

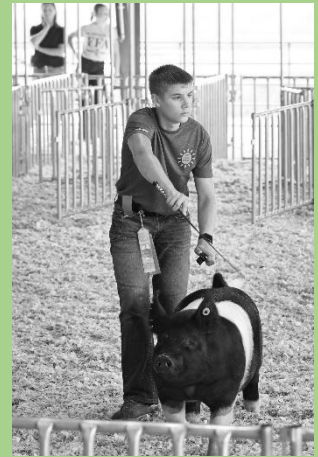


2026

Mitchell County Fair



**July 29, 2026 -
August 2, 2026**



4-H & FFA RULES &
SCHEDULE



Edited 5/1/2026

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Important Dates for 2026 Mitchell County Fair

DATE	EVENT	SPECIFICS	LOCATION
February 1	Due Date: Market Beef ID's Due	Families will enter beef data into 4HOnline	4HOnline https://v2.4honline.com
April 11	Swine Weigh-In	Swine exhibitors will bring their animals to be weighed and/or tagged.	Mitchell County Fairgrounds
April 17	Due Date: Market Broiler Orders Due	Youth wanting to participate in the market broiler must submit their order form and payment.	Mitchell County Extension Office
May 15	Due Date: All Animal ID's Due	Families enter animal data in 4HOnline – except rabbit and poultry.	4HOnline https://v2.4honline.com
May 20 4:00 p.m.	YQCA Training	Training for 4-H and FFA youth planning on showing livestock projects except Horse and Dog exhibitors. Must register on https://yqcaprogram.org for YQCA training.	Mitchell County Extension Office
June 17 4:00 p.m.	YQCA Training	Training for 4-H and FFA youth planning on showing livestock projects except Horse and Dog exhibitors. Must register on https://yqcaprogram.org for YQCA training.	Mitchell County Extension Office
June 24 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Fair Entry Office Hours	Bailey is available to help families with their Fair Entries.	Mitchell County Extension Office
July 1 by 11:59 p.m.	Due Date: Fair Entries Due	Families create their entries for the Mitchell County Fair in FairEntry. Each exhibit brought to fair must have an entry.	www.mitchellcounty.fairentry.com
July 1	Due Date: YQCA Certifications Due to the Extension Office	All youth planning to exhibit livestock (except dog and horse) must complete YQCA training. Certificates must be submitted to the Extension Office.	Mitchell County Extension Office xmitchell@iastate.edu www.yqcaprogram.org
July 1 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Fair Entry Office Hours	Bailey is available to help families with their fair entries.	Mitchell County Extension Office
July 9 9:00 a.m.	Clothing Judging	Clothing exhibits will be judged.	Mitchell County Extension Office
July 15 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Fair Preparation Workshop	Join Bailey in learning what is needed to prepare for fair. Pre-registration will be under the “Events” tab in 4HOnline.	Mitchell County Extension Office https://v2.4honline.com
July 28	Static Judging Day	Youth will bring static projects to be judged.	Cedar River Complex Events Center
July 29- August 2	Mitchell County Fair	Please review information received from the Extension Office.	Mitchell County Fairgrounds
August 2 10:30 a.m.	Livestock Ribbon Auction	Sale of ribbons for Beef, Dairy, Dairy Goats, Sheep, Meat Goats, and Swine	Mitchell County Fairgrounds



Mitchell County Fair



2026 4-H/FFA Schedule

Wednesday, July 1

Mitchell County Fair Entries Due online in the Fair Entry Program (www.fairentry.com). **Late entries will not be accepted.**

Thursday, July 9

9:00 a.m. Clothing & Fashion Judging: Fashion Revue/\$20 Challenge/Clothing Selection/Innovative Design at the Extension Office

Monday, July 27

5:30-6:00 p.m. Style Show Rehearsal and Share the Fun Rehearsal

6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. 4-H Exhibit Building Booth Set-up. Additional set-up can be done on Tuesday.

2026 Theme: **"Ride the Tide of Tomorrow"**

Tuesday, July 28

All exhibits in the 4-H Exhibit Building entered & judged by **Club Schedule:**

8:30 a.m.	Jenkins Sunshine
9:00 a.m.	West Cedar Sunbeams
9:30 a.m.	Washington Warriors
10:00 a.m.	Osage Warhawks
10:30 a.m.	St. Ansgar Believers
11:00 a.m.	Mitchell County Outlaws

LUNCH	
12:30 p.m.	Stacyville Shooting Stars
1:00 p.m.	Osage High Towers
1:30 p.m.	Rocky Ramblers
2:00 p.m.	FFA Chapters

Tuesday, July 28

9:30-11:00 a.m.	Clover Kid Judging (Bring exhibits for judging)
4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.	Swine Check-in
6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Poultry Check-in

Wednesday, July 29

8:00-9:00 a.m.	Sheep & Meat Goat Weigh-in
8:00-10:00 a.m.	Beef Weigh-in
8:30-9:30 a.m.	Rabbit Check-in
10:00 a.m.-12 noon	Dairy Check-in
10:00 a.m.	Horse and Pony Judging/Games
4:30 p.m.	Dog Show/Judging

Thursday, July 30

8:00 a.m.	Swine Judging
3:00 p.m.	State Fair Pictures

Friday, July 31

8:30 a.m.	Beef Judging
1:00 p.m.	Sheep & Meat Goat Judging
4:00 p.m.	Working Exhibit & Educational Presentation Judging
5:30 p.m.	Events in CRC Bldg.
Order:	
Installation of 4-H County Council	
Share the Fun	
4-H Clothing & Fashion Style Show	

Saturday, August 1

9:30 a.m.	Dairy Judging
11:30 a.m.	Bucket/Bottle Calf Judging
1:30 p.m.	Rabbit Judging
3:30 p.m.	Poultry Judging

Sunday, August 2

10:30 a.m.	Ribbon Auction (Swine, Sheep, Dairy, Beef)
12:00 p.m -2:00 p.m.	*Release of Exhibits in 4-H Bldg. Livestock..... See Department Rules for Release Time

Schedule may be adjusted due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

*Removing 4-H projects from the 4-H Building before 12:00 p.m. on Sunday August 2nd, is prohibited and will result in forfeiture of premiums.

(Please make arrangements with 4-H leaders or the Extension office for another pick-up time if needed.)

Staff and Leader Information

Mitchell County Extension Staff:

Emily Nalan-May, County Director
Bailey Dohلمان, 4-H County Youth Coordinator
Jadie Dohلمان, Office Manager and Program Assistant
Amy Hunzelman, Regional Extension Education Director
Erica Holliday, 4-H & Youth Program Specialist

Mitchell County Fair Board and Staff

President: Karl Fox Elma
Vice President: Chad Halbach Charles City
Secretary: Audrey Barker Little Cedar

Galen Barker	Little Cedar	Adam Norby	Osage
Ben Buttjer	Orchard	Nolan Peters	Osage
Randy Dieterich	St. Ansgar	Dan Popp	Osage
Kory Dohلمان	Osage	Travis Popp	Orchard
Montana Knutson	Floyd	Ross Sherrard	Grafton
Brian Marcks	Osage	Travis Sprung	Riceville
Kyle Mehmen	Osage	Kevin Stewart	Floyd

Department Superintendents:

Beef: Willie Weis, Mike Hein, Nick Chambers, Paul Juenger	Dairy: Mike Gerds, Gregg Krebsbach
Swine: Greg Weis, Garrett Barker, Brendt Warrington, Adam Koch	Horse: Tina Offen, Angela Nelson
Sheep: Andy Johnson, Eric Davis	Rabbit: Katie Hall
	Poultry: Kirk Phelps
	Dog: Extension Staff
	4-H Bldg.: Gena Meitner

Mitchell County 4-H Clubs and Leaders:

Jenkins Sunshine: Erica Bill
Osage High Towers: Loretta Koch, Sydney Hartogh
Osage Warhawks: Kari Schwarting
Rocky Ramblers: Lisa Peterson, Beth Rachut, Lindsay Voight, Nicole Bartz, Brittany Brandau
St. Ansgar Believers: Brian Kruse, Brandon Meitner, Steph Weis, Megan Kroneman

Stacyville Shooting Stars: Jennifer Retterath, Katie Schell
Washington Warriors: Diane Wright, Vanessa Johnson
West Cedar Sunbeams: Steph Taets
Mitchell Co. Outlaws: Beth Marcks

4-H Project Clubs:

Horse Club: Beth Marcks
Shooting Sports, Archery: Jason Wagner

FFA Chapters:

Osage: Malayne Meyer
St. Ansgar: Eric Davis
Riceville: Sarah Mitchell

Disclaimer: All changes made after publication will be documented online and will supersede the printed Fair Book.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/legal.

General Rules:

1. Exhibitors must be enrolled as a Mitchell County 4-H member or a student of vocational agriculture in Mitchell County Schools. 4-H and FFA age rules are as follows:
 - A. 4-H members who have completed 4th grade-12th grade (or that equivalent) in the 2025-2026 school year.
 - B. FFA members certified by a county chapter advisor may show as per state FFA age rules.
2. Livestock must be properly identified according to 4-H regulations.
3. **All fair entries must be in FairEntry (www.mitchellcounty.fairentry.com) by July 1, 2026.**
4. Exhibits must be in place on the fairgrounds by **12 pm Wednesday, July 29, 2026.**
5. **All judges' decisions are final.**
6. Junior Show animals cannot be released before **set times on Sunday, August 2nd** (See department rules for specific times). Animals must be removed before **6 p.m. Aug. 2nd**. If this rule is not followed, premiums will be forfeited. *(The only exception is if special arrangements are made with the fair board, superintendents, and a 4-H Office representative. Please visit the 4-H fair office for an official release form).*
7. Champion livestock selected to participate at the Showdown Invitational will be released at 8 p.m. Friday and are required to return by 8 p.m. Saturday. Livestock selected to participate in the All-Iowa Showdown are not required to return.
 - a. All animals not selected to participate in either the Showdown Invitational or All-Iowa Showdown must remain on the fairground premises for the duration of the fair.
8. All exhibits meeting requirements will be rated blue, red, or white and given a ribbon, except where otherwise specified.
9. Premium money will be paid according to the dollar value of the entry and the ribbon and award it receives, unless otherwise specified. Premiums will be paid to each 4-H or FFA member through the Mitchell County Ag Society. **All checks must be cashed within 60 days upon receiving.**
10. State 4-H rules will govern questions arising in absence of other rules.
11. Junior exhibitors who feel it is necessary to sleep in the barns must have adult supervision and must get written permission from the fair board office.
12. As stated in the Iowa State Fair 4-H Premium Book General Exhibit Rules: **"Copyrighted materials and designs may not be used in an exhibit that is presented as original work by the exhibitor. Exhibitors must include permission from the copyright holder/owner when using copyrighted materials. Exhibitors must give proper credit to the original source of all materials/designs used in exhibits."**
13. Exhibits that do not comply with size guidelines, copyright, and safety procedures will not be accepted for entry, evaluation, or display at the Mitchell County Fair and/or the Iowa State Fair.
14. All pictures for awards are the responsibility of the exhibitor.

