



Mahaska County 4-H Project Guide

A Checklist for Selecting and Completing Your 4-H Projects

NAME _____

CLUB _____

LEADER(S) _____

LEADER(S) CONTACT INFORMATION

*Developed by Diane Van Wyngarden in Jan. '01
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Introduction

Dear Mahaska County 4-H Member,

Congratulations on your decision to learn through doing! Since new learning often needs assistance along the way, this booklet was created to help you as you select your projects and carry them out.

In these pages, we have outlined the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about 4-H projects. Of course, if you still can't find the answer to your question, be sure to ask your club leader or contact me. Contact information is on the back of this booklet.

We hope that you find this project guide helpful!

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This booklet is a general project guide

- For more complete project rules and guidelines, please refer to the monthly Mahaska County 4-H Newsletter, project manuals, 4-H Hot Sheets, Southern Iowa Fair Rule Booklet and the Iowa State Fair Official Premium Book.
- To select from a complete listing of 4-H projects, please see the ISU Extension publication, 4H 200 (formerly Pick a Project).
- Many projects have educational materials written specifically for each stage in your project. You may visit <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects> and select the particular area you are looking for. Each area has a Hot Sheet available too, that briefly explains the project area.
- **MAY 15** is the deadline for all Livestock & Small Animal Identification and new 4-H Enrollment. Both Livestock Identification and 4-H Enrollment **must** be completed online using the <http://iowa.4honline.com> website.

Table of Contents

Project or Exhibit Clarification	4
ANIMAL/LIVESTOCK PROJECTS/EXHIBITS	
Beef Advanced Feeder & Breeding Beef	5
Beef Carcass & Market Beef	6
Bucket/Bottle Calf, Bottle Lamb & Bottle Goat	7
Dairy Cattle/Goat & Dog	8
Herdsmanship & Horse	9
Horse (cont'd.), Livestock Judging, Llama, Meat Goat, & Pets	10
Myotonic Goats, Poultry, & Rabbit	11
Rabbits (cont'd.), Advanced Feeder Lamb, Market & Derby Lamb, Commercial Ewe	12
Sheep Purebred Breeding, Swine, Weaned Calf Pen	13
NON-LIVESTOCK/STATIC EXHIBITS	
Agriculture & Natural Resources	14
Horticulture & Communications	15
Family & Consumer Science	16
Clothing Event	17
Science, Mechanics & Engineering	17

Project or Exhibit?

One of the most confusing things in 4-H is the difference between a 4-H project and a 4-H exhibit.

When you enroll in 4-H each year, you enroll in PROJECT areas that interest you. When you bring things to fair, these are called EXHIBITS. Here is a little more information to help you understand the differences between the two:

Projects – A 4-H project is an area of emphasis in which a 4-H'er enrolls, studies, learns and keeps records.

Exhibits – A 4-H exhibit is an item resulting from project work that the 4-H'er has chosen to bring to the fair and have evaluated by a judge.

For example: A 4-H'er may enroll in the woodworking project area and choose to bring a birdhouse to the fair that he/she constructed.

A member may have several exhibits all in the same project area: Food and Nutrition Project may have chocolate chip cookies, yeast bread and preserved tomatoes. When it is time to complete 4-H records, all three of these exhibits would all be part of the Food & Nutrition Project write-up. There may be things that a 4-H'er works on in a project area that they never take to the fair as an exhibit.

Examples:

Swine – The 4-H'er identifies three pigs for the fair, but they grow too fast or slow to be market weight for the fair. The 4-H'er would still keep records on their expenses and enter those into the 4-H records.

Visual Arts – The 4-H'er draws several pictures that he/she gives to friends or family. The 4-H'er would still be able to write about these pictures for their 4-H records.

Adapted from 4H-4008D Fall 2010

LIVESTOCK INFORMATION

In order to hold a project area class for the county fair, we must have entries from at least 3 different families.

Beef - Advanced Feeder Pen

- If you would like to learn about raising and selling market beef, the Advanced Feeder Pen project is a good choice!
- Advanced Feeder Pens of 2-5 may choose to weigh at either the December class or March class weigh-ins; or you may enter one pen from each class.
- Each animal must have an ear tag. You should bring \$4.00 per animal with you to the weigh-in to purchase ear tags. If an animal loses a tag after the weigh-in, contact the Extension office to have it replaced at no extra cost
- A Livestock ID form will be completed when you attend the weigh-in. Keep your copy of the ID form in a safe place for your records. Also keep all feed, medical and other project records. You will be required to submit monthly feed records (on the 15th of each month) to the Extension office.
- Your project records and livestock exhibits will be judged 20% production records, 30% cattle performance, 25% interview & 25% live evaluation at fair.

