

the Mahaska County Fair “Help Me!” Guide

For New (or confused!) 4-H'ers

2019

This guidebook is intended to help you understand the county fair from a 4-H perspective and to give you some insight on the processes and procedures.

This is in no way a substitution for the Southern Iowa Fair 4-H & FFA Rule Booklet or Open Fairbook.

Please refer the fair book for all information on rules & regulations of the county fair, as well as department-specific guidelines and classes.

Places to Know...

Mahaska County ISU Extension Office
212 North I Street Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

Mahaska County 4-H Fair Office (directly south of the Sherriff's Posse station)
615 North I Street Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

Mahaska County Extension Website: www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska

Mahaska County 4-H Website: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska/4h>

Mahaska County Fair 4-H Info Site: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska/page/4-h-fair-award-forms>

Iowa 4-H Project Tip Sheets: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects>

People to Know...

Mahaska County Extension (Youth) Staff

Amy Brainard, *County Youth Coordinator*

Ashtin Harris, *4-H Youth Program Assistant*

Lea DeCook, *Office Assistant*

Kim Kuester, *Youth Program Specialist*

EMAIL

vermeerA@iastate.edu

acharris@iastate.edu

decookL@iastate.edu

kuester@iastate.edu

PHONE

(641)673-5841

(641)673-5841

(641)673-5841

FAX

(641)673-0559

(641)673-0559

(641)673-0559

County Fair Superintendents (*phone numbers are listed in the fairbook*)

Herdsmanship

Amy Brainard, Extension Council

Beef

Dave Orman, Kyle Shaw, Clayton Hester, Miranda Johnson

Advanced Feeders

Byron Eekhoff, Glenn Van Wyk, Dave Willemsen

Bucket/Bottle Calf

Dennis Antolik, Andy Ozinga

Bucket'o'Junk

Nick Hughes

Bottle Lamb

Holly Smith

Bottle Goat

Holly Smith, Jerry Rempe

Swine

Collin De Bruin, Kenny Wanders, Brian Meinders, Joel Van Gilst

Sheep

Steve De Jong, Carissa Osborn, Dennis DeWitt

Horse/Pony/Mule

Jennifer Fynaardt, Tia Campbell, Lisa Fields

Dog

Regina Hoy, Sharis Claver, LaCinda Shilling, Jennifer Hoy, Crystal Salfen

Dairy Cow/Goat

Merry Anne Adair, Maaika Hol

Meat Goat

Marshal Wilz, Shania Wilz

Myotonic Goat

Adam & Erica Antolik, Mike Wielard

Poultry

Helena Hayes, Lindsay Maxwell

Rabbit

Adam Antolik, MaKayla Scanlon

Livestock Judging Contest	local FFA Advisors
Livestock Auction	Southern Iowa Fair Board
Llama	Merle Mann
Exhibit Hall	Deb Overbergen, Marlene Maxwell, Janet Overbergen
4-H Building	Jerry & Kathleen Rempe
Clothing Event	Deb Overbergen, Marlene Maxwell, Janet Overbergen
Communications Event	Diane Stewart, Karen Adams

Dates to Know...

May 15	Animal Identification deadline **IMPORTANT
December	Market Beef Weigh-in
March 23	Swine Weigh-in
May 4	Sheep & Meat Goat Weigh-in
June 7	4-H Awardrobe Clothing Event Registration deadline
June 14	County 4-H Communications Event Registration deadline
June 18	4-H Awardrobe Clothing Event Judging
June 15	Poultry Pullorum Testing
July 1	Iowa State Fair Livestock & Horticulture Entry deadline – due in 4hOnline/FairEntry
July 9	Superintendent's Stall Assignment Meeting 7-8 p.m.
July 11	Fair Clean-up, Countywide Exhibit Building Set-up 5-7 p.m.
July 15-20	Southern Iowa Fair
July 20	Livestock Auction in Sale Ring at Fairgrounds
Various	Horse Project Clinic and Ride Night Dates
Various Spring/Summer Dates	Dog Obedience & Agility Classes for Youth with Dog Projects
Various	Workshops/Hands-on Learning Clinics

Things to Know...

How do I enter my livestock in the fair?

- Step 1: Identify your animals.** All animals must be identified in order to be eligible to show at the county fair. Market beef, swine, and market sheep and goats are all identified at weigh-ins (on various dates). Heifers are no longer identified during Heifer Tattooing; heifer tattooing is no longer offered. Identification forms are turned in at the weigh-in and the ID process is then completed for those animals. All other animals must be identified in 4hOnline (<http://iowa.4honline.com>) by 11:59 PM on May 15. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST DAY TO IDENTIFY YOUR ANIMALS, THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!!! This includes breeding beef, bucket/bottle calves, breeding sheep and goats, dairy, poultry, rabbits, llamas, horses and dogs. Breeding Heifers must have their registration tattoo or a 4-H ear tag in their ear to be identified by the families in 4hOnline by May 15, 4-H tags can be purchased at the Extension office for \$4.00. After attending a weigh-in, it is the responsibility of the 4-H'er to log in to 4hOnline to verify the animal information entered is correct. If anything is wrong, please call the Extension office at 673-5841 prior to May 15.
- Step 2: Complete YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) Online Training by July 1.** Full details about completing YQCA can be found in the monthly 4-H newsletter. Cost for YQCA is \$12.00, limited financial assistance is available at the MCEO.

