State Fair Exhibits
Questions & Answers 2004

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Each year brings a new set of questions from 4-H members, families, and extension staff. Here are some of the more common questions from previous years we thought would also be useful for 4-H members, families, and exhibit judges. If you have an exhibit question, contact your local extension office or send your questions to me at mhoyer@iastate.edu.

General Exhibit questions

Q. One of our 4-H members refinished a pair of wooden skis. She wants to enter them in woodworking but I don’t think that’s right. Where can the skis be exhibited in our fair classes?
A. All together now – “It depends on the goal!” Does she intend to display them or use them? Why did she refinish them? You are partially right regarding woodworking classes. Class 461A Woodworking is for new construction and would not be an appropriate class for a refinished or refurbished wooden item. Depending on the goal, this could be a 461B exhibit if she is going to discuss the technique in detail. Depending on the goal, the member could make a connection with skis and skiing to the Health or Recreation project areas. And yes, it could be an exhibit in 891A Self-Determined. She will need to tailor her exhibit, display, and responses to questions to fit her goal and exhibit class

Ag & Natural Resources

Q. We have a 4-H member who created an extensive flower garden in his yard. He can’t exhibit the flowers in the 4-H Horticulture classes. How can he exhibit his work in landscaping in a 4-H exhibit class?
A. Developing and installing a landscaped garden is an outgrowth of home grounds improvement, part of the 4-H Horticulture project. He can create a display, notebook, or poster as part of an exhibit in class 711A – Horticulture. This class description clearly describes exhibits a member might create to showcase their landscape efforts as acceptable exhibits for this class. The member will want to discuss plant choices, maintenance, garden design, and/or any other concepts he learned and applied during his project work.

Clothing/Copyright

Q. Where should a 4-H’er enter a "sewing" project (ex: simple bag, table runner, pillowcase) when the youth are sewing to learn a skill and not necessarily to make a clothing or home improvement project? The goal was to learn how to sew; learn how to use a sewing machine; or to learn how to do various stitches.
A. 4-H’ers can very easily exhibit beginning (or more advanced) sewing items in the Clothing area exhibit classes. First a disclaimer - "It depends on their goal". Pillowcases, table runners, and the like - if the goal is the sewing techniques, clearly fit in class 511A "Clothing Design and Creative Sewing" (emphasis added). One of the activities in the Unit I Clothing project manual (Adventures in Clothing, 4H-315a) is making a stuff sack. If we can do a stuff sack as part of the planned learning in our project manuals, we can sure have a table runner in class 511A. Items other than wearables fit in this exhibit area.
Please do help the member evaluate their goal. There are times when the goal will indicate a different class or different exhibit area. For example, there is a difference between making a table runner as a tool to help learn how to sew certain stitches, and making a table runner to accent the holiday decor for a Thanksgiving dinner. The first has more emphasis on sewing and construction techniques, and would likely be a clothing and creative sewing exhibit; the second is more likely a home improvement area exhibit with more emphasis on design elements.

Q. I have a 4-H’er that has purchased Harley Davidson Handkerchiefs. She wants to sew them together to make a quilt top. She bought them at a garage sale, but can tell they were originally a store-bought item and not homemade. She’s questioning copyright. How does she know if she can legally use these to make a quilt top for exhibit/competition at the fair?
A. Not a problem at all. Treat this just as if she bought the handkerchiefs new. Even though they are "used", she bought them legitimately and has no reason to believe they are anything other than original. This use is similar
to purchasing fabric with company names and logos imprinted. She can use the purchased Harley hankies to make - and exhibit - her quilt top.

Q. One of our 4-H members is using a new sewing/embroidering machine. It's one that can be programmed to embroider images on clothing. Several cartoon characters are available for purchase for use with this machine. Can these items be exhibited?
A. Yes. The member is purchasing a license for personal use when they legitimately buy such a program. Companies often license images for use in a variety of ways. Licensing allows them to expand their market, and maintain quality control over their products. This is similar to a woodworker who might buy a pattern to make a wooden cartoon character. As long as the item is not being offered for sale, and the pattern is used as intended, copyright is not an issue. I would suggest the member include a copy of the Terms of Use for the purchased image as documentation. Note that this is different than scanning or copying an image and then programming the machine embroider it. The first (purchase) is a legally obtained and permitted image. The second (scanning) is a copyright violation unless the user has obtained permission.

Communication Events and Copyright

Q. I am helping a 4-H member with her presentation and we are questioning who we would get permission from for a recipe. It is a cookbook celebrating the 150th anniversary of Anywhereville and it doesn’t say it’s published by a company. It lists a four person committee who coordinated the recipe book. The recipe does list a person that submitted the actual recipe. Would it be her that we get permission from to make copies to hand out of the recipe?
A. Yes, have your 4-H’er contact the person who submitted the recipe to obtain permission to distribute the recipe. That would work whether or not it was published by a company. The original author (unless they sold those rights) can always grant permission to use their material. That certainly applies to recipes in community and church cookbooks.

Q. One of our 4-H members is doing an educational presentation on the topic of “High Jumping”. She printed off pictures of different executions of jumping (showing change over the years) from the Internet. She has cited the websites and tracked down the photographers of each photo in plain view under each picture. There is not a link at the sites for copyright information. Is this ok?
A. If the 4-H member plans to use the printed photos on a poster for the presentation this is likely OK. While this might seem contradictory to what we would say with an exhibit, the difference is that the EP is a "one time" use, and is being used as part of an educational/instructional session. The photos are not displayed or used other than as part of the presentation. This type of use allows us some additional flexibility. Credit to the photographer and/or the source of the photos/images needs to be given during the presentation. This does not permit copying the photos and placing them on a handout to be given the audience.

Somewhere on those web sites will be some type of contact information. Find it. She should write and ask permission to use the photos. However, be aware that the web site may or may not be using the photos properly. The web site may also not have rights to the photograph other than to use on their web site. The original photographer typically retains rights and grants use of the photos. The exception sometimes is a photographer who works for a magazine, newspaper, etc. In those cases, the magazine or newspaper may be the holder of the rights. If the member has identified the photographer, search and find the contact information, and then ask the photographer.

Q. Two of our 4-H members are doing a Working Exhibit using an activity from the ZOOM website. Can they use the activity and can they hand out directions to the activity?
A. In order, Yes and No. ZOOM is a popular TV show and website that has several excellent activities for young children. Many of these adapt themselves very well to 4-H work in a variety of project areas. There are no copyright issues if the members are demonstrating and teaching the activity as part of a Working Exhibit. The members should give credit to the source of their idea or inspiration one of their posters. However, ZOOM explicitly prohibits distribution of materials found on their web site. So no, members may not hand out copies of directions obtained from a ZOOM web page.

The members may, and are encouraged to, hand out copies of a paper which give the name of the activity, the source, and the web page so they could obtain the directions themselves. Alternatively, members could contact the person who submitted the activity to ZOOM and ask that person for permission to distribute. Another option
is to attempt to find a similar activity from another source that would allow distribution of the directions. Be sure your members inform the communication judge during their conference that they did not distribute directions because of copyright issues. Member will not be penalized in their evaluation for doing the right thing regarding copyright.