Beef - Breeding

- Complete an ID form in 4hOnline (for county and state fair) Breeding class heifers do not participate in weigh-ins.
- Heifers - females born on or after September 1 of prior year
- Cows - any females that had a calf or was born on or before January 1 of prior year.
- Tattoos are required for all purebred and commercial heifers. For purebred heifers the tattoo must match the tattoo on the registration papers. The animal's birthdate must be listed on the breeding beef identification report.
- Commercial Heifers must have either a 4-H ear tag or general tattoo in their ear.
- See the Fair Rule Booklet for additional rules and guidelines.
- State Fair entries (must be finished with 5-12th grade) must be completed in 4hOnline by July 1. Any State Fair breeding beef must be entered into 4hOnline by no later than May 15.

Beef - Carcass

- This project will give you a chance to see first hand what quality of meat product you are producing.
- You may enter a maximum of 2 animals in the beef carcass class. These animals must have been weighed and ear tagged at the December beef weigh-in. Bring \$4.00 for each animal's ear tag.
A Livestock ID form will be completed at the weigh-in. Keep your copy of the ID form in a safe place for your records.
- Two evaluations will be held for judging. A live animal evaluation will be held before the fair, followed by a carcass judging a week later. You will be required to visit the locker to receive the carcass data.
- Carcass animals will not be included in beef rate of gain contests. See the Fair Rule Booklet for additional class rules.

Beef - Market

- You may weigh-in up to 6 animals at the beef weigh-in, usually held in December. You should bring \$4.00 per animal with you to the weigh-in to purchase ear tags. Do not remove or replace the tag! If an animal loses a tag, contact the Extension office.
- **At the weigh-in, you must choose a fair class for each animal:** Market Beef, Mahaska County Steers, No Fit Beef, Carcass, Advanced Feeder Pen, or Return Bucket/Bottle Steer or Heifer. A Livestock ID form will be completed at the weigh-in. Keep your copy of the ID form in a safe place for your records.
- It is the members' responsibility to make sure the form has the correct information listed on it, please be sure to include the sex and class of the animal on the ID form! This information will be added to 4hOnline by 4-H Staff. Please check 4hOnline to verify and approve that the information entered is correct by January 1. See the Fair Rule Booklet for additional rules.
- Beef going to the State Fair must approve data in 4hOnline after the December weigh-in and must complete a State Fair entry by July 1. All State Fair exhibitors must have completed 5th-12th grade. This process can be done using 4hOnline. A Beef of Merit (Carcass) class is also offered at the State Fair. If you plan to exhibit at the State Fair, you must get retinal images taken at the December weigh-in. If you plan to exhibit at Ak Sar Ben, you must get retinal images done at the December weigh-in. Any purebred animals must have registration info on file with the Extension office by Dec. 31.

Bucket/Bottle Calf

- A bucket/bottle calf is judged on what you learned through your project, not on the quality of the animal itself. Any newborn or orphan calf, steer or heifer (dairy or beef) born between February 1 and April 30 of the current year may be your project. You must have possession of the animal within 2 weeks of it's birth.
- Your calf must be bucket or bottle fed (no nursing) after you take possession of it.
- The calf must have an ear tag. 4-H tags can be purchased at the Extension office for \$4.00/each. You may also use a farm tag for identification purposes.
- Submit a completed Livestock ID in 4hOnline by May 15 (or date set by Extension office). You may ID several calves, but only 1 may be exhibited at the fair.
- All exhibitors must complete a 4-H Bucket/Bottle Calf Project Packet. All records are due prior to fair (date to be announced in monthly 4-H Newsletter).
- You will show your calf at the fair at halter, so practice leading your calf.
- You will also be individually interviewed at the fair about how you cared for your calf and what you learned (you will not bring your calf to the interview at the fair).
- You may take your bucket/bottle calf back home after the fair and enter it in the beef class as a return bucket/bottle next year (you must attend December weigh-in).
- There is no project age limit for Bucket/Bottle Calf participants. Any 4-H or FFA member may exhibit a B/B Calf.