At the county fair.... Where do I get my exhibitor number?

All Mahaska County 4-H'ers and FFA members are assigned an exhibitor number for the fair. Exhibitor numbers are printed on a card-board like material and pinned to the back of the youth's t-shirt when showing livestock. These numbers are how the judges identify youth.

Exhibitor numbers can be picked up at the 4-H office during open hours. **Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM.**

A good rule of thumb is to plan on picking yours up just after you weigh-in (or check-in) your animals.

Swine exhibitors will NOT need to pick up exhibitor numbers; these will be clipped to youth when they enter the pavilion during the show.

What is Showmanship?

The Showmanship contests for all of the livestock species are a great way to learn and share your talents. Exhibitors will enter the show ring with one of their animals and they show it to the best of their ability. Sometimes the judges will ask the exhibitors what they know about their project, how it is cared for and what they have learned as they've worked with their livestock project. Showmanship can only be given to a person one time in each age division (Junior-4th-6th, Intermediate 7th-9th & Senior 10th-12th). The age division winners for Swine, Sheep, Beef, Meat Goat, & Horse will be allowed to take part in the Supreme Showmanship Contest on Friday, July 19 at 5:00 p.m. in the Pavilion. Check it out!

What in the world is Herdsmanship, is it the same thing as Barn Prize?

The Herdsmanship contest is the same thing as Barn Prize. Some parents or leaders may remember the contest being called Barn Prize. Basically, exhibitors need to take care of their livestock during the fair. You will need to make sure your animals have fresh food and water and that they have fresh bedding. Judges will walk through the barns each day after 1:00 p.m. and before 8:00 p.m. to check and make sure that you are keeping your livestock areas clean and free of debris. Top clubs and individuals will be selected and awarded. Full rules can be found in the 4-H & FFA Fair Rules Booklet.

How do I enter my non-livestock (static) exhibits in the fair?

Static (non-livestock) exhibits do not need to be pre-entered into the fair. However, a static *Exhibit Entry Form* listing each of the exhibits you are entering should be filled out and ready to turn in upon check-in of judging day. If you forget to do this prior to that day, there will be forms available at the Exhibit Hall and 4-H Building, but please try your best to have everything ready prior to arriving at the fair.

All static exhibits are judged on Monday, July 15th, in the Exhibit Hall and 4-H Building. Your club will be assigned a check-in time to come and have your exhibits judged. Check out the fair help sheet document by visiting <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mahaska/sites/www.extension.iastate.edu/files/mahaska/exhibiting%20instructions%20for%20SIF%2019.pdf>.

What should each of my 4-H static exhibits have when I get to the fair on Monday, July 15?

Exhibit Entry Tag: This white tag is connected (usually by string) to each exhibit. It lists your name, class number, exhibit description, etc. This is also a handy item to tie your ribbons to. Exhibit Entry Tags are available at the extension office or from your club leader and will be available in both exhibiting buildings. ***Please have these tags filled out prior to the judging day.*** Please make sure that you are using the 4-H exhibit entry numbers, these are different from Open Class and they are updated for 2018. Please refer to your 4-H & FFA Fair Rule Booklet pages 46-51 for class numbers.

Mahaska County Goal Card: These pages are required for all exhibits in the Exhibit Hall. On the form, you will answer questions about your goals, what you learned from doing the exhibit, determine principles and elements of design, and have the option to fill out a financial summary. These are all things that the judge will be asking you about, so make sure to take some time to really think about your answers when completing the goal card. More than the quality of your final

product, the judges want to see *what you learned* through the process. You must use the form provided by the Extension office. Judges prefer older 4-H'ers to type their goal cards.

There are a few exceptions. For instance, all photography entries must have a **photography exhibit label** (instead of the goal card) attached to the exhibit. **Please use the February 2013 Photography Label.** Preserved food and nutrition exhibits must have an additional label. All forms are available at the extension office or from your club leader.

How do I write my goals?

You will be asked to write your goal for each of your exhibits on a goal card, and the judges will ask you about what your goals were and how you achieved them. When writing your goals, *think about what you were trying to accomplish* when you started the project. *Goals should be something that you are able to control and achieve.* For example, “to get a blue ribbon at the fair” or “to have an exhibit go to state fair” is not a good goal because *you* have no control over what the *judge* decides. However, “to learn how to sew a pillow” or “to make a nutritional and tasty treat for my brother’s graduation” are good goals because they clearly define what the goal of the exhibit/project was.

How do I know what class to put my exhibit in?