Q. I have a 4-H member who created a PowerPoint presentation and would like to exhibit it at our county fair. Is this possible? She is thinking about entering it at a Self-Determined exhibit or possibly a Communications exhibit.

A. Refer to the “Computer” section for a similar question regarding computers. The short version of that answer is the goal determines the class. If the goal was to learn the program, or learn the techniques to create a web site, then class 901 "Computer" is an appropriate class. If the goal was to create a presentation and demonstrate electronic technology as a communication tool, then class 811A "Communication" might be appropriate. Or, if the goal was to create a presentation or web site about a specific topic, and the member chose to do this by creating the web page, then a class related to the topic might be best. It all depends on the goal. These could be Self-Determined exhibits, but if they fit a specific project area, it is nearly always best that they be entered in the project area. Don't let Self-Determined be a "dumping ground" class.

Q. We have a couple members who created web sites and want to exhibit their work. In what classes could this fit?

A. Refer to the “Computer” section for a similar question regarding computers. The short version of that answer is the goal determines the class. If the goal was to learn the program, or learn the techniques to create a web site, then class 901 "Computer" is an appropriate class. If the goal was to create a presentation and demonstrate electronic technology as a communication tool, then class 811A "Communication" might be appropriate. Or, if the goal was to create a presentation or web site about a specific topic, and the member chose to do this by creating the web page, then a class related to the topic might be best. It all depends on the goal. These could be Self-Determined exhibits, but if they fit a specific project area, it is nearly always best that they be entered in the project area. Don't let Self-Determined be a "dumping ground" class.

Q. Two of our 4-H members are doing a working exhibit making a craft item. They saw the idea on a web site called Kids Domain. Can they hand out directions for the craft item?

A. What do the terms of use for the web site state? Kids Domain is owned and operated by Kaboose, Inc. The Terms of Use for the web site state (in part):

“Ways you may use these craft activities:
You may print them and share them with people in your own home, in schools (both public and private), daycare centers, scouts, youth groups (including church groups) nursing homes, and other community groups. You may reproduce them and hand them out to any of the previously mentioned groups, so long as you are doing this for free. Please make sure your handouts include the contributor information (if available) and our copyright notice and site URL.”

Given this information, as long as the member follows the credit instructions as listed, we would allow them to hand out the specified directions. The members should print off a copy of the Terms of Use page so the judge can see that permission to use the directions is allowed.

The Kids Domain and Disney examples illustrate perfectly the wide range of copyright permission given by publishers. Each case must be dealt with separately. Members must locate the copyright statement and/or terms of use to determine the permitted uses.

Q. One of our members wants to do a working exhibit on making balloon animals. Can she do this? We’re concerned about the safety of balloons and young children.

A. Yes, she can do this activity for a working exhibit. The member should address the safety issue as part of her discussion with participants and not allow young children to do the activity without adult supervision. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends that parents and guardians not allow children younger than eight (8) years old to play with uninflated balloons or balloon pieces due to possible suffocation hazards. If a young child wants to participate in this working exhibit, the 4-H member should tell them they cannot participate unless an adult is with them. Addressing safety as part of the working exhibit demonstrates the member is aware of and knowledgeable about child safety and will strengthen the presentation.

Q. A member is planning to do an educational presentation on making soap. One of the ingredients is lye which can be caustic. Is this OK?

A. Sure. The member should use appropriate safety precautions during the presentation. This would include using only the amounts needed, proper covering for presentation room equipment, possibly creating a safe distance zone from the presentation area to the audience, informing the audience of safety hazards if they were to do this on their own, and certainly using all appropriate personal protective safety equipment (gloves, goggles, apron, etc.). If done well, there is no reason this presentation couldn't be safely presented.

Q. A 4th grader and a 5th grader are planning a team working exhibit. Are they eligible to participate at the Iowa State Fair?
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A. No. Both members of the team must meet the eligibility guidelines to participate at the Iowa State Fair. You should strongly encourage them to participate locally for the learning experience and fun, and encourage them to participate again the next year.

Q. Several years ago, a club did a Share the Fun. It was changing the words to a song. Now they want to do the same song only change the words again. Is that all right?

A. The short answer is...Maybe. The longer answer involves a discussion of copyright, infringement, fair use, and public domain. Most likely, what you have described would be considered a parody of the original song (Think Weird Al Yankovic). In our research on copyright, it appears to be well established that parodies are typically found by courts not to infringe on copyright restrictions. (Depending, of course, on the particulars of any specific case) The more transformed (different) the parody is from the original, the stronger the argument is that the new work is not a copy. For example, changing part of the melody as well as words is stronger than changing words only. (See the U.S. Supreme Court case of 2 Live Crew and their rap version of Pretty Woman as an example - Campbell v. Acuff-Rose Music, Inc.)

Other factors that influence the answer are the commercial nature of the work, the likelihood of the work or performance infringing on future sales or demand for the original, and the proportion of the original work used in the new piece. Complicating issues for music are copyrights held by multiple entities. Depending on the song, the music copyright may be held by one entity, another may hold a copyright to the lyrics, someone else may hold performance rights. Pick up a CD sometime and look at all the copyright holders listed. Will the members use purchased background music that allows use in performances? If so, their case to use the music with different lyrics may be strengthened.

Then let's consider whether or not the work may be in the public domain. Depending on when the song was written, recorded, published, etc., it may (or may not) be in the public domain. Material in the public domain may freely be used. Many common folk songs and nursery rhyme songs are in the public domain due to either age or are of unknown origin. Most materials published prior to 1923 are in the public domain. (It's always good to check anyway and verify publication dates) Your adaptation now (may) becomes a "new" work, and your lyrics may be copyrighted as of the time they are written.

It is our current belief that a 4-H club Share The Fun performance (adapting lyrics to a song), would be a permitted use under the Fair Use guidelines of Title 17 (Copyright) of the U.S. Code (as currently interpreted). There are many excellent informational websites regarding copyright law, including the FACE site http://www.csusa.org/face/. I would encourage your members to do some of their own research on the issue.

Q. The 4-H Extemporaneous Speaking Contest rules indicate reference material must be printed materials such as books or magazines. Are printed materials from web sites allowed?

A. Yes, printed materials from web sites will be allowed. Use of the Internet allows members access to many news magazines and newspapers beyond those to which they may subscribe. Use of these sources should be encouraged as a member prepares for Extemporaneous Speaking events. Such material should clearly indicate source (web site or other originating source) of the information. And as with other reference material, if the member uses quotes, etc. in the speech, that material should be properly cited.

Copyright (General)

Q. A 4-H member has used a recipe from Family Fun magazine to make garden soap. Does she need to include the article or just the reference?

A. You didn't say in what class or what type of exhibit the recipe is used. Assuming this is part of a larger exhibit, or if the recipe is displayed on a poster, simply giving credit to the source is fine. The member should include the name of magazine, issue, and page number. The member should be prepared to answer questions related to child safety and soap.

Q. Can computer generated clip art (from a web site such as Clip Art Gallery) be printed out and used on the 4H Poster exhibits? The 4H member did not actually create the design.

