

GENERAL RULES

The following rules apply to all departments of the 4-H Section of the County Fair. Rules, which apply specifically to a particular department, will be listed under rules for that department. In the case the general rules conflict with department rules the department rules govern.

1. **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXHIBITORS** - An exhibitor must be a 4-H member enrolled in the project he/she is exhibiting in the county in which he/she represents. Exhibitors must be enrolled by May 1 in the project in which they wish to exhibit. There will be no discrimination because of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin, religion, age, handicapped, marital status or sexual orientation. A 4-H member must be 8 to 18 years of age inclusive on December 31st of the preceding year. The last year of eligibility is the calendar year the member becomes 19. The Johnson County 4-H Council maintains the authority to establish age limits for exhibitors outside of those stated above for youth with special needs/disabilities.
STATE FAIR – In classes where the presence of the 4-H member is required for judging purposes, such as animal exhibits, judging contests, communications events, and fashion show, a 4-H member must be 10 by December 31st of the preceding year or turn 11 during the current year. The last year of eligibility is the calendar year the member becomes 19. For classes where presence of the 4-H member is not required, the exhibitor must be 8 as of December 31st of the preceding year or turn 9 during the current year.
CLOVER KIDS – Clover Kid exhibitors must be enrolled by May 1 in the Clover Kid program. A Clover Kid member must be 5 to 7 years of age inclusive as of December 31st of the preceding year.
2. **CROSS COUNTY AND CROSS STATE LINE PARTICIPATION** – A member cannot enroll in the same 4-H project area in more than one county or state in the same year. (Example: beef [bucket calf, feeder calf, market beef, and breeding beef are among those listed within the beef project area], clothing, foods, etc.). Exception: Youth may enroll in shooting sports projects in more than one county. Enrollments should occur by discipline (i.e. shotgun, BB gun) based on the availability of certified instructors. Youth may not be enrolled in the same discipline in more than one county or state.
3. **PROCEDURE FOR MAKING ENTRIES** - All 4-H entries, pre-entries, and identification affidavits must be made on the appropriate forms provided by the Extension Office and submitted by closing on the Deadline designated by the Extension Office (see below).
**If the deadline date falls on a weekend the deadline will be moved to the Monday immediately following the determined deadline date.*

Deadline*	Deadline*
April 1 4-H Market Beef Ownership Affidavits	July 15 Johnson County Fair Large & Small Animal Entry Form
May 1 <u>ALL</u> 4-H Member and Volunteer Enrollments (Including Clover Kids)	July 15 Johnson County Fair Horse Entry Form
May 1 4-H Horse Ownership Affidavits	July 15 Johnson County Clover Kid Pet Show Entries
May 1 4-H Companion Animal Identification Affidavit	
June 1 Companion Animal Show Entries	
June 15 All 4-H Livestock Ownership Affidavits Rabbit Identification Affidavit Market Goat Identification Affidavit Breeding Heifer, Ewe & Doe Ownership Affidavit Market Lamb Ownership Affidavit Market Swine Ownership Affidavit Feeder Calf/Bucket Calf Ownership Affidavit Dairy Identification Affidavit Dairy Goat Identification Affidavit Poultry Ownership Affidavit	

3. **ENTRY SHEETS** – Exhibitors wanting to exhibit beef, bucket calf, dairy cattle, goats (meat & dairy/pet), poultry, sheep, and/or swine at the Johnson County Fair must complete and submit the Johnson County Fair Large & Small Animal Entry Form. Exhibitors wanting to exhibit in the horse project must complete and submit the Johnson County Fair Horse Entry Form.

4. **ENTRY DEADLINES**

ANIMALS - All large and small animal, and horse project exhibits for the County Fair must be entered on the appropriate Johnson County Fair Entry Form and submitted to the Johnson County Extension Office by closing on JULY 15 (if July 15 falls on a weekend, entries will be due to the Extension Office on the Monday immediately following July 15).

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE -

PRESENCE REQUIRED

- **4-H Fashion Show:** Participants must pre-enter by completing the appropriate entry forms and submitting them to the Johnson County Extension Office by closing on the date designed by the Extension Office.
- **Favorite Food Revue:** Participants must pre-enter by completing the appropriate entry form and submitting it to the Johnson County Extension Office by closing on the date designated by the Extension Office.

PRESENCE NOT REQUIRED

- Exhibits where presence of the 4-H member is not required (i.e. County Fair static exhibit entries); **DO NOT** need to be pre-entered prior to the designated entry day. Exhibits will be entered on the appropriate entry day (see below).

Areas	Entry Day
• Foods and Nutrition (not including Clover Kid food entries)	Saturday prior to the Johnson County Fair
• All other FCS static exhibit areas	Tuesday prior to the Johnson County Fair

Entry tags must be completed prior to entering exhibits; tags not completely filled out will not be accepted. Additionally, exhibitors must complete a Johnson County Static Exhibit Summary Sheet and submit it when entering exhibits. Entry tags are available at the Johnson County Extension Office.