Bottle Lamb & Bottle Goat

- Bottle lamb/goat project guidelines are the same as bucket/bottle calf (see above). You must also lead your lamb/goat into the ring. There is no return bottle lamb/goat class for the following year.
- Bottle Lambs/Goats must have been born between February 1 and April 30 of the current year to be eligible to be identified.
- Bottle Lambs & Goats no longer need to attend the spring weigh-in, but must be identified in 4hOnline to be eligible. You may identify more than one of each specie, but may only exhibit 1 goat and 1 lamb.
- All records must be turned in on time to be eligible for a blue or purple ribbon.

Dairy Cattle

- Complete identification process in 4hOnline by May 15 (or other date announced in monthly 4-H newsletter).
- You may enter only one purchased animal in each class, but may enter a total of six head for exhibiting. You may ID as many animals as you'd like. Dairy replacement project members may exhibit three purchased heifers. Members may enter grade dairy animals.
- Calves - Born between September 1 of prior year and April 30 of current year.
- Heifers - Born September 1-August 31 (11-23 months old).
- Cows - Born before September 1 (23 months old & over) - that member has had as a project previously and/or purchased cow.
- Exhibitors must wear white pants, exhibitor t-shirt and exhibitor number.

Dairy Goats

- Complete identification process in 4hOnline by May 15 (or other date announced in monthly 4-H Newsletter).
- Exhibitors can show 2 animals per class, but may enter a total of eight head. This is with the exception of Doe & Kid class (1 Doe and 1 Doe Kid being a single unit).
- Doe's 24 months of age or over which have never freshened shall not be shown.
- Classes (age divisions) are listed in the Fair Rule Booklet.
- Exhibitors must wear white pants, exhibitor t-shirt and exhibitor number.

Dog

- Complete identification in 4hOnline May 15 for county and state fair dogs.
- You may wish to exhibit dog(s) at the fair as part of your dog project. Special guidelines apply for showing dogs at the 4-H shows and can be shared with you at Dog Obedience & Agility Trainings.
- Required Mahaska County 4-H offered Obedience & Agility Trainings are held weekly prior to the fair, a complete schedule will be in the monthly 4-H Newsletters in the Spring & Summer months.
- To exhibit at the State Fair, register in 4hOnline by July 1.

Herdsmanship

- If you bring livestock to the fair, you are automatically entered in Herdsmanship. You will be judged on how clean you keep your stall or pen area and alley and how well you care for your animals. You must have a stall card that you can get from the 4-H Office at the Fairgrounds to post on your stall or pen at all times. A club sign, decorations and the 4-H member being present to answer the judge's questions can result in extra judging points.
- Judging will be done once daily, except on show days. Points will be totaled at the end of the fair and the club or FFA chapter with the most points will be the winner in each species.
- Hay, straw and paper may **not** be used for bedding. Wood shavings may be used and may need to be replaced often during the fair.
- All morning chores and cleaning must be done by 8:15 a.m. Evening chores between 4-6 p.m., except for show day and animals moving to tie-outs. Animals should not be tied outside the barn before 7:30 p.m. Barns will be judged after 1 and before 8 p.m. each day.
- You may **not** post "For Sale" on any stalls or pens.
- Club scores will be posted on a chart inside of the 4-H Building.

Horse

- Complete identification for county and state fair horses in 4hOnline by May 15. Official State Fair entry must be completed in 4hOnline by July 1. Photos of horses must also be uploaded into 4hOnline by May 15.
- You may borrow a horse, pony, or mule to show at the fair. The lease form must be uploaded into 4hOnline (by May 15, no exceptions).
- You may enter 3 horses, mules or ponies total at the fair. A mare and foal may be entered as 1 unit, but both need to be identified on the ID form. ID the unborn colt by noting the expected due date. Mare must be mother of foal to be eligible.
- Exhibitors are classified as Junior, Intermediate & Senior Division. The highest grade level in a team determines the division.

(cont'd pg. 10)

Horse (cont'd.)

