

4-H Horticulture Judging Tips - Southern Iowa Fair 2023

Enter your 4-H exhibits for the Southern Iowa Fair in FairEntry by July 10. Please enter all the projects you could potentially bring. Garden produce/flowers can develop faster/slower than expected, and exhibits can be deleted. Remember to bring state fair eligible exhibits (see below) to judging on Saturday July 15! Consider also exhibiting in the open class with your garden produce/flowers. It is also Tuesday July 19, but entry is 8-10 am. See the open class fairbook for details (available at Southern Iowa Fair office or website). To exhibit vegetables at Iowa State Fair, enter in FairEntry by July 1.

4-H regulations, eligibility and general exhibit rules are listed in the 4-H & FFA fairbook on pages 39-43. Horticulture rules are on pages 50-52. **Consult the newsletter and 4-H Updates for more information.** Please note the limit on the number of entries you may bring. Please remember the philosophy of 4-H judging is goal-centered learning.

Remember you are expected to wear a 4-H t-shirt during the judging and follow the Exhibiting Dress Code as written in 4-H General Exhibit Rules #5 page 39 and #29 page 42. If you do not have a clean 4-H t-shirt, you may wear a plain white shirt. A limited number of 4-H t-shirts will be for sale at the Extension office prior to the fair and in the 4-H office during the fair (as supplies last).

Judging will be Tuesday, July 18 from 2-4 pm. Exhibits will be judged on a first come, first judged basis. Sign in (for yourself only) when you arrive. You may begin signing up at 1:30 pm. **You must sign in by 3 pm.** Premium cash out details will be posted at the fair. You will need to return your Horticulture Entry Sheet to the superintendents after your judging. **Note: Canned foods should be entered in Food and Nutrition, Class 10442 (page 47), Class 10230 Horticulture & Plant Science, & Class 10235 Home Grounds Improvement (page 44), as well as Follow Up Exhibits Class 11, & Garden Journal Class 12 (page 51), are State Fair eligible and should be judged Saturday, July 15.**

Advance preparations can ease your stress at the fair. It's easier to fill out your entry sheet, goal cards and entry tags at home...please do not wait until the last minute! An official Mahaska County 4-H Goal Card must accompany each exhibit. This is a write up that answers the three questions listed under General Exhibit Rules #5 on page 39 of the 4-H & FFA Fair Rule Booklet. Older 4-Hers will be expected to type their responses with full sentences. Younger member may handwrite their responses on the form. Your goal sheet should tell the judge enough about the project that they could award your ribbon without asking you questions in person.

Prepare vegetables and flowers according to publications 4-H 462 *Harvesting and Preparing Vegetables for Exhibit* and 4-H 464 *Preparing Cut Flowers and Houseplants for Exhibit*. These publications are available at Mahaska County Extension office or downloadable at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu>.

Please make sure you know the name of the specimen (including cultivar/variety) being exhibited at the fair. Please write the name of your specimen on the entry tag (watch spelling!). See examples attached and on display. Labels should be neatly printed or typed. If you exhibit in Class 1 it is not necessary to label the plate because the variety should be included on the entry tag. If you exhibit in Class 2 or 3, then the vegetables must be labeled. Labels may be attached with clear tape.

Parents may help 4-Hers carry in their exhibits, but the 4-Hers should tag, label and arrange their own exhibit(s).

4-Hers should pick up their exhibits either Saturday July 22 after 12pm or Sunday, July 23 1- 3 pm. Exhibits must be removed by 3 pm on Sunday. The Mahaska County Extension office and /or the superintendents are not responsible for articles left after this time. Please ease the clean-up process for the 4-H staff and Fair Board by removing all of your items from the building; this includes jars, plates, baggies, goal sheets, flowers and vegetables and ribbons. If you do not wish to keep your ribbons, a Ribbon Recycle Box will be in the 4-H Building and Exhibit Hall.