Remember- Fair Entries are due in www.fairentry.com by July 1, 2026

Premium Awards for Livestock	<u>Purple Ribbon</u>	<u>Blue Ribbon</u>	<u>Red Ribbon</u>	<u>White Ribbon</u>
Market Beef	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00
Beef Pen	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00
Breeding Beef	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00
Market Swine	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00
Market Swine Pen	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00
Dairy	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00
Goats	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00
Market Sheep	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00
Breeding Sheep	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00
Market Sheep Pen	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00
Horse	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00
Rabbit	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00
Poultry	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00
Dog	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$2.00

Premium Awards for Static (4-H Bldg.)	<u>State Fair</u>	<u>Cons. State Fair</u>	<u>Blue Ribbon</u>	<u>Red Ribbon</u>	<u>White Ribbon</u>
Animals	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00
Agriculture and Natural Resources	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00
Creative Arts	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00
Family and Consumer Sciences	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00
Personal Development	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00
Science, Engineering, and Technology	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00
4-H Communications	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00

Agricultural Exhibits Rules

1. State Fair 4-H Grooming Rules will be enforced for all animal species. In addition, all exhibitors (FFA and 4-H) are to be actively involved in the care and grooming of their livestock exhibits.
 - a. It is the intent that the 4-H/FFA member take responsibility for caring for and grooming his/her own animals. If assistance is needed, it must be done by a family member and/or another 4-H/FFA member. Family members include and are limited to: parent/legal guardian, brother, sister, or step-siblings.
2. **An exhibitor may not exhibit the same animal(s) that were previously shown in another county junior show during the same year.**
3. **Tack may not be removed from barns on the Sunday of fair from 8:30am until the conclusion of the Ribbon Auction in said livestock barn.**
4. Purebred livestock must be registered in accordance with Iowa State Fair Rules. Registration certificates must be brought for inspection by department superintendent upon entry at the Fair.
5. The Fair Board has established the following rule for all exhibits that require bedding. Only wood chips, wood shavings, or sawdust may be used for stall bedding. Each individual is responsible for obtaining this. No paper or straw allowed. **BEDDING BAGS GO IN THE DUMPSTERS.**
6. Each exhibitor is required to keep alley, stalls, and pens clean.
7. The judge may, at his/her discretion, and, with the approval of department superintendent(s), select purple ribbon winners from among the blue-ribbon winners.
8. 4-H and FFA members will show their own animals in the show ring. If for some reason, such as having two animals in the same class, or illness of the member, he or she may, with the permission of the department superintendent, have another 4-H or FFA member show the animal. Adults are not to show or assist in showing, including the 4-H/FFA Ribbon Auction.
9. Exhibitors, volunteers, and parents handling large livestock must wear footwear that protects feet AND ankles in the show ring and while caring for or helping in the barn areas. Crocs, flip flops, and sneakers are not considered appropriate footwear.
10. Junior exhibitors may sell one ribbon in the ribbon auction. Only exhibitors in 4th - 12th grade are allowed to participate. The ribbon auction includes Beef, Swine, Sheep, Meat Goats, Dairy Cattle, and Dairy Goats.
11. Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion animals must be penned in designated stalls/pens (Market Beef, Breeding Beef, Market Sheep and Breeding Sheep). Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of premium.

Health Requirements for Exhibiting Livestock at the Mitchell Co. Fair

1. See additional information from Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship at <https://iowaagriculture.gov/livestock-shows>.

NATIONAL CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS AS ADOPTED BY THE MITCHELL COUNTY FAIR BOARD

Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to junior as well as open class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show. In addition to the "IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics," fairs and livestock shows may have rules and regulations which they impose on the local, county, state, provincial and national levels.

All youth leaders working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and absolutely responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit premiums, awards and auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the respective fairs and livestock shows. Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from competition at all livestock shows in the United States and Canada.

The following is a list of guidelines for all exhibitors and all livestock in competitive events:

1. All exhibitors must present, upon request of fair and livestock show officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited.

Continued- National Code of Show Ring Ethics

2. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by fair or livestock show officials.
3. Junior exhibitors are expected to actively care for and groom their animals while at fairs or livestock shows.
4. Animals shall be presented to show events where they will enter the food chain free of violative drug residues. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer and/or absolutely responsible person for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. Animals not entered in an event which culminates with the animal entering the food chain shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event. If the laboratory report on the analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample taken from livestock indicates the presence of forbidden drugs or medication, this shall be prima facie evidence such substance has been administered to the animal either internally or externally. It is presumed that the sample of urine, saliva, blood, or other substance tested by the laboratory to which it is sent is the one taken from the animal in question, its integrity is preserved and all procedures of said collection and preservation, transfer to the laboratory and analysis of the sample are correct and accurate and the report received from the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with the burden on the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to prove otherwise. At any time after an animal arrives on the fair or livestock show premises, all treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian.
5. Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counterirritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, confirmation, or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only and except for surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
6. The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited.
7. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair or livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.
8. No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this code of ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this code of ethics. Violation of this rule shall subject such individual to disciplinary action.
9. The application of this code of ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or participant whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this code of ethics.
10. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to have disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show for violation of this Code of Show Ring Ethics and any other rules of competition of the fair or livestock show without recourse against the fair or livestock show. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent that any proceedings or disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show may be published with the name of the violator or violators in any publication of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, including Fairs and Expositions and any special notices to members.
11. The act of entering of an animal in a fair or livestock show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or she has read the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences of and penalties provided for actions prohibited by the code. It is further a consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state, or provincial statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.

DEPARTMENT B

Beef

Willie Weis, Mike Hein, Nick Chambers, Paul Juenger – Superintendents

Rules:

1. To be eligible for entry, all market beef must have been properly weighed and tagged at weigh-in and identified in 4HOnline (4-H) by 11:59 p.m. on February 1, 2026.
2. Class 807 – Stocker Pen of Three animals must be properly weighed and identified by March 31, 2026.
3. All Market & Breeding animals will be checked in on July 29, 2026, from 8 am to 10 am. **All Market steers and heifers will be weighed. No late weigh-ins accepted.** Minimum weights for market steers and heifers are: 850 pounds for steers and 750 pounds for heifers. All other breeding animals and feeder/prospect calves will be checked in from 10:00 am-11:00 am, or immediately following the market weigh in. **Do not stall until checked in!**
4. Only calves entered in the beginning cattle feeding project may be entered in classes 801, 802, 803 and 805.
5. An exhibitor is limited to three (3) entries in classes 801, 802 and 803 *combined*.
6. Intermediate (grade 7-9) and Senior members (grade 10-12) that exhibit a Market Pen or Stocker Pen (Classes 806 & 807) must also show a lead animal, i.e.; market heifer, market steer, dairy beef, breeding heifer, cow/calf pair, or feeder calf.
7. Market beef animals will be divided into groups by ending weight without regard to breed. The judge will be asked to take Rate of Gain into consideration when placing the market classes.
8. Rate of Gain show (class 805): The top ten (10) gaining Market Beef animals will receive sponsored monetary awards. Animals entered in classes 801, 802, and 803 are eligible for this class. An exhibitor will be able to receive only one award. These animals will be paraded in reverse order at the beginning of the Market Beef show. Rate of Gain Ribbons:
P = 3.25+, B = 2.6 – 3.24, R = 2.0 - 2.59, W = 1.99 & under.
Class 805 is not a required class.
9. Animals shown in classes 806 and 807 cannot be shown in 801, 802 or 803.
10. Classes 806 and 807 exhibitors must submit all required records and management sheets to the beef superintendent before being allowed to unload at Fair.
11. Classes 806 and 807 will be judged by rules and criteria mailed to exhibitors before the Fair. For safety reasons, the beef superintendent may refuse to allow animals in classes 806 and 807 to unload at Fair.
12. If participating in classes 806 or 807, exhibitors will be required to participate in class 808 – Market Pen of Three Herdsman, an interview process reflecting their knowledge of their project. Interviews will take place the week of fair.
13. Steers originally identified as a market pen animal can be shown as a lead steer. However, a steer originally identified as a lead steer cannot be entered as a Pen of Three animal at Fair.
14. Recognition will be given to grand champion market animal, reserve champion market animal, 3rd, 4th and 5th place market animals overall. Selection will not go deeper than top 2 places in a class.
15. All exhibitors must be **YQCA certified by July 1st** to show beef in the Mitchell County Beef Show.
16. State 4-H Beef Show grooming rules apply – as follows: It is the intent that the 4-H/FFA members take responsibility for caring for and grooming his/her own animals. If assistance is needed, it should be aimed at helping the 4-H/FFA members learn new skills and be done by an immediate family member and/or another Mitchell County 4-H/FFA member.
17. ALL Animals in Department B (market, breeding, and prospect division) will be released after **all** Beef and Dairy animals have been shown and the Ribbon Auction has concluded in the Beef and Dairy barn on Sunday of Fair.
 - a. Exception: Animals in Class 806 (Market Beef Pen of Three) will be released at 8:00 a.m. the Sunday of Fair.

Division I - Market Beef

Class 801 - Market Beef Steers

Class 802 - Market Dairy Beef

Class 803 - Market Beef Heifers

Class 805 - Rate of Gain

Class 806 - Market Beef Pen of Three

Class 807 – Stocker Pen of Three

Daily rate of gain for classes 806 and 807 will be based on beginning weight as certified by Extension Staff or 4-H & Youth Committee members. Ribbons will be awarded.

Class 808 – Market Pen of Three Herdsman (Required if exhibiting in class 806 or 807).

DEPARTMENT B

Beef

Willie Weis, Mike Hein, Nick Chambers, Paul Juenger – Superintendents

Division II - Breeding Beef

1. All breeding beef, purebred and commercial, must be properly identified in the 4-H Online system, including two forms of identification, registration number (Purebreds), and birthday (mm/dd/yy) by 11:59, May 15, 2025.

Forms of identification:

1. Tattoo (required), calfhood vaccination tattoo is not acceptable as primary form of ID.
2. Calfhood vaccination number, approved 4-H ear tag, or registration number.
2. Calf must be properly identified in FairEntry by **July 1, 2025**. (This date is an exception for Calves only – all other beef is required to be identified by **May 15, 2025**.)
 1. Accepted forms of ID: USDA approved alphanumeric tag, Calfhood Vaccination tag, Registration number with tattoo (Purebred) or USDA approved RFID or 840 series tag
3. **Breeding Beef must have 3 or more animals in a class to be shown as a separate class.**
4. A copy of your registration papers must be presented to the Extension Office before July 1, 2026.

Class 809 – Breeding Heifers shall be born between September 1, 2024 and December 31, 2025.

Class 810 – Cow/Calf Pair (Owned & raised by exhibitor, cow shown at prior fair, calf must be first born)

Class 811 – Cow/Calf pair with 2nd calf or older

Division III – Feeder Calf

Rules:

1. Any newborn beef calf (steer or heifer) calved between January 1 and May 15th of the current year.
2. Calf must be properly identified in FairEntry by **July 1, 2026**. (This date is an exception for Prospect Calves only – all other beef is required to be identified by **May 15, 2026**.)
 - a. Accepted forms of ID: USDA approved alphanumeric tag, Calfhood Vaccination tag, Registration number with tattoo (Purebred) or USDA approved RFID or 840 series tag
 - b. Both market and breeding feeder calf division. Exhibitors can show market heifer feeder calves but will show in a class with steers. Market prospects will show by weight taken at fair check in. Breeding prospects will be classed by breed and age. Superintendents will classify breeds at fair check-in.
 - c. Calves will be shown on halter. Calves may be divided into classes depending on the number of entries and at the discretion of the superintendents.
 - d. Weaned calves are eligible as long as calf was born in time frame in rule #1.
 - e. Nurse cows will only be allowed if being shown in cow/calf division also.
 - f. Any participant may identify four (4) animals and exhibit two (2) at the county fair.
 - g. **Calves owned by exhibitors are eligible for the Ribbon Auction.**
 - h. Judging will be based on conformation or quality of the calf.
 - i. See Health requirements in General Rules section.
 - j. Participants may keep animals for breeding or market beef project the following year.
 - k. Feeder calf projects WILL be eligible for showmanship.
 - l. Feeder calf classes will be available to young people for only two (2) project years as their sole beef project; after the two years prospect calves may be shown only if in conjunction with another beef project (e.g. cow/calf, breeding beef, market beef).