- A foal is any horse born after January 1. A horse is any animal over 57". A pony/mini horse can be exhibited as: any animal 57" and under (ponies that are shod have 1/2" deduction).
- Each animal will be inspected by a fair veterinarian prior to the fair during the Mahaska County 4-H Vet Check. If you are unable to attend the Vet Check, you may submit Veterinarian signed Health Papers to the Extension office or Horse Superintendents.
- At the fair, you must check-in with the Superintendents and sign up for classes (if not already done at Vet Check).
- A helmet is required when riding any horse, mule or pony.
- All Mahaska County Horse Exhibitors (4-H & FFA) MUST complete the designated number of clinics & ride nights to be eligible. Full details are listed in the 4-H Newsletter.

Livestock Judging

- Each club with livestock projects/exhibits is encouraged to put together a team of 3-4 members.
- All clubs may enter at the fair as teams or individuals.
- Judging may include placing of 4 animals, evaluation of market animals and/or questions about classes.

Llama

- Llamas are a show and go on Monday, July 15.
- Health papers need to be current within 30 days prior to the fair for each llama.
- Please see the 4-H & FFA Fair rule booklet for more details.

Meat Goat

- Entries are open to any breed or crossbred wether (castrated males). Pygmy goats may not be entered.
- All exhibitors must attend the Meat Goat Weigh-in in the Spring to identify their goats.
- A maximum of 4 entries per exhibitor is allowed for wethers.
- Breeding Does & Bucks must be Identified on or before May 15 in 4hOnline for county and state fair goats.
- Each exhibitor may enter a maximum of 2 goats per class.
- Classes, descriptions and more details can be found in the Fair Rule Booklet and at the Spring Weigh-in.

Pets - Open to 4-H/FFA & Clover Kids only

- You do **not** need to turn in an ID form for pet entries.
- Pet class is for animals that cannot be shown in any other class

- or were not identified by May 15.
- Pets must be owned by the exhibitor or the exhibitor's family.
- No wildlife or ferrets may be entered.
- All animals must be confined in proper cage/leash.
Pets will be on the fairgrounds only on the day of the show.
- All cats/dogs must bring current rabies certificates.
- Complete details can be found in Fair Rule Booklet.

Myotonic (Fainting) Goats

- Exhibitor may enter 2 goats per class.
- Goats must be registered with Myotonic Goat Registry
- See rule booklet page 28 for more details.

Poultry

- Complete identification in 4hOnline by May 15.
- You may enter more than 1 exhibit in each class if they are different breeds.
- Pullorum tests must be performed on all birds within 90 days of the fair (excluding doves & pigeons).
- More details are in the Fair Rule Booklet.

Rabbit

- All rabbits must be purebred and a recognized American Rabbit Breeders Association breed. Rabbits that do not meet this qualification may be exhibited in the Pet class (see Pets). Purebred registration papers are not required, but 4-H'ers are urged to use a reputable breeder when purchasing.
- You should know what the show standards are for your breed of rabbit (what a good show rabbit should look like).
- You should also learn the parts of a rabbit and learn how to care for each breed of rabbit that you have. Rabbits are susceptible to extreme temperatures and can become ill quickly, so it is important to learn proper rabbit care. This is a very popular project and we have 4-H members who are willing to teach others. Contact our office if you have questions or would like us to hold a rabbit care workshop.
- Complete identification for county and state fair rabbits in 4hOnline by May 15. All rabbits must have a tattoo in their **LEFT** ear by May 15. Rabbit Superintendents hold a tattooing at the Fairgrounds prior to May 15 to ensure that all rabbits are tattooed.
- Exhibitors are encouraged to freeze water bottles to put in the cages with the rabbits at the fair in the case of extreme heat. The rabbits will lay against and lick the bottles to keep cool.
- We do not recommend bringing rabbits kept in a climate

11

cont'd pg. 12

- controlled environment to the fair, if exhibitors do, please acclimate them to the outside temperature prior to the fair.
- Exhibitors are limited to two bucks and/or does per breed and age division.
- More details are in the Fair Rule Booklet.

Sheep - Advanced Feeder

- Pens will consist of 3-4 lambs and must be Identified at the Spring Sheep Weigh-in. Watch the 4-H Newsletter for the date. Limit of 1 pen per 4-H'er. No rams are permitted.
- An ID form will be filled out by the exhibitor at the Spring Weigh-in. Keep a copy for your records.
- Submit **monthly** feed and health records to the Extension office by the 15th of each month.
- Sheep will be ear tagged at the weigh-in. Ear tags are \$3.00 each.
- Lambs must be sheared before fair, no longer than 3/4" wool.
- You will complete a weigh-in, evaluation and conference at the Fair to determine a winner.
- More details are in the Fair Rule Booklet.

