

Getting Ready for Fair Checklist 2023:

- Always read the monthly Clover Express Newsletter
- Also – Like [Muscatine County 4-H on Facebook](#).
- Determine what type of project(s) your child wants to do:
 - Think about goals: If you are planning to exhibit at the county fair, remember to start with your project goal(s) and then think through some exhibit possibilities that will help you demonstrate the learning you have achieved through working on your project goal(s).
 - Learn more at the [4-H Project Page](#).
 - Check out the [Project Area Guidelines](#) for exhibit ideas for each project area.
- LIVESTOCK PROJECTS
 - By **May 15th** all animals, except pets, poultry, and rabbits, need to be identified in [4-H Online](#).
 - **Read the fair book** for 4-H & FFA Rules and Guidelines, Muscatine County Fair Board Rules and Guidelines, and the rules for the Department(s), Division(s), and Class(es) you are exhibiting in.
 - Look at the [Record Keeping Worksheet](#) for your type of livestock to learn about what kind of records you need to keep. All Project Worksheets are downloadable for free.
 - Between **May 16 - June 16**, enter all animals that you will exhibit at the fair into [FairEntry](#).
 - Each animal exhibit has an entry fee. After you enter all of your exhibits, send the total due to the Muscatine County Fair Office (P.O. Box 261 West Liberty, IA 52776).
 - YQCA: Certification required by Iowa 4-H for any 4-H'er showing beef, swine, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, poultry, or rabbits. The certificate must be obtained by **July 1st**. Call Katrina for details (563-263-5701, muscatine4h@iastate.edu) [YQCA Online Certification](#)
- STATIC PROJECTS
 - Check out [this guide](#) that will help with goal setting and recording keeping.
 - **Read the fair book** section about the project area (Division) and class you are interested in.
 - Create an Exhibit Write-Up. This report can look however you would like, but should include the answers to the following questions. [A template can be found here](#). A tip sheet [can be found here](#).
 - What were your exhibit/project goal(s)?
 - How did you go about working toward your goal(s)? What steps did you take?
 - What were the most important things you learned as you worked toward your goal(s)?
 - What costs did you have while working towards your goal(s)? (If applicable)
 - [Photography](#), Clothing, and Communication require separate forms for your write-up.
 - Awardrobe Clothing & Communications entries must be entered into [FairEntry](#) by **June 16th**.
 - Clothing & Educational Presentations judging is Monday, **July 10th** at the Extension Office.
 - Check the [Foods for Iowa 4-H Fairs – Quick Reference Guide](#) for rules regarding Food & Nutrition Exhibits.
 - Helpful hints: record how many hours the 4-H member spent on the project, keep a project budget, and take lots of pictures!
 - Although, there is not a deadline for Static exhibits (except Clothing and Communications) to be entered into [FairEntry](#) we encourage you to have them entered online by Thursday, July 13th before Conference Judging (on Monday, July 17th).
 - There is no fee for static exhibits at the county fair.
 - If a 4-H'er's exhibit is selected for State Fair, there may be a State Fair entry fee.
 - Conference Judging is **July 17th** - each club has an assigned time to attend, posted in the fair book.
 - Record your fair exhibit in your record book under the appropriate project area. Use the [Basic](#), [Advanced](#), or [Experienced](#) Project Area Record worksheet to write your goals, etc.
- OTHER FAIR INFORMATION:
 - 4-H Members need to wear a 4-H t-shirt or Fair Exhibitor t-shirt to Conference judging (July 17th) and Livestock shows (unless otherwise specified.) T-shirts can be purchased for \$12 at the Extension Office

before July 13th, at Conference judging on July 17th, and then in the 4-H Livestock Office on the fairgrounds during the fair.

- [Tickets to the Muscatine County Fair](#) can be purchased from the Muscatine County Fair. There is a discount for tickets purchased before June 1st.
- Conference judging is July 17th (Monday before Fair starts), Livestock shows are at different times – look at the Fair Schedule in the fair book to find your show time/day.
 - [Map of fairgrounds](#) – the location of each show is in the Fair Book.
 - The Fair Schedule includes times that animals must be on the fair grounds and release times for animals. Static exhibits must be picked up after 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 23rd.
- Hosting the 4-H Building – each club is asked to host the 4-H building during fair. Talk to your 4-H Club Leader for more info.
 - Hosting the building is a way for 4-H'ers to talk about 4-H and ensure the safety of the displayed projects. Please wear your 4-H t-shirt!
- 4-H Booth Decoration – every club will have a booth in the 4-H Building. All static exhibits are on display throughout the fair at your club's booth. Clubs decorate the booths per the annual theme. Your Club Leader will help coordinate this. Booth decorating is on Friday, July 14th either from 9-noon or 6-8 pm.
- 4th grade 4-H'ers are not eligible for state fair.

Definitions:

- Livestock project – anything that breathes except for Pet Projects.
- Static project – non-breathing projects – Anything NOT under Animals on the 4-H project page.
- Project – the area in which your exhibit fits and the project area you learn about all year-round
- Exhibit – an actual entry in the fair
- Conference Judging – judging of Static Exhibits where youth speak one-on-one with a judge.
- 4hOnline – website to enroll your child in 4-H and identify & nominate animals you might take to the fair.
- FairEntry – website to enter any exhibit (livestock or static) into the Muscatine County Fair 4-H/FFA shows. All of your information from 4hOnline is pulled into FairEntry. Enter the actual exhibits you will be bringing to the fair in FairEntry. You will use your 4hOnline username and password to log into FairEntry.
- Department- The largest category of exhibits in the Fair Book. (e.g. Static, Communications, Beef, Swine, Pets, etc.)
- Division- The second largest category of exhibits in the Fair Book. Divisions fall under Departments. Examples of Divisions are Creative Arts, Family & Consumer Sciences, Purebred Breeding Swine, Dog Obedience, et.
- Class – The third largest category of exhibits in the Fair Book. Classes fall under Divisions. For example, Beef has different classes based on breed, Creative Arts has different classes for different types of art (music, photography, visual arts, etc.)
- Market animal – animals that could go to market for food consumption.