Class 812 – Prospect Calf - breeding heifer, born between Jan 1-May 15 of the current year

Class 813 – Prospect Calf – market, born between Jan 1-May 15 of the current year

DEPARTMENT C

Swine

Greg Weis, Garrett Barker, Brendt Warrington, Adam Koch – Superintendents

Rules:

1. All exhibitors must be YQCA certified and provide Premise ID number to the Extension office by July 1 of the current year to show swine in the Mitchell County Swine Show.
2. To be eligible for entry, all hogs (market, derby, and breeding) must have been properly tagged at weigh-in and identified in 4HOnline by **May 15** of the current year.
3. The maximum number of hogs to be identified in 4-H Online by May 15 of current year is **twelve (12)**.
4. Each exhibitor is limited to bringing **eight (8) hogs** to the Fair to enter in classes 817-824.
5. **Exhibitors may bring up to four (4) entries total in the Market Divisions, up to two (2) Derby, and up to two (2) Breeding Gilts.**
6. Exhibitors cannot bring pigs that are not being exhibited.
7. Breeding gilts should be farrowed on or after December 1.
8. Animals entered in classes 821 and 824 must have registration papers submitted to the Extension Office by July 1. If registration papers are not received, animals will be moved to the according non-registered class.
9. **On Tuesday, July 28, 2026**, all hogs must be unloaded at the chute located at the West end of the hog barn. The animals will be weighed between **4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.**
10. All animals entered as a derby barrow or derby gilt will be in a live derby class. Those entered in the derby live class will be scanned. The data from the scanned pigs will be ranked and champion plaques and cash awards will be given out in the scanned data contest. The scanned data will not be shown as a live class. **The scanning fee for derby animals will be paid by the Fair Board. Please write them a thank you.**
11. Only the animals entered in Classes 817 and 818 will be scanned.
12. Superintendents may divide each class in sub-classes to facilitate judging; such divisions will be based on market animals by ending weight.
13. **Class 822-Market Pen must consist of three (3) pigs entered in Classes 817, 818, 819, 820, and 821.**
14. This is a **non-terminal** show; hogs will be taken home.
15. Any adjustments due to Showdown eligibility will be finalized by superintendents on Thursday after the show.
16. Awards will be given to Champion Market Barrow, Champion Market Gilt, Top 5 Market and Breeding Animals, Champion Pen of Three, and Grand Champion Hog.
17. All exhibitors are required to help clean up the barn and under the bleachers immediately following the swine show.
18. Animals in Department C will be released after **all** Swine, Sheep, and Meat Goat animals have been shown and Ribbon Auction has concluded in the Swine and Sheep arena on Sunday of the fair.

Class Numbers: (*Limit of 8 hogs total)

Class 816 - Home Bred and Raised (limit – 1 entry; animal identified at weigh-in on July 29, 2025)

Animals defined as those that were born on the farm or ranch operated by the immediate family of the exhibitor. This class is not eligible for selection as the Champion or Reserve Champion animal, but can be entered in additional classes 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 823, and 824 which would make them eligible for those awards mentioned.

Class 817 - Derby Barrow (limit - 1 entry)

Class 818 - Derby Gilt (limit - 1 entry)

Ribbons given during live judging in classes 817 and 818. Derby premiums are given as follows for each of Classes 817 and 818: 1=\$30, 2=\$25, 3=\$20, 4=\$15, 5=\$10, all others=\$3

Class 819 - Market Barrow (limit - 4 entries)

Class 820 - Market Gilt (limit - 4 entries)

Class 821 - Registered Market Swine (limit – 4 entries)

*Exhibitors may bring a total of 4 market animals in classes 819, 820, 821.

Class 822 - Market Pen of Three: must consist of three (3) pigs entered in Classes 817, 818, 819, 820, 821.

Class 823 - Breeding Gilt (limit – 2 entries)

Class 824 - Registered Breeding Gilt (limit – 2 entries)

*Exhibitors may bring a total of 2 breeding gilts in classes 823 and 824.

DEPARTMENT D

Sheep

Andy Johnson, Eric Davis - Superintendents

Rules:

1. Sheep shown in the purebred class must show registration papers at Fair weigh-in and carry proper ear identification tag.
2. Intact sheep (ewes and rams) must have a scrapies tag.
3. All lambs in classes 839, 840, 843, 847, 848, 850 must have been lambled after January 1, 2026.
4. Each exhibitor may make two (2) entries in each of the classes 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846 and three (3) entries in class 847.
5. Lambs shown in the breeding classes cannot be shown in market classes. **All 4-H sheep** must be identified in the 4-H Online system, including birthdates (mm/dd/yyyy) by 11:59 p.m. on May 15 of the current year.
6. Weigh-in will be held between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 20, 2026. Minimum weight for market lambs is 100 lbs.
7. There will be weight divisions, at the discretion of the superintendent, in classes 847 and 848 based on ending weight.
8. There will be a derby lamb class based on scan data. Maximum Class 850 entries - 2 per exhibitor. Derby lambs **cannot** be entered in class 847 as an individual market lamb. **The scanning fee for derby animals will be paid by the Fair Board. Please write them a thank you.**
9. Awards will be given to Champion and Reserve Champion Market Lamb, Champion and Reserve Market Pen of Three Market Lambs, Supreme Champion Breeding Sheep, Champion and Reserve Senior Showman, Champion and Reserve Intermediate Showman, and Champion and Reserve Junior Showman.
10. If the Champion Individual Market Lamb is sired by a purebred Hampshire or purebred Suffolk Ram, those breed associations will award a \$10 premium. Contact the Extension Office within one (1) week after the Fair if you are eligible for this additional premium.
11. There will be no halters in the show ring.
12. All exhibitors must be **YQCA certified and provide Premise ID number** to the Extension office by July 1st to show sheep in the 2025 Mitchell County Sheep Show.
13. State 4-H Sheep Show grooming rules apply – immediate family or current Mitchell County 4-H/FFA member only.
14. Animals in Department D will be released after **all** Swine, Sheep, and Meat Goat animals have been shown and Ribbon Auction has concluded in the Swine and Sheep arena on Sunday of the fair.

When entering in the online Fair Entry system, choose the class number followed by the individual breed letter.

Example: A Purebred Suffolk ewe lamb would be entered into class 839SU.

Division:

*Purebred Cheviot (CH)
Purebred Columbia (CO)
Purebred Corriedale (CR)
Purebred Dorset (D)
Purebred Hampshire (H)
Purebred Montadale (M)*

*Purebred Rambouillet (R)
Purebred Shropshire (SH)
Purebred Southdown (SO)
Purebred Suffolk (SU)
Other Breeds (O)*

Class Numbers:

Class 839 - Purebred Ewe Lamb

Class 840 - Purebred Ram Lamb

Class 841 - Purebred Yearling Ewe

Class 842 - Purebred Yearling Ram

Class 843 - Grade Ewe Lamb

Class 844 - Grade Yearling Ewe

Class 845 - Grade Ewe - two years or over, must have dropped a lamb

Class 846 - Ewe Lamb Progeny - A dam who was shown the previous year in the commercial or purebred ewe lamb class) and her offspring. Limit of two entries per exhibitor.

Class 847 - Individual Market Lamb

Class 848 - Pen of Three Market Lambs. - May include lambs entered in Class 847, Class 850 or may be three additional lambs.

Class 850-Derby Market Lamb (limit – 2 entries) *Ribbons awarded based on scan data. Derby premiums are given as follows: 1=\$30, 2=\$25, 3=\$20, 4=\$15, 5=\$10, all others = \$3. 1st place will also receive a picture plaque.* Picture for plaques is the responsibility of the exhibitor.

DEPARTMENT D

Meat Goats

Andy Johnson, Eric Davis - Superintendents

Rules:

1. All exhibitors must be YQCA certified and provide a Premise ID number to the Extension office by July 1st to show goats in the 2026 Mitchell County Meat Goat Show.
2. All market meat goat wethers and does must have been born after January 1st of the current year.
3. Each exhibitor may nominate a maximum of 6 goats by May 15, 2026, and show a maximum of 3 entries (wethers or does, no bucks).
4. All potential meat goats must be tagged and identified by May 15 of the current year.
5. All female goats must have a scrapie tag.
6. No sexually intact males will be allowed to be identified or shown.
7. **Meat goats must have horns disbudded, dehorned, or tipped blunt before arrival on the fairgrounds. Removal of horns on the fairgrounds is NOT permitted.**
8. All meat goats must be weighed at the fair on Wednesday, July 29th between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
9. All breeds will show together.
10. No pygmy goats will be allowed.
11. There will be weight divisions at the discretion of the superintendent based on ending weight.
12. Goats must be broke to lead. Exhibitors will be allowed to use halters, collars, and collars with short chains in the show ring.
13. State 4-H Goat Show grooming rules apply – immediate family or current Mitchell County 4-H/FFA member only.
14. Animals in Department D will be released after **all** Swine, Sheep, and Meat Goat animals have been shown and Ribbon Auction has concluded in the Swine and Sheep arena on Sunday of the fair.

Class 851: Market Wethers and Does

Class 852: Breeding Does – under 1 year of age as of August 1 of the current year

Class 853: Breeding Does – over 1 year of age as of August 1 of the current year

DEPARTMENT E

Dairy Goats

Mike Gerdts, Gregg Krebsbach - Superintendents

Rules:

1. All exhibitors must be YQCA certified by July 1st of the current year to show dairy goats at the 2026 Mitchell County Fair.
2. Check-in of dairy animals will be held between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29, 2026.
3. **All dairy animals**, including birthdates (mm/dd/yyyy), must be identified in the 4-H Online system by 11:59 p.m. on May 15 of the current year.
4. Only does may be exhibited. They may be registered or grade animals.
5. Does 24 months of age or older which have never been freshened shall not be shown.
6. ALL Animals in Department E will be released after **all** Beef and Dairy animals have been shown and Ribbon Auction has concluded in the Beef and Dairy barn on Sunday of Fair.

Classes:

Junior Does - Under 24 months of age that have never freshened.

Class 837a - Under 12 months

Class 837b - 12 months up to 24 months

Senior Does - In milk or that have freshened.

Class 838a - Under 24 months in milk

Class 838b - 2 years and older

DEPARTMENT E

Dairy Cattle

Mike Gerdts, Gregg Krebsbach - Superintendents

Rules:

1. All exhibitors must be YQCA certified by July 1st of the current year to show dairy at the Mitchell County Fair.
2. Check-in of dairy animals will be held between 10 a.m. – 12 noon on Wednesday, July 29, 2026.
3. Purebred (registered) and Grade (registered Grade through Holstein Association as grade or non-registered) animals will show together.
4. **All dairy animals**, including birthdates (mm/dd/yyyy), must be identified in the 4-H Online system by 11:59 p.m. on May 15th of the current year.
5. Grade Dairy heifers must possess good breeding characteristics.
6. Any heifer is considered to be purchased except daughters of present or former project heifers.
7. Not more than two (2) animals may be shown by an exhibitor in any one class. Not more than one purchased animal may be shown in any one class except in the classes for cows, where the animals must have been enrolled as a project by the exhibitor as a two-year-old or younger, one may have been purchased as a cow.
8. The ages of animals shall be reckoned as shown below, date inclusive:

Junior Calf - born March 1 - April 30, 2026

Intermediate Calf - born Dec. 1, 2025 - Feb. 28, 2026

Senior Calf - born September 1 - Nov. 30, 2025

Summer Yearling - born June 1 - August 31, 2025

Junior Yearling - born March 1 - May 31, 2025

Winter Yearling - born Dec. 1, 2024 - Feb. 28, 2025

Senior Yearling - born Sept. 1 - November 30, 2024

2-Year-Old Cow - born Sept. 1, 2023 - Aug. 31, 2024

3-Year-Old Cow - born Sept. 1, 2022 - Aug. 31, 2023

4-Year-Old Cow - born Sept. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2022

Aged Cows - born before September 1, 2021

9. Exhibitors must record birthdate of animals in fair entry database (www.fairentry.com)
10. If less than three (3) animals are shown in either the Jr. Calf or Int. Calf classes, those two classes will be combined into one class. If less than three (3) animals are shown in either the Summer Yearling or Junior Yearling classes, those two classes will be combined into one class. If less than three (3) animals are shown in either the Winter Yearling or Senior Yearling classes, those two classes will be combined into one class. If less than three (3) animals are shown in either the 3-Year-Old or 4-Year-Old classes, those two classes will be combined into one class.
11. ALL Animals in Department E will be released after **all** Beef and Dairy animals have been shown and Ribbon Auction has concluded in the Beef and Dairy barn on Sunday of Fair.