A. Yes, if the terms of use and licenses allow it. You need to look at the copyright or permission statements that accompany those images or galleries. The specific gallery referenced in the question allows for images to be used for personal, non-commercial uses once you register with their web site. Others may state "all rights reserved", and give no permission. Some may allow for personal, non-commercial, home use. (Don't bring that
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to the fair). Others will allow for use of images on other web pages but not for print. It all depends on the specific source and what they say. LOTS of free clip art sites abound. Just key “Clip Art Gallery” into your favorite search engine and see how many sites come up. Then start looking. Some will give permission, some will restrict. Members should print out and include the permission statement/terms of use for the site (or software) from which they obtain images. That's their responsibility. If we can't see or don't have the permission statement, then we can't allow the use of the images.

Q. A member made copies of several family photos for use in a Historical/Family Heritage exhibit. Is copyright permission needed for the photos?
A. This question is similar to the one asked about drawing a copy of old photos. (See Visual Arts and Copyright) For photos taken by family members, no permission needed. For photos taken by commercial photographers, permission may be needed.

Q. I have a 4-H'er who would like to put together a 3-ring binder on asthma. She is asthmatic and would like to get more information out there to other kids on the different types of asthma, etc. She has collected different brochures and informational sheets that have been given to her throughout the years at clinics, classes, etc. Can she put these materials in the binder? What are the copyright issues that we would have to deal with? I was thinking even just a poster on asthma would work but I know she would really like to do the binder.
A. No copyright issues at all - as long as she includes the actual items she received (brochures, sheets, etc.). She is simply collecting materials and information, and then organizing them into an informational exhibit. We would have potential problems if she were making copies of these materials and then putting them together. I would suggest she include the source or where she obtained the materials (to the extent possible) on items included. Knowing how some classes and clinics work, it is possible, maybe even likely, the 4-H member received a brochure or other information that may have been copied and distributed in violation of copyright restrictions. The member should include that material and indicate where she received it. If such material indicates the original source (book, etc.), I'd also encourage the member to attempt to locate the original source and obtain a legitimate copy. She still might want to prepare a poster/notebook combination. The poster could call attention to the topic and address one of the key issues in a visible manner with the notebook providing supplemental information.

Q. If a machinery business is no longer in operation, can you use their insignia? If not, how would you begin to know who to contact for permission?
A. The question didn't indicate how the member wants to use the logo, so for purposes of this answer, we will assume it is a use that requires permission. No, generally use is not allowed without permission. Just because a business may no longer operate, copyrights, trademarks, patents, etc. do not cease to exist. The member had better start researching the company history. Was it sold or merged? Most likely the new owner or new company holds the rights to items from the company that was purchased. Rights to use trademarks, etc. may have been acquired by a third party. There is no simple answer. The U.S. Trademark and Patent Office may also be of some help. If there truly is no succeeding entity to ask, then the member should document the efforts made to prove this.

Q. Can a 4-H member use actual products (ex. cereal boxes) in a fair exhibit without violating copyright laws?
A. Use of actual items in a 4-H fair exhibit is permissible. No copying or reproduction is involved, and no permission is needed to include examples of actual commercial products. We would caution members that when using such items in an exhibit, that the exhibit is accurate and the product was used or compared as intended by the manufacturer. The member should also consider whether or not the use of identifiable products is needed to accomplish or demonstrate the exhibit goals.

For example, if the goal was to compare taste or cost of a boxed mix to a homemade mix, is it necessary to include the specific brand information? Maybe, maybe not. The comparison could also be made by listing the products as Homemade, Popular Brand A, Popular Brand B, Store Brand Z. If brand names are identified as part of the exhibit, extra care should be taken to be sure the comparison is as accurate as possible and to account for experimental variables.

Q. If someone wanted to decorate an object to look like a flag is that OK or do they need to get permission due to copyright?
A. The United States flag is not copyrighted. Yes, someone can decorate an object to "look like a flag". You can even make your own flag as long as it is constructed in accordance with the required specifications. But be
careful. There are laws and regulations covering the use of the U.S. flag. You can find an answer to a related question in the “Visual Arts” section about reproducing a colonial flag. The response lists several web sites relating to laws, regulations, and customs about the use of the U.S. flag. My advice to the member would be decorate in a flag motif - red, white, blue, stars, stripes - but don't make it look like an actual flag.

Q. One of our 4-H’ers bought John Deere fabric. She special ordered it from the local John Deere dealer. She cut pieces of the fabric, applied the pieces to a chair, and used a decoupage finish. Is this OK or is this a copyright violation?
A. She’s just fine. She purchased the fabric and is using large enough pieces that the emblems and pattern of the fabric are readily visible. This is similar to cutting fabric apart for clothing or other sewn items. The difference is the member is using somewhat smaller pieces of fabric and a different design technique. However, she is still using the fabric in an acceptable manner. Enjoy the chair.

Q. I made a PowerPoint presentation for my grandparents’ 50th wedding anniversary and want to exhibit the presentation at my county fair. I would like permission to use portions of several songs in the presentation. What do I need to do?
A. This use is “probably OK”. We would use the rationale this was being created for a “family” gathering, which is typically allowed under personal uses. The presentation (with music) will be viewed only during evaluation, and the entire presentation will not be available to be viewed by the general public. What do you need to do to obtain permission? Ask the appropriate licensing agencies for permission to use the music.

The member who asked this question actually took the effort to write ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers), a music licensing organization, and asked them his question. The member also explained this was for 4-H work and would be exhibited at the county fair. ASCAP did respond to the member. Their response was (in part) “Thank you for your email. If your work is not going to be reproduced or sold for profit you do not have to obtain clearance. If the circumstances change you would need to seek permission for each song being used from the publishers. You can obtain publisher information from the Harry Fox Agency.”

Be careful - be very careful - about attempting to extend this “permission” too far. This still does not allow for duplication, even if the copies are given away. And it does not extend to public showings where admission may be charged to view the multimedia piece that was created. This is a somewhat limited permission statement, and was given in response to a specific question. It is best to deal with similar questions on a case by case basis. Just as this member did, it is always best to ask permission.

**Food & Nutrition Questions**

Q. A 4-H member called and asked about making a gingerbread house that would include frosting. This exhibit would go under “Other Food Ideas” (class 521D). The exhibit would not be something that would be tasted/eaten. Is this allowed?
A. The 4-H’ers goal relates to decorative techniques. The gingerbread house is similar to having a goal related to cake decorating and decorating a cardboard box to demonstrate. Both would be permitted as exhibits in class 521D. The evaluation will be based on the decorative process and techniques, not the food quality of the product. The member will want to note (on the information/goal card) that this product is not intended to be consumed and be very clear about the goal.

Gingerbread houses are often constructed and placed into storage, repaired, and displayed again the following holiday season. Some people even apply clear lacquers to preserve the decorations. Since gingerbread houses are typically displayed (and stored) in cool, dry conditions, the hot, humid conditions of a fair display could present significant challenges. The member will want to research appropriate dough and frosting/icing recipes for items such as gingerbread houses that are intended to be displayed for lengthy periods of time.

