

# State Fair Exhibits

## Questions & Answers 2006

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Each year brings a new set of questions from 4-H members, families, and extension staff. Here are some 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

**Q. A 4-H'er created a spread sheet that has a home inventory on it. She is trying to figure out if it would be best to enter it in Computer or in Home Imp. If HI which area; home maintenance?**

A. Key question - why did the member create the spread sheet? IF it was to learn how to use a spreadsheet - then likely a computer class entry. IF it was created to manage/track/something with the home inventory, and she happened to use a computer instead of pencil and paper - then not a computer exhibit, but more likely Home Improvement or Consumer Management. Whether it might be a HI 531E (Maintenance) or HI 531F (other) entry, or CM 541A (Consumer Plans & Record Keeping) depends on the answer to the question - why did she create the spread sheet? How will it be used? What is the purpose? If her answer is to track home inventory for insurance type reasons, then consumer management should probably be given stronger consideration.

**Q. I grew ornamental corn and want to exhibit the ears at our fair. What 4-H exhibit class do I enter?**

A. There is not a place to simply exhibit the ears of corn within the Horticulture specimen classes (beans, peas, tomatoes, radishes, etc.). A member could exhibit specimen ears of the ornamental corn as part of a larger exhibit within class 711A Horticulture. (See the above question on tomato plants for a similar question.) Topics such as cultivation/care of ornamental corn, uses of the corn, history of, colors of, experiment on selecting for specific colors, etc., would be appropriate for a class 711A exhibit. Use of specimens could be a nice visual to accompany such an exhibit.

If the member made the ears into some type of ornamental decoration for use in the home, the resulting decoration could be exhibited as part of a Home Improvement exhibit. The member will need to discuss elements and principles of design, how this decoration fits the room scheme, how colors accent or complement, etc.

**Q. Three members in our 4-H club prepared a group exhibit. Two of the members are in 8th grade and the other is in 4th grade. Can this exhibit be selected for the state fair?**

A. No. All participants in the exhibit must be of 4-H state fair participation age for the exhibit to be selected for state fair. The only exceptions are a total club Share The Fun (which has a percentage requirement), and we would allow the selection of an exhibit that was truly a total club exhibit. Congratulate the three members on a great exhibit, thank the older members for the effort to involve and help a younger member with exhibits, encourage them all to work together again, and tell them that hopefully they'll have an opportunity for state fair selection with another group exhibit when they all are of state fair exhibition age.

**Q. I restored an old toy pedal tractor. Does this go in the 441A Tractor class (Repaired or Restored Tractor)?**

A. No. A pedal tractor is a toy tractor. Class 441A is for "working" tractors. Since restoration usually involves several techniques and processes, one possible exhibit class would be Class 601A (Other Science Mechanics and Engineering Ideas). There may be other choices depending on the exhibitor's goals.

**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.**

**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. I made a quilt out of an old bedspread and sample material (from sample books) that I got from my Grandma. I want to exhibit the quilt at the fair. Can I enter it in the recyclable category?**

A. This clearly fits into one of the clothing or home-improvement classes as an outgrowth of work within those project areas. Now, which one? What is/was your goal? Ask yourself these questions: - Why did you make this quilt? and Why did you choose these materials or this process? The answers should help guide your decision.

From the information provided, it appears you wanted to make a quilt. The recycling part is secondary to the making and design of the quilt. Where would you enter the quilt if it weren't made from an old bedspread and samples? Most likely you would consider Home Improvement 531D "Fabrics in the Home" or Clothing 511A "Clothing Design and Creative Sewing". The difference would be for HI more emphasis is placed on the design of the quilt, how it fits within the room where used/displayed, etc. and in Clothing more emphasis on the quality of the construction technique. Design elements and principles are important for both, and quality of construction is still important in HI.

If the goal was specifically to make an item from old/unused/scrap material, then maybe it could be an entry in 531E "Maintenance in the Home". You will need to discuss more than just "I made this from old material". You will also need to discuss the how, the why, the importance of recycling material. Just because an item is made from recycled parts does not make it a good entry in this class. You could also convince me that Clothing 511D "Other Clothing and Sewing Ideas" is appropriate, with the discussion around using reclaimed materials if that was your primary goal. This may actually be a better option than the HI 531E class.

**Q. Can my two kids do a Citizenship project jointly and prepare a joint fair exhibit? They are going to sell a homemade product and donate the proceeds to the town swimming pool remodeling project. Can they do their exhibit report together or do they need to do everything separately?**

A. They can do this together. Fair exhibits may be done by an individual or group. They could prepare one "report" and one set of responses to the four questions (What was the goal, what did you do, what did you learn, what next), or they might each prepare a separate set of responses, even though this is one exhibit.

Why might they respond separately? Perhaps they had different goals, maybe the two members learned different things, maybe they had different roles in the activity, any number of things. This may not be something they can determine until later. In any event, they will want to discuss not only what they did, but what they learned about citizenship through the activity. How did this activity help them become a better citizen? What did they learn about themselves as a result? What will they do with this information/knowledge in the future, how will they apply what they learned?

**Q. I have a girl in my 4-H club that has refurbished a manure spreader with her dad. What project does this go under? It is not a tractor or an automobile. Does it just go under Self Determined?**

A. The appropriate exhibit class depends on the member's goal. There are several options, however self-determined is NOT a good choice. Project work and exhibits that relate to one of the specific project areas should be completed and exhibited in the project area most closely related and not dumped into self-determined. A machinery restoration clearly can be an outgrowth of one of the other project areas.

When you say "with her dad", one of the questions I have is what role did her dad have in the restoration? Did they work together on all of it? Did her dad do part and the member did part? Did the member do the work and relied on her dad for guidance? Just what did the member do? We believe youth working with and learning from adults is very appropriate in 4-H work. However, the 4-H fair exhibit should represent the member's work.

One appropriate place for exhibits representing "joint" project work (youth and adults) is the 4-H Family/Historical Heritage class. This is the one class where youth are expected to involve adults in the goals and work of the activities. For a restored manure spreader to fit, they would not only work together to restore, but would need to discuss why this manure spreader. Is there a history, a family connection, was this the first spreader grandpa used, something that connects the 4-H'er to the spreader.

As we think about other exhibit classes, the young lady first needs to answer the questions - Why did I restore this manure spreader? What was my purpose? What did I want to learn? Was it to use her woodworking, welding, and other mechanical skills to restore the spreader to working condition? Perhaps she wanted to restore it, park it in the yard, landscape around it, plant flowers in it, and use as a landscape feature. These are two very different goals.

Assuming the goal was to mechanically restore the manure spreader, depending on construction of the spreader, she likely used woodworking skills, welding skills, used a variety of tools, paint, etc. in the restoration process. The restoration is easily an outgrowth of work related to woodworking, welding, or both. In any case, it is related to Science, Mechanics, and Engineering, and could be exhibited in the SME 601A class, "Other SME Idea". This is a good class for project work involving combinations of skills from multiple project areas, and is a good example of why we have an "Other" class in each of the exhibit departments. If the spreader is wooden and her part of the work was in the restoration of the wood parts, an exhibit in Woodworking 461B class (display, idea, techniques, etc.) could be appropriate. Likewise, if it is a metal spreader and she used extensive welding skills, the Welding class 411 could be used. Most likely, the 601A class is the best option.

If the goal is to park it and use for a decorative yard feature, then Horticulture 711B "Home Grounds Improvement" works. She'll need to discuss how it fits with the landscape design, or how it was used as a focal part of the design. The evaluation criteria would not be on the restoration of the spreader, but how it works as part of landscape design.

**Q. I have a 4-H'er whose grandfather taught him how to make knives out of chisel blades from a cultivator. Can he exhibit the knives at the fair or not? I couldn't find a rule about knives being included in an exhibit, but wanted to be sure. And if he can, what safety precautions should he take?**

A. If the exhibit should be selected for the state fair, the knives stay home. That seems somewhat harsh and restrictive, but that is in keeping with the Iowa State Fair policies of no weapons on the grounds and no exceptions.

Let's address it from a county perspective. The knives could be included. Safety is a prime concern and there are several things you, and the member, need to address. If the knives are to be publicly displayed, how will they be secured to A) prevent theft and B) prevent injury to those viewing the exhibit? What precautions do you want the member to take when bringing the exhibit to be judged? Check in on arrival? Secure knives until judging? Procedure after judging? If the decision is to allow the knives for judging (which makes some sense in a judge being able to see the end result), but then remove the knives from the fairgrounds and not display them, the rest of the display should be sufficient enough to stand alone to tell the story. This might be a good example where a poster to show the process, along with appropriate photos, makes a better educational display than the actual knives.

