General Exhibit Rules

1. 4-H'ers who have completed 4th grade through 12th grade (or that equivalent.) are eligible to exhibit at the Iowa State Fair. Exception: Group exhibits from an entire club may include 4th grade members.

2. Eligible exhibits are an outgrowth of work done as a planned part of the 4-H'ers participation in 4-H projects or programs during the current 4-H year. Exhibits can be done by an individual or group and may represent all or part of the learning in the project or program.

3. Exhibits that do not comply with the class description, size guidelines, copyright restrictions, safety and approved methods will be disqualified and not put on public display.

4. If the exhibitor chooses a display to illustrate what was learned:
   - Posters may not exceed 24" x 36" in size.
   - Chart boards, graph boards, project presentation boards, model displays, etc., may not exceed 48" x 48" in size. Maximum size is determined by measuring the flat (unfolded) dimensions.
   - Display boxes may not exceed 28" x 22" in height or width and 12" in depth.

5. Endangered and threatened plants and animals (includes insects), or songbird feathers and nests may NOT be used in any exhibit.

6. Copyrighted materials and designs may not be used in an exhibit that is presented as original work by the exhibitor. Exhibitors must include permission from the copyright holder/owner when using copyrighted materials. Exhibitors must give proper credit to the original source of all materials/designs used in exhibits. (See also special rules for Visual Arts and general copyright information for 4-H’ers.)

7. The 4-H’er’s goal and applicable exhibit standards will form the basis of the evaluation process. Evaluation criteria will include demonstrated learning, workmanship and techniques, and general appearance and design. Exhibitors will receive verbal and written evaluation comments on the exhibits and a blue, red, or white ribbon. Refer to exhibit class evaluation rubrics for detailed evaluation criteria in each class. Rubrics are located on each 4-H project page at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects

8. A written explanation, audio recording, or video recording is to be included as part of each exhibit. The exhibitor should respond briefly to the following questions about the exhibit:
   - What did you plan to learn or do? (What was your exhibit goal(s)?)
   - What steps did you take to learn or do this?
   - What were the most important things you learned?
   - What other ideas do you have for this project area?
   - List your expenses and/or profits in this project.
   - List the sources you used for your project (ie: books, magazines, people, Internet, projects you’ve seen, craft stores, etc.)

***Check for additional requirements in exhibit classes for food and nutrition, photography, and visual art classes.

9. All judges’ decisions are final.

10. Each item in an exhibit must be securely labeled, including the class number, and exhibitor’s name.

11. No entry fee is required.
12. All exhibits must remain until 7:00 pm on Thursday of the fair.

Class Descriptions

Most exhibit classes have specific guidelines and requirements that will be included in the judging process. Members are highly encouraged to go to the Hot Sheets and Tips Sheets that are available at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects to find information about judging criteria for exhibits that they create from their 4-H project learning.

ANIMALS

510 Animal Science
An exhibit (other than the animal itself) that shows the learning about a large or small animal including beef, dairy cattle, dairy goats, dogs, horse & pony, meat goats, pets, poultry, rabbits, sheep and swine. Ownership of any animal is not required.

520 Veterinary Science
An exhibit that shows learning about keeping animals healthy.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

530 Crop Production
An exhibit that shows learning about the growth, use, and value of field crops.

540 Environment and Sustainability
An exhibit that shows the connections between humans and their environment including energy, stewardship, conservation, entomology, fish and wildlife, or forestry. Includes collections.

550 Horticulture
An exhibit that shows learning about the growth, use, and value of plants, small fruits, vegetable and flower gardens, and landscape design. (Garden crops and herbs are exhibited in classes in the 4-H Horticulture Department under 4-H Livestock.)

560 Outdoor Adventures
An exhibit that shows learning about backpacking, biking, camping, canoeing, fishing, hiking or other outdoor activities.

570 Safety and Education in Shooting Sports
An exhibit that shows learning about safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment or wildlife management. (The exhibit may not include actual firearms; archery equipment allowed if tips are removed from arrows).

590 Other Agriculture and Natural Resources
An exhibit that shows learning about agriculture or natural resources and does not fit in any of the classes listed above.

CREATIVE ARTS

610 Music
An exhibit that shows learning about musical performance, composition and arrangements, instruments, musical styles or history.
620 Photography
An exhibit, either photo(s) or an educational display, that shows learning about photography from choosing a camera to modifying your photo. Still photos only, not video.

Photography Special Rules:
1. Photographs may be either black and white or color. They may be processed from negatives, slides, or digital cameras and computer manipulation programs. Photographs must have been taken since your county fair of the previous year.
2. Mounted photos can be (a) flush-mounted [no board showing] on mounting board, or (b) with mount borders [window mat or flat mount directly on board]. Exhibitors may cut their own mounting boards, use ready-cut window mats or have matting done professionally. 4-Hers are responsible for design decisions such as border, color and size. Framed photographs (including floating frames) will not be judged.
3. Non-mounted photos may be exhibited in a clear plastic covering.
4. A series is a group of photographs or slides [3 to 5] that are related or tell a step-by-step story. Photographs must be mounted together in story order or sequence. Slides should be numbered.
5. All digitally altered photos should include a copy of the photo before changes.
6. Subject matter of photographs must be in good taste and be appropriate for public display in a 4-H setting.