When entering in FairEntry, choose the class number followed by the individual breed letter. Example: A Holstein

Junior Calf would be entered into class 823H.

DAIRY CLASSES:

Holstein (H)

Jersey (J)

Ayrshire (A)

Guernsey (G)

Brown Swiss (B)

Milking Shorthorn (M)

Class 823 - Junior Calf

Class 824 - Intermediate Calf

Class 825 - Senior Calf

Class 826 - Summer Yearling

Class 827 - Junior Yearling

Class 828 - Winter Yearling

Class 829 - Senior Yearling

Class 830 - 2-Year Old Cows

Class 831 - 3-Year Old Cows

Class 832 - 4-Year Old Cows

Class 833 - Aged Cows

DEPARTMENT F

Horse and Pony

Tina Offen, Angela Nelson - Superintendent

Rules:

1. **The Horse Superintendents are in charge of the horse barn and the show.**
2. **One entry per exhibitor per class.**
3. No stallions over 12 months old may be exhibited
4. January 1st will be used to determine the age of horses and ponies.
 - a. Yearling - Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 of previous year
 - b. 2-Year-old - Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 two years prior to show date
5. **All horses**, including birthdates (mm/dd/yyyy), must be identified in the 4-H Online system, by 11:59 p.m. on May 15 of the current year.
6. 4-H Helmet rule is in effect on fairgrounds: "Helmet required for riding your horse during exercise or exhibition."
7. Exhibitors should wear appropriate dress: boots, white shirt, and blue or black jeans. Western hats are recommended for Showmanship at halter.
8. Classification of exhibitors is according to grade level for the 2025-26 school year.
9. **Junior=grades 4-6; intermediate=grades 7-9; Senior=grades 10 and above.** All classes will be divided.
10. **To participate in the game classes, youth must show in both a halter and a pleasure class.**
11. Grand and Reserve ribbons will be awarded to the first and second place exhibitors in all classes. These ribbons will be awarded in junior, intermediate, and senior divisions.
12. 4-H members and FFA members must participate in a minimum of two club workouts with their horse if a junior exhibitor, first year exhibitor, or exhibiting a new horse. All horse exhibitors must attend the mandatory horse meeting to be eligible to participate in the horse show at the Fair. **Appeals should be presented to the 4-H & Youth Committee.**
13. An exhibitor cannot be a champion winner two (2) years in a row in the same class for High Points trophies, unless on a different horse than the previous year.
14. Exhibitor may enter a horse in yearling and horse showmanship at halter and trail classes (classes 855, 857,863, and 864). However, trophy points will only be added from one class. Likewise, if an exhibitor is entered in both English and Western Horsemanship, points will only be totaled from one horsemanship class. Exhibitor must choose which class they wish to use for point totals before the show begins.
15. One (1) High Point Pleasure trophy for Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors will be awarded as follows: Points will be totaled from one halter class, one horsemanship class, Western Pleasure, and one trail class. One (1) High Point Game trophy will be awarded for Juniors, Intermediates, and Seniors. Points will be totaled for classes 867-870.
16. Game classes are ribbon classes – no premiums awarded, and do not affect the above trophies. However, the Mitchell County Outlaws 4-H and FFA will award a High Point trophy to a Junior, Intermediate, and Senior member who participate in all the events using one horse. This trophy will be awarded the final day of the show.
17. One horse per member unless extra room in the horse barn. All members **must stall the horse being shown in competition** unless approved by superintendents prior to fair.
18. Rain date for horse show will be the Monday following Fair beginning at 10 a.m.
19. Horses will be released from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. or after the completion of the Ribbon Auction on the Sunday of fair.

Halter & Pleasure Classes:

Class 855 – Showmanship at Halter – Yearling

Class 857 – Showmanship at Halter – Horse 2 yrs and older

Class 858 – Walk Trot ** (exhibitors showing first time)

**For 1st year rider, cannot enter another pleasure class.

Class 859 – English Horsemanship

Class 860 – Western Horsemanship

Class 861 – Western Pleasure

Class 862 – Bareback

Class 863 – In-hand trail class for horses 2 yrs. and younger

Class 864 – Trail Class

Class 865 – Driving

Class 866 – Drill Team

Game Classes:

Class 867 – Pole Bending

Class 868 – Keyhole

Class 869 – Jumping Figure 8

Class 870 – Barrel Racing

Class 871 – Flag Race

Class 872 – Stake Race

Class 873 – Egg & Spoon

Class 874 – Musical Chairs

When entering in Fair Entry, add "j" for Junior age exhibitor (Grades 4-6); "i" for Intermediate age exhibitor (Grades 7-9); and "s" for Senior age exhibitor (Grades 10-12).

DEPARTMENT H

Dogs

Extension Staff – Superintendent

Rules:

1. **All dogs**, including birthdates (mm/dd/yyyy) and rabies vaccination number, must be identified in the 4-H Online system, by 11:59 p.m. on May 15 of current year.
2. **All dog exhibitors must present a current rabies vaccination certificate at the first dog workout and at the time of judging. Please bring paperwork with you.**
3. Exhibitors may have two entries in class 875 and one entry class 876.
4. Exhibitor must attend a minimum of two dog training sessions with the dog(s) to be eligible to show at fair.
5. Dogs must be leashed and kept away from buildings and animals. They are to be on the grounds only during the Dog Show and Exhibition.

Class 875 - Dog Obedience: (A dog may only be entered in either A or B—please indicate correct letter.)

A. Pre-Novice Obedience: on leash, figure 8, sit for examination, recall, long sit (1 min.), long down (1 min.)

B. Novice Obedience: on and off leash, heel, figure 8, on and off leash, stand for examination, recall, long sit (1 min.), long down (3 min.).

Class 876 - Dog Handling: Member exhibits knowledge of commands and handling abilities.

Additionally, a fun, timed, event for Dog Agility exhibition will be held. Dogs on leash and off leash exhibit their speed and agility on the agility course. No premium points awarded—ribbons only.

DEPARTMENT I

Rabbits

Katie Hall – Superintendent

Rules:

1. Exhibitors must be YQCA certified by July 1st of the current year to exhibit at the Mitchell County Fair
2. NO padlocking of pens prior to checking rabbits in on Wednesday, July 29, 2026. Locks will be cut if padlocked early!
3. **Each exhibitor may have 5 entries total in all classes 878,879, 880, 882, and 883, plus one Pen of Three (allowed a total of 8 rabbits at the Fair).**
4. Pen of Three Rabbits (class 881) may include animal entered in 880 or be different animals. The Pen of Three is judged on uniformity of size and weight.
5. A market rabbit should be between two and three months old and weigh between 3.5 and 5.5 pounds.
6. Rabbit Age classification for classes 878, 879, 882 and 883 are: a-Junior, under 6 months of age; b-Intermediate, at least 6 months of age to 8 months of age; c-Senior, more than 8 months of age. Age classification refers to the rabbit(s) being exhibited NOT the exhibitor.
7. Show rabbit is defined as breed(s) not ordinarily considered meat animals. Decision on classing will be at the discretion of the superintendent.
8. Awards will be given to: Champion Breeding Rabbit, Champion Market Rabbit, Reserve Champion Breeding Rabbit, Reserve Champion Market Rabbit, Champion Show Rabbit, Reserve Champion Show Rabbit, Champion Market Pen of Three, Reserve Champion Market Pen of Three, Champion and Reserve Senior Showman, Champion and Reserve Intermediate Showman, and Champion and Reserve Junior Showman.
9. Animals in Department I will be released from 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. or after the completion of the Ribbon Auction on the Sunday of fair.

Division 56 - Meat Animal

Class 878 - Buck (a-junior; b-intermediate; c- senior)

Class 879 - Doe (a-junior; b-intermediate; c- senior)

Class 880 - Single Market Rabbit

Class 881 - Pen of Three Rabbits

Division 57 - Show Animal

Class 882 - Buck (a. junior, b. intermediate, c. senior)

Class 883 - Doe (a. junior, b. intermediate, c. senior)

When entering in Fair Entry, please enter your entries as follows:

“a” – Junior Animal – Under 6 months of age

“b” – Intermediate Animal – 6 to 8 months of age

“c” – Senior Animal – Over 8 months of age.

For a list of breed examples in each class, please visit <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mitchell/county-fair>.

DEPARTMENT J - Poultry

Kirk Phelps - Superintendent

Rules:

1. All exhibitors must be YQCA certified by July 1st of the current year to exhibit at the Mitchell County Fair.
2. All entries must be owned prior to May 15 of the current year and checked in upon arrival at the Fair.
Exception: Broilers in Class C will be distributed from a common site and date to ensure standard feeding period.
3. **Birds exhibited previously at another county fair within the same project year are not to be exhibited at the Mitchell County Fair.**
4. The Fair Board will furnish coops for housing projects at the Fair. Exhibitor will furnish bedding and containers for feed and water.
5. Check-in of poultry at Fair is Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 6-7 p.m.
6. All poultry exhibited must have a negative Pullorum-Typhoid test. All birds will be inspected, and blood tested during check-in at the Fair.
7. Poultry showing symptoms of disease or parasites will be removed from this show.
8. Entries in Production Classes and Market Classes will be judged on the basis of uniformity, maturity, development, handling qualities, pigmentation and general conformation.
9. Entries in Market Classes will be judged according to USDA Production and Marketing Standards of Quality for live poultry. Factors considered will include health, feathering, and conformation (breast, back, legs and thighs), fleshing and fat covering. The pen may consist of either or both sexes.
10. All pens will be judged on a Blue, Red, and White basis.
In classes A, B, and C, an entry will consist of three (3) birds (only 1 entry per class). In Classes D, E, and F, an entry will consist of one bird (2 entries per class). In Class G, no limit to entries. Premiums will be awarded only to those exhibitors who are present to hand their birds to the judge for judging.
10. ALL animals in Department J will be released from 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. or after the completion of the Ribbon Auction on the Sunday of fair.

Class A - Production Hens

01 – Production Pen of 3
Champion Pen for Class A – Purple ribbon
Reserve Champion Pen for Class A – Lavender ribbon

Class B - Production Pullets

01 – Production Pen of 3
Champion Pen for Class B – Purple ribbon
Reserve Champion Pen for Class B – Lavender ribbon

Class C - Market Poultry

CASH prize for the heaviest market broiler weighed at entry (1 entry per individual)

01 – Broilers, heavy weight, meat type Pen of 3 (Male)
Champion Pen for Class C – Purple ribbon
Reserve Champion Pen for Class C – Lavender ribbon

Class D - Waterfowl

01 – Ducks (1 bird) judged on Meat Quality
02 – Geese (1 bird) judged on Meat Quality
Champion Pen for Class D – Purple ribbon
Reserve Champion Pen for Class D – Lavender ribbon

Class E - Market Turkeys

01 – Turkeys (1 bird) judged on Meat Quality
Champion Pen for Class E – Purple ribbon
Reserve Champion Pen for Class E – Lavender ribbon

DEPARTMENT J - Poultry

Kirk Phelps - Superintendent
Tim Larson, Medford, MN - Judge

Class F - Miscellaneous Market Species

01 – Guineas (1 bird) judged on Meat Quality
02 – Pigeons (1 bird) judged on Meat Quality
Champion Pen for Class F – Purple ribbon
Reserve Champion Pen for Class F – Lavender ribbon

Class G- Fancy Breeding Stock

01 – Turkey (Male to be used as sire)
02 – Turkey (Female – 6 mo. or older)
03 – Duck (Male to be used as sire)
04 – Duck (Female – 6 mo. or older)
05 – Geese (Male to be used as sire)
06 – Geese (Female 6 mo. Or older)
07 – Large Breeding Stock (Male)
08 – Large Breeding Stock (Female)
09 – Bantam (Male)
10 – Bantam (Female)
11 – Other Breeds
Reserve Champion Pen for Class G – Lavender ribbon.
Champion Pen for Class G – Purple ribbon.