If the exhibit is strong enough that the judge is considering for state fair, (and the knives were part of the evaluation), he/she needs to be aware that the knives will not be allowed at the state fair and the evaluation will be based on the remainder of the exhibit.

**Q. I have a club leader who is going to purchase these lawn or garden type ornaments that are made out of concrete and will look like 3 parts of caterpillar (worm) when placed in the lawn or garden. Each 4-H'er in the club will be painting their own. She wanted to make sure that the kids were entered in the correct exhibit class in order to take to our county fair. Would these be visual art exhibits (not sure if it would be original art or pre-determined) or Home Improvement as "Accessories for the Home" as they would be using it outside, but still on their own property?**

A. That's nice. I'm sure they'll be colorful. But what is the purpose of the activity? How does it relate to the goals - "What I want to learn" - members (should) have already set for the projects they have already enrolled in? From what you've described, there appears to be little input into the activity by the 4-H members, and it would seem they have no decisions to make other than color of their caterpillar.

The appropriate class may vary with the individual member. It could be a visual arts exhibit. It would not be exhibited in the original art class as this is not something truly of the 4-H'ers creation. It could be exhibited in the 821B Technique class, with the technique being painting & design on concrete with paint appropriate for outside use. They would discuss the color, design, choice of materials, etc. they used for their caterpillar, why they chose it, what design elements/principles used - all the things that go with any other exhibit in the visual arts.

Home Improvement is not an appropriate exhibit class. While we could extend the home improvement exhibits to include the immediate front porch, the home yard does not fit.

It would seem that Horticulture - Home Grounds Improvement would be a far better fit for most of these 4-H'ers. Home grounds improvement has long been a part of the Horticulture exhibit class, and for 2005, a separate 711B class is established for Home Grounds Improvement. (see the January State Fair Handbook updates for details). We would expect entries in this class to include decks, complete landscape designs, small ponds, possibly garden sculpture (depending on the goals), and yes, even decorative concrete caterpillars. They will need to discuss why a caterpillar for their yard, where it goes, how it fits the design, etc.

And finally, it could be nothing at all. Not everything a 4-H'er does as part of their 4-H activities or 4-H project work needs to be (or should be) exhibited at a fair. This would be a stronger activity if the members had some choice about what item to choose (caterpillar, bird, turtle, frog, alien, etc.), or if the members take what they learn, and then apply it to another item of their own choosing. Be sure to inform the county fair judges at your orientation that they likely will be seeing several decorative caterpillars as a result of a group project activity.

**Q. Scrapbooking is a hot trend. In what exhibit class should scrapbooks be entered?**

A. This is going to be a rather long answer to a seemingly short question. Start at the beginning. Fair exhibits are to be an outgrowth from work in a project area. (You might want to refer the member/leader to publications 4H-203-C "Strengthening Goal-Centered Learning in the Exhibit Experience (for 4-H'ers)" and the companion piece for Volunteers 4H-203-A.) In what projects is the member enrolled? What are the member goals for learning about/working with "scrapbooks"? Then we move to the exhibit goals. How can the member show what was learned in their project work through a fair exhibit? What is it about the scrapbook that demonstrates/tells what they learned? Why a scrapbook?

The best exhibit class for a "scrapbook" very much depends on the goal(s) of the member. There is no one best answer that fits every member or every scrapbook. However, there are some exhibit classes that are likely to be a better fit than others.

If the goal of preparing a scrapbook is to demonstrate what the member has learned about visual design, creative visual/artistic techniques, use of a scrapbook as art, etc., then the Visual Arts class 821B (Design/Technique Exploration) might be a good fit. The member will discuss what they learned about stamping, cutting, shapes, color, texture, how they used the tools/techniques to develop a theme, steps involved, etc. for visually enhancing the information to be displayed in the scrapbook. There should be some elements of individual creativity used if the scrapbook is displayed as an example of their work. This is probably the most common exhibit class for members who wish to exhibit their scrapbook techniques.

Somewhat related is Visual Arts class 821C (Other Visual Arts Topics). A member who has a goal of informing others about the "scrapbooking craft trend", why people like it, what's involved, what's needed, career opportunities in scrapbooking (e.g. the company reps, home parties), etc., could prepare an exhibit appropriate for this class.

Perhaps the goal is to educate with the information about work in a project, and a scrapbook is simply used as a tool to display/organize the information. For example, a scrapbook about a leadership activity/project work; a scrapbook about safety education; a scrapbook about clothing design. In this case, the appropriate exhibit class is the one related to the information - leadership, safety, or clothing. The evaluation is based on the goal related to the project work with little emphasis on the creative aspect (if used) of the scrapbook pages.

A member in photography could have a goal of exploring ways to display and exhibit photos. They explore scrapbooks as one method of displaying and exhibiting, and create and exhibit related to what they learned as they worked on their goal. They might discuss the when, how, where, etc. of scrapbooking/scrapbooks as a method of displaying/preserving photographs. An exhibit in Photography class 851D (Other Photo Idea) might be appropriate, and evaluation of the exhibit is based on their goal as it related to their project learnings.

Maybe the member has all their photos in shoeboxes taking up valuable closet space. Their goal is to organize the closet and they use scrapbooks to organize the photos. Now we could have an outgrowth of the Home Improvement project, and class 531E (Maintenance in the Home) is appropriate. Or perhaps the goal is to have an attractive item to be displayed in the family living room. Think decorative, coffee table book, etc. Home Improvement class 531C (Accessories for the Home) could be a choice if the reason for the scrapbook is to accent the room decor. I think few members would choose this option, but again, depending on the goals, it might fit for someone.

Help members work through and set project goals and exhibit goals, help them think through the "why" of their exhibits, and help them explore options so they can make their own choices.

**Q. In what fair class do table settings go? Are menus needed?**

A. The two most common classes would be F&N 521B or HI 531C. First, sometimes we need to remind leaders/parents/members that we do not have a "place setting" exhibit class. Years ago we did, but we haven't had one for some time. Which gets us to the why - why does the member want to exhibit a place setting? What is the purpose? What is the exhibit goal? Help the member work through the "why" and we should be better able to get the exhibit placed in an appropriate class, and hopefully help the member have a stronger exhibit.

If the exhibit is an outgrowth of food & nutrition work, and the goal is for an exhibit related to menu planning & food service, then yes, a menu is certainly needed. But don't stop with including a menu. We expect the member to tell us why those menu choices were made, how they fit with the family/individual diet, how those choices meet nutritional needs. Is this a one time special meal or a "regular meal"? What are portion sizes? For example, a member preparing a display with a traditional mid-western Thanksgiving meal (turkey, dressing, potatoes, pie, salad, veggies, appetizers, etc.) would be well advised to clearly articulate this is a one-time special meal, address the high caloric content in the meal, discuss how it fits into normal choices, discuss how portion sizes using this menu can be modified, or perhaps even modify the ingredients to have the meal be a healthier choice. (not that there's anything inherently unhealthy about turkey and dressing and gravy as long as we watch how much we eat!) Then the member can discuss what table setting options were chosen and why.

The only example I can think of quick that would not involve a menu for an exhibit in the F&N class would be one focused strictly on the functionality of items. Types of forks, proper way to set the table, different glassware for different beverages, accessibility issues, etc. An actual place setting may not be the best choice to illustrate some of those.

If the exhibit is an outgrowth of Home Improvement, we're likely looking at the accessories class. The member will still discuss a little about why they chose these items to go with the menu. What they'll really get into is how the table setting fits with the decor - of the meal, of the kitchen, etc. Perhaps it's a multi-function setting, one that can be used for several events. Whatever it is, they need to discuss it. They'll include design elements and art principles - color, line, shape - how that all adds to the ambiance of the meal, the room, the event. Why did they choose this style and shape glass for this formal meal? Is it appropriate? That kind of thing.

And there could be exhibits including a place setting that would fit other exhibit classes. I can think of ways for a member working in child development to discuss/display items for children in the Child Development exhibit area.

The "display box" dimensions for other exhibits do not apply to table settings. If they exhibit a place/table setting, they will arrange it using the space needed. The only reason a "box" would be needed is to hold the items in place. At the Iowa State Fair, it would be displayed on a shelf inside a display case with no box. If a box is used for the county, just size it to accommodate the place setting.

