

Conservation, Wildlife & Shooting Sports

Conservation, Wildlife, and Shooting Sports give 4-H members an opportunity to share their knowledge and field experience about conservation, wildlife, and shooting sports. When creating an exhibit make sure to pay close attention to the rules while taking into account the different laws that surround those areas.

General Rules

- 1. Show What You Did and Learned:** All exhibitors must show evidence of their personal field experiences, study, or observations that relate to their exhibit. This helps judges understand what the 4-H'er did and learned in the process that led to the exhibit.
- 2. Proper Credit:** Show proper credit by listing the sources of plans or other supporting information used in exhibits.

Example to attach to your exhibit

Name: Chris Clover

County: Clover County

Age: 10

Field Experience, Study, or Observations:

I attended a 4-H workshop where we put out a food plot, and then made turkey calls. We played a game about attracting turkeys. Sometimes we acted like a female to draw in a tom turkey. Sometimes we acted like a lost baby turkey to call in a whole flock. I was able to use my turkey call and play the game successfully. While I never turkey hunted in person, I went on-line to research more turkey calls. I hope to turkey hunt someday, and I want to use a box call to hunt fall turkeys.

Credits/Source:

Information was obtained from Nebraska Game & Parks website

- 3. Whose Exhibit?** The exhibitor's name, county, and age must be on the back or bottom of all displays.
- 4. Wildlife and Wildlife Laws:** "Animal" or "wildlife" in the following classes include wild fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, or mammals. Please make sure you are following all wildlife laws. Domestic animals (i.e. domestic livestock or house pets) and insect exhibits are not appropriate for this area.
- 5. Project Materials:** Related project booklets include Exploring Your Environment Series, 4-H Shooting Sports, Amphibians, Bird Behavior (EC 59381), Fishing for Adventure Project Manuals, Wildlife Conservation (4-H 125), Geology, and Outdoor Adventure. Other resources include Outdoor Skills: Learning Science in the Outdoors series (Science Signature Outcome Program) outdoornebraska.gov/afterschool/ and www.whep.org.
- 6. Board and Poster Exhibits:** Mount all board exhibits on ¼ inch plywood, Masonite, or similar panel no larger than 24 inches high x 24 inches wide. Poster exhibits should be on regular poster sheets, no larger than standard size (22 inches x 28 inches) but half size, 22 inches x 14 inches, is recommended.

7. Exhibit Size: Exhibits other than poster/display board should not exceed 48 inches x 48 inches and be able to be moved by two people.

Scoresheets, Forms, and Contest Study Materials

Scoresheets, forms, contest study materials, and additional resources can be found at <https://go.unl.edu/ne4hconservation-wildlife-shooting>.

Divisions

Harvesting Equipment

Class

D343001 - Fish Harvesting Equipment - (SF168) - Board exhibit. Display of equipment used in fish harvesting. Examples: fishing knots, hooks (with corks over ends for safety), lures. Label all items displayed. Include in your exhibit the following information: the purpose of each item, when or where each item is, and any personal experiences you've had with the item(s).

D343002 - Build a Fishing Rod - (SF169) - Rod building kits with instructions are available for this purpose. A fishing rod educational exhibit may not exceed 96 inches in length. The exhibit must be mounted on a board. Include with the exhibit an explanation of the cost of materials/components, where materials/components were purchased, and how many hours are required for construction. Label all parts. Necessary components which must be included are grip, line guides (based on manufacturers' specifications), guide wraps, and hook keeper. Reel seat needs to be aligned with guides, and guides aligned accurately down the rod. Guide wraps of size A to D, nylon, or silk thread. The exhibit will be judged on workmanship, labeling of parts, information, and neatness.

D343003 - Casting Target - (SF170) - Make a casting target for exhibit and use. The target must be under 48 inches x 48 inches. The bullseyes must be 2 feet, the outer band must be 1 foot in diameter and can have up to 3 rings. The exhibit must be easy to store, durable, and weather resistant. Include the purpose and rules of using your casting target.