Your GOAL should determine the CLASS you put your exhibits in. Read the descriptions of the classes in the fair book. Which one matches the closest to what your goal was in creating the exhibit?

For example, if Katie sewed a pillow as an exhibit, she has multiple options to put her exhibit. Was her goal to learn how to sew? If so, it would be a sewing exhibit in the Clothing and Fashion – Constructed/Sewn Garments & Accessories category. Was her goal to make a decoration or accessory to match the color scheme in her bedroom? In that case, her exhibit would fall under the Home Improvement category.

Important note: *Please do not use the “Self-Determined” category as a “catch-all” for any projects that you’re not sure about, or don’t want to take the time to figure out where they should rightfully be placed. Self-Determined is part of Personal Development and should display self-growth. Most exhibits can be placed in one of the categories in the fair book. In the occasion that you are not able to find a good class to enter your exhibit in, contact the extension office. We can help you think through where it might fit, and can help you decide if it is truly a self-determined exhibit.*

What should I expect on conference judging day? (Monday, July 15th)

Check-in: The first thing you will need to do when you show up to the Exhibit Hall or 4-H Building to have your exhibits judged is to stop by the check-in table to let them know you’re there. **Please have all goal cards and entry tags complete and attached to your exhibits.**

Conference Judging: Conference Judging takes place between the exhibitor and the judge only. Parents will be allowed to sit at the table during judging but are to remain silent. Judges will review the exhibit itself, along with the accompanying goal card or write-up, and also visit with you about what your goals are and what you learned through your exhibit and this project area.

Exhibits will be displayed in your club’s booth or, if selected, in the State Fair Selections booth or Outstanding 4th Grade Exhibits booth.

State Fair Consideration: Judges are allowed to choose a pre-determined number of exhibits to advance on to the Iowa State Fair. All state fair selections will be on display in a special booth in the Exhibit Hall. Since fourth graders cannot show at the state fair, we recognize them with an “Outstanding 4th Grade Exhibits” display in Exhibit Hall. A judge may decide to “hold back” your exhibit for consideration for State Fair Consideration, but please keep in mind that *being held back does not guarantee that you will be selected for the Iowa State Fair*, and does not guarantee you will receive a

purple ribbon. Each Mahaska County exhibitor is only allowed to exhibit one item at the Iowa State Fair, so if considered, no more than one item can be selected.

When do I pick my exhibits up from Exhibit Hall?

All exhibits will be on display in your club booth for the entire week of fair. Exhibit check-out in the Exhibit Hall and 4-H Building will be from 8:00-9:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 20 and again between 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 21. All exhibits must be removed from the buildings by 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, we will not have a check-out time on Monday. No exhibits may leave the building prior to the Saturday check-out time. This is also the time that your club will tear down the club booth and we will clean the Exhibit Hall and 4-H Building. Clubs are asked to tear down decorations and remove any staples or screws used in the display booths. *Please be sure you have every item from your exhibit when you leave, 4-H staff, Fair Board, and volunteers are not responsible for any items which are left behind, broken, misplaced, or stolen during the fair.* If you do not wish to keep your exhibit (typically horticulture items), please dispose of them appropriately. Our staff, Fair Board, and volunteers have worked very hard to make the fair a fun and successful event for you, please help them by disposing of trash and unwanted items before leaving the fairgrounds.

When can I bring my livestock home?

Livestock will stay at the fair until 8:00 PM on Friday, July 20. Livestock may not be released early unless the Superintendent/4-H Staff approve due to animal illness. Swine going to market will load the truck on Thursday morning, weather permitting; pigs going home must stay on the grounds until Friday night. Any livestock being sold in the auction must stay on the grounds until the end of the auction on Saturday. **All non-auction livestock must be off of the fairgrounds by no later than 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 21. Please be sure to clean your stalls/pens thoroughly for the final Herdsmanship judging.**

I've heard we get money for our exhibits. When do I get that?

The money you get from your exhibits is called a "premium." Purple and Blue ribbons are \$2.00, Red ribbons are \$1.00, and White ribbons are \$.50. You do not receive extra premiums for special recognition (ex: State Fair Selection, Champion, Showmanship, etc.). You must turn in your Exhibit Entry Form at the Ribbon Table in the Exhibit Hall on Monday, July 15th and your Livestock & Special Events Entry Form must be turned in to your leader or specified club volunteer by the last day of the fair.

I'm nervous that I'll forget something! What if I have more questions in the next couple of weeks or during fair?

Don't ever be afraid to ask—there are no "dumb" questions! You can always talk to your leader or call the extension office prior to fair with any questions you have. There will also be volunteers on hand on the fairgrounds during the week of county fair. You can ask your club leader, extension office staff, fair board members, superintendents and project leaders. Older 4-H'ers and their families are also very good resources!

If you have questions about getting your exhibits together, you can meet with 4-H Staff one-on-one (parents can also attend) for them to walk you through your paperwork, exhibit preparation, or anything else you have questions on! Contact the Extension office at 673-5841 to set up an appointment!