DEPARTMENT G

Club Activities

Division J - Junior Showmanship

Division I - Intermediate Showmanship

Division S - Senior Showmanship

Division E - Elite Showmanship

Judging is based on fitting and showing of the animal as well as the skill and appearance of exhibitor. Showmanship divisions are divided by age. An exhibitor may only win each division once, upon winning a division exhibitors must move up the next age division. Once they reach the elite level, they may compete indefinitely. Elite showmanship division will include current year class winners, past senior showmanship winners, and those above 12th grade.

Classification of exhibitors in these divisions is in accord to grade level of exhibitor on January 1, 2026.

Junior: (4th-6th Grade), Intermediate (7th-8th Grade), Senior (9-12th Grade) – Please see below “Note” section for exclusions to this rule.

Exhibitors will automatically be signed up for showmanship in each livestock area they exhibit in. Individuals may “scratch” their entry if desired. Exhibitors must have at least one exhibit in the livestock area they choose to participate in.

Note:

Dairy Class 882 will only have a junior and senior division. Junior 4-8th grade, senior 9-12th grade.

Meat Goat Class 885 will have one age division, youth grades 4-12 will show together.

***Combining age divisions can be done at any time at the discretion of show Superintendents.**

Champion ribbons will be awarded in the following classes:

Class 881 – Beef **Class 882**- Dairy **Class 883** – Swine
Class 884 – Sheep **Class 885** – Meat Goat **Class 886**- Rabbit **Class 887** - Poultry

Division 74 - Herdsmanship Contest

1. All livestock departments are judged on the club or chapter basis. All 4-H clubs and FFA Chapters are eligible.
2. Judges will check barns at unannounced times each day to inspect livestock, stalls, pens and alleys. They will avoid show times for each species. Exhibits must be penned/stalled in assigned area to qualify.
3. Clubs and Chapters are urged to put up name signs and decorations.
4. Awards will be given on the following basis: a. Cleanliness of animals exhibited-25%; b. Courtesy and friendliness to patrons-10%; c. Method of keeping feed and equipment-25%; d. Exhibitor's signs and decorations-10%; e. Cleanliness of stalls and alleys-30%.

Premiums awarded in each species (beef, sheep, swine, and dairy): 1st=\$10; 2nd=\$6; 3rd=\$4. (The \$20 premium for horse will be paid to the superintendent for reimbursement for decorations, etc.)



4-H Building Exhibits

General Exhibit Rules

All exhibitors are responsible to read and comply with the Mitchell County Fair General Rules listed at the front of this book, the General Exhibit Rules and all department exhibit class rules and regulations. For helpful hints on preparing your fair exhibits visit: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mitchell/county-fair> or <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/exhibit-tip-sheets>

1. Eligible exhibits are an outgrowth of work done as a planned part of the exhibitors' participation in projects or programs **during the current 4-H/school year**. Exhibits can be done by an individual or group and may represent all or part of the learning in the project or program.
2. Eligibility of a 4-H project to be selected for the Iowa State Fair:
4-H members who have completed 5th grade through 12th grade (or that equivalent) are eligible to exhibit at the 2026 Iowa State Fair. Exception: Group exhibits from an entire club may include 4th grade members. 4-H Youth who have completed 4th grade may participate in all the department areas at the county fair, however, they will not be eligible for State Fair selection.
3. Exhibits selected at the county level to advance to the Iowa State Fair should not be part of a local auction or sold to another individual before the Iowa State Fair.
4. **Exhibits that do not comply with the class description, size guidelines, copyright restrictions, safety and approved methods may be disqualified and will not be put on public display.**
5. If the exhibitor chooses a display to illustrate what was learned:
 - Posters may not exceed 24 inches by 36 inches in size. (See classes 10490 and 10530 for smaller requirements.)
 - Chart boards, graph boards, project presentation boards, model displays, etc., may not exceed 48 inches by 48 inches in size. Maximum size is determined by measuring the flat (unfolded) dimensions. (See Class 10255 for the smaller requirement.)
 - Display boxes may not exceed 28 inches by 22 inches in height or width and 12 inches in depth.
 - These size guidelines apply to all departments.
6. Endangered, threatened, and "special concern" plants and animals (includes insects), or songbird feathers and nests may NOT be used in any exhibit. Game animals legally taken are acceptable, with the exception of any hogs (Sus species) – per State Law. Live specimens of noxious weeds or invasive species are NOT permitted in any exhibit. Dried specimens are acceptable to use in exhibits, however viable noxious/invasive plant species shall not be included. (Links to specific information below)
 - State-listed animals: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ACO/rule/571.77.2pdf>
 - State-listed plants: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ACO/rule/571.77.3pdf>
 - Iowa Noxious weed list: [Iowa Code Section 317.1A \(2022\)- Noxious weeds :: 2022 Iowa Codes and Statutes :: US Law :: Justia](#)
7. Exhibits may not include actual firearms or live ammunition. Archery equipment is allowed if tips are removed from arrows.
8. **Copyrighted materials and designs may not be used in an exhibit that is presented as original work by the exhibitor.** Exhibitors must include permission from the copyright holder/owner when using copyrighted materials. Exhibitors must give proper credit to the original source of all materials/designs used in exhibits. (**See also special rules for Visual Arts and general copyright information for 4-H members.**)
9. **The 4-H member's goal and applicable exhibit standards will form the basis of the evaluation process.** Evaluation criteria will include demonstrated learning, workmanship and techniques, and general appearance and design. Exhibitors will receive a verbal evaluation on the exhibit and a blue, red, or white exhibitor's ribbon.
10. A written explanation, audio recording, or video recording is to be included as part of each exhibit. Audio or video should not be longer than 10 minutes. The exhibitor should respond briefly to the following questions about the exhibit:
 - **What did you plan to learn or do? (What was your exhibit goal or goal(s)?)**
 - **What steps did you take to learn or do this?**
 - **What were the most important things you learned?**

NOTE: Check for special rules and additional requirements in exhibit classes for clothing and fashion, food and nutrition, home improvement, photography, visual arts, 4-H poster communication classes, and personal development classes.
11. **All judges' decisions are final.**
12. Exhibits with a goal that better fits a different department/class will be moved to that department/class.

4-H Building Exhibits General Rules continued...

13. All exhibits will be evaluated on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, in the 4-H Exhibits Building on the Mitchell County Fairgrounds. Please refer to the club judging schedule on page 3.
14. Smaller exhibits **selected for State Fair** will be transported by Extension staff. This includes most photo, visual arts, food and nutrition, personal development and poster or displays. Transportation of larger exhibits, such as, furniture, woodworking, large visual art, ag or mechanical/engineered items will be the responsibility of the exhibitor. If you have a concern about the size of your project or cannot transport a large item selected for State Fair, please notify the Extension office as soon as possible after judging.
15. All exhibits must remain on display until **Sunday, August 2nd at 12:00 p.m.** All persons picking up (one or more) exhibits must adhere to this time schedule. **Removing projects prior to this time will result in forfeiture of premiums.**

Other Exhibit Information

1. Due to security, exhibitors are discouraged from entering items that have special meaning and historical value as the exhibit or part of an exhibit. The Mitchell County Fair and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will use diligence to insure the safety of articles entered for exhibition after their arrival and placement. However, they will not be responsible for damage or loss by accident, fire, theft, water, etc.
2. All exhibits in the 4-H building will be arranged in the club booth or in the State Fair display area after judging. Clubs are encouraged to display club name, leaders' names, names of members, activities, pictures of members, and tell about livestock projects, etc. in their booth. Club booths are normally decorated based on the current year 4-H Youth Conference theme, **Ride the Tide of Tomorrow**. Club Booth Certificates will be awarded to those clubs who meet club booth criteria.

4-H Bldg. Class Descriptions

Most exhibit classes have specific guidelines and requirements that will be included in the judging process. Members are strongly encouraged to go to <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/exhibit-tip-sheets> for information on judging criteria for exhibits that they create from their 4-H project learning.

Members may have a maximum of four (4) entries in each class (each class is numbered) **unless stated otherwise.**

DEPARTMENT: ANIMALS

Class 10110 - Animal Science

An exhibit (other than the animal itself) that shows learning about a large or small animal including beef, dairy cattle, dairy goats, dogs, horse and pony, meat goats, pets, poultry, rabbits, sheep, and swine. Ownership of an animal is not required.

Class 10120 - Veterinary Science

An exhibit that shows learning about keeping animals healthy, animal diseases, animal/human interaction, or other learning related to Veterinary Science.

DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Class 10210 - Crop Production and Plant Science

An exhibit that shows learning about the growth, use, and value of field crops; plant growth; soils and soil fertility; or any other learning related to crop production and plant science.

Class 10213 – Garden Vegetables and/or Herbs

An actual display of vegetables or herbs from your gardening experience. (Refer to "Harvesting and Preparing Vegetables for Exhibit" 4-H462 to properly exhibit your produce. This publication details the number of specimens to be included in the exhibit.) Exhibit should be displayed on a heavy paper, plastic, or Styrofoam plate.

Class 10220 – Conservation, Environment and Sustainability

An exhibit that shows the connections between humans and their environment including energy, energy conservation, stewardship, conservation, creating habitat, etc.

Class 10222 – Entomology

An exhibit (excluding live specimens) that shows learning or is an outgrowth of an entomology or bee project experience. Including specimen collections and may include products (for example honey) or equipment of the display.

Class 10224 – Fish and Wildlife

An exhibit that shows learning about a fish and/or wildlife project or program such as identification, habitats, harvest, taxidermy, etc. Any specimens must have been legally taken and must include information about date and location of harvest, or who the specimen was acquired from if it was not self-harvested. Feral pigs (including Russian/European Boar) are NOT permitted in taxidermy exhibits.

Class 10226 - Forestry

An exhibit, including collections, that show learning from participation in a forestry project or program.

Class 10230 – Horticulture and Plant Science

An exhibit that shows learning about the growth, use, and value of plants, soils, small fruit production, vegetable and flower gardens, plant nutrition, careers, etc.

Class 10235 - Home Grounds Improvement

An exhibit that shows learning about landscape plans, selection of landscape plants, ornamental garden features, home yard improvement, storage sheds, careers, etc.

Class 10240 - Outdoor Adventures

An exhibit that shows learning about backpacking, biking, camping, canoeing, fishing, hiking or other outdoor activities.

Class 10250 - Safety and Education in Shooting Sports

An exhibit that shows learning about safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment or wildlife management. (The exhibit may not include actual firearms or live ammunition. Archery equipment allowed if tips are removed from arrows).

Class 10255 – Farm Model Display

An exhibit that depicts an aspect of farm life that demonstrates a practice or practices that include farm safety or farm operation. Evaluation is primarily based on a clear goal statement that outlines the purpose of the model and the research done to support the exhibit. This exhibit may be a display on a firm base no larger than 36 inches by 36 inches, accompanied by the required written or audio/video explanation of the exhibit. A binder presentation is an acceptable alternative to a physical display.