Q. One of our 4-H members canned tomatoes and wants to exhibit them at our fair. He followed all the USDA processing methods and processing times, except he did not include the lemon juice. Is the lemon juice required?
A. Yes. Lemon juice, food grade citric acid, or vinegar is required as part of the approved processing method. The juice is added to help ensure the appropriate acidity of the product. If the lemon juice is left out, we now have a product made using an unsafe processing method. This exhibit should not be accepted for display at your fair. Several references clearly state the need to add lemon juice to acidify canned tomatoes. Two readily

Q. A quick bread recipe calls for ½ c. sour cream and strawberry jelly. Both are mixed in and fully cooked. The end product is similar to a zucchini bread or banana bread. Can this bread be exhibited at our county fair?
Q. Is it OK to exhibit bread that has ½ c. cottage cheese baked into it? The cheese is blended into the other liquid before the flour is added.
A. Yes. Mixed in and fully cooked implies just that – thoroughly mixed and cooked. This will not present problems as long as these ingredients are well mixed and not layered. Of course, this member should be highly encouraged to provide pre-fair samples for local extension staff to taste test and evaluate quality control.

Q. Do pickle recipes need to be USDA or extension recipes? Can a 4-H member exhibit pickles made from a Mrs. Wages recipe? Are recipes from the 1994 edition of the Ball Blue Book OK to use?
A. No. Yes. Yes. Let’s discuss this further. We need to differentiate between recipes and processing methods. Recipes contain the ingredients, and normally include a method. A processing method is the “how to” – time, pressure, temperature, etc. Recipes for processed foods used by 4-H members for fair exhibition (except salsa) may originate from any source. However, all processed/preserved food products MUST use USDA approved processing methods. Remind exhibitors to use and include the Food Preservation Label on their exhibit.

One of the more common problems in 4-H processed food exhibits is the use of outdated sources of information on processing methods. The only approved reference sources for processing methods are the USDA Complete Guide to Home Canning (rev. 1994) and extension publications based on information from the USDA Guide. This would include “So Easy To Preserve” (4th ed.) from the University of Georgia. The current version of the Ball Blue Book (2003) is also acceptable.

4-H members exhibiting salsa must use an approved USDA recipe in addition to using approved processing methods. Very limited substitution of ingredients (changing types of peppers) is allowed. See the USDA guide for approved salsa recipes and processing methods.

Q. At our fair last year one of the judges disqualified a canning exhibit because it was not processed for the correct length of time - and the member had used a recipe from the “So Easy to Preserve” cookbook. You said “So Easy to Preserve” was an acceptable reference. What’s the scoop?
A. I compared my copy of “So Easy to Preserve” against the USDA Home Canning Guides and the ISU publication PM 1044 “Canning Vegetables”. The charts of processing times and pressures are exactly the same in all three references. I suspect this is a case of the member not following directions correctly or using outdated information. Processing time varies with the product being canned and with the size of canning container (pints v. quarts). Remember that processing pressure is different (depending of type of canner gauge) based on altitude. Refer to PM 1044 - available at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1044.pdf - for the altitude and proper pressure for your county.

In addition to the ISU publication, the URL for University of Georgia (publisher of “So Easy To Preserve”) Canning Guide fact sheets is http://www.uga.edu/nchfp/how/can_home.html. These fact sheets are directly from the “So Easy to Preserve” guide. The complete USDA Home Canning Guides can be found online through Utah State University at http://extension.usu.edu/cooperative/ and then choose the “Food & Nutrition” link.

Q. Can 4-H members use boxed mixes to prepare a baked product for exhibition in Food & Nutrition?
A. Yes. Using boxed mixes can be an appropriate tool for young 4-H members in learning beginning baking skills. Depending on the product, members may still need to measure (primarily) liquid ingredients, eggs, and do final mixing before baking. So, depending on the goal, use of a boxed mix may help the member learn measurement skills, mixing skills, and the ability to follow directions. Age appropriateness is the key. We would expect that as the member gains experience in the Food & Nutrition project they will work towards demonstrating more advanced skills and project learnings in their fair exhibits. This would include product comparisons, consumer education skills, and the ability to adapt recipes, among others.

Q. A 4-H member wants to make homemade vanilla extract and exhibit it at the county fair. Is this permitted?
Q. Can a 4-H member bring any project to the fair that uses alcohol in preparation? (Ex: brandied cherries, peach cordial, rum cake)
A. No. Homemade vanilla extract is made by soaking vanilla beans in alcohol (consumable alcohol, typically vodka or rum). Even though the alcohol content may be dissipated in the baking or other preparation of some products, alcoholic beverages would still be required to prepare such items. 4-H members are not of legal age to purchase or possess alcohol. Therefore, it is inappropriate for any such exhibit to be part of a 4-H member’s fair exhibit.

Not all work a 4-H member might do within a project has to result in an exhibit. 4-H members may pursue and experiment with ideas and techniques, in cooperation with and under the supervision of adults when appropriate, for family use.

Q. Are breads made by bread machines accepted at the state fair?
A: Yes. The exhibit should relate to the member’s goals. If that goal was to learn to knead dough and make bread from scratch, they would not accomplish that goal using a bread machine. If they wanted to learn (for example) about using the bread machine or comparing bread from machines to bread made by hand, then making bread with the bread machine is an appropriate method to use in working towards that goal.

Q. I have a question about baked cookies that have cream cheese in them. Is that all right?
A. If the cream cheese is just providing the fat in the recipe and is part of the batter with no visible layers, there would not be a problem once the product was baked. This would be acceptable. However, if the cream cheese is a filling or layer, the moisture level would be much greater and the product should be refrigerated to prevent mold growth. This would not be acceptable as a 4-H fair exhibit.

Q. Can I use a frosting made with dairy products in my educational presentation?
A. As long as you follow food safety guidelines and practice safe handling and storage procedures, sure. Refrigerators are available for the storage of ingredients prior to preparation. It would be best to bring your ingredients in unopened, sealed containers. Be sure to maintain proper temperature during transport to the fair. Any product prepared during an educational presentation is consumed immediately after preparation. Members need to follow safe handling and preparation practices, and be prepared to thoroughly discuss those practices with the presentation judge, as well as demonstrate safe practices (during the presentation) to the viewing audience.

Q. A member put together a recipe collection using recipes from her mother's and grandmother's recipe boxes. Is there a problem with copyright?
A. No and No. In the first question, if mom or grandma noted the recipe was from a magazine or cookbook, the member should also cite that source. Mom or grandma may well have copied recipes onto recipe cards for their use. However, if the original source was not recorded, it is a little presumptuous to expect a 4-H member to chase a recipe back to its very origins. In the second question, the member is going to properly document the source. For magazines this should include title, issue and publisher. For books include the title, author, publisher and date of publication. In both cases, as long as the collections are not being reproduced or sold, the 4-H member may proceed with their planned exhibits. Enjoy the recipes.

Photography

Q. Can you please clarify what is meant by “current work” in the State Fair 4-H Photography classes?
A: The added statement to the special photography rules is intended to apply to classes 851A and 851B – the two “photo exhibit” classes in photography. The intent is that a photograph represent current work, and is consistent with our state fair general rule #8 which says (in part) "The exhibit is to be an outgrowth of work done to accomplish a goal(s) determined by the member or group during the current 4-H year." That wording has been in place for many years (since at least 1971). There is no problem from a practical standpoint with counties using a "fair to fair" definition of current work. That will be our working guideline for state fair as well.