## 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.

**Q. We have a young girl who actually made a shirt and saddle pad to use when showing her horse, and she wants to enter it as Horseless Horse Project. Would this be better under Self-Determined? She does not want to be judged on stitching and sewing technique, but by how this pertains to her participation in the Horse Project.**

A. Nearly all exhibits developed by a member participating in the Horseless Horse project are likely to fit in ANR 101A, Animal Science. These exhibits are a direct result of their participation in the Horseless Horse project area. The ANR 101A class is designed to accommodate exhibits resulting from work in any of the animal projects. Since her goal in this case is to relate the shirt and saddle pad exhibit to the Horse project, the Animal Science class is very appropriate.

**Q. A 4-H'er had a horse that injured its leg and she found a product that worked wonders on healing the injury. She wants to do an animal science exhibit on that product. She has a couple other different salves she has used in the past for similar injuries, but no pictures to go with them. She has taken pictures with the new product she has tried. Can she do her exhibit on that one product or does she need to do a comparison with similar products?**

A. Neat idea. She can do what you're describing. I'm guessing she's planning something about the injury, and then steps in rehabilitation. She could discuss in some type of report to accompany the poster/display that she had used other products in the past, and what happened. Then when the injury happened this time, she opted to try something new, and decided to document what happened with photos.

Since she doesn't have photos/visuals of the other products, for the visual display part of her exhibit, she might want to stick to a factual account - this is what happened, this is how I treated, this was the result. Leave any comparisons for whatever type of "report" (response to the four questions) she includes with the exhibit. If her conclusion is that Product C works better than Product A, so be it. That's part of her learning in the project area. Whether that conclusion is appropriate will be determined by her methods and evaluation of outcomes.

**Q. A 4-H member has a potted tomato plant that she's been growing. She doubts very much that it will be ready to bear ripe tomatoes by the county fair. The 4-H'er wants to show the plant as a project about learning how to care for plants only. I wondered if this might be a better notebook or poster type project, but the 4-H'er would prefer to bring the potted tomato plant.**

A. Class 711A - Horticulture. Caring for plants is easily an outgrowth of participation in the Horticulture project. I would encourage the member to bring a poster, report, something in addition to the plant. Something to convey information other than the plant is needed for a stronger exhibit. The plant could be a good visual to demonstrate a well cared for and properly fertilized plant. If the plant has been in the container the whole time, a poster discussing care of container grown vegetables would be a nice fit. I'm sure the member might think of other appropriate topics for a poster/display as well.

## Clothing & 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-Her 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 to 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

**Q. I've been selected to give my Working Exhibit at the Iowa State Fair. How many supplies do I need?**

A. Plan on supplies for at least 100 participants (60 for junior exhibitors). Senior working exhibits (grades 7-12) are presented for 45 minutes; junior working exhibits (grades 5-6) are presented for 25 minutes. Here's how I figure the math.

If your activity takes 3 minutes to complete, then 15 people can do the activity in 45 minutes (45 divided by 3 = 15). Figure that 6 people can be at the working exhibit table at once, so multiply 15 by 6 to get 90 people in a 45 minute time span. If it takes a less time to do the activity, then you'll need more supplies. Adjust accordingly. Figure that sometimes extra folks may crowd the table, so you'll need a few more supplies, so round up. You don't want to run out!

Plan on having extras, and then present your working exhibit locally this fall at a children's fair or other 4-H promotion event. That will help use up the extra materials and give you an opportunity to promote 4-H communications.

**Q. Can 4-H members from two different counties do an educational presentation or working exhibit together?**

A. Yes, members from two counties could present as a team. They should have the OK from both counties (can't see why anyone would not allow that), and they should decide in which county they will be formally evaluated and have the opportunity to be selected for state fair or other opportunities. They get one chance to be selected for state fair, not in both counties.

**Q. I will be doing a 4-H Educational Presentation at the state fair. I prepared my visuals using PowerPoint and need to use an LCD projector. I know it is very bright in the 4-H building; will the audience be able to see the slide show, and do I need to bring my own projector?**

A. Yes, it is bright in the 4-H building presentation rooms, even with a fabric shade on the windows. The audience will be able to see the visuals - if you do your job in effectively preparing your PowerPoint slides for use in bright conditions. I would advise you to select a background and font color combination that will project well in lighted viewing conditions. This usually means a light or white background, with black or dark colored text, just the opposite of formats many of us use in darker conditions. This may mean you will need to make changes to the slide template from the current design. Other graphics and photos often depend on the quality of the initial image. There may also be some adjustments that can be made to the computer resolution to allow better viewing. Practice at home in varying conditions and with varying formats to see what works best.

We will have an LCD projector available. However, some members may be more comfortable using a projector they have practiced with. That will be up to you. Members do need to bring their own computer, and should have all appropriate connecting cables and know how to connect them. Projection screens are used in the presentation rooms; we supply those. Please check with your county extension office to make sure they indicated on the communication event database entry form this will be a computer/LCD presentation. That will help us in scheduling and making sure we have the right equipment available in the right presentation room when it is time for your presentation

**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?**

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. We had our county Share The Fun event and selected the three acts for state fair. One of the acts was a group of members from a 4-H club. Now that they've been selected to perform at the state fair, they want to add several more members from the club to the performance. Can they do this?**

A. Ultimately, this is a county decision. We will accept the performance as the county enters it, as we don't know how many performed with the group at the county event. However, it is my general recommendation that counties not permit these type of substantial changes to communication event entries. You could potentially be



accused of showing favoritism, and that allowing one group to significantly change their act is unfair or inequitable to other groups not selected. County offices don't need that hassle.

In this case, several additional members now want to participate. They were not involved with the Share The Fun act before the county event. It is not appropriate that they reap the reward of a state fair performance when they were not part of the group that worked to earn it.

**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.

**Q. One of our members is preparing a 4-H Poster Communication exhibit with the theme "Only at the Fair". Since this is the Iowa State Fair theme, does the poster need to relate 4-H to the fair, or can it be only around the idea that 4-H is "Only at the Fair"?**

A. If a member wants to tie 4-H and fairs with this theme, go for it. If the member wants to communicate only a 4-H idea, great. Perhaps the member could identify 4-H activities that are "Only at the Fair". Just don't use pre-existing logos/artwork other than the 4-H emblem on the poster (e.g. state conference logo, state fair logo). 4-H members should use the given themes and develop their own concept for the poster to promote 4-H.

**Q. One of our members restored an antique rifle. Can this be exhibited at the county fair? State Fair?**

**Q. One of our members is doing an educational presentation on gun safety and wants to use a shotgun in the presentation. Is this allowed?**

A. Probably Yes for county fair; No for state fair. (However, please check with your county fairboard or other exhibition location to see if they have policies restricting firearms in 4-H exhibits.)

We believe it is quite appropriate for members interested in guns/gun safety/hunting/wildlife, etc. to prepare exhibits or give educational presentations on gun safety and related topics. If the member wants to display a gun at your county fair as part of an exhibit, we encourage a discussion with the member about how to safely display the gun. This includes safety for the viewing public, and safety of the exhibit, not unlike safety with other valuable items on exhibit. This would include not exhibiting any ammunition, removing gun parts as needed to make the gun inoperable, installation of trigger locks, and securing the gun as needed. As with other valuable exhibit items, the member should be aware that while county extension staff will attempt to display the item as securely as possible, there is always some possibility, despite your best efforts, of damage to and/or theft of exhibit pieces.

For an educational presentation at the county, much the same. The member should bring the gun cased, trigger locks installed, and it should be inoperable. Leave the ammo at home. I often suggest the member check the gun in with extension staff when they arrive, obtain it in time for the presentation, and then remove the gun from the presentation area and secure it in their vehicle immediately when finished.

There is no reason not to select a qualified exhibit or presentation using firearms for the state fair. However, the Iowa State Fair policy is no firearms (or other weapons) on the fairgrounds during the Iowa State Fair. We have asked about their use in exhibits and educational presentations, and the State Fair Patrol has consistently said no means no. There is not an exception during the state fair for the 4-H building, no matter what security precautions we might offer. The member will need to modify his presentation to use a model or some other prop to substitute for the gun. We realize this is sometimes a little awkward for the 4-H'er, but believe our members are resourceful and will make the best of the situation. For an exhibit, the member will exhibit any poster, display, report, etc. documenting the restoration process (or other topic), but the firearm must remain safely at home.