GENERAL AREAS -

PRESENCE REQUIRED

- **Communications Contest:** Participants must pre-enter for the Public Speaking, PSA, and Presentations Contests by completing the appropriate entry forms and submitting them to the Johnson County Extension Office by closing on the date designated by the Extension Office.
- **Music Contest:** Participants must pre-enter for the Music Contest by completing the appropriate entry form and submitting it to the Johnson County Extension Office by closing on the date designated by the Extension Office.

PRESENCE NOT REQUIRED

- Exhibits where presence of the 4-H member is not required (i.e. County Fair static exhibit entries); **DO NOT** need to be pre-entered prior to the designated entry day. Exhibits will be entered on the general static exhibit entry day (Tuesday prior to the opening of the Johnson County Fair). Entry tags must be completed prior to entering exhibits; tags not completely filled out will not be accepted. Additionally, exhibitors must

complete a Johnson County Static Exhibit Summary Sheet and submit it when entering exhibits. Entry tags are available at the Johnson County Extension Office.

5. **IDENTIFICATION SHEETS** - 4-H Horse Ownership Affidavits must be completed and returned to the Johnson County Extension Office by closing on May 1 (if May 1 falls on a Saturday or Sunday entries will be due to the Extension Office on the Monday immediately following). 4-H Market Beef Ownership Affidavits will be completed and submitted by the Johnson County Extension Staff at the designated county market beef weigh in day (the date will be determined by the Johnson County Extension Staff and 4-H Council) or by April 1 (if not participating in the rate of gain contest. All other large and small animal ownership affidavits (breeding beef, feeder/bucket calf, dairy cattle and goat, breeding & market meat goats, breeding & market sheep, poultry, and market swine) must be completed and returned to the Johnson County Extension Office by closing on June 15 (if June 15 falls on a Saturday or Sunday the deadline will be moved to the Monday immediately following).
6. **ENTRY FEES** – There are no entry fees for 4-H exhibits in the Johnson County Fair.
7. **NUMBER OF ENTRIES** – 4-H members may exhibit one (1) entry per class unless otherwise noted. No entry can compete in more than one class.
8. **PROJECT ENROLLMENT** – Entries are allowed in only one unit/level of competition. Those exhibiting in a Middle or Advanced unit may not exhibit in a less advanced unit.
9. **PROJECT ELIGIBILITY** - Items entered for competition in previous years are not eligible for competition again unless otherwise noted. Additionally, items completed for another organization and/or school are not eligible for competition.
10. **COUNTY ONLY CLASSES** – Static exhibit classes that are listed in the 900s are county only classes and projects ARE NOT eligible to be chosen as State Fair exhibits.
11. **SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR EXHIBITS** - Exhibits may require supporting information, check the appropriate Fair Book section to determine what additional information may be required. Exhibits lacking the required supporting information will be lowered a ribbon placing.
12. **SCORING** – Score sheets for 4-H static exhibit entries may be found on the web and are also available in the Johnson County Extension Office.
13. **EXHIBIT RELEASE** – The release times for the Johnson County Fair will be listed on the schedule. No exhibitor is allowed to remove any exhibit (static or live) on exhibition until the scheduled time without the permission of the area and/or overall superintendent and the permission of Johnson County Extension staff and/or Johnson County 4-H Council President and/or licensed veterinarian. Additionally, in order to remove animal(s) before the scheduled release time a Johnson County Fair Animal Release Form must be completed for each animal to be removed.
14. **PROTEST COMMITTEE**
 - A. The superintendents of each division at the County Fair have the authority to make the appropriate decisions based on the rules and regulations of the County Fair.
 - B. Designated members of the Johnson County 4-H Council and Johnson County Fair Board will serve as the Protest and Appeals committee. They will meet when needed to act upon any protest or appeals.
 - C. All protests must be submitted in writing and signed. Written protests and appeals must be submitted to the Johnson County Extension Staff. The staff person will convene the committee for their deliberation.
 - D. Written protests must include the following:
 - Names of persons involved
 - Nature of concern
 - Situation and documentation
 - Recommendations for correction
 - Specific action, rule, etc. in question
 - Additional persons committee may contact for further clarification
 - Procedures and/or steps carried out by person involved prior to submission of the protest to the Extension Staff person
 - E. The committee will review the written protest. They may discuss the situation with anyone they feel has knowledge of the situation. The committee's recommendation or decision will be communicated both verbally and in writing to the group or individuals affected. The committee will recommend appropriate action to the Extension Staff in writing prior to communicating with the affected group or individual.
 - F. In cases of protest, the exhibitor may be allowed to show pending the results of the committee's decision. Results of this showing may be subject to change based on outcome of the protest process.
 - G. The show management reserves the right to withhold premiums and/or awards. The exhibitor may be excluded from the show and/or 4-H Premium Sale if action warrants.
 - H. The appeals process is limited to the 4-H exhibitor, parent and/or volunteer leader. Protests will not be accepted after the exhibit is released from the County Fair. Protests related to judges' integrity, decisions, placing and/or other evaluations will not be accepted.
15. **DISCLAIMER OF RESPONSIBILITY AT COUNTY FAIR**
 - **EXHIBITS** – 4-H exhibits at the Johnson County Fair are entered and displayed at the risk of the 4-H member. The University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension 4-H Youth Development, in cooperation with the Johnson County Fair Board cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage that may occur to exhibits or exhibitors.
 - **PATRONS/PARTICIPANTS** – While the greatest possible care will be exercised by the Johnson County Fair Board to protect patrons/participants of the Johnson County Fair, each individual will be held personally responsible for any injury, accident and/or loss.
16. **INSURANCE** – Accident insurance is carried on all currently enrolled 4-H members and volunteers in the Johnson County 4-H program. A report of all accidents must be made to the Johnson County Extension Office within 24 hours of the accident. Your claim must be filed with the Extension Office within 10 days after the accident.
17. **RIBBONS AND PREMIUMS AWARDED** – 4-H exhibits will be judged according to research-based standards that indicate level of performance or quality of work.
 - Purple ribbons designate an exhibit of superior quality that has met and exceeded all of the standards.
 - Blue ribbons denote an above average exhibit that has met almost all of the standards in a way that surpasses the norm.
 - Red ribbons indicate average quality and indicate that the exhibit has met the majority of standards in such as way that the benchmark was reached, but not exceeded.
 - White ribbons indicate that the exhibit has not met the majority of the standards.Entries incorrectly entered may receive a participation ribbon to recognize the exhibit's presence at the County Fair. Clover Kid exhibits will receive a rainbow ribbon to denote participation.
LIVESTOCK, POULTRY & HORSES – Exhibits must be purple quality to be named Champion or Reserve Champion and/or qualify for related special awards. Special awards include trophies, plaques, medals, medallions, etc. Purple and lavender rosettes are not considered to be special awards and will only be awarded to purple merit exhibits.
STATIC EXHIBITS – Exhibits must be purple quality to be named a Top Exhibit and/or qualify for related special awards.