The statement was added to the photography class to reinforce the intent of general rule #8. Keep in mind also the sequence that should happen: Member sets goals, member determines activities to work toward goals, member determines exhibits that will either help reach goals or that demonstrate what was learned as he/she worked toward goals.
If a member sets new goals and begins work on new techniques or methods very shortly after his/her county fair (but prior to Sept 1), certainly we can say it is a new year. It is a bit of a stretch to use a photo taken the summer prior to setting current year project goals or prior to the previous county fair and then say it is an outgrowth of the current year's work. If we are at state fair 2004 and see a photo which is dated June, July or August 2003 it will not raise eyebrows. A photo with a date of April or May 2003 will be suspicious. If the photo exhibit is a series, the majority of the photos in the series should represent current work. This will not be an issue for most exhibitors.

Q. A 4-H member took some photos he wants to bring to the county fair. He is planning to have them enlarged. The photos have a date/time stamp on them. Is it OK to have the date/time on the photo for exhibition in photography classes?
A. If the member plans to exhibit the photo, he should crop the image so the date/time stamp is removed or matt the photo to cover the stamp. The member wants the viewer's attention to be directed to the photo, not a set of bright orange numbers in the corner. Leaving the stamp on the photo is a distraction and takes away from the overall presentation of the exhibit. If the member is going to enlarge the photos, he should be able to crop the date/time out of the final viewable image.

Q. A 4-H member used the computer to enhance photographs that she did not take, but pictures that family members have taken. Can this be exhibited in photography since she did not take the pictures?
A. If the 4-H member did not take the photos, we first rule out entries in class 851A or 851B. These two classes are appropriate only if the member took the photos, either with a conventional (film) camera, or with a digital camera. From there, we consider the goals of the member - project and exhibit. If the goal is to create an altered photo or demonstrate a photographic technique (photo enhancement would fit), then class 851C - Contemporary/Creative Photography or 851D - Photography Idea could be appropriate. Read carefully the description for 851C. An exhibit in this class would use photography or photo manipulation techniques and tools to create an image markedly different from the original.

The question did not state how extensively the member altered or enhanced the photos. If they enhanced the photos to lighten, darken, remove red eye, add a tree to the background, etc., class 851D is probably a better choice - depending on the goals. The member will need to very clearly state they did not take the photos, clearly identify the source of photos (include permission to use if needed), and give a complete description of the enhancement process. To make a stronger exhibit, they should discuss the process, techniques, etc. and use the photos as examples. (before and after, series of steps, etc.)

Q. Are photographs that are enlarged and printed on a copier acceptable for exhibition? Wondering if the interpretation of "commercial reprint" is open to printing shops that use color copiers to enlarge and reprint pictures.
A. Yes and Yes. The member will use Question #7 on the Photography Exhibit Label to tell who enlarged the print. Whether the enlargement and/or reprint was done by a family friend or any commercial business, if done by other than the 4-H member, it needs to be described here. The member should further describe his/her choices of where to enlarge, process, colors, reprints, what was learned, what they would do different, etc. etc. in Questions #10 - #13. Deciding where to have enlargements made and evaluating quality of different processors is part of the learning process for a 4-H member.

Q. How do youth that use digital cameras and print their own pictures tell about their techniques for photography exhibits?
A. The photo exhibit label form was revised in 2002 so members may better describe their digital photographic techniques and processes. Members using digital cameras to take photos and then print their own photos using home computers and printers need to give special attention to Questions #1, #6, and #8. They will use the "Digital Camera" section of Question #1 to tell about their digital camera. If they print their own photos, they will answer "Yes" to Q. #6. To Q. #8, they will answer "Yes" to "Computer generated photo from digital camera" and then fill in the information about type of printer, resolution, and type of paper used. They'll want to describe in more detail the process used, any retouching or enhancements done, etc. in Questions #10 - #13.

Science, Mechanics and Engineering

Q. What class should members enter with their computer project exhibits?
A. A Computer exhibit class has been reinstated for 2004. The state fair class number for computer exhibits is Class 901. Nearly all conventional computer exhibits (parts of, how to use, demonstrating computer applications, etc.) will fit under this class. Because an exhibit was created using a computer does not mean it is always appropriate for exhibition in the computer class. Members need to determine if their goal is an outgrowth of the computer project, or if they simply used a computer to help accomplish an exhibit goal in another project area.

If members will go back to their project goals, and then exhibit goals, an appropriate exhibit class can be determined. For example, a member might build a web page to tell about their club citizenship activities and trip. Where to exhibit the notebook or display about this citizenship web page - computer or citizenship? We need to ask - do they want to share what they learned about making web pages, which is a computer application? Or what they have learned about citizenship, in which the web page is simply a tool to create all or part of the exhibit? The answer will determine the exhibit class.

Q. I have a 4-Her who is putting on a deck around his house and also building a fence. Where can he exhibit his work on these? I'm thinking this might be a Woodworking exhibit. Could this be a Home Grounds Improvement exhibit?
A. Either one would work depending on his goals and what he wants to emphasize. In the woodworking area more emphasis would be placed on construction. He would probably exhibit the deck and fence as separate exhibits. In the Home Grounds Improvement more emphasis would be placed on how the design fits with the overall yard and home design, etc. The deck and fence could be combined as one overall improvement project to the home. (Remember – Home Grounds Improvement is part of the Horticulture project area. The related class is 711A – Horticulture). Obviously if he want to exhibit his work on the deck or fence it will be difficult to bring these items to the fair! Tell him to take good pictures and document well. Include design plans and safety considerations. Be sure the photos show safe construction practices and use of safety equipment when required.

Q. A 4-H' er is refinishing a hand corn Sheller. He has purchased an implement decal - does he need permission to be able to use the decal on his refinished piece of equipment?
A. He purchased the decal, he may use the decal. The member probably bought the decal from a company specializing in these type of reproductions. Hopefully the member has done his research and the decal is authentic to the piece/period.

Q. I had a parent call this morning. Her son who just finished 6th grade is making a foot scraper, somehow involving a disc blade. I'm not sure if he's mounting it on the blade or what exactly, but he wants to paint a yellow deer (as in John Deere) on it. Is this a copyright violation? I suggested he just paint Bambi!
A. Yes, he needs permission from John Deere to paint their logo on the scraper. He can write to Deere & Co. and attempt to secure permission. I'd suggest he simply purchase a John Deere decal from a local dealer and apply it. Or, perhaps they sell a stencil with the deer logo. In either case, he's purchasing a product and using as intended.

NO! Do not have him "just paint Bambi! Bambi is licensed by Disney and not only copyrighted, but heavily and aggressively protected.

Q. A 4-H' er is refinishing a fiberglass boat and trailer. His goals are to do research on refinishing fiberglass, learning how to do the refinishing and taking the finished boat/trailer to fair. From his goals, I suggested that it be put in “601A Other” under SM&E. Any suggestions?
A. From what you've described you're right on target with 601A - other SME. Refurbishing fiberglass is certainly science and mechanic and engineering based. If it's a complete refurbishing it likely combines several mechanical areas, and the 601A class is a good place for "combo" type SME exhibits. The member could make a case for an exhibit within self-determined, but I always think it best to fit it closer to a project area if it fits. In this case, SME is a good fit. This is an example of why we have an "other ideas" exhibit class within each project area) or main group of project areas. IF this would be selected for state fair, the member should be advised the boat and trailer will be displayed outside under the tent.
Visual Arts & Copyright

Q. I have a 4-H member who is working on a leather project (like a billfold). He is exploring this project & the techniques, etc. What project area would you recommend he enroll in and in what class could he exhibit his work product(s)?
A. The very first thing that comes to mind is Visual Arts. Working with leather, especially exploring the technique, tools, etc. is an easy fit with the Visual Arts project. Both the Unit I and Unit II Visual Arts project manuals discuss using leather as a media. Class 821B – Design and/or Technique Exploration would let the member exhibit an item with accompanying documentation on learning the leatherworking techniques. If he makes an especially creative design or item, he might even consider an exhibit in class 821A – Original Art.