630 Visual Arts
An exhibit that shows learning through original art, exploration of an art technique, or study of any other visual arts topic.

Visual Arts Special Rules:
1. Exhibits made from kits or preformed molds are acceptable at the county level, but will not be accepted for Iowa State Fair consideration. Exception: Preformed molds (greenware, whiteware) may be used to provide the appropriate surface for a process technique or application of original design.
2. If the exhibit is a finished art object, the source or inspiration of the design, design sketches, or other process for creating the object and design must be included.
3. Original works of art must be a creative expression of a design unique to the artist, or represent a significant modification to an existing design to make a new and original statement by the artist.
4. Exhibition of derivative works created by a 4-H’er is prohibited without the written permission of the original copyright holder/owner. Use of copyrighted or trademarked designs, images, logos, or materials in 4-H visual arts exhibits is prohibited unless written permission has been obtained from the copyright or trademark holder/owner. For additional information, see 4-H Exhibit Copyright Information at http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/visualart.htm

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES
710 Child Development
An exhibit that shows learning about children. Examples: child care, growth and development, safety and health, children with special needs, and careers in child development.

720 Clothing and Fashion
An exhibit that shows learning about style, fashion, design, thrifty spending, wardrobe planning, types of fabrics, and clothing care. Exhibits may include constructed or purchased clothing and accessories.

730 Consumer Management
An exhibit that shows learning through savvy budgeting, comparison shopping, money management, and consumer rights and responsibilities.

740 Food & Nutrition
An exhibit that shows learning through cooking, baking, eating and choosing healthy foods, including safety
practices. Exhibits may include prepared products or educational displays. See also 4-H 3023 “Inappropriate Food Exhibits for Iowa 4-H Fairs” (http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/4H3023.pdf) for additional information regarding prepared and preserved food products.

**Food & Nutrition Special Rules**

1. Any exhibit considered to be a food safety risk or portray a food safety risk will not be accepted, judged or displayed.
2. All food products/exhibits should be appropriate for human consumption.
3. Food product exhibits must be prepared, baked or cooked using only food grade utensils and containers.
4. Products that require refrigeration will not be accepted, judged or displayed.
5. Meat jerky products are prohibited.
6. The recipe must be included for any prepared food exhibit; credit the source of the recipe.
7. Preserved foods must include the Food Preservation Exhibit Label. Only food processed after August 1, 2010 is acceptable. Current USDA (http://www.uga.edu/nchfp/publications/publications_usda.html) and/or Iowa State University (http://www.uga.edu/nchfp/publications/publications_usda.html) guidelines for home food preservation must be used.
8. Preserved food exhibits must include two product samples. One will be opened for evaluation and discarded; the second will be placed on display and returned to the exhibitor. All perishable food products will be discarded when removed from display.
9. Prepared foods should be placed on a firm disposable plate or flat cardboard. Place food product exhibit in a reclosable plastic bag with entry tag fastened outside the bag.
10. The use of alcoholic beverages in the preparation or production of 4-H food exhibits is NOT permitted.

750 Health
An exhibit that shows learning through food choices, safe activities and skills such as first aid and CPR, careers, and healthy lifestyle choices.

760 Home Improvement
An exhibit that shows learning in planning, improving and caring for your home living space. Exhibits may include new or refinished/reclaimed/restored items.

770 Sewing and Needle Arts
An exhibit that shows learning and skill in sewing, knitting, crocheting, or other needle arts, the use and care of fabrics and fibers, or the construction of clothing and other items.

790 Other Family and Consumer Science
An exhibit that demonstrates learning about a family and consumer science topic that does not fit any previous Family & Consumer Science class listed.
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

810 Citizenship
An exhibit that shows learning about or contributing to your community, your country or your world.

820 Communication
An exhibit that shows learning about written, oral, and visual communication skills in their many forms.

830 Leadership
An exhibit that shows learning about leadership skills and influencing others in a positive way.

890 Self-Determined
An exhibit that shows learning as part of your 4-H adventure and does not fit any other class.

SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

910 Digital Storytelling
Any exhibit that demonstrates the application of technology to produce a creative movie/film/video. Exhibits may include a finished movie or video, creation of a detailed storyboard, editing techniques using digital video software, production techniques, or other display to share what was learned. Copyright permission must be obtained for any non-original material included as part of a film/movie/video.

920 Mechanics
Any exhibit that shows skills or learning in automotive, electrical, small and large engines, tractors, welding, and restoration.

930 Woodworking
Any exhibit that shows learning about wood, woodworking techniques, and safe uses of woodworking tools and machines. Exhibits may include newly constructed or refinished/reclaimed/restored wood items.

940 Science, Engineering & Technology
Any exhibit that shows learning about or helps explain how science and technology help us interact with the world. Topics include aerospace, biological and chemical sciences, computers & networking, earth & climate, geospatial mapping (GPS/GIS), robotics, or any other application of Science, Engineering, or Technology.