- PRE-FAIR CONTESTS** – Participants must receive a purple ribbon to be named Champion or Reserve Champion and/or qualify for related special awards. Special awards include trophies, plaques, medals, medallions, etc.
18. **FORFEIT OF PREMIUM** – Exhibitors will forfeit their premium money under the following situations if not previously approved by the Johnson County 4-H Council:
- Incorrect animal identification (i.e. wrong ear tags or new ear tags not reported to the Extension Office)
 - Failure to submit the appropriate animal identification affidavits to the Extension Office by the deadline indicated.
 - Failure to complete an early animal release form
 - Not meeting the dress code for a specific event
19. **DROP ONE RIBBON PLACING** - Exhibitors will be dropped in ribbon placing under the following situations unless otherwise noted:
- For entering an incomplete project (i.e. those lacking the required supporting information, etc.)
 - For entering a complete project that does not follow the specified dimensions, requirements, etc. for the project (i.e. display board too large, etc.)
 - For failure to abide by the livestock grooming rules (i.e. someone other than those who the rule states is grooming a 4-H member's animal).
20. **STATE FAIR ENTRY ELIGIBILITY** – In order to be eligible to exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair a 4-H member must be enrolled in the county they are representing by June 15.
- **STATIC EXHIBITS** – In order to be selected to exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair an exhibit must receive a purple ribbon at the county level.
 - **LARGE & SMALL ANIMAL EXHIBITS** – In order to exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair exhibitors must complete the appropriate entry forms. Exhibitors wanting to take market beef, feeder calves, lambs, meat goats, or swine must submit DNA samples. Exhibitors wanting to exhibit at the State Fair must complete and submit the appropriate entry forms online by the date specified by the Nebraska State 4-H Office. Additionally, exhibitors must pay in full when submitting their entries. (If you have any questions regarding entering State Fair Exhibits please contact the Johnson County Extension Office).
21. **VIOLATION OF RULES** - Exhibitors are subject to loss of premium monies, ribbons, other awards and/or dismissal from exhibiting:
- No person except the judges on duty, ring assistants, and exhibitors will be allowed inside the arena during the judging of entries.
 - No person shall be allowed to interfere with a judge. Any exhibitor who does so will be dismissed from competition.
 - If the Johnson County Fair Board is provided with satisfactory information that a premium has been obtained by fraud, then such premium shall be withheld.
 - Use or possession of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and/or controlled substances (except for approved medical purposes) by any 4-H exhibitor participating in the Johnson County Fair will result in immediate disqualification of that exhibitor's entry(s).
22. **DISQUALIFICATIONS/JUDGING** - Area superintendents have the authority to determine eligibility/ineligibility of an exhibit entry into their division. All ineligible items will not be judged or displayed.