Q. One of my 4-H members wants to use Pepsi and Coke glasses that she purchased at a store in her visual arts project for fair. She is going to make candles out of them, using the glasses as candle holders/vases. The concern of course, is any potential copyright violation. Can you give me a concrete yes or no on whether or not she can use these glasses?
A. Yes, she may use the glasses. She purchased a product (that already had logos imprinted) and does not plan to alter the design. Even though she is converting the intended use of the product, there is no copyright violation. This answer does not address whether visual arts is the most appropriate class for exhibition (depending on goals of the member), or whether drinking glasses are safe to use when converted to candles/candle holders.

Q. I want to paint a replica of the U.S. “Colonial” Flag on a serving tray. Is this allowed?
A. Interesting question. Which “colonial” flag? There is disagreement over the design and arrangement of the stars on early flags. Indeed, there likely was variation in the arrangement of the stars, depending on the flag maker. The current arrangement of stars in rows was not specified until well into the 20th century. (See http://www.usflag.org/flag.evolution.html)

Regardless of design, the question raises the issue of proper use of the United States flag, and what constitutes a U. S. flag. Because the display of “historical” flags (48 stars, 30 stars, etc.) is permitted, we believe such flags should be given the same respect as the current flag. After all, these flags were the U. S. flag of the time. Information about proper use of the flag may be obtained from several sources. Two excellent starting places are http://www.usflag.org/ and http://www.legion.org/. Respect for the flag is part of the United States Code, Title 4. Two of the items which appear to apply to this specific question are in Chapter 8, subsections (h) and (I).

Subsection (h) states, “The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.” Subsection (I) states, “The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkin or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.

While the painting of a flag on a serving tray intended for use as a serving tray is not an “actual” flag, it is certainly representative of our national symbol. Such use is, at best, borderline. A better option would be to design your own red, white, and blue motif. Stars and stripes can certainly be included.

Q. I want to draw (reproduce) pictures of Van Gogh on a table. Is this a copyright infringement?
A. There are two aspects to the question: One is copyright and the second is originality. Let’s deal with originality first. You didn’t state the exhibit class in which you intend to exhibit the table. This CAN NOT be an entry in original art (821A). Regardless of copyright, permission or not (if required), this is a reproduction of a painting. The fact it is painted on a table instead of canvas does not change the fact it is a “copy” of another piece of art, and not original.

Paintings do have copyright protection. Depending on when the painting was created, the length of copyright protection varies. Vincent Van Gogh died in 1890. Because of the age of his paintings, and applying copyright laws in effect at the time, his work is now considered in the public domain. In fact, it is very easy to locate companies that specialize in reproductions of many of the “old masters” works. The companies commonly advertise that their artists have studied and are trained in the style of the masters and use similar materials for the reproductions.

Yes, you may reproduce the paintings of Van Gogh created on your table. Just don’t claim it as original art.
Q. Is there any listing of what is considered "public property"? I'm wondering about art work like the Mona Lisa? Would this have been around long enough to be "public"?
A. No, there's no listing of public domain works. You need to research each item individually. However, we can (fairly) safely say with the copyright extensions, nothing new will be added to the public domain until 2018. You can conduct an online search at the U.S. Copyright Office (http://www.loc.gov/copyright/) for works registered since 1978. Be aware that even if a work is not registered, it may still be copyrighted.

Considering that Leonardo da Vinci painted the Mona Lisa approx. 1503-1506 (according to most historians), this painting is safely in the public domain. 500 years old is safe to use! Many reproduction, parodies, adaptations, etc. abound. It’s kind of interesting to do a search for “Mona Lisa” in your favorite search engine and look at some of the variations. See the previous Q&A for a more detailed answer regarding art reproductions of old masters. The question had to do with painting Van Gogh drawings on a table. Key concept - if the member is reproducing the painting it is NOT original art. If the member is adapting, parodying, or the like, it might be original art.

Q. A 4-H member is drawing a picture from an old book the family has. The child's goal is to enhance his free hand drawing skills. His goal is to do his free hand drawing (while looking at the picture) and make it look like the picture in the book.
A. This is a wonderful way to learn a technique. However, the resulting drawing doesn't make for a good exhibit because of copyright. Have the member learn the technique, then use what he learned to create a drawing of his own. For example, draw the tree in the front yard, the family dog, the house, a bowl of fruit, etc. Or, draw a family photo - a picture taken by a family member. The member should draw and create his own free hand work for exhibition. There are very limited ways the member can include some of the "copying" sketches in the technique class by using a portfolio, but we would still want to see an original concluding piece(s).

This is complicated by the statement "old book". Whether or not the picture can be used depends on how old the book is and what the copyright restrictions of the book are. We need to know more about the publication date and author of the book to fully answer that part the question.

Q. One of our 4-H members is making a rather large metal item. His inspiration was seeing a similar item in a magazine. The work involved fabricating a round sheet of metal, cutting, bending, shaping, and adding candle holders. The piece will be mounted outdoors on a patio wall. He wants to exhibit this in a Visual Art class. Can he do this?
A. Sure. Metal sculpture as an art media is very appropriate for 4-H members. Just take a trip to any art store, art festival, or art museum and look at the variety of works created from metal. What exhibit class is best for this piece – Original or Technique? The originality of the piece will need to be determined by comparing the photo from the magazine (source of the idea) to the finished piece. If the member is borrowing only the concept, or making major adaptations and changes, it might be considered original art. In this class, the member will discuss the design elements/principles, how the piece fits, what message he’s trying to convey with his work, and will discuss the process of creating his work.

Whether original or not, it could be exhibited in the Technique class. In this class, the member would place stronger emphasis on the process (the metal working), what he learned and how he will apply what he learned, as well as discuss the design elements/principles as needed for his work. For a stronger exhibit he would also include preliminary sketches of the piece and photos/sketches of other items he made to practice the techniques used in creating the final work of art.

Q. Can a 4-H member purchase a piece of unfinished pottery, decorate it, glaze it, and exhibit the item in a Visual Art class?
A. Yes, but not as an original artwork. There may be other appropriate exhibit classes, depending on the goal of the member, but for a Visual Art exhibit it would be entered in the Technique class – 821B. 4-H members are allowed to purchase unfinished “greenware or whiteware”, finish the item by applying the paint, glaze, etc., firing the item to set the decorative finish, and then use the appropriate methods to clean up and prepare the final item. They will discuss the technique(s) involved, how they learned the technique, and discuss design elements/principles (yes, the decorative touches have a basis in design).