Sheep - Market Lamb

- You may weigh in up to 15 lambs at the Spring Weigh-in. A maximum of 8 lambs can be shown in the Market Lamb class at the Fair. No rams will be allowed to weigh-in or exhibited.
- Lambs will be tagged at Spring Weigh-in, tags cost \$3.00 each. State Fair verification will also be performed at this weigh-in. Retinal Images will be taken for State Fair and Ak Sar Ben.
- Market Lambs must be sheared within 1/4" before fair.
- More specific details can be found in the Fair Rule Booklet.

Sheep - Derby Lamb

- Exhibitors are allowed to bring up to 12 lambs. All Derby Lambs are to be designated and scanned at the Fair Sheep Weigh-in.
- Derby Lambs are not required for Sheep exhibitors (as in the past).
- Entries are open to purebred, grade or crossbred wether or ewe lambs that still have lambs teeth, weighing **90 pounds** or more at the fair weigh-in.

Sheep - Commercial Ewes

- Exhibitors are allowed 2 entries in each class.
- Ewes must be slick sheared with no more than 1/4" of wool over the entire body.

12

Sheep - Purebred Breeding

- Complete a Livestock ID form by May 15 (or other date specified in monthly 4-H Newsletter).
- Exhibitors are allowed 2 entries in each class.
- Purebred ewes must be registered with breed association and papers must be available at the fair.
- Fleece shall be no more than one inch at fair.
- More details can be found in the Fair Rule Booklet.

State Fair Sheep

- Any lambs to be exhibited at the Iowa State Fair must be in 4hOnline by May 15 and approved by the 4-H families. Official State Fair registration must be completed in 4hOnline by July 1.

Swine

- All hogs coming to fair (with exception of Commercial Gilts) will either be sold on the truck or in the auction, no other hogs will be able to go back home. All Commercial Gilts that go home must be designated in the Fair Board office during fair.
- Pigs may be crossbred or purebred, either barrows or gilts.
- All pigs will be tagged and ear notched or notches read at the Spring Weigh-in (date TBA in 4-H Newsletter).
- Exhibitors may weigh-in 6 pigs in the spring with a maximum of 3 eligible to be shown at the fair.
- **All pigs must weigh 60 lbs. or less at the Spring Weigh-in.**
- Pigs at the fair must weigh a **minimum of 215 lbs** to compete for a purple or blue ribbon. More complete details are in the Fair Rule Booklet.
- State Fair Swine must use the Iowa 4-H issued DNA punch tags (due by May 15), official state fair registration will take place in June (due by July 1). DNA punch tags are available beginning in March and must be in ears and DNA envelopes returned to the Extension office by 4:30 p.m. on May 15.

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

- Refer to the Fair Rule Booklet for descriptions of project areas and classes. Project ideas include a special collection, exhibit, or an outgrowth of:
 - Animals: Animal Science & Veterinary Science; Crop Production, Environment and Sustainability, Horticulture and Plant Science, Home Grounds Improvement, Outdoor Adventures, Safety & Education in Shooting Sports (SESS), and Other Agriculture & Natural Resources.
- You do not need to be enrolled in these projects to exhibit them at the fair and no prior entry form is required at this time. These exhibits must include the Mahaska County 4-H Goal Sheet that answers the following questions:
 - What was your goal(s)?
 - How did you go about working toward your goal(s)?
 - What were the most important things you learned?
- Enter these exhibits at the fair by bringing them to the 4-H building (next to the Sheep/Rabbit/Poultry Barn) on Monday, July 18 at your assigned time. These exhibits are conference judged (the judge visits with you about your exhibit). A family member or club leader is welcome to sit with you and listen during the judging. Check the Fair Rule Booklet for entry and judging times for your specific club.
- 4-H'ers who have completed 5th grade and higher are eligible for State Fair selection.
- Only one exhibit per exhibitor may be chosen to advance to the State Fair, State Fair exhibition for purple ribbon "Considered for State Fair" exhibits is not guaranteed.
- You may wish to apply for a county agriculture project award or major award in the fall, if you choose to apply for awards you must be enrolled in an Agriculture and/or Natural Resources project for the year. You can enroll in a project area by indicating it on your 4-H Enrollment form. Projects can be added throughout the year by calling the ISU Extension and Outreach office.