D343004 - Wildlife Harvesting Equipment - (SF171) - Board Exhibit. Display of equipment used in harvesting wildlife. Examples: expended ammunition casings (no live ammunition permitted), steel traps, hide stretchers, fleshers, etc. For displays of shotguns, rifles, or bows, use drawings or pictures. Label all items displayed, the purpose of each item, when or where it is used, and any personal experiences you've had with the item(s).

D343005 - Inventing Wildlife/Fish Harvesting Equipment, Aid or Accessory - (SF168) - Use engineering principles to invent or adapt equipment that helps you harvest fish or wildlife. This could include wildlife calls, adapted fishing poles for shallow water, a blind, decoys, etc. Share your drawing (or adapted plans), how the equipment works, how you tested it, the results of testing your prototype, and any adjustments you made.

Rules

Please refer to General Rules for more information

Other Natural Resources

Class

D361001 - Design Your Own Exhibit in Natural Resources, Conservation, Geology, or Ecology - (SF164) - This class is for educational exhibits about natural resources, conservation, wildlife, or ecology that do not fit into other categories. Entries must be appropriate for fair display and no larger than 24 inches x 24 inches. All entries must include a title and should be clear (a brief explanation or other methods) about the intended purpose or message – what the exhibit is meant to show. Think about the accuracy, creativity, educational value for viewers, and evidence of exhibitors’ personal experiences and learning.

Rules

Please refer to General Rules for more information

Outdoor Adventures – Level 1

D341001L – Poster (NOT ELIGIBLE FOR STATE FAIR) – Create a poster display no larger than 22 inches x 28 inches. Topics may include but are not limited to one or more of the following: how to prepare for a hike/hiking essentials; wildlife and plants identified while hiking; a collection of photos from hiking trips; “Leave No Trace” and how that was followed while hiking; environmental issues/protecting natural resources; trail or park clean up; sanitation/hygiene while outdoors; or use of GPS.

D341002L – Journal/Binder – (NOT ELIGIBLE FOR STATE FAIR) – Written report of actual or virtual hiking trips with observations OR field journal (notes of actual experiences, sights, sounds, smells, etc.), OR hiking trip diary. Explain growth in the project, leading the hikes, planning the trip, now being able to identify the wildlife and nature around you and how you identified them (sight, sound, shape, smell, color, etc.). Feathers/leaf/flower pressing must be securely attached if included. Photos or drawings of observations are encouraged. Exhibits measure no larger than 16 inches x 16 inches.

Outdoor Adventures - Level 2

Class

D341001 - Poster – (SF281) - Topics may include, but are not limited to one or more of the following; how to pitch a tent, knot tying, cooking over a campfire, how to start a campfire, wildlife, and plants identified while camping, how to set up emergency shelter, dealing with weather, collection of photos from camping trips, “Leave No Trace” and how that was followed while camping, plan a camping trip, camping essentials, environmental issues/protecting natural resources, park or trail clean up, sanitation/hygiene while outdoors or use of GPS.

D341002 - Journal/Binder - (SF281) - Written report of virtual, or actual camping/hiking trips with observations OR field journal (notes of actual experiences, sights, sounds, smells, etc.), OR camping or hiking trip diary. Explain growth in the project, leading the hikes, planning the camping trip, and now being able to identify the wildlife and nature around you and how identified (sight/sound/shape/smell/color). Feathers/leaf/flower pressings must be securely attached if included. Photos or drawings of observations are encouraged. Exhibits measure no larger than 16 inches x 16 inches.

D341003 - Camping/Hiking – (SF281) - Safety - Must include an explanation of the use of the item and why selected/purpose, and how it fits hiking/camping needs. May include, but are not limited to, one of the following: travel-sized poisonous plants guide, camping first aid kit, weather/water safety, or hand hygiene kit.

D341004 - Digital Media – (SF281) - Use digital media to show video/slideshow/presentation of setting up a tent (include why the site is chosen) or protecting natural resources or environmental issues or computer video camping/hiking game. Submit a USB drive or DVD inside a report cover or notebook. If using a slideshow, include printed slides inside the report cover or notebook.