Q. Some of our members want to make “crafty-type” items from kits. Some of the kits allow the members to choose colors and types of materials. Can they exhibit these items at the fair?
A. Of course. Just not as exhibits in Visual Art classes. Items made from kits can be a great way, especially for young members, to learn a process or technique. Kits can also help members learn to follow directions and sometimes help members learn to make choices. However, the member is not creating something original, or using the process or technique they learned to create something of their own design. The Iowa 4-H Visual Arts project area has the exploration of creativity as a basis for learning. We expect the member will use what they have learned in Visual Arts to create items that express their own creative genius.

Many "crafty-type" items made from kits are designed to be used in and around the home as decorative items. Members should consider exhibit classes in the Home Improvement area as a possible showcase for these items. There may be other appropriate classes depending on the member’s goal.

Q. A 4-H'er is drawing Mickey Mouse using a sketch book from Disney, but the copyright on the book says “for home use only - cannot be used for resale or public display”. Can she display this at the county fair since she bought the book?

A. Absolutely not. The copyright statement clearly prohibits using the sketches from being displayed in any public setting, including the county fair. The member can use the techniques learned and create some other unique cartoon character or other original drawings for display.

Q. A 4-H member has used ideas from Better Homes and Gardens magazine to create wire candle holders. Does she need to credit the magazine and does she need to have copy/picture of the article?

A. Depending on the exhibit area, either Yes and Yes or Yes and Maybe. You didn't say, but I'm guessing this is a visual art or home improvement exhibit. If this is a visual art exhibit and the exhibit resulted in an actual item, a copy of the article is needed to properly evaluate for originality and inspiration regarding source of the design or design concept. Include credit for the idea and copy of the article. If this is a Home Improvement exhibit, credit to the source of the idea needs to be given. While the member could include a statement something like “I adapted an idea I saw in XYZ magazine” and tell about it, it would strengthen the exhibit to show the original concept and discuss the changes the member made.

Q. I have a 4-H'er whose chalk drawing got chosen to go to the State Fair. What would be the best way to present this drawing? She had it on a piece of cardboard and had taped it around the edges. The judge really liked the drawing but wrote on the comment sheet to frame or matte it. Does it matter which way she does it? Would framing be ok? Or does that take away from the exhibit itself (the drawing)?

A. She could either frame or matte the drawing. I'd suggest something simple so it doesn't "take away from" the drawing. Perhaps something in a single color, not heavily patterned. She could get assistance with that from a frame shop. They could show her samples. Because the framing or matte becomes "part of" the exhibit, ultimately the 4-H member needs to decide color, style, etc. and be able to tell why she chose whatever it is she chooses. (Because it complements, accents, brings out a certain color in the drawing, whatever). She can do something more complex with framing or displaying after it comes home from the state fair. However she chooses to finish it off, have her include some type of hanging wire for display. (Not one of those short saw tooth hooks) That will let us better secure it during display at the state fair.

Q. I drew a picture of the main street of our town. Several of the buildings have advertising signs on their store fronts. I included them because I wanted my drawing to be realistic. Can I exhibit my work at the fair?

A. Probably yes. Information available to us indicates there are some circumstances in which trademarked logos may be appropriate to include in original artwork. Factors to consider are the commercial nature of the work, the artistic relevance of the image(s) included, and the prominence of the image compared to the work as a whole. Realism is a critical factor. The image drawn should actually appear in real life. In other words, if you put the Sinclair dinosaur on the gas station in your drawing, there had better be a Sinclair dinosaur on the gas station in your town. Small images in the backgrounds are easier to approve than larger, more prominent images. It is difficult to issue universal approval for these types of exhibits. At the same time, we should no longer automatically say “No.” It is best to call our office and talk with us. Photos of the work in question are always good for us to use as reference.

4-H members also need to be aware some companies are very aggressive regarding use of their images and logos. (As in not wanting them used at all). Asking permission is still a good policy. Members should also consider whether or not the image to be included is important or critical to the piece of art. Do you really need the name of the feed company on the cap of the farmer? Would a plain cap work just as well?
Q. I'm a big fan of the Japanese anime cartoons. I drew a picture of one of my favorite TV characters using different colors, a different pose, and a different background. Can I exhibit the picture at the fair?
A. Not without permission from the copyright owner. Even though the original source is a foreign country, copyright restrictions still apply. Additionally, there may be United States licenses or distribution rights for the characters. Frame the picture, proudly display it in your home, and enjoy it with family and friends. But don't bring it to the fair. The anime style is wildly popular among many youth and adults, with a great variety of characters in cartoons, shows, and books. Use your artistic and creative talents to develop your own anime characters or stories. It is not a copyright infringement to create your own work in the "style" of others. Perhaps we'll someday see your name listed as the creator of the next hit TV cartoon!

Q. I drew several pictures of sports stars. Can I bring them to the fair?
Q. A 4-H member drew a profile picture of Tiger Woods. Can he exhibit the drawing?
A. Maybe. The drawing of these famous people is certainly allowed. Public figures lose some privacy rights because of their celebrity status. If you're making your own drawing (or taking a picture) of them in action or walking down the street, you're OK in doing that. (However, it's not OK to peek over their fence into their backyard.) You're OK with the drawings and exhibitions until you want to reproduce those images. Because they are celebrities, they may be entitled to something called the right to publicity. This means they, not you, are the ones allowed to profit from the sale of their images.

The copyright concern in these two questions is dependent on the source or inspiration of the drawings. Many members may be using photos in magazines or posters as the original source. The member's drawing is considered a "derivative work". Only the original copyright holder can authorize the preparation of derivative works. The member's drawing needs to be a VERY DIFFERENT version from the original. Be cautious - very cautious - if the drawing is similar to an existing photo. If the sketch is from memory or from a photo the member took, fine.

Q. One of our members has photos of her grandparents wedding (circa 1940) She wants to recreate one of the photos in a drawing and exhibit the sketch. The family thinks they might know who the photographer was. There are no identifying marks (of the photographer), name of studio, or any indication of copyright anywhere on the front or back of the photo. Can she exhibit the drawing?
A. This photo would have been entitled to copyright protection under the 1909 copyright act. Works published from 1923 - 1963 were copyright protected when published with notice. Length of copyright was 28 years, with possible extensions of another 67 years. If not protected or renewed, these works are in the public domain. Works created before January 1, 1978, but not published, are protected from January 1, 1978, with varying lengths of copyright depending on date of death of the creator.

Because no notice of copyright appears anywhere on the photo in question, it is reasonable to conclude the photographer did not take appropriate steps to protect the image. To be absolutely sure there is no copyright registration, one would need to have the U.S. Copyright Office conduct a search of records. (You can search online at http://www.loc.gov/copyright/ for copyrights registered since 1978). We would suggest since the member may have knowledge of the photographer, an effort be made to contact the photographer or their heirs.

Based on our review of copyright information from several sources, and with the information as given in the question, we would answer Yes, the member may exhibit this drawing.
JUNE 4, 2004 – 4-H Exhibit Q & A
Each year brings a new set of 4-H fair exhibit questions from 4-H members and families. We'll try to answer some of those that need a statewide response in our "4-H Exhibit Q&A" section of 4-H FOCUS. Send your questions to me at mhoyer@iastate.edu. Remember that a compilation of Q&A from the past two years is available at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/restrict/SFHandbook.html. Here’s a few questions to get us started for 2004.