HORTICULTURE

- All garden exhibits, both vegetables and floral, must be from a 4-H garden. For exhibit preparation, use the publication 4H 0464, "Preparing Cut Flowers & Houseplants for Exhibits" or the publication 4H 0462, "Harvesting & Preparing Vegetables for Exhibit". Read the Fair Rule Booklet class rules and guidelines carefully and follow entry instructions for each class.

Classes include:

- * Vegetable Exhibit on Plate
- * Vegetable Exhibit on Tray
- * Vegetable Exhibit Arranged in Booth
- * Floral Arrangement
- * Cut Flowers - single specimen
- * Collection of Flowers (5 or more)
- * Container Grown Plant
- * Container of Berries
- * Herb Collection
- * Follow-Up Exhibit
- * Garden Journal
- * Melon Head
- * State Fair Class

COMMUNICATIONS

- This project is designed to provide opportunities for you to develop your personal communication skills in sharing information. Watch the 4-H Newsletter for entry deadlines and performance dates and read the Fair Rule Booklet for rule information in each communications project area.
- **Educational Presentations** - give a public presentation individually or as a team. The subject matter should be an outgrowth of your own experiences or interests.
- **Working Exhibits** - informal sharing or demonstration of a subject. Your topic should provide action audience involvement by all ages.
- **Share-the-Fun** - encourages and helps put "fun" in 4-H. You may present skits, songs, stunts, etc. individually or as a group.
- **Extemporaneous Speaking** - share your experiences and knowledge of 4-H. State Fair participants must have completed 9th grade.
- **Posters** - provide the opportunity for you to communicate to the public using the non-verbal form of communication.

15

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

Family & Consumer Science exhibits will be judged on Monday of fair week in the Exhibit Hall. Each club will have a set time for judging and we ask that all members follow that schedule. If you have a conflict, please let us know well in advance. A volunteer will help you check in. Full details about this change can be found in the monthly 4-H newsletter.

You will be conference judged, meaning that a judge will visit with you about your exhibit. A family member or 4-H leader is welcome to sit with you and listen during the judging.

Remember to include a typed or hand-written Mahaska County 4-H Goal Sheet. This sheet is new and includes questions about your goals (see page 14 under Ag & Natural Resources). Some exhibit areas have additional requirements, like adding Design Elements & Art Principles or cost. Read the Fair Rule Booklet carefully for class rules.

Exhibits must include:

- **Entry Tag (filled out)**
- **Goal Sheet (filled out)**
- **Entry Form (filled out with ALL exhibits listed)**

All of the above forms/tags can be found at the Extension office or with your 4-H Leader.

Classes

- Child Development
- Food & Nutrition
- *Home Improvement
- *Clothing and Fashion
- Consumer Management
- Health
- *Visual Arts
- Music
- Poster Communications
- Personal Development (Citizenship & Civic Engagement, Communication, Leadership, Digital Storytelling, & Self-Determined,)
- Photography (requires special Photo Label avail. at Ext. Office)
- Other Family & Consumer Science

* May require explanation of Design Elements and/or Art Principles.

16

CLOTHING EVENT

- **Clothing Selection** - This project helps you to learn skills in buying clothing for a particular purpose. The outfit you select may be purchased from any source.
 - **Fashion Revue** - This project helps you to learn about constructing garments. You may sew, hand-knit or crochet a clothing item for this area.
 - **\$15 Challenge** - This project helps you understand consumer management and the outfit must be assembled and cost no more than \$15.00 (undergarments and accessories do not apply to final cost). Outfit/clothing items must be purchased from consignment shop, Salvation Army, Goodwill, Garage Sale, but **not** from a sale rack at a department store. Receipts must be attached to report form.
- * Report forms will be mailed to you after entering and must be filled out and brought to judging. You will wear your outfit during judging, which is conference-style.
- * State Event participants must be Senior-level 4-H members.
- * The 4-H Newsletter will contain deadlines and judging times.

SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

Science is a way for us to look at and try to understand the world around us. Being scientific involves being curious, observing, asking how things happen, and learning about how to find answers.