Class 10260 - Other Agriculture and Natural Resources

An exhibit that shows learning about agriculture or natural resources and does not fit in any of the classes listed above.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Special Rule:

1. Exhibits must be ready for display (artwork framed, wall hangings and pictures ready to hang, etc.) or the member must explain how a larger, heavier exhibit will be displayed. Make sure hangers are strong enough to support the item. Command Strips or other quick attach products (like sawtooth hangers) are usually not adequate hangers.

DEPARTMENT: CREATIVE ARTS

Class 10310 - Music

An exhibit that shows learning about musical performance, composition and arrangements, instruments, musical styles, or history. If you are submitting a video or musical arrangement, it must be uploaded to YouTube.

Photo Challenge Class - Theme: “Homegrown & Proud”

Capture what it means to be “homegrown”. Photos should highlight pride in where you come from and the values or lifestyle that make it unique.

- Class 10315J (Junior Grades 4-6)**
10315I (Intermediate Grades 7-8)
10315S (Senior Grades 9-12)



1. Any 4-H or FFA member is eligible to enter.
2. Participants may enter 2 photos.
3. All entries must be made in Fair Entry by July 1.
4. Photos should be 5 inches by 7 inches.
5. Exhibitor name and the place where the photo was taken must be documented on the back of the photo.
6. A top Junior, Intermediate, and Senior photo will be selected.
7. Photos depicting unsafe practices or illegal activities (including trespassing), will NOT be judged or displayed.
8. **Exhibitor does not need to complete rule nine in the general rules; answering goal questions or the photo exhibit label.**
9. **Entries in this class are not eligible to advance to State Fair.**

Class 10320 - Photography

An exhibit, either photo(s) or an educational display, that shows learning about photography from choosing a camera or modifying your photo. Still photos only, not video.

Photography Special Rules:

1. *Photographs may be either black and white or color. Photographs must have been taken since your county fair of the previous year.*
2. *Photographs must be a minimum of 5 inches by 7 inches. Finished size (including mounting/matting) of single photographs may not exceed 11 inches by 14 inches. Square photos are allowed within the following dimensions, measured by inches: 7x7, 8x8, 9x9, 10x10, 11x11. Exception: Panoramic photos must not exceed 11 inches high by 24 inches in length.*
3. *All photographs must be printed on photographic paper and must be mounted and/or matted. Maximum thickness of finished project must not exceed ½ inch thick.*
4. *Mounted photos can be (a) flush-mounted [no board showing] on mounting board, or (b) with mount borders [window mat or flat mount directly on board]. Exhibitors may cut their own mounting boards, use ready-cut window mats or have matting done professionally.*
 - **4-H members are responsible for design decisions such as mounting, matting, color, and size.**
 - **Framed photographs (including floating frames) will not be judged.**
5. *A series is a group of photographs [3 to 5] that are related or tell a step-by-step story. Photographs must be mounted together and numbered in story order or sequence. Finished size of individual photographs in a series must be a minimum of 5 inches by 7 inches and should not exceed 8 inches by 8 inches.*
6. *Edited photos should include a copy of the photo before edits.*
7. *Subject matter of photographs must be in good taste and be appropriate for public display in a 4-H setting.*
8. **Photographs depicting unsafe practices or illegal activities will not be displayed.**
9. *Exhibitors must use the Photo Exhibit Label to provide required information for photo exhibits.*
10. *Exhibitors entered in 4-H Photography are not eligible to exhibit in the State FFA Photography Show and vice versa.*

Class 10340 - Creative Photography

A photographic image that was creatively edited or modified beyond reality in a creative, imaginative, and experimental way to make it more interesting and visually engaging. The final exhibit could be a composite of multiple photographs. Must include original photograph(s).

Creative Photography Special Rules:

1. *Photography/image may be mounted/matted.*
2. *If mounted, photograph/image may be mounted on foam core no smaller than 5 inches in length or larger than 14 inches in length.*
3. *Photograph/image can be digitally created.*
4. *Exhibit must have the most current Photo Exhibit Label on back with required information for photo exhibits. Exhibit write-up should include additional information about the processes and decisions used to develop the exhibit.*
5. *Subject matter must be in good taste and be appropriate for public display in a 4-H setting.*
6. *Photographs depicting unsafe practices or illegal activities will not be displayed.*

Class 10345 - Photography Idea/Educational Display

An exhibit that demonstrates learning about photography that does not fit into any previous photography class. This class may include educational displays about printing, processing, editing, marketing, branding, merchandising, etc., as it relates to photography. Display board size may not exceed 48 inches by 48 inches.

Class 10350 - Visual Arts- Original Art

An exhibit that showcases the skills you have developed in one or more mediums. Original art is a one-of-a-kind, non-replicable design of your creation. By using one medium or a combination, an individual creates an authentic work of art that is not recognizable as another's work. You **must explain** the application of the most relevant design element(s) and art principle(s) featured in this exhibit. Describe your inspirations, reasons, feelings, and/or motives for creating this work of art. See visual arts special rules below.

Class 10355 - Visual Arts -Design, Process, or Technique Exploration

This class emphasizes process and provides opportunity to explore a medium, practice a skill, or study and apply elements and principles of art and design. This class is for experimenting with and practicing skills in different mediums. An explanation of the application of design elements or art principles used when making the exhibit **must be included**. This exhibit may be an object, portfolio, display, poster, or organized sketchbook. If a non-original design source is used, its origin (where the idea was found, any pictures, sketches, etc.) must be credited, acknowledged, or have copyright permission obtained. See Visual Arts Special Rule #5 and #6.

Class 10360 - Visual Arts - Other Visual Art Ideas/Topics

Exhibits might include the study and research about an individual artist, style, craft, business, or marketing process, planning group tour, career options, etc.

Visual Arts Special Rules:

1. Exhibits must be ready for display (artwork framed, wall hangings and pictures ready to hang, etc.) or the member must explain how a larger, heavier exhibit will be displayed. Make sure hangers are strong enough to support the item. Command Strips or other quick attach products (like sawtooth hangers) are usually not adequate hangers.
2. Exhibits made from kits or preformed molds will not be accepted. Exception: Preformed molds (greenware, whiteware) may be used to provide the appropriate surface for a process technique or application of original design.
3. If the exhibit is a finished art object, the source or inspiration of the design, design sketches, or other process for creating the object and design must be included. For additional information see the Visual Arts and Design Elements & Art principles Exhibit Tip Sheets at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/exhibit-tip-sheets>.
4. If the exhibit is a finished art object information must be included explaining the application of design elements and art principles used in creation of the work.
5. Original works of art must be a creative expression of a design unique to the artist or represent a significant modification to an existing design to make a new and original statement by the artist.
6. Exhibition of derivative works created by a 4-H member is prohibited without the written permission of the original copyright holder/owner. Use of copyrighted or trademarked designs, images, logos, or materials in 4-H visual arts exhibits is prohibited unless written permission has been obtained from the copyright or trademark holder/owner. For additional information, see 4-H Exhibit Copyright Information at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/visual-art>.

DEPARTMENT: FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Class 10410 - Child Development

An exhibit that shows learning about children. An exhibit could include careers in child development, caring for children with special needs, childcare, growth and development, or safety and health. An exhibit that includes items intended for use with children, such as babysitting kits, books, learning games, or toys, must include information about what you have learned about children while creating and using the exhibit OR what the child/children learned from their use of the item(s) in the exhibit.

Class 10420 - Clothing and Fashion: Constructed/Sewn Garments & Accessories

A constructed garment or accessory (sewn, knitted, crocheted, or other process) that shows learning about style, fashion, design, thrifty spending, wardrobe planning, types of fabrics, and/or clothing care. Exhibits must be intended to be worn by humans.

Class 10422 – Clothing and Fashion: Purchased Garments and Accessories

Purchased garments or accessories that show learning about style, fashion, design, thrifty spending, wardrobe planning, types of fabrics, and/or clothing care. Exhibits must be intended to be worn by humans.

Class 10424 - Clothing and Fashion: Other Ideas/Educational Exhibits

Any other educational exhibit that shows learning about clothing and fashion, including design illustrations, exploration of clothing styles, careers, clothing care, etc.

Clothing and Fashion Special Rules:

1. *Outfits or accessories which will be worn during the Awardrobe Clothing Event may not be entered as a 4-H exhibit unless in grades 4-8.*
2. *Exhibits in classes 10420 and 10422 **must include** information about application of design elements and art principles. Exhibits in 10424 should include information about application of design elements and art principles if appropriate for the exhibit.*

Class 10430 - Consumer Management

An exhibit that shows learning through savvy budgeting, comparison shopping, money management, or consumer rights and responsibilities.

Class 10440 - Food & Nutrition: Prepared Product

An exhibit of a prepared food product that shows skills or learning about cooking, baking, eating and choosing healthy foods, or safety practice through the making of a prepared food product. See *Food and Nutrition Special Rules Below and HS 76 "Foods for Iowa 4-H Fairs – Quick Reference Guide"* at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/6434> for additional information regarding prepared food product. **Display boxes are not allowed for prepared products.**

Class 10442 – Food & Nutrition: Preserved Product

An exhibit of a preserved food product that shows skills or learning about food preservation through the making of a prepared or preserved food product. Processed honey may be exhibited in this class. See *Food and Nutrition Special Rules Below and HS 76 “Foods for Iowa 4-H Fairs – Quick Reference Guide”* at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/6434> for additional information regarding preserved food product.

Class 10445 - Food & Nutrition: Educational Display

An educational exhibit (poster, report, display) that shows skills or learning about cooking, baking, eating, and choosing healthy foods, meal planning/preparation and service, safety practices, or food preservation. See *Food and Nutrition Special Rules Below and HS 76 “Foods for Iowa 4-H Fairs – Quick Reference Guide”* at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/6434> for additional information regarding prepared and preserved food product. Exhibits showing learning about table settings or menu planning must include a menu.

Food & Nutrition Special Rules

1. Any exhibit considered to be a food safety risk or portray a food safety risk will not be accepted, judged or displayed.
2. All food products/exhibits should be appropriate for human consumption.
3. Food product exhibits must be prepared, baked or cooked using only food grade utensils and containers.
4. Products that require refrigeration will not be accepted, judged or displayed.
5. Meat jerky products are prohibited.
6. The recipe must be included for any prepared or preserved food exhibit; including the source of the recipe.
7. Preserved foods must include the Preserved Food 4-H Exhibit Label. **Only food processed after August 1, 2025, is acceptable.** Current USDA and/or Iowa State University guidelines for home food preservation must be used. Processed honey must include the Honey Label for 4-H Exhibits.
8. Preserved food exhibits **must** include two product samples. One will be opened for evaluation and discarded; the second will be placed on display and returned to the exhibitor. All perishable food products must be discarded when removed from display.
9. Prepared foods should be placed on a firm disposable plate or flat cardboard. Place food product exhibit in a re-closable plastic bag with entry tag fastened outside the bag. Recommended number of items to include with the Exhibit:
 - Cookies, cupcakes, bars, muffins, rolls, etc. - four (4) to six (6) items
 - Cakes, loafs, pies, etc. - one (1) whole product
10. **The use of alcoholic beverages in the preparation or production of 4-H food exhibits is NOT permitted.**

Special Exhibition – Thrifty Meal Challenge



10490 – Thrifty Meal Challenge – Create a balanced, nutritious meal for family of four (4) that includes a serving from each of the recommended food groups for each person with a budget of \$11 (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefit allowance for one meal for a family of four as of November 2025).

