive a participation ribbon and exhibit their project(s). Cloverbud projects are based on your cloverbud's interests (Cloverbuds cannot bring live animals). For some examples: Cooking: Cookies or a chex/trail mix; Sewing: simple square pillow, place mat, or infinity scarf; Health: Simple safety kit; Gardening: tomato on a plate. Look back at all of the projects, and think about how they could display their cloverbud skills!

LITTLE ROOTS GARDEN

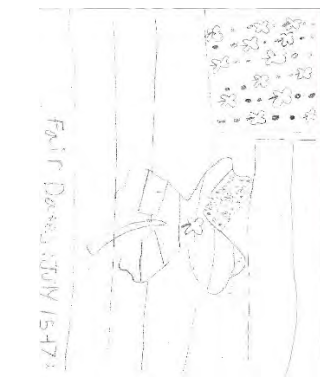
Bring a plate of vegetables grown, or vase of cut zinnia flowers or sunflower, or a poster on what you learned in project.



Take a look at our Showbook Entries from this year!



Annabell Strack
Limestone Leaders



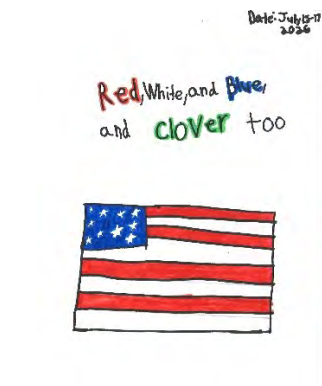
Mary Ann Strack
Limestone Leaders



Jonathan Wilcox
Kickapoo Kickers



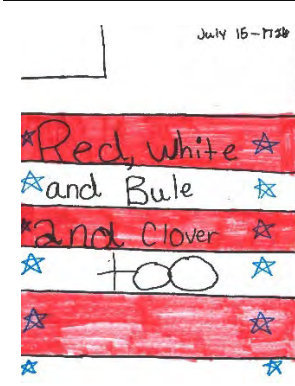
Samuel Wilcox
Kickapoo Kickers



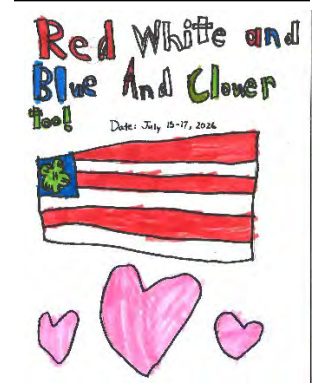
Elea Riney
Kickapoo Kickers



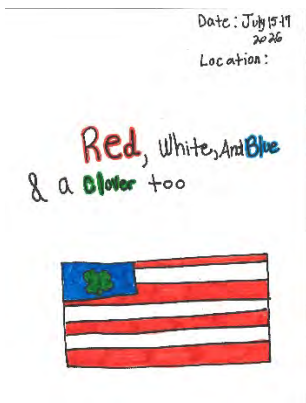
Rosie Kerrigan
Kickapoo Kickers



Ryleigh Kelton
Kickapoo Kickers



Stella Kerrigan
Kickapoo Kickers



Averie Kelton
Kickapoo Kickers



Emma Catton
Kickapoo Kickers



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Peoria County 4-H Program
4810 North Sheridan Road, Peoria, Illinois 61614
Phone: 309.685-3397, Fax: 309.685-3397
extension.illinois.edu/fmpt

4-H Show Complaint Form

There is a \$25 fee required for each complaint submitted.

4-H Program area, date & time of complaint:	
Livestock Project Area:	4-H Show Activity / Event:
Non Livestock Project Area:	Other:

Description of complaint/violation:

Please sign the Complaint Form after briefly explaining the situation. Try to explain the situation/violation in chronological order, using date & time if applicable. If additional space is needed please attach a separate sheet. Please print or type.

<u>(If Applicable) - This report is concerning the following individual(s):</u>		
Name: _____		
4-H member: _____	4-H Parent/Family Member: _____	4-H Volunteer: _____
<u>Violation of:</u>		
4-H Show Rules & Regulations: _____ 4-H Behavior Guidelines: _____		

Required Information: *(please print)* Submitted by:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home () _____ Work: () _____ Other: () _____

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

**Submit this form with \$25 fee to the appropriate Superintendent or 4-H Extension staff
as soon as possible or within three working days after the above mentioned event.**

For office use: Received by: _____ Date: _____

Peoria County 4-H Youth Livestock Exhibitors Code of Practice & Behavior Statement

I believe that my participation in the 4-H program should demonstrate my own ability, knowledge and skill. I will do my own work and only accept advice and support from others. I certify that my project has been cared for and maintained by myself and my immediate family during the required tenure of ownership. My project has not been cared for by a professional fitter or maintained at a professional fitter's facility.

For Horse and Pony projects only: I understand that I should be the only one to fit and train my animal on the show grounds. I can however accept physical assistance with tack, equipment and appointments during the show by my immediate family members or project leader.

I will not use abusive or questionable techniques in the feeding, fitting and showing of my animal(s). I will not resort to fraudulent, illegal or deceptive practices when fitting them for the show. I also will not allow my parents, my instructor or any other adult to employ such practices to my animal(s).

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the General Rules and Regulations (pg 6) and the General Livestock Rules and Regulations (pg 9) in the Peoria County 4-H Show Book. I also have read and agree to abide by the Livestock Department Rules and the Health Requirements for the specific project area(s) I will be exhibiting in. I ask that my parents and/or instructor of my project not break the rules or make exception on my behalf. I wish for my project to be an example of how to accept what life has to offer – good or bad – and how to live with the outcome.

I realize that I am responsible for following the rules and accepting the consequences.

I will respect other people's property at all times.

I understand that there is a 4-H code to follow and that I represent 4-H, Peoria County and my 4-H Club with my behavior. I will make attempts to not swear, smoke or drink (alcoholic beverages) and will conduct myself in a becoming manner at all times. I understand that repeated violations may result in my being denied the privilege of continuing the show.

I will show good sportsmanship.

For Horse and Pony project exhibitors only– I will ride safely at all times.

I will care for my animal(s), my equipment and help keep the show area neat and clean.

The Livestock Superintendent(s) and/or Extension staff will deal with violations of any of the General Rules or General Livestock Rules, specific Livestock Department Rules and Health Requirements stated in the Peoria County 4-H Show Book. I understand that the decision of the department Superintendent(s) and/or Extension staff will be final. Penalties could include losing the right to continue the show for the current year, losing ribbon(s), premium(s) or trophy(s) and losing the privilege to auction for the current year.

4-H Exhibitors
Signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent and/or
Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

This Agreement Statement and the following are due in the Peoria County office by the following dates:

Rabbits, Poultry, Dogs & Cat Projects July 1	Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Swine & Goat Projects July 1	Horse & Pony projects May 1
Have taken the Quality Assurance & Ethics Training. (QAEC)	Current Quality Care of Animals Certification. (YQCA)	Have take the Quality Assurance & Ethics Training (QAEC)
		Two sets of photos (one set consisting of one photo of each side of the animal)
		A copy of Ownership and/or Lease paper for each animal(s) showing

4-H Pledge

*I pledge my **Head** to clearer thinking;
My **Heart** to greater loyalty;
My **Hands** to larger service and
My **Health** to better living, for
My club, my community, my country, and my world.*



Illinois Extension

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University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to attend, call the registration office.

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