State fair judges have been instructed in the past, and will be again, about state fair policy, and that the 4-H member is not to be penalized during the evaluation of an exhibit or presentation because they are unable to use the firearm as they did at the county.

**Q. A 4-H member giving an educational presentation at the state fair wants to use part of his exhibit selected for the state fair in his presentation. Can he do this?**

A. Yes. Because the item will be removed from display for only a brief period, he can use the item in his state fair communication event. Have the member inform our staff during the communication event check-in that an exhibit is needed for the presentation, and where the exhibit is located. The member should not remove the item on his own. Our building and communication staff will assist the member in removing the item for use in the presentation, and replacing the item as soon as the presentation is completed.

**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.

## 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 a 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. 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. 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) become 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. We had a girl do an educational presentation and in it she sang the Happy Birthday song. She did not reference the song writers and we have a mom who says it is copyrighted. Is this against copyright to sing the song in its entirety and not give credit to the song writers?**

A. An interesting question. Mom is right. The song is copyrighted and will remain under protection until at least 2030. The "Happy Birthday" song generates over two million dollars in royalty payments each year. Can the young lady sing the song during her presentation without violating copyright? I believe the answer is yes. Some would argue the point, but I believe members giving educational presentations are similar to teachers in a classroom. We give them a little more freedom to use some materials than we would if the same materials were being used in an exhibit. Should the member credit the song writers? Yes, that is most appropriate, and if the member advances to state fair, she should be strongly encouraged to work that into her presentation. Do fees/royalty payments need to be made? If this were a commercial use, yes. In this 4-H use, no.

Now, who to credit? The Happy Birthday song has a most interesting history. The authors of the melody have been determined, but not the author(s) of the words. For way more information than you probably really want to know about the Happy Birthday song, an excellent article, complete with bibliography, is located at <http://www.snopes.com/music/songs/birthday.htm>. I have found the same information from several reliable sources, and believe the information in the referenced article to be accurate.

## 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 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. 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. 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. 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. A 4-He'r is making a purse out of the juice pouches (I think she said the Cool-Aide Jammers pouches). Does this present a copyright violation? They saw something similar at another fair, but just want to be safe.**

A. I've had several questions about these "purses", plus assorted variations on other items made from products (including Gatorade bottles and cereal box purses). I suspect this will be one of the "in" things this year. No copyright problem. If there is a potential issue, it would be a trademark or possibly a patent issue. These will be OK for our fair exhibitions. See the June 4 Q&A on a table made from Gatorade bottles for more details.

**Q. A member downloaded music from the Internet to use with her fair exhibit on music styles. Can she do this?**

A. It depends on whether she downloaded the music legally or illegally. There certainly are many ways to obtain music legally from commercial sites (e.g. Apple iTunes, eMusic, RealPlayer) either for a fee or sometimes at no charge. However, there continues to be ample opportunity to illegally acquire music from the Internet. The member should be able to document the source of the music and that it was acquired legally. Once legally obtained, she may mix and match to create a "compilation" CD for her personal use. Since the CD will not be played (other than by the judge for evaluation), the CD can be part of the 4-H exhibit.

**Q. Do authors really respond to 4-H members? Is it even possible for members to obtain permission to use or adapt materials created by someone else?**

A. Given enough time, original authors sometimes do respond to 4-H member requests to use materials. Just this week a member wrote to an author, described what she had done, and asked permission to display material the member had written in the style of, and based on, an author's work. The author responded with a brief statement "This is fine. Have fun." You don't know until you ask. But you need to ask.

**Q. One of our members created a woodcarving based on a figurine. They asked if exhibiting the woodcarving in Home Improvement (Accessories for the Home) instead of Visual Arts (Technique Exploration) would avoid copyright issues. Is this true?**

A. No. Copyright is as much of an issue in Home Improvement as in Visual Arts or any other exhibit class. While the evaluation criteria for the exhibit would be somewhat different, the requirement to show the source of design and inspiration do not change. The woodcarving in this example is still a derivative work that requires permission of the original sculptor (or copyright holder) to create in a new form. See the Q&A in the July 2 FOCUS for a more complete discussion of copyright related to derivative pieces.

**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 to 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.

**Q. A 4-H member made a red and gold pillow with "ISU" sewn on. Is this allowed to be exhibited?**

**Q. One of our 4-H members made an original drawing that used "ISU with red and gold lines. Can he exhibit this at the fair?**

A. Yes, the use of "ISU" in an exhibit as described above could be allowed. The Iowa State University Trademark Policy can be found at <http://www.trademark.iastate.edu/policy/tm-management.pdf>. That policy, and specifically item 3.B.(1)a., says (in part) that: licensing is required for all non-University users except when the use : (emphasis added) is by an artist in an original work of art which will not be reproduced.

It's reasonable to interpret the above statement as allowing a 4-H member to use and display ISU marks in their 4-H fair exhibits. It is still a good idea if a member wants to go beyond using the letters "ISU" in a design (for example, drawing "Cy" or the athletic logo), to ask permission. I have seen several letters of permission from the ISU Research Foundation granting the use of various ISU marks, logos, and emblems in 4-H exhibits. Go Cyclones!

**Q. One of our 4-H members is making a show box and wants to paint the Iowa Hawkeyes emblem on it. She wants to know if this acceptable to exhibit?**

A. I'm not sure we should approve anything that has to do with Hawkeyes! However, if the 4-H member is unable to see the light and convert to the Cyclone faithful, and insists on using an emblem from the dark side, they need permission. The U of Iowa does claim the team names and logos as trademarks. While the U of Iowa tends to be more generous and liberal with their licensing policies than some universities, permission is still needed before painting the logo on the showbox. Applying a purchased decal would not require permission.

My experience has been when kids write and ask, universities very rarely say no to something like this. She has time before the fair. Have them ask. Contact info for U of Iowa sports can be found at <http://hawkeyesports.collegesports.com/licensing/iowa-licensing.html>

**Q. One of our 4-H members downloaded lyrics from the Internet for a Kenny Chesney song. Then she screened the lyrics on a piece of muslin and framed it. She wants to exhibit it at our fair. Are there copyright concerns with this?**

A. Yes, there are copyright concerns. Publicly available does not mean public domain or acceptable to use. This is a nice thing to do if the only place it will ever be seen is on the wall of the 4-H member's home. It is not a good thing to do for public display. It's easy to find song lyrics. Every song lyric website I looked at clearly said (in some manner) that all lyrics were provided for educational or personal use and that all lyrics are property of the author, writer, publisher, or artist. The websites do not have authority to grant others permission to use the lyrics. Educational and personal uses in this case do not extend to the item you described. Her exhibit would not be permitted to include the lyrics without permission from the proper copyright owners.

You didn't say what exhibit class(es) the member is considering. I'm guessing this perhaps has something to do with visual arts technique (printing on fabric?), perhaps home improvement? If the purpose is to demonstrate the technique and skills involved and what the member learned, they can demonstrate this using material that it is

not copyrighted. Or write the copyright holder(s) of the lyrics and ask permission. They can find the copyright holder(s) to the lyrics by looking at the information contained on the CD liner jacket.

## Food & Nutrition

**Q. Is it required for 4-H'ers in the Food & Nutrition project area to break down the cost per serving on food items that they have made?**

A. It is not required, but would be a good idea. This will show extra effort, and that the member knows something about costs and serving sizes. For more experienced members, a nutritional analysis of the product is also a good idea. This will demonstrate they have actually learned about the nutritional value of the products they're making.

**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. How many cookies, muffins, etc. are required for a 4-H food exhibit? I don't see anything in the fairbook to tell how many are needed on one plate.**

A. The number needed is how many the member decides they need to exhibit to accurately demonstrate what they have learned and provide a sufficient quantity for the judge to evaluate quality and consistency. More than one and less than a dozen. Depending on size, typically three to five or six should be sufficient. Some counties have prescribed a given number; we have not done so for state fair.

**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. 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. 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. A member put together a recipe collection using recipes from her mother's and grandmother's recipe boxes. Is there a problem with copyright?**

**Q. A 4-H member is putting together a cookbook for her and her siblings of her mother's recipes. Some are from magazines and other cookbooks. She is listing where the recipes came from. Is this a problem?**

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.

**Q. Are edible flowers allowed to be used in 4-H food exhibits?**

A. YES. Considering there is an Iowa State University reference publication from Reiman Gardens on edible flowers (<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/RG302.pdf>), we have concluded that edible flowers are acceptable. This publication provides good guidance for 4-H members on what flowers can be used in their exhibit.