Thrifty Meal Challenge Special Rules:

1. Exhibit may be from an individual or group effort.
2. The total expense of receipt(s) must not exceed \$11.
3. The meal must serve four (4) people, with a serving for each person from each of the recommended food groups: Protein, Dairy, Healthy Fats, Vegetables, Fruits, Whole Grains
 - a. Recommended portion sizes per person: 3 ounces protein, 1 cup dairy, 1 Tablespoons healthy fats, ½-1 cup vegetables, ½ fruit, ½-1 ounce whole grain.
 - b. If there is a dairy allergy, you may substitute it with a calcium-rich item, but you will need to indicate the allergy and identify how the item substituted provides enough calcium.
4. The exhibit will be a poster or foam board (maximum size 22 inches x 28 inches or 20 inches x 30 inches) that includes the following:
 - a. The menu, a list of food items, and appropriate portion sizes for each food item.
 - b. Meal type (breakfast, lunch, or dinner).
 - c. Copy of grocery receipts (up to 2).
 - d. Photos of the experience: grocery shopping, food preparation, and prepared meal.
 - e. The completed [Thrifty Meal Challenge Worksheet](#) attached to the back of the poster.

For more information about this special challenge, please go to <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/meal-challenge>.

Recipe Challenge Class

Class 10414J (Junior Grades 4-6)
10414I (Intermediate Grades 7-8)
10414S (Senior Grades 9-12)

1. Any 4-H member is eligible to enter.
2. The 2026 Challenge Recipe is Chex Bars.
3. Entry is due in Fair Entry by July 1st.
4. Members may enter one plate with three 3-inch x 3-inch bars on the plate with entry tag fastened to the bottom of the plate.
5. The purpose of the class is to use only the following recipe - make, bake, and present your best. Do not use substitute ingredients or change measurements. It is important that the recipe be followed as it is written, as your exhibit will be compared with others.
6. A top Junior, Intermediate, and Senior exhibit will be selected.
7. **Exhibitor does not need to complete rule nine in the general rules; answering goal questions.**
8. Entries are not eligible for State Fair.

This recipe is provided by Dance Around the Kitchen—Kelsey Byrnes. For more recipes, please visit <https://dancearoundthekitchen.com/>.



Chex Bars

Ingredients:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 1/3 cups corn syrup
- 1 1/3 cups creamy peanut butter
- 7 cups Rice Chex cereal
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Instructions:

- Grease a 9x13 inch pan with cooking spray; set aside.
- In a large saucepan, add the sugar and corn syrup and combine.
- Turn the stovetop on low heat and stir until the sugar dissolves. Do not let the mixture boil.
- Once the sugar is dissolved, remove the pan from the heat and stir in the peanut butter.
- Add the cereal and carefully stir until all of the cereal is coated.
- Pour the cereal mixture into the prepared pan and spread into an even layer.
- Add the chocolate chips to a small microwave-safe bowl.
- Cook on high in 30-second intervals, stirring after each interval until the chocolate is melted and smooth.
- Drizzle over bars and use a spoon to spread into an even layer.
- Let cool and cut bars.

Class 10450 - Health

An exhibit that shows learning through food choices, physical activity, safe activities, skills such as first aid and CPR, careers, and/or healthy lifestyle choices.

Class 10460 - Home Improvement

An exhibit that shows learning in planning, improving, and caring for your home living space, including extended personal living areas immediately adjacent to the home. **Exhibits may include new or refinished/reclaimed/restored items.** Exhibits showing learning about home design, furniture, home accessories, and fabrics **must include** information about how design elements and art principles were applied. Information can be found at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/Design-Exploring-the-Elements-and-Principles>

Home Improvement Special Rules:

1. *Exhibits must be ready for display (artwork framed, wall hangings and pictures ready to hang, etc.) or the member must explain how a larger, heavier exhibit will be displayed. Make sure hangers are strong enough to support the item. Command Strips or other quick attach products (like sawtooth hangers) are usually not adequate hangers.*
2. *Exhibit write-up/information must include source of inspiration and/or references indicating where the idea or information was obtained, giving credit to the original author(s), designer(s), artist(s).*

Class 10470 - Sewing and Needle Arts

A constructed item (sewn, knitted, crocheted, or other process) that shows learning and skill in sewing, knitting, crocheting, or other needle arts. May include the construction of household items such as pillowcases, curtains, table runners, quilts, wall hangings, etc. Exhibits in this class are not intended to be worn by humans.

Class 10472 – Sewing and Needle Arts: Other Ideas/Educational Exhibits

Any other educational exhibit that shows learning about sewing and needle arts including construction techniques, use and care of fabrics and fibers, design illustrations, decorative processes, careers, etc.

Note: Exhibits in classes 10470 and 10472 should include information about application of design elements and art principles if appropriate for the exhibit. <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/Design-Exploring-the-Elements-and-Principles>

Class 10480 - Other Family and Consumer Science

An exhibit that demonstrates learning about a family and consumer science topic that does not fit any other Family and Consumer Science class listed.

DEPARTMENT: 4-H CLOTHING & FASHION EVENT

The Fashion Revue, \$20 Challenge, Innovative Design, Clothing Selection participants will be **judged on Thursday, July 10th, at the Extension office. A schedule will be sent out to members that sign up for this event with their judging time prior to the event. The members will model their outfit in the style show at the CRC Event Center Friday, August 1st during fair.** Results, ribbons earned, and State Fair selection will be announced at that time. Classes are divided by classes Junior (grades 4-6), Intermediate (grades 7-8) and Senior (grades 9-12).

General Rules:

2. Outfits or accessories which will be worn during the Clothing Event may not be entered as another 4-H exhibit unless in grades 4-8.
3. Participants should submit a completed report form. A receipt is also required for the \$20 Challenge.
4. **To be eligible to advance to state fair, 4-H members must be in the senior 4-H designated level (completed grades 9-12).**
5. Members may have 1 exhibit in each of the following categories:

The \$20 Challenge - Purchase and model an outfit for \$20 or less at a garage sale, consignment store, thrift store, secondhand store, or similar place.

Class 12301 – Junior \$20 Challenge

Class 12302 – Intermediate \$20 Challenge

Class 12303 – Senior \$20 Challenge

\$20 Challenge Special Rules:

1. This class is designed to expand the 4-H members shopping experience to shopping venues emphasizing recycling, reducing, and reusing. Outfits must be purchased from a garage sale, consignment store, thrift store, secondhand store, or similar place. This class is not for new clothing, regardless of price.
2. Online venues are allowed and must be second-hand in nature. Shipping and handling are not included in the total calculations.
3. Traditional shopping venues may not be used, regardless of a low regular or sale price. Hand-me-downs or clothing as gifts do not qualify but may be entered in Clothing Selection if 4-H members selected the items to meet a specific purpose/goal.
4. Twenty dollars is the purchase price limit including tax. However, some second-hand stores and venues do not typically charge sales tax.
5. Receipt(s) for every item included as a part of the calculated total must be submitted with the entry. A garage sale receipt can be a piece of paper with the name of the location such as "Jane Doe garage sale", date, amount paid, and signature of person selling at the garage sale. If the outfit was free at a garage sale, "free" can be listed on the report form and on the receipt. Failure to provide receipts will be reflected in the evaluation.
6. An outfit consists of major clothing pieces such as a shirt and pants or a dress. Shoes, undergarments, and accessories are not included in the \$20 purchase price limit.
7. Alterations are permitted to achieve a desired look or fit.
8. There are no additional considerations for an outfit that cost less than \$20.
9. The outfit pieces should be purchased to meet the 4-H member's goal or intended use for the purchased outfit, and the 4-H member should have had an experience in choosing shopping alternatives, evaluating fit, quality and construction features, price, and cost comparison.

Clothing Selection – Select and model an outfit that represents the 4-H member's goal or intended use for the selected outfit. *(No limit on cost and can include gifts/hand-me-downs)*

Class 12201 – Junior Clothing Selection

Class 12202 – Intermediate Clothing Selection

Class 12203 – Senior Clothing Selection

Clothing Selection Special Rules:

1. The purpose of this category is to select and/or purchase an outfit that represents the 4-H member's goal or intended use for the selected outfit.
2. Judging is based on fit, color, style, suitability, quality and construction features, stage presentation, required care, and cost comparison.

Clothing Selection Special Rules Continued...

3. There is no consideration in the judging on the amount spent, only in the process of recordkeeping and reflection on the cost of the individual items as a part of the process.
4. Outfits may be purchased at a department store, boutique, online store, sidewalk sales, retail shops or mall stores. Outfits may also be purchased at garage sales or other second-hand venues at any price point. Outfits may be gifts, hand-me-downs, relative or friend's modern or vintage clothing, or existing personal clothing, as long as the 4-H member actually selected the item as part of this specific outfit for the stated purpose.
5. Home-sewn clothing that was not sewn specifically for the participant are acceptable, such as purchases from a used clothing store.

Fashion Revue - Make and model a garment or outfit. The garment or outfit can be constructed, sewn, hand-knitted, machine knitted, or crocheted during the current 4-H year.

Class 12101 – Junior Fashion Revue

Class 12102 – Intermediate Fashion Revue

Class 12103 – Senior Fashion Revue

Fashion Revue Special Rules:

1. The purpose of this category is to encourage the sewing of a personal garment or outfit.
2. Consideration is given to fit, color, style, suitability, quality of construction, stage presentation, and required care.
3. Youth participants will model a garment or outfit they constructed, hand-knitted, machine-knitted, or crocheted during the current 4-H year.
4. A garment or outfit consists of one to three pieces such as, but not limited to, party clothes, tailored suits, vest, slacks, shirt, skirt, active sportswear and/or coats.
5. Blouses, shirts, and sweaters are usually considered as garments. If they are used to complete an outfit, they may be constructed or selected.
6. All other accessories and undergarments may be constructed or selected.

Innovative Design – To encourage creativity and out-of-the-box thinking when creating an outfit.

Class 12401 – Junior Innovative Design

Class 12402 – Intermediate Innovative Design

Class 12403 – Senior Innovative Design

1. The purpose of this class is to encourage creativity and out-of-the-box thinking when creating an outfit.
2. These designs can be theatrical costumes, cosplay, wearable technology, sustainable/upcycled fashion, accessible fashion, and/or outfits that use unconventional materials.
3. The outfit must be showcased as a worn garment modeled by the exhibitor or by the individual that it was designed for.
4. Exhibitors may make their garment entirely, or permanently alter the silhouette or pre-existing materials through some method of permanent alteration or addition.
5. Consideration is given to originality and innovation.

DEPARTMENT: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Class 10510 - Citizenship and Civic Engagement

An exhibit that shows learning about or contributing to your community, your country, or your world.

Class 10520 - Communication

An exhibit that shows learning about written, oral, or visual communication skills. Includes learning from participation in Theatre Arts projects or programs such as puppets, stage design, etc. May include original creative writing, poetry, fiction, non-fiction, etc. If finished exhibit included audio or video, it must be brought on a computer or flash drive.

Class 10530 - 4-H Poster Communication Exhibit

Special poster exhibit to visually tell a story or idea about 4-H to the general public. Exhibitors must use one of the following themes:

- 4-H is... (open to 4-H members interpretation)
- Join 4-H
- Beyond Ready in 4-H (2025 National 4-H Week theme)
- 4-H Spirit (variation of 2026 Iowa State Fair Theme)
- 4-H for America's Next 250 Years (celebrating America's 250th birthday)

4-H Poster Communication Special Rules:

1. *Only one poster per 4-H member may be entered.*
2. *All posters must be designed on, or affixed to, standard poster board or foam core board—size minimum of 14 inches by 20 inches or maximum of 15 inches by 22 inches.*
3. *Posters may be vertical or horizontal.*
4. *Posters may be any medium: watercolor, ink, crayon, acrylic, charcoal, oils, collage, digital images, etc. If digital images a computer program is used to create the finished poster, the member needs to cite their sources on the Poster Exhibit Entry Form.*
5. *Posters **cannot** be 3-dimensional. Materials used to make the poster may **not** extend more than 1/8 inch above the poster or foam core board.*
6. *Each poster **must** have the completed Poster Exhibit Entry Form attached to the back.*
7. *Posters **cannot** use copyrighted material or exact copies of other promotional designs, such as the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference theme logo.*
8. *4-H members MAY include the 4-H clover in the poster.*

Class 10540 - Digital Storytelling

An exhibit that demonstrates the application of technology to produce a creative movie/film/video. Exhibits may include a finished movie or video, creation of a detailed storyboard, editing techniques using digital video software, production techniques, or other display to share what was learned. Copyright permission must be obtained for any non-original material included as part of a film/movie/video. Finished film/movie/video must be uploaded to YouTube.

