



4-H Entomology

Guide for County and State Fair Judges

Special Interest Displays, Class IV



Oct 2012

Resources to Use:

Judging is based on the 4-H Entomology Manual and requirements in the Nebraska State Fair Fairbook. A PDF copy of the Manual is available through the Nebraska 4-H website. A new manual is being developed for use in 2014.

Fair Book Specifications for Class IV:

The specifications are reproduced here from the most current Nebraska State Fair Book:

Special Interest Display. Educational display developed according to individual interests and abilities. Examples include a collection from a specific insect group (e.g. butterflies, grasshoppers) or by subject (e.g. insect pests of corn, aquatic insects, insect mimicry, etc.), a research project, special report, poster display, insect scrapbook, artwork, etc. Poster displays should be no larger than 22" x 28". Three-dimensional artwork, models, dioramas and other crafts are restricted to a base area no larger than 22" x 28" Nor should height be over 24". Research projects should include a report about methods and results, as well as a brief discussion about what was learned. Artwork should include brief information about the work. Each display should be self-explanatory so that the audience can understand it without help.

Restrictions on dimensions are simply guidelines for the exhibitor so that the display is of a reasonable size or weight for transport and display on a table or rack.

Guiding Principles:

Observe the State Fair ribbon restriction. Only static exhibits in all Classes which receive a PURPLE ribbon at the County Fair are qualified to go to the State Fair.

Consider age. As with insect collections in Classes I-II, judges should be more generous in giving points with younger age groups and have higher expectations for older, more experienced exhibitors.

Assign points. With a total of 50 points possible, score displays and award ribbons as follows:

	Section	Possible Points	Award	Point Range
A	Scientific Accuracy	10	PURPLE	42 - 50
B	Educational Value	10	BLUE	34 - 41
C	Clarity of Expression	10	RED	24 - 33
D	Originality	10	WHITE	16 - 23
E	Creativity	10		
		50		

Title:

Enter the title of the display as given by the exhibitor.

Description:

Circle the most appropriate description and add more on your own if necessary to clarify. If the kind of display is not listed on the sheet, circle "Other:" and describe the project in your own words.

Evaluation Categories:**A. Scientific Accuracy:**

Inasmuch as possible, determine if the facts given are correct. Factual reports especially should have citations of sources used. Common and scientific names of insects should be correct. For reports of experiments, check the kind of design used and if the methods used resulted in sound conclusions.

B. Educational Value:

The display should contain thorough but concise information. Textual content and accompanying graphics or objects should help the display stand alone as an instructive unit. Does presentational content equip the reader with new knowledge and inspire the reader to pursue additional information later?

C. Clarity of Expression:

Facts, comments or captions in reports, on posters and other displays should be organized and written in a grammatical style so that it is easy to read and comprehend.

D. Originality:

There is potential for high points here if the exhibitor addresses new subject matter, or the display reflects a new idea, unusual skill, or is totally unique among the other displays. Reward those who write reports in their own words or use their own images rather than taking them from existing websites or publications.

E. Creativity:

This category reflects the ability to make the display attractive and eye-catching. Creativity involves a good sense for composition and balance in elements used especially in photographs, posters, scrap books, and arts and crafts. It is a skill resulting in a satisfaction where many elements are brought together to create something attractive, meaningful and accessible for others to enjoy.

Comments about effort:

As with any competitive project, judges appreciate apparent effort in a project where many of the above aspects are well represented. Skills in writing content, photography, organizing elements in a poster, choices of images, use of color, boldness of exploration, and craftsmanship in addition to a passion for the subject matter, all come together in a Special Interest Display.