Importantly, the origin of the flower and pesticide use on the flower should be questioned. The 4-H member should be clear on the importance of pesticide free, not roadside grown, flowers. We will allow edible flowers, provided that the guidance from ISUE is followed.

**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. 4-H Food Exhibit rules have been changed and now require that "food product exhibits must be prepared, baked, or cooked using only food grade utensils and containers." 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 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 food grade containers can't be continued to be used safely today.

**Q. Can I use a brown paper grocery sack on the bottom of my baking pan to keep the cake from sticking?**

A. No. Not unless the brown paper is food grade, and most grocery sacks are not food grade. You may use parchment or wax paper can be used. In either case, cut the paper slightly smaller than the bottom of the pan. Bake as directed and let sit 10-15 minutes after it comes out of the oven (to set). Then flip it upside down on a cooling rack, peel off the paper at this point and let it finish cooling.

**Q. A member wants to exhibit bread made in a juice can. I know that bread baked in a jar is unacceptable. Is bread baked in a can an appropriate food item?**

A. At one time cans contained lead in the solder. This is no longer the case. The issue with bread in a canning jar is that the jar is hermetically sealed during the cooling process. This creates an environment without oxygen and has been determined to be a potential botulinum risk. An open can, without seals would be an acceptable product. Indeed, Boston baked bread is made this way. Be sure to use a food grade baking can.

**Q. A member wants to make homemade marinade and exhibit at the fair. Is this allowed?**

A. No. Most homemade marinades will not have sufficient acidity to be shelf stable at room temperatures. Additionally, it would be difficult at best to test such products at the county fair for proper acidity and ingredient evaluation to make a sound food safety determination. It would be very appropriate for the member to make a poster or display discussing how to make and use marinades. Additionally, the member could do a product comparison on different flavorings, homemade vs. purchased, etc., and present the results through a poster or display. If the member needs volunteers for a taste test, suggest your county office staff as a good place to start.

**Q. 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. 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. 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. Would these two food items be acceptable for 4-H exhibit? Bread with 4 oz. strawberry cream cheese and 1 cup sugar? Muffins with 1 cup yogurt and 1 cup sugar?**

A. OK. The acidity associated with all of these will not impact the overall product safety. We question whether muffins with additional sugar and milk will turn out okay but that's another question.

**Q. Is cottage cheese okay in breads (for 4-H exhibits) if it is liquified in a blender with other liquids?**

**Q. Can jam be layered in a muffin batter and baked (for 4-H exhibits)?**

A. Yes and Yes. 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. One of our members wants to make Green Tomato Bread. The recipe calls for using ground green tomatoes. Is this acceptable for a 4-H exhibit?**

A. The member shared the complete recipe for evaluation. Extension food safety specialists say the acid in the tomatoes will prevent problems. This bread will be acceptable for a 4-H fair exhibit.

**Q. Can Egg Beaters (pasteurized eggs) be used in a recipe instead of real eggs. Is this acceptable?**

A. A 4-H member may substitute pasteurized egg in a recipe. Our Extension Food Safety specialist cautions that "It must remain understood that pasteurized eggs are okay in the carton but once out they are easily contaminated just like any other potentially hazardous foods". This means once they are out of the container, they must be cooked as with any other eggs. Do not use raw eggs of any kind in 4-H food exhibits.

**Q. I have a 4-H member wanting to make and bring a pound cake for exhibit. The directions are to bake the pound cake at 300 degrees (I can't remember for how long). They were told at an achievement show**

**that the eggs haven't been cooked long enough at 300 degrees, so the item would be disqualified. Is there a minimum time it has to be cooked at a minimum temperature to be considered safe?**

A. The temperature does not stand alone when calculating lethality of cooking. Time and temperature are combined to give the lethality necessary to kill any type of bacteria. Products containing eggs need to be cooked to reach a minimum of 160 degrees F internal temperature. In this case, 300 degrees F until the cake is done should be sufficient to kill virtually anything that would grow in this product. In some of our experiments, we showed that the internal temperature of a cake reaches around 180 degrees F when cooked at 300 degrees.

**Q. One of our 4-H members made a pie crust using a recipe that included an egg. We hadn't seen this before. Is this acceptable to exhibit at the fair?**

A. While using an egg in the pie crust may not be the normal procedure for most bakers, there is no reason to penalize a member for experimenting with "novel" crusts, providing they meet the standards of a pie crust. There is no food safety issue with this product.

A little searching on the Internet reveals an abundance of recipes for pie crusts using an egg. Typically the recipes also include 1 tbsp. of vinegar. They often have names such as "Vinegar Egg Pie Crust", "Never Fail Pie Crust", or "Foolproof Pie Crust".

A combination of effects is occurring with this type of recipe. The role of the pie crust is to provide support and hold in the filling of the pie. The vinegar in the pie crust recipe serves as an acid to hydrolyze (break apart) the protein strands. This would be important as an egg is typically used to firm up crusts, and would tend to cause the crust to form a gel-like structure, making the crust tougher and potentially not as "flaky" (an important quality for pie crusts). However, the fat in the yolk also serves as a softening agent and will help tenderize the mixture. It could also make the crust more porous. If the crust is too porous, filling will soak through and the pie will stick to the pan. The net result, if prepared correctly, is that you get the benefit of firmness from the egg, yet retain the ability to produce a "flaky" crust.

Quick test for pie crust. Cut a slice of pie and hold it in your hand like you're going to eat a slice of pizza. If the crust doesn't flop over, then the crust is probably firm enough and thick enough.

Evaluate this, or any other pie, against the standards for pies. If there is no food safety concern, and the product is a quality product, an unusual or non-typical recipe could receive a blue ribbon as with any other exhibit.

**Q. For my Food & Nutrition Exhibit in class 521 B (Consumer Behavior & Management), I'm doing a comparison between homemade and store bought cinnamon rolls. I will be evaluating cost, taste, and other quality standards. Can I have frosting on the rolls for display?**

A. This exhibit does not need to have actual food items included as part of the display. The goal is to conduct a comparison and then prepare an exhibit showing the differences between the products. This will be done using a poster or display board and the responses to the four required questions. Any products included with the display would be present simply for aesthetics, and the exhibit judge will not taste them. However, if you choose to include rolls because you feel it makes a more attractive exhibit, frosting may be included provided it meets the criteria in 4-H 3023 "Inappropriate Food Exhibits for Iowa 4-H Fairs".

**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 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 creme is also nearly all sugar with very little liquid in the other ingredients. The nutritional content is a whole different story!

**Q. Help! We’re at the fair and a member brought in lemon bars as a food exhibit. Are these acceptable to exhibit and be evaluated?**

A. Maybe. Lemon bars are a little like pecan pies – acceptable if. IF the recipe is a traditional recipe that does not include added water, milk, or cream. Most recipes for lemon bars have as the basic filling ingredients a couple eggs, lemon juice, and a cup of sugar, plus some combination of small amounts of salt, flour, baking powder, etc. These recipes are fine (from a food safety aspect) as the end product has a relatively low pH and has little free water. While these bars might not require refrigeration, they certainly would keep longer and be fresher if they were refrigerated.

Recipes for lemon bars that include added milk, cream, or water not only result in a product with more moisture, but also a product higher in pH. Both factors result in conditions more favorable to food spoilage, and these products would require refrigeration. These recipes would not be acceptable for 4-H fair food exhibits.

**Q. I’m preparing a filling to go inside my cupcakes. I know there is supposed to be enough sugar to tie up the water. How can I evaluate my recipe to determine if it is safe for 4-H exhibit? Do you have guidelines on how much sugar is needed for filling recipes?**

A. When evaluating filling recipes, our Extension food safety specialists look for at least a 2:1 ratio of sugar to water (liquid). The more sugar the better at controlling water activity and thereby preventing bacterial growth.

**Q. A 4-H member wants to try a recipe for filled cupcakes that has a filling of cream cheese, sugar, and egg, and dropped by tablespoon, covered with remaining batter, and baked for 25 minutes. The recipe doesn’t say anything about refrigeration. Is this an acceptable 4-H fair entry?**

A. No. This one is a bit different in that the baking process will heat the cream cheese mixture to around 190F thus killing most pathogens. However, Kraft recommends that cupcakes filled with cream cheese be refrigerated. So, no for exhibit at the county or state fair. However, if the member wants to try them, they should be encouraged to bring the batch to the Extension Office for the staff to sample. Then they could make a poster on taste test results!