D341005 - Other Camping Items – (SF281) - Must include what inspired the creation of the item, and its purpose. May include but is not limited to one of the following: nature art, nature haiku poem, spider web sketches, or knot display.

Rules

Please refer to General Rules for more information

Outdoor Adventures Level 3

Class

D341006 - Poster – (SF281) - Topics may include but not limited to one of the following: Topographic map, backpacking trip plan, camp layout, plan an expedition (can be dreamed or lived), collection of photos from your expedition, trails hiked, cost comparison of rental vs purchase or using GPS/compass.

D341007 - Journal/Binder – (SF281) - Written report of actual, virtual, or imagined expeditions/camping/hiking, OR field journal (notes of actual experiences, sights, sounds, smells, etc.). Explain growth in the project, challenges in leading a group, teaching others about wildlife and nature identification, and “Leave No Trace.” Exhibits measure no larger than 16 inches X 16 inches.

D341008 - Expedition Safety – (SF281) - Must include an explanation of the use of items, why selected/purpose of the item, and how it meets hiking/camping/expedition needs. May include but are not limited to; travel-sized edible plants, creepy-crawly guide, tent repair kit, travel first aid kit, or weather/water safety.

D341009 - Digital Media – (SF281) - Use digital media to show video/slideshow/presentation of one of the following, but not limited to; building a non-tent shelter (include why needed), packing your backpack/equipment, and getting it onto you, teaching others about environmental issues or a computer video backpacking expedition game. Submit a USB drive or DVD inside a report cover or notebook. If using a slideshow, include printed slides inside the report cover or notebook.

D341010 - Other Expedition Items – (SF281) - Must include what inspired the creation of the item, and the purpose of the item. May include, but are not limited to; nature art, nature cinquain poem, backpacking food recipes, hiking/expedition conditioning plan, charcoal etching, dehydrated meal, or snack (at least 1 cup displayed in a re-sealable plastic bag with ingredients, instructions, and nutritional facts included). Exhibits measure no larger than 18 inches x 24 inches.

Rules

Please refer to General Rules for more information.

Shooting Sports

Class

D347001 - Shooting Aid or Accessory - (SF253) - Any item which helps the shooter/hunter better perform their sport, for example, rifle sling, kneeling roll, arm guard, shotgun vest, target boxes, shooting stick, etc. Include your design, or plans you adapted, and what the item is and used for.

D347002 - Storage Case - (SF254) - Any item with the purpose of safely holding a firearm, bow, ammunition, and/or arrows. Examples: soft-sided shotgun case, quivers, firearm safety, including your design, or plans you adapted. Explain how the storage case is used.

D347003 - Practice Game or Activity - (SF255) - Invent or adapt an activity to practice or teach a project skill. Include pictures of youth playing the game, testimonials of 4-H members who played the game, what skill is being worked on, and directions for the game. Explain how you came up with the game or adapted it to fit the needs of your group members.

D347004 - Science, Engineering, Technology Advancements of Shooting Sports, Conservation, or Wildlife Essay or Display - (SF256) - Choose a specific area of shooting sports and share how it has advanced. Include a timeline and photos or illustrations. Keep your topic narrow and manageable. Essays are limited to 1000 words and should be on 8 ½ x 11 paper.

D347005 - Healthy Lifestyles Plan - (SF 257) Include a shooter's (hiker's, camper's, angler's) diet and exercise plan, and how the 4-H member will benefit or improve from following the plan. Ideally, the 4-H member would follow the plan and include some journal entries about adaptations or improvements made while following the plan.

D347006 - Citizenship/Leadership Project - (SF258) - Share a display on a citizenship project or leadership projects the 4-H member took on individually or with a group to improve some aspect related to 4-H Shooting Sports, Conservation, or Wildlife. Examples could be range development, conservation planting to attract wildlife, a camp, or a 4-H recruitment event. Include who benefitted from the project, what the 4-H member's role was, and any results.