S, E, T Classes Include:

- Mechanics
- Woodworking
- Science, Engineering & Technology
- Automotive
- Electric
- Small Engine
- Tractor
- Welding

These exhibits will also be judged at the Fairgrounds on Monday of fair week. Any extra large exhibits or exhibits that will be on display outside may go and be set up.

- Exhibitors entered in the 4-H Science, Engineering, & Technology classes may not enter in similar FFA Ag Mechanics classes and vice-versa.

What's *THAT* about?

Teen Council - This is a group of Mahaska County 4-H members in 8th-12th grade that meet throughout the year to plan, coordinate and hold a variety of youth events and activities to help promote 4-H in a positive way. They also assist with Southern Iowa Fair events.

4-H Youth Taskforce - These are groups of Youth & Adult Volunteers that work together to plan, coordinate and implement a variety of 4-H and youth events throughout the county. They also make decisions about rules, policies, and special events.

Extension Council - This is a group of elected county officials who are the governing body over all of Extension and Outreach's programs in Mahaska County. They meet monthly and assist with Extension and 4-H/Youth Events throughout the year.

MCEO - This is the abbreviation for the Mahaska County Extension (and Outreach) Office and is used in a lot of communication from the Extension office and 4-H Leaders.

Region 14 - This is the region of Iowa that Mahaska County Extension belongs in. We are in this region with Poweshiek, Jasper & Marion Counties. Nathan Crane is our Region 14 Extension Education Director.

CYC - This is the abbreviation for the County Youth Coordinator, the person who coordinates the 4-H & Youth Programs for the county, a.k.a. Amy Brainard.

SIF/ISF - SIF stands for Southern Iowa Fair, ISF stands for Iowa State Fair.

JR - A Junior 4-H Member is in 4th-6th grade.

INT - An Intermediate 4-H Member is in 7th-9th grade.

SR - A Senior 4-H Member is in 10th-12th grade.

CWF - A trip (Citizenship Washington Focus) that Senior-level 4-H Members can attend in June to learn about citizenship, our state and our country.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Mahaska County

4-H PLEDGE

I pledge: My HEAD to clearer thinking,
My HEART to greater loyalty,
My HANDS to larger service and
My HEALTH to better living,
For my club, my community,
my country and my world.

The 4-H pledge was adopted officially in 1927 by 4-H members and leaders attending the first National 4-H Club Camp in Washington D.C.

4-H MOTTO: “To Make the Best Better”

4-H SLOGAN: “Learning by doing” is a slogan that has followed 4-H from the very beginning and is continued today.

FAIR

The Southern Iowa Fair is held in mid to late July each year. This is a great opportunity for you to exhibit a part of your project and have it evaluated. All exhibits will be judged by conference judging (one on one with the judge). You will receive a “Fair Rule Booklet” with exhibit rules each spring.

Some exhibits may also be exhibited at the Iowa State Fair. Ask your leader or call the Extension office to learn how entries are selected. State Fair Livestock and Small Animal entries are due July 1st at the Mahaska County Extension office. All State Fair exhibitors must have completed at least the 5th grade in order to participate.

DUES

4-H Membership costs \$35.00 for the year. This fee helps to cover the cost of the enrollment system and State 4-H Staff. Some clubs have their members pay a set club fee to help with monthly club expenses, your leader can tell you if your club requests an extra fee. Clover Kids Membership costs \$25.00 for the year. Financial Assistance is available to all who apply. Financial Aid forms can be found at the Extension office, often referred to as the MCEO.

Extension Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

4-H/Youth Staff

Amy (Ver Meer) Brainard
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County Youth Coordinator

Ashtin Harris
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Region 14 Youth Specialist

Iowa 4-H Mission

4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential through youth-adult partnerships and research-based experiences.

Iowa 4-H Vision

Preparing Iowa's youth to be successful, contributing members of society.

Outcomes of 4-H

- * Productive Citizens
- * Outstanding Communicators
- * Effective Leaders
- * Successful Learners

4-H Emblem

The green four-leaf clover has a white “H” on each leaf to represent
HEAD

HEART

HANDS

HEALTH



Age Divisions

Club membership is 4th-12th grades.

Juniors: 4th-6th grade
Intermediates: 7th-9th grade
Seniors: 10th-12th grade

My 4-H Goals:

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