**Q. A 4-H member has a Peach Praline Pie recipe with some pecans, peaches, and 1 ½ tbs. 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. One of our 4-H members wants to make an Apple Cider Pie. The recipe calls for 1 12oz can apple juice concentrate, 6 eggs, 1 cup brown sugar, 2 T butter, tsp salt, top sprinkled with nutmeg. This sounds like a custard pie to me and seems like it should be covered by that general guideline, but I was a little hesitant with the fact that the apple juice concentrate was thoroughly mixed in.**

A. Your initial impression is correct. The amount of eggs makes this a custard pie, and is not acceptable for exhibit at 4-H fairs. However, if the member insists on attempting the recipe, be sure you ask to be included on the taste test panel!

**Q. A 4-H mom called regarding her daughter making rhubarb and strawberry jam. The recipe uses strawberry and rhubarb which are cooked to boiling, sugar is then added, and when cool, flavored**

**gelatin is added. Then the product is sealed and frozen. The recipe is from a local church cookbook. Is this jam acceptable? It does not seem to meet the criteria in PM 1366?**

A. This is a freezer jam. Freezer jams are perfectly fine for home use. However, these jams require refrigeration and are not acceptable for 4-H fair exhibits. A better option for the member would be to make a poster showing the process for making freezer jam, including the appropriate food safety considerations.

PM 1366 Making Fruit Spreads discusses in detail heat processing procedures that are acceptable for 4-H members to use for preserved food exhibits. The publication also includes a recipe for freezer jam, with very clear directions about proper cold storage of the product. Recipes for freezer jams are usually included with pectin products. Follow the recipe exactly.

**Q. A 4-H member asked us about a recipe for rhubarb jelly and was wondering if it is OK. I know that the sugar content is fine but it is the use of jello vs. pectin I'm concerned about. The recipe is to cook 5 cups of rhubarb and 3 cups sugar for 45 minutes after it comes to a full boil. Then add 1 pkg. of jello. Put into jars. Add lids and rings. Process in boiling water bath for ten minutes.**

A. Historically we have indicated that jello based jellies are not appropriate. From a food safety standpoint these would be safe because of high acidity and low water activity. The recipe in this example uses appropriate processing times.

Typically, acidic conditions break down proteins. What may happen here is that the acidity of the fruit breaks the gelatin down into small fragments that will not jel. This may or may not occur depending upon the amount of acid present (ripeness of fruit). The use of pectin in place of jello will likely be more reliable and result in a better product. However, use of added jello in this case will still produce a safe product.

**Q. I would like to enter my canned apple pie filling in our county fair, but was told that the filling may be disqualified because I did not use the recipe from either the USDA Guide to Home Canning, or the So Easy To Preserve book by the University of Georgia. I was told I needed to use a recipe with "Clear Jel" in it. My question is, if I find a recipe I like, but it does not include Clear Jel, is this acceptable? I followed the USDA approved canning procedure for a boiling water canner.**

A. The statement that Clear Jel(TM) was required is partially correct. Clear Jel is a modified starch product. USDA pie filling recipes call for Clear-Jel(TM) as a thickening agent for the filling. The reason for this modified starch is that it will not breakdown during the processing and result in a runny filling. Others have found that corn starch will work to a degree. In any case, the addition of starch based thickening agents will not change the pH of the filling and are therefore considered safe ingredients and are usable at will. You would not be required to use a thickening agent at the time of canning. If you prefer, you may add a thickening agent at the time of making the pie.

There are essentially three ways to thicken a fruit pie filling 1)use of ClearJel; 2) use of corn starch (which may break down during processing causing thinning of filling; 3) boiling the ingredients until they thicken naturally (which may result in quality issues). Of course, there are recipes that thicken pie fillings in the pie without using canned filling.

Because this is a fruit product, (high acid), you are pretty safe in choice of recipes. The recipe should be from a reputable source. You must use a processing method that is from an approved source, which includes USDA Home Canning Guides, State Extension Publications, So Easy To Preserve, and the Ball Canning Guide (Ball Blue Book). One source of electronic versions of the USDA Home Canning Guides is through Utah State University. You can find Canning Guide 2 (Canning Fruits and Fruit Products) at <http://extension.usu.edu/files/foodpubs/cangui2.pdf>. Information on Using Clear Jel and pie filling recipes are included in this guide.

**Q. What editions of the "Ball Blue Book" are acceptable for use in preparing 4-H Food & Nutrition Exhibits?**

A. 1994 or later. While 4-H 3023 "Inappropriate Food Exhibits for Iowa 4-H Fairs" lists the 2003 edition, all editions published since 1994 are acceptable references. A recent review of the Ball Blue Book content by Extension specialists indicates the information contained in 1994 and after all provide appropriate food safety information related to food preservation, and are based on the most current USDA guidelines.

Other food safety references related to food preservation include: The USDA Complete Guide to Home Canning 1994, So Easy to Preserve (3rd ed. 1993 or 4th ed. 1999), and current ISU Extension publications on food safety and food preservation.

**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](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. Where do I find "reputable sources" of recipes to use in processed foods?**

A. Because of the profound risk associated with certain canned products, only basic recipes and processes that have been tested should be considered safe for use. The addition of spices to recipes is considered a generally safe procedure and should not be considered an unsafe practice.

In reviewing recipes both on-line and in cook books, it becomes apparent that there are some very unsafe recipes being published. For example, one calls for water bath processing of canned rabbit stew, a practice that could lead to botulism toxin production.

The USDA Home Canning Guide first printed decades ago and revised most recently in 1994 would be considered a standard. This is available at: [http://www.uga.edu/nchfp/publications/publications\\_usda.html](http://www.uga.edu/nchfp/publications/publications_usda.html).

Other sources include recipes from the National Center for Home Food Preservation at the University of Georgia ([www.uga.edu/nchfp](http://www.uga.edu/nchfp)). These researchers are constantly updating and improving recipes for home preservation. They also publish "So easy to preserve" another very reputable source of recipes.

Ball Blue Book is published by Altrista Corporation. It contains many different recipes from the people who make canning jars. Acceptable editions from 1994 to 2004.

Better Homes and Gardens recipes use USDA guidelines.

Cookbooks that specifically indicate that they use the most current (1994) USDA guidelines for processing time on recipes would be considered reputable.

**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 available publications are PM 638 "Canning and Freezing Tomatoes" available at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM638.pdf> and Guide 3 of the USDA Complete Canning Guide available at <http://extension.usu.edu/files/foodpubs/cangu3.pdf>.

**Q. Since preserved food items require two samples (one to open, one to display), what if my green beans are selected for state fair and I don't have a third jar? I canned the beans last fall and didn't know about the need for an extra jar until our family ate all but two of the jars.**

A. Not a problem. You will not be disqualified from state fair exhibition because only one jar of your canned green beans arrives. We realize that some products may have been processed last fall, those products have been mostly consumed, and you did not receive word of the new judging process in time to save another jar. The jar that arrives for 4-H exhibit evaluation at the state fair will be opened and evaluated, and a ribbon will be awarded based on the evaluation criteria. For display, only the exhibit tag and ribbon will be displayed as the product will need to be discarded to prevent spoilage. I do not believe this will be an issue for most 4-H exhibitors. However, in those rare instances where they truly do not have a second sample available to send to the state fair, send the one they do have. Be sure to note this on the exhibit entry form so we're not looking for the second jar.

**Q: Which one of the two preserved food samples will be opened for evaluation?**

A. I'd let the member decide. Some evaluation criteria for canned items will be done prior to opening (e.g. amount of head space in jar). The judge can discuss the canning process and some of the evaluation criteria with the 4-H member. Then the judge could simply say "Now we're going to open one of the jars for the rest of the product evaluation. We'll look closer at color, texture, and aroma of the product. Which jar do you want me to open?"

This allows the member additional input into the judging process. Perhaps one of the jars is a better visual example of processing correctly (amount of product, amount of liquid, head space, etc.) and the member wants to "save" that jar for exhibit or possible state fair use if selected. They might decide to have the "less perfect" jar opened. Perhaps they want the "best" example opened. Great. Open it and evaluate. Hopefully the product quality inside the jars will be similar. If the processing worked right, this should be the case.

**Q. Are the canning jar bands/rings needed for exhibition of canned items?**

A. No. The absence of the band will not affect food safety as long as the seal on the lid is intact. It is recommended the 4-H member leave the band on the jar (at least) for transportation of the product to the fair to reduce the chance of the lid seal breaking open.