Q. Is cottage cheese okay in breads (for 4-H exhibits) if it is liquefied in a blender with other liquids?
A. Yes and Yes. See a similar question in the previous Q&A under the Food & Nutrition Questions section. For the cottage cheese, blended with other liquids implies thorough mixing before baking. For the muffins with jam, the “Yes” to layering is a revised interpretation. There is no inherent food safety risk to a baked muffin with a layer of jam encased in the muffin.

Q. Can jam be layered in a muffin batter and baked (for 4-H exhibits)?
A. Yes, zucchini bread is safe for 4-H exhibit. Recent testing in the Iowa State University Food Science labs on zucchini bread indicates the temperature of the interior of the loaf reaches pasteurization temperatures. However, zucchini bread (and other similar quick breads) may not have a long shelf life under summer conditions. Refrigeration is always a good choice.

Q. At the May 12 F&N ICN training, the safety of zucchini bread was questioned. Is zucchini bread acceptable as a 4-H fair exhibit?
A. Yes, zucchini bread is safe for 4-H exhibit. Recent testing in the Iowa State University Food Science labs on zucchini bread indicates the temperature of the interior of the loaf reaches pasteurization temperatures. However, zucchini bread (and other similar quick breads) may not have a long shelf life under summer conditions. Refrigeration is always a good choice.

Q. An exhibitor called and her picture is on a canvas 3 foot x 4 foot. But the edges are really rough so she wants to frame it. Would it be accepted at State Fair because of the size limitations?
A. This is an example of an artistic work, or actual item, and not a "poster or display board". Artistic works and similar items in other exhibit classes are not subject to the poster and display board size restrictions. Many artists work in “large” formats, some substantially larger than 3x4. Framed or unframed, the young lady is fine with this exhibit.

She should remember that when she frames her painting, the frame becomes part of the exhibit. While the exhibit evaluation will primarily be on the painting, the frame does matter, and makes the choice of frame an important consideration. The member would certainly not be penalized for exhibiting an unframed original painting if she desired.

Q. I received a call from a 4-H'er who would like to make a chair out of old Gatorade® bottles. He was wondering if this would break any copyright laws?
A. From the standpoint of using the Gatorade® bottles, no. The labels on the bottles could be left on or off. My recollection of most of these bottles, regardless of size, is they usually have a paper/plastic label. Given that he will want to (should want to) wash the bottles before transforming them into a chair, it might be just as easy to take the labels off during washing. However, if he wants them on for color or something, it would not be a copyright or trademark infringement.

Use of the bottles (with labels) is potentially a trademark issue. As long as he does not intend to market the chair (we wouldn't allow that within the context of a 4-H exhibit) and thereby profit from the Gatorade® brand name, trademark use should not be a concern.

Any copyright infringement would depend on the source of his idea for making the chair. Since this is a "functional" item, (a useable chair), he has somewhat greater flexibility to create or adapt something he has seen elsewhere. This is one of those "it depends" issues, and I'd need a little more background on the inspiration of the idea for the chair (unless it was truly original) to give a more complete answer.

Q. If a 4-H member enters a photograph as part of a series, can they make a duplicate print of it and also enter it separately as an individual photograph in another class?
A. Yes, they could use the same photo for both. In one case the photo needs to stand alone. In the other, even though the overall quality of the photo is important, it's evaluated as part of a group, and needs to help tell a story, etc. The whole series needs to tell a story, demonstrate a relationship, whatever. There would be some differences in the evaluation of a series compared with evaluation of a single photo.
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My daughter did something similar once. What I recall is she selected one of a series for an individual photo, and the judge told her he wished she would have selected one of the other photos in the series for an individual photo because he felt a different one was a stronger single photo. That's all part of the learning! (M. Hoyer)

JUNE 11, 2004 – 4-H Exhibit Q&A
60 days until state fair and less than two weeks until the first county fair! Must be summer. Food and go-carts this week.

Q. A member wants to exhibit a strawberry cake that also includes a "Heavy Whipped Cream" frosting. The frosting has no added sugar (or at most a tablespoon of sugar to one cup heavy whipping cream). Is this frosting allowed?
A. No. Heavy whipped cream frosting would present a food safety hazard as there is not enough sugar present. The frosting as described requires refrigeration. To have enough sugar would require a 25% increase over the amount needed to make a cream cheese frosting safe. (See 4H 3023 for details). Leave the whipped cream frosting off for the far. But make sure they bring a sample of the cake with the frosting to the extension office for staff to sample.

Q. One of our members wants to bring “Whoopie Pies” to the county fair. The filling is made of: 1/2 cup butter, 1 1/2 cup sugar, 1 cup marshmallow crème, and 1 tsp vanilla melted together, and then placed between two chocolate cookies. Is this filling safe for exhibit?
A. From a food safety aspect, Yes, the filling is safe to include for 4-H fair exhibit. Not only is a high amount of sugar added, but the marshmallow cream is also nearly all sugar with very little liquid in the other ingredients. The nutritional content is a whole different story!

Q. A 4-H member has a Peach Praline Pie recipe with some pecans, peaches, and 1 ½ tbls. of lemon juice added. She’s concerned whether the added liquid of the lemon juice results in a “too moist” product and would be a food safety hazard. Is her recipe OK?
A. The recipe in question was in essence a fruit pie (not a custard type pie) that included 4 cups sliced peaches. The fruit in the pie provides acidity, reducing food safety risks. If commercial (canned) peaches were used (wouldn’t have to be commercial, could be fresh), there would be an additional safety factor due to the requirements of commercial processing. The added lemon juice in this case actually helps because it also adds acidity. Enjoy the pie.

Q. I just received a call from a 4-H’er who is wants to bake food in a terracotta pot. Is this acceptable?
A. It’s best to use a non-glazed terracotta baking pot. Some imported clay pots may be made with a glaze that contains lead. These pots should be clearly stamped with a label that states they are for non-food use as per FDA requirements. So our guidance is: “Acceptable If”: If the clay pot is glazed on the inside it must be a food grade glaze. Better still, use a pot specifically sold to be used for baking.

Be aware that clay baking pots that are not glazed could constitute a food safety risk as they are very difficult to clean the porous material. Detergents are normally not recommended because they may absorb into the clay/terracotta container. However, if a person cleans up right away, it should come clean, and with typical baking temperatures during the next use, most bacteria should be destroyed. As always, follow proper handling and preparation precautions.

Clay baking containers have been used for centuries (although I don’t think our ancient ancestors worried as much about food safety as we do today!). There’s no reason they can’t be continued to be used safely today.

Q. A 4-H’er is redoing the body of a go cart. What could be some potential classes to consider for this - given that it depends on the goal. Could this be considered an automotive restoration? Other Science, Mechanics, Engineering?
A. Not automotive restoration. Go-carts are not automobiles. Depending on the goal and extent of restoration, welding or the “Other” class are the first choices that come to mind. The question as asked seems to eliminate small engine work, although if engine work was involved, the Small Engine class could be considered. As I think about restoration, it probably involves several aspects, including metal working, welding, painting, so the “Other” is a good place for items that involve more than one area. Be sure to advise the member to consider safety - not only personal, but in the construction of the go-cart - during the restoration. (Mitchell Hoyer)