Class 10550 - Leadership

Any exhibit that shows learning about leadership skills and influencing others in a positive way.

Class 10560 - Self-Determined

Any exhibit that shows learning as part of your 4-H adventure and does not fit any other class.

Personal Development Special Rule:

1. *Exhibits entered in the Personal Development classes should include reflection by the 4-H member stating how they personally grew or benefited from the exhibit. Why was this exhibit important to them as person?*

DEPARTMENT: SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Class 10610 – Mechanics - An exhibit that shows skills or learning about general mechanics or engineering solutions or that combines skills related to the design, construction, and repair of structural and mechanical technologies.

Class 10612 - Automotive – Repaired or restored vehicle.

Class 10613 – Automotive: Educational Display

An exhibit that shows learning about an automotive idea including automotive maintenance, auto operations, auto safety, or automotive systems.

Class 10614 - Electric – Constructed or repaired article or educational display that shows skills or learning about electric wiring, appliances, lighting, electrical energy sources, safety, etc.

Class 10615 - Small Engine – Repaired or restored operating engine or educational display or other type exhibit that shows skills or learning about small engines. This class includes repaired or restored lawn tractors, small motorcycles, go-karts, etc.

Class 10616 - Tractor – Repaired or restored tractor (lawnmower or larger).

Class 10617 – Tractor: Educational Display – An exhibit that shows learning related to tractors, tractor mechanics, tractor operations, or tractor safety.

Class 10618 - Welding – Constructed item or educational display that shows skills or learning about welding.

Class 10620 - Woodworking

An exhibit that shows learning about wood, woodworking techniques, and safe uses of woodworking tools and machines. Exhibits may include newly constructed or refinished/reclaimed/restored wood items.

Class 10630 - Science, Engineering & Technology

An exhibit that shows learning about or helps explain how science and technology help us interact with the world. Topics include aerospace, biological and chemical sciences, computers & networking, earth & climate, geospatial mapping (GPS/GIS), robotics, or any other application of science, engineering, or technology.

Class 10632 – Aerospace – Educational display or other exhibit (including flyable models) showing learning about an aerospace idea or topic.

Class 10634 – Robotics – Educational display or other exhibit (including working robots) showing learning about robots and robotic systems.

Science, Engineering & Technology Special Rule:

1. Exhibitors entered in the 4-H Science, Engineering & Technology classes are not eligible to exhibit in similar FFA Ag Mechanics classes and vice-versa.
2. Exhibits must be ready for display (artwork framed, wall hangings and pictures ready to hang, etc.) or the member must explain how a larger, heavier exhibit will be displayed. Make sure hangers are strong enough to support the item. Command Strips or other quick attach products (like sawtooth hangers) are not usually adequate hangers.

DEPARTMENT: 4-H COMMUNICATION EVENT PROGRAM

GENERAL COMMUNICATION EVENT PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Educational Presentation, Working Exhibit, and Share-The-Fun entries will **be judged Friday, July 31st at the Cedar River Complex Events Center.**
2. Educational Presentations and Working Exhibits may be given by one or more 4-H member(s). Teams consisting of youth of mixed grades will be entered in the class of the member in the highest grade level (i.e. a team with a 5th grader and an 8th grader must be entered in the intermediate/senior class).
3. Exhibitors **must complete** report form and submit to the Extension Office by **July 23**.
4. Topics selected by the 4-H member(s) should be an outgrowth of their 4-H experience(s) or learning in their project areas. Topics should be appropriate for presentation to a general audience.
5. Participants in the 4-H Communication Programs are expected to wear appropriate clothing representative of the 4-H Youth Program and/or the topic of the presentation.
6. 4-H members must use sanitary and safe procedures and methods at all times. Educational Presentations and Working Exhibits involving food must follow established food safety guidelines, including HS 76 “Foods for Iowa 4-H Fairs – Quick Reference Guide” found at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/6434>.
7. Stickers and self-adhesive products are not allowed. Stickers and self-adhesive products may not be used in any Communication Event for any reason. (If tape is needed, painter’s tape is preferred.)
8. If live animals will be used as part of a Communication Event, the exhibitor must comply with the 2026 Health Requirements for the Exhibition of Livestock, Poultry, and Birds at State Fair, District Shows and Exhibitions. This can be found at <https://iowaagriculture.gov/animal-industry-bureau/animal-admission-health-requirements>. Animals that do not comply will not be allowed.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Purpose: Provide an opportunity for 4-H members to demonstrate communication skills by presenting knowledge, information, or a process to an audience.

Class 11101 - Educational Presentations (Junior) - must have completed 4th - 6th grade.

Class 11102 - Educational Presentations (Intermediate/Senior) - must have completed 7th -12th grade.

Educational Presentation Special Rules

1. *Time limit: Junior presentations (5th and 6th Grade) must not exceed 15 minutes. Intermediate/Senior Presentations (7th-12th Grade) must not exceed 20 minutes.*
2. *Presentation content must be the original work of the presenter(s). Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited. Use of brief quotations or excerpts of from other work(s) is permitted provided the source is identified.*
3. *Participants will receive a Blue, Red, or White ribbon based on the judge's decision.*

WORKING EXHIBITS

Purpose: Provide an opportunity for 4-H members to communicate, interact with, and teach an audience in an informal and experiential way.

Class 11201 - Working Exhibit (Junior) - must have completed 4th - 6th grade.

Class 11202 - Working Exhibit (Intermediate/Senior) - must have completed 7th -12th grade.

Working Exhibit Special Rules:

1. *Time limit: All participants/teams will be scheduled for an hour period.*
2. *4-H members may participate in ONE Working Exhibit per year at Fair.*
3. *Participants will receive a Blue, Red or White ribbon based on the judge's decision.*

SHARE-THE-FUN

Purpose: Provide an opportunity for 4-H members to share their skills and talents before an audience purely for the sake of enjoyment. (Friday Evening)

Class 11301.... Share-The-Fun: Individual Performance (one person)

Class 11311.... Share-The-Fun: Group Performance (two or more in performance - *NOT the club challenge)

Share-The-Fun Special Rules:

1. *Share-The-Fun performances must not exceed six (6) minutes in length.*
2. *Skits, songs, stunts, short one-act plays, dance, and other entertainment are acceptable. All performances must be appropriate for presentation to a general audience.*
3. *Participants of individual and group performances will receive a Blue, Red or White ribbon based on the judge's decision.*
4. *The Share the Fun *Club Challenge entry will be entered through a separate form submitted by the 4-H club leader by July 1.*
5. *Eligibility for State Fair: 4-H members who have completed 5th grade through 12th grade (or that equivalent) in 2026. Exception: If the Share-The-Fun act involves a whole club, the following criteria must be applied to determine if a club can be entered in the Share-The-Fun Program at the Iowa State Fair:*
 - *At least 80 percent of the performing group must have completed 5th-12th grade in 2025.*

PROTEST POLICY

Violation of any Fair Book Rules, and the Show Ring Code of Ethics, of the Fair, shall result in disciplinary action by the Discipline Committee. Said committee shall consist of a 4-H and Youth Committee Member, an Extension Council representative, a Superintendent of the area of protest, a Superintendent of an area not in protest, an FFA Instructor (if FFA is involved), a Fair Board Member, and an Extension Staff Member. A Discipline Committee member cannot serve if they have a family member involved in the discipline. Decisions of the Discipline Committee are final.

1. Must be made in writing and accompanied by a deposit of \$20.00, which will be forfeited if protest is not sustained. A current Mitchell County Fair exhibitor or an exhibitor's immediate family member can only make protests.
2. Such protest must state plainly the cause of the complaint or appeal and must be filed with the Extension Office staff within 12 hours after cause of protest.
3. The board will consider no complaint or appeal based upon the statement that the judge or judges are incompetent.
4. The person(s), exhibitor, or agent of the same, who the protest decision is rendered against, shall pay all costs incurred in resolving the protest, including fees paid to persons hired by the Board to test, investigate, and evaluate the animal or article that has been protested.
5. Some decisions cannot be protested or appeals and those are:
 - a. Decisions made by judges, which are final.
 - b. Issues related to deadlines for 4-H/FFA enrollment, livestock identification, and/or county & state fair entry deadlines.
 - c. Code of Conduct related violations which are addressed in a separate document.

FAIRGROUNDS CLEAN-UP DUTY

4-H Clubs will be asked to help make the fair a better experience for fairgoers. Each club will be assigned a day to clean up the Fairgrounds. This job will include trash pick-up and general cleanup of the grounds. The clubs assigned for the day should report to the Fair office (CRC Event Center on the Fairgrounds) at 8:00 a.m. and finish clean-up by 9:00 a.m. Your support and participation is much appreciated. —remember, “More hands make light work!”

CLUB ASSIGNMENTS: (Report at 8:00 a.m. and finish clean-up by 9:00 a.m.)

Thursday, July 31st:

Mitchell County Outlaws, St. Ansgar Believers, West Cedar Sunbeams

Friday, August 1st:

Rocky Ramblers, Osage Warhawks, Washington Warriors

Saturday, August 2nd.

Jenkins Sunshine, Osage High Towers, Stacyville Shooting Stars



Personal Development: Class 10530
4-H Poster Communication Exhibit Report Form

Poster size: minimum of 14" x 20", maximum 15" x 22"; materials may not extend more than 1/8 inch above the poster or foam core; see special rules under Class 10530.

Attach this form to the back of your poster entry.

Name: _____ **County:** _____

Grade (school year 2025-2026): _____

Check Theme Area:

- 4-H is...(open to 4-H'ers interpretation)
- Join 4-H
- Beyond Ready in 4-H (2025 National 4-H Week Theme) www.4-H.org
- 4-H Spirit (Variation of Iowa State Fair theme) www.iowastatefair.org
- 4-H for America's Next 250 Years (celebrating America's 250th birthday)

Why did you choose this theme? What was your goal in creating your poster?

What do you want people to think or feel when they see your poster?

What sources of information did you use to prepare your poster?

What were the most important things you learned as you created your poster?

Where else (besides the fair) do you plan to display your poster to share your message?

Please list digital sources used, if any. Images must be original works of art or in the public domain. Be specific and include any links used.



BASIC 4-H Fair Exhibit Form

(You can use this form or create your own report that includes the following information)

Refer to the 4-H website: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/> for specific information to include related to your project area

Name _____ Club _____ Grade: _____

Project/Class: _____ Number of years in the Project: _____

1. What did you want to learn about or what did you plan to do? (What was the goal of your exhibit?)

2. What steps did you take to learn or do this? (Explain what you did so it is easily understood)

*For baked items, attach the recipe.

3. What were the most important things you learned? (Did you learn any new skills?)

Additional information you may want to include.

4. Please list the original sources you used for your exhibit (books, magazines, *websites, people, and projects you've seen in a store, etc.) and copyright permissions if applicable.

*Do not site Pinterest, Google, etc...as the source. They are search engines and not the original sources – you will need to find the original source.

5. Elements and Principles of Design: (Circle 3 or more and explain how they apply to your project)

Line *Shapes* *Texture* *Emphasis* *Color* *Unity* *Space*
Rhythm *Proportion* *Balance*

6. Cost of supplies/materials.

7. Include additional pages and pictures if applicable with report.

(This form is available online at: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mitchell/county-fair>)