**Q. I'm confused about requirements for canned food products. Can you explain more about ingredients vs. recipes and low acid vs. high acid foods?**

A. In canning foods there are two very important concepts that are distinct and interdependent – ingredients and process.

In canning, ingredients are categorized into high acid and low acid – the pH level of 4.6 is the segregation point. The entire product must be below pH 4.6 to be considered high acid. This is the cut-off point for growth of *Clostridium botulinum*, which will grow and produce botulism toxin at pH levels above 4.6. In general, almost all fruits fall below this pH whilst almost all vegetables are above this pH. This is critical to an understanding of which foods can be water bath processed and which foods must be processed under pressure. In general, foods with a pH below 4.6 (high acid) would be considered safe to be processed in a water bath. Foods with a

pH above 4.6 or foods that contain ingredients that are above pH 4.6 are considered low acid and must be 1) acidified and/or 2) processed in a pressure vessel.

High acid foods: include apples, berries, peaches, cherries, pears, grapes, nectarines, and pie fillings made from these ingredients. These are considered as having enough acidity to prevent the growth of *C. botulinum*. These foods may be water bath processed. Importantly, only sugars, spices, more acid, FruitFresh or other anti-browning product, and thickening agents such as pectin or starches should be added to the high acid product. These ingredients will not change the pH and are therefore safe to use as additives. Ingredients such as eggs, milk, vegetables, should not be added unless the recipe is from a documented reputable source. A list of reputable sources is given below.

If a product contains ingredients of mixed pH it must either be acidified with vinegar or lemon juice to be water bath processed. The pH of the entire mixture must be below 4.6 to allow this type of processing. Therefore, only recipes that have been published by reputable sources may be used for acidified foods. An example is salsa that contains tomatoes, chilies, and green peppers which would be considered a low acid product and thereby need to be processed in a pressure canner. However, this can be overcome by the addition of vinegar or acid ingredients as long as the recipe with the addition comes from a reputable source.

Low acid foods include such products as meats and vegetables. These must always be processed in a pressure vessel to kill *C. botulinum*. The recipe and process for these foods must always be from reputable sources that have verified the safety of the recipe and the process.

Ingredients are very important considerations in low acid foods. Spices when added in moderation do not affect processing time. However, the addition of materials that may increase the viscosity of the food will cause slower heating of the food mass. This results in a longer time requirement for processing. A simple change in the type of starch used to thicken a soup caused a massive recall and resulted in several deaths because of botulism. The starch resulted in a thicker product that should have required longer processing to kill *C. botulinum*. Once again, only recipes from reputable sources should be used.

### Processing.

Processing of canned products is either by complete immersion in a boiling water bath or by a pressurized vessel. The time and temperature relationship is the critical factor in processing of canned products. Temperature of boiling water baths will never exceed 212 °F and will be less at higher altitudes. This temperature will kill many bacteria but will not kill *C. botulinum*. High acid foods rely upon the acidity to prevent the growth of this toxin producer. In pressure vessels, the temperature will exceed 212°F. At 10 pounds, the temperature in a pressure vessel is near 240°F; at 15 psi the temperature is near 250°. These temperatures are sufficient to kill botulism provided that the product is held for a long enough time at this temperature. Thus temperature and time are critical factors in pressure canning.

An important aspect of processing is the size of the container. This is especially true for pressure processing. Each jar has a different geometry that results in a "cold spot" that takes the longest time to reach the desired temperature. Food processors use specialized equipment to determine the temperature of the cold spot throughout processing. Thus, time required to reach temperature is determined. Quart jars require longer processing than pint jars and 12 ounce jars are processed in accordance to pint jar requirements since the 12 ounce jars have not been tested.

## Photography

### **Q. Can you please clarify what is meant by "current work" in the State Fair 4-H Photography classes?**

A. This statement in 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 2006 and see a photo which is dated June, July or August 2005 it will not raise eyebrows. A photo with a date of April or May 2005 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. In photography class 851A (Mounted photograph or series), the photo is required to be at least 5 x 7 inches. If the photo is matted, how much of the photo must be visible?**

A. At least 5 x 7 inches of the photo must be visible through the matte opening. The size of the photo refers to the viewable area of the photo to be evaluated. 4-H members who wish to exhibit smaller photos may do so in exhibit class 851B. Photos in class 851B also do not have to be mounted or matted. They may be mounted if the member wishes, but the 851B class offers a lower cost exhibition opportunity for 4-H'ers.

**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. I have a question regarding Special Rules for Photography Classes at the Iowa State Fair. I have a 4-H'er who has a digital photo which she has altered to be antique brown. This would not be black and white, but would it be color? (Special Rule #1). Can she exhibit the photo and if so, in what class?**

A. This photo could easily be exhibited in class 851D - Photography Idea. Part of the class description says "Photos or educational displays in this class may make use of creative camera techniques, darkroom techniques, mounting and exhibit techniques....." She took a digital photo, left the basic image alone, and then altered it to make it into the antique brown color shades. This fits in the 851D class. I'd suggest she not enter it in 851C "Contemporary/Creative Photography" since that current class description talks about altering the photo so the original image is not recognizable. In this case, that's not what she did.

**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.

**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.

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. Part of the learning!

**Q. I took a photo of two dogs and plan to exhibit the photo at my county fair. As I evaluated the photo, I liked the pose of one of the dogs. I think I could crop the photo to make an interesting image of the one dog. Can I exhibit both photos (two dogs and one dog) at the fair, even if both photos came from the same original image?**

A. Yes. Evaluating your photographs and then making decisions about the final image to print is part of the learning in the photography project area. You should be prepared to discuss the photo choices, cropping process, and reasons for selecting which of your photos to exhibit. It appears your original intent was to photograph the two dogs. What was it about the photo that caught your eye and made you want to isolate the one dog? It's reasonable to expect that a judge may ask you which of the two photos you prefer, or which photo you feel is the best, and why.

**Q. A 4-H member took a photo of her sister in a track meet. Another contestant is behind the sister in the photo. Does she need permission from the second girl to exhibit the photo at the fair?**

A. No. The high school track meet was a very public event. Track meets are routinely covered by newspapers and other media, and participants have no expectation of privacy during their participation in such events. The photograph is of two participants in a track meet. It does not present the participants in any false light, is not of an embarrassing nature or offensive, and is not being used for publicity or other commercial gain. The photograph itself does not reveal personal information about the subjects. For a 4-H photo exhibition, the member (in this question) does not need a photo release to exhibit the photo.

If the 4-H member who took the photo wants to use the photo for other purposes, or perhaps even sell the photo, then permission will likely be needed from the subjects of the photo. This is not because of a privacy issue, but a right of publicity issue. If you use a photo of me for commercial gain, even one taken in a public place, I may have some rights to also benefit from that gain. I may also have some rights to prevent use(s) of my image.

**Q. We have a young 4-H'er who bought a camera kit and assembled it. The camera actually works. The member is trying to determine what class to exhibit this in. His goal was to assemble the camera, learn about camera parts, and take pictures. We're also concerned about the camera being made from a kit. What should he do?**

A. This is a great exhibit for exhibit class 851D, "Photography Idea". His goals of learning about cameras by assembling one fits well with this class, and his goals and exhibit are clearly an outgrowth of his work and interest in the 4-H Photography project area. It's very appropriate to use a camera assembled from a kit to learn about and work toward his goals, especially given the age and experience (10 years old) of this member.

## Science, Mechanics and Engineering

**Q. What class should members enter with their computer project exhibits?**

A. A Computer exhibit class was 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.

**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.

**Q. One of our members restored an antique rifle. Can this be exhibited at the county fair? State Fair?**

**Q. One of our members is doing an educational presentation on gun safety and wants to use a shotgun in the presentation. Is this allowed?**

A. Probably Yes for county fair; No for state fair. (However, please check with your county fairboard or other exhibition location to see if they have policies restricting firearms in 4-H exhibits.)

We believe it is quite appropriate for members interested in guns/gun safety/hunting/wildlife, etc. to prepare exhibits or give educational presentations on gun safety and related topics. If the member wants to display a gun at your county fair as part of an exhibit, we encourage a discussion with the member about how to safely display the gun. This includes safety for the viewing public, and safety of the exhibit, not unlike safety with other valuable items on exhibit. This would include not exhibiting any ammunition, removing gun parts as needed to make the gun inoperable, installation of trigger locks, and securing the gun as needed. As with other valuable exhibit items, the member should be aware that while county extension staff will attempt to display the item as securely as possible, there is always some possibility, despite your best efforts, of damage to and/or theft of exhibit pieces.

For an educational presentation at the county, much the same. The member should bring the gun cased, trigger locks installed, and it should be inoperable. Leave the ammo at home. I often suggest the member check the gun in with extension staff when they arrive, obtain it in time for the presentation, and then remove the gun from the presentation area and secure it in their vehicle immediately when finished.

There is no reason not to select a qualified exhibit or presentation using firearms for the state fair. However, the Iowa State Fair policy is no firearms (or other weapons) on the fairgrounds during the Iowa State Fair. We have asked about their use in exhibits and educational presentations, and the State Fair Patrol has consistently said no means no. There is not an exception during the state fair for the 4-H building, no matter what security precautions we might offer. The member will need to modify his presentation to use a model or some other prop to substitute for the gun. We realize this is sometimes a little awkward for the 4-H'er, but believe our members are resourceful and will make the best of the situation. For an exhibit, the member will exhibit any poster, display, report, etc. documenting the restoration process (or other topic), but the firearm must remain safely at home.

State fair judges have been instructed in the past, and will be again, about state fair policy, and that the 4-H member is not to be penalized during the evaluation of an exhibit or presentation because they are unable to use the firearm as they did at the county.

## Visual Arts

**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'm preparing an exhibit about art careers for my exhibit in Visual Arts class 821C "Other Visual Arts Topics". Do I need to include information about how I used design elements and/or art principles with this exhibit?**

A. The requirement to discuss use of elements and principles of design in the Visual Arts classes applies to all finished products (classes 821 A & B) and other exhibits as appropriate. An exhibit or report on art careers would be an exception to that requirement. You would likely want to include in your exhibit information about how artists use design elements and art principles in their careers. You would not need to discuss how you used the elements and principles to create your exhibit. However, you would use what you have learned about design elements/principles to create an attractive exhibit for public display.

**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 am going to take a self portrait to the fair. Is there a regulation on how large the drawing can be?**

A. There is not a size limit for original artistic works. These are treated differently than "posters" or "display boards", which do have size limits. If you want your self-portrait to be life size, or even larger than life, go for it.

**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. 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 (l).

Subsection (h) states, "The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything." Subsection (l) 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. 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. 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. 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.

## Visual Arts & Copyright

**Q. I have a member that wants to take a picture from a calendar that she purchased and paint one to look like it using a sponge and paint. She would enter it in 821B Technique Exploration. Is that OK or should she not be painting an exact replica even if she purchased the picture? She is trying to learn a technique.**

**Q. I have a 4-H'er that tells me that she is entering a non-original Visual Art project because she drew a picture of a girl from a picture in a magazine. She also indicated that she wanted to be judged on the technique she used (ink wash). Can she exhibit the drawing at our 4-H fair?**

A. No. Even as an exhibit in the Visual Arts 821B “Design and/or Technique Exploration” class, unless they have permission, the answer is still No. The members are creating “derivative works”, which are clearly covered by copyright law. This will be a somewhat lengthy explanation, but I hope it will help you assist 4-H members, families, and volunteers in understanding basic United States copyright laws, and in encouraging 4-H members to develop their own creative talents. For purposes of our discussion, we will make the basic assumption that the original work in question is protected by copyright and is not in the public domain. Please note that public domain is not the same as publicly available. These are two very different concepts.

Copyright is a form of protection provided by law to authors of “original works of authorship”. These works include literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, and certain other intellectual works. The protection extends from the time the work is created in fixed medium of expression, and covers published and unpublished works.

The owner of a copyright generally has several exclusive rights. These include the: A) right to reproduce the work; B) right to prepare derivative works; C) right to distribute copies; D) right to perform; E) right to display.

A derivative work is one that is based on (derived from) one or more existing works. A derivative work may be copyrightable if it includes some “original work of authorship”. However, only the owner of copyright in a work has the right to prepare, or to authorize someone else to create, a new version of that work. Examples cited by the U.S. Copyright Office of derivative works include: Sculpture (based on a drawing); and Drawing (based on a photograph) (emphasis added).

The 1992 New York court case of *Rogers v. Koons* serves as an excellent study for derivative pieces. Art Rogers was a California photographer hired to take photos of a couple holding eight puppies. Rogers had rights to use the photos for other purposes, and licensed the image for use in producing a series of postcards of the couple and their puppies.

Jeff Koons was a New York sculptor specializing in limited editions pieces (typically four each). He was preparing for a gallery show and came across a copy of the Rogers postcard. Koons thought it would make a good subject for his show, and sent the postcard to one of his workshops, instructing his assistants to copy the photograph into a sculpture. He titled the finished work “String of Puppies”, which was displayed at his exhibition. Three of the four copies were sold to collectors. Rogers did not authorize the use of the “Puppies” image by Koons.

Rogers eventually learned of the Koons sculpture from friends who had seen publicity articles about the Koons exhibition in newspapers. Then Rogers sued Koons. The short version of the decision is Rogers prevailed and was awarded monetary damages. The court ruled that Rogers had ownership of a valid copyright in an original work (the photo); that Koons copied the image without authorization; and that the copying was substantially similar to and an infringement of the Roger’s photograph. Even though the sculpture was 3-D, used wood and acrylic, and modified colors of the puppies compared to the 2-D photograph, the court ruled that the Koons sculpture was clearly a copyright infringement.

Applying copyright law and existing court rulings to our 4-H exhibit examples, it should be clear that pencil drawings of magazine photos, sponge painting or stippling a painting from a calendar photo, a watercolor of flowers from a garden magazine, or any other artistic work resulting in a derivative product must not be allowed for exhibition, unless the member has permission from the original artist.

Learning a technique by "copying" an existing image is a great way to practice. 4-H members should then take what they have learned and use the technique to create an original image. They could use parts of the practice drawings in a larger portfolio of examples accompanying their final product to show how they learned the technique and applied the technique to develop their own works. This will also make for a stronger exhibit in the "technique class". And of course, members can use their own photos or other works as the basis to create their own derivative pieces. We have seen many successful examples of this in previous state fair exhibits.

**Q. Can you offer general guidelines for 4-H members to follow regarding exhibits and copyright, especially in the Visual Arts project?**

A. Each case is different and it is very hard to offer recommendations that will apply to all exhibits. However, I would offer the following guidelines as a start:

- 1) Create something original,
- 2) If it's not yours, obtain permission,
- 3) Give proper credit, even when you have permission.

**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 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. 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".(emphasis added) 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. I drew a picture of the main street of our town. Several of the buildings have advertising signs on their storefronts. 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 on-line 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.

**Q. A 4-H'er drew a picture of Grandma's "treasures". One of the items is a Waltham watch. They found that the Waltham company went out of business in 1957. What do they need to do about copy right?**

A. The potential is likely more of a trademark question than copyright, but the answer will be the same. They don't need to do anything. This will be fine. If I understand what you're describing, the watch is one of a collection of items, all actual and real items. Draw it. Other issues could arise if the work is offered for sale, but those don't apply in this case as we don't allow the work to be offered for sale during our 4-H exhibitions. If the drawing was only of the watch, then we would have trademark use concerns.

The fact the company went out of business is somewhat irrelevant. Even though the company is out of business, the trademarks, patents, etc. may have been acquired by another company, or even still held by the original owners even though they're no longer in business.

**Q. A 4-H member asked us about drawing a picture of Mickey Mouse. We said no because of copyrights held by Disney for Mickey Mouse. A parent said we were wrong, that Mickey Mouse was over 75 years old, and therefore no longer under copyright. What's the real story?**

A. You are correct in not allowing a drawing of Mickey Mouse to be exhibited as a 4-H fair exhibit. While Mickey Mouse is over 75 years old (first appearing in film in 1928), and his images would have entered the public domain sometime between 2000 and 2004, he is now still under copyright protection.

The Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act (signed into law in October 1998), extended existing copyright terms by an additional 20 years from those established in the Copyright Act of 1976. As a result, any materials not already in the public domain will not become public until at least January 1, 2019 (95 years from 1923). Independent publishers challenged the law, but did not prevail. Eldred V. Ashcroft was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, and in January 2003 the court upheld the law by a 7-2 decision. Disney has Mickey Mouse safely under protection for several more years.