D347007 - Career Development/College Essay, Interview or Display - (SF252) - Research opportunities for careers related to this area or opportunities for college majors or college activities to help discover using project skills beyond a person's 4-H career. Essays are limited to 1,000 words and should be on 8 ½ x 11 paper. Interviews need to include a picture of the interviewee in their work setting, questions asked, and a transcript of answers.

D347008 - Community Vitality Display - (SF251) - Explore the difference shooting sports, conservation, fishing, and hunting make in keeping Nebraska vibrant, especially in rural areas. Present facts and research in an interesting way for the public to learn from.

D3347009 - Ag Literacy-Value added Agriculture Interview or Research Project - (SF 250) Explore how traditional ag producers are adding value to their production agriculture operations through conservation efforts, hunting, raising pheasants, shooting sports-related tourism, etc. Present findings in an interesting way for the public to learn from.

34761L – Hunter Safety Education Exhibit – Poster 14 inches x 22 inches(see Posters for additional guidelines), or Display board, 24 inches x 24 inches x ¼ inch plywood, illustrating some aspects of Hunter Safety. Topics

may include 1. History of Firearms, 2. Marksmanship, 3. Firearm parts and action types, 4. Game care, or 5. Survival and First Aid.

34762L – Poster of Firearm or Archery Parts – Poster, 14 inches x 22 inches, may be either, vertical or horizontal arrangement. (See Poster and Banners for additional guidelines.) Poster must illustrate six to ten parts of any firearm or bow or arrow.

34763L – Shooting Improvement Notebooks (Archery or Firearms) – This notebook will include progress charts or targets, etc., to show shooting skills gained during enrollment in this project. Stories are optional.

34764L – Ammunition Display Board – No live ammunition allowed. Board must be 24 inches x 24 inches x ¼ inch plywood. At a minimum, pieces must be labeled with name of round, caliber, and grain of bullet.

Rules

4-H Shooting Sports requires youth to be under the direct leadership of a certified 4-H Shooting Sports Leader in either shotgun, rifle (bb gun), archery, pistol, black powder/muzzleloader, and/or hunting skills. No firearms can be entered as an exhibit, nor live ammunition; however, information can be shared through pictures. Classes, 004-009 can be entered by anyone in the conservation and wildlife area. Remember to look at General Rules for this area.

Shooting Sports Contest – NOT ELIGIBLE FOR STATE FAIR

Class

78060L – Archery – Basic – 3 targets

78061L – Archery FreeStyle – 3 targets

78070L – Archery 3D

78066L – 4 Position BB Gun Bullseye (prone, standing, kneeling, sitting)

78067L – 3 Position .22 Caliber Rifle Bullseye (standing, kneeling, prone)

78068L – 1 Position .22 Silhouette (standing)

78069L – 3 Position Pellet/Air Rifle (prone, standing, kneeling)

78071L – Trap/Shotgun Shooting – Senior and Intermediate Divisions Only – Participant must have Hunter Safety Card

Rules

1. County Fair Contest – Age divisions are as follows: Junior 8-10, Intermediate 11-13, Senior 14 & up. Disciplines offered at County Fair include BB Gun, Air Rifle, Trap, and Archery.

2. Safety Attire - Any participant while on the shooting line or shooting course in any outdoor 4-H shooting sports event will be required to wear shoes that completely cover their feet. Boots are not allowed. Protective eyewear and ear protection are also required. 4-H armbands or T-shirts are required.

3. Youth must be eight (8) years old by January 1 of the current year before enrolling in a shooting sports contest.
4. Youth must have completed Hunter Safety and show their certificates to participate in Trap/Shotgun.
5. **Hunter Safety Certification** – Youth must be 11 years old or older on the day of hunter safety testing to be eligible for Hunter Safety Certification. Contact the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (www.ngpc.state.ne.us) for information regarding Hunter Safety Education.

Taxidermy

Class

D346001 - Tanned Hides - (SF172) –Exhibit of a wild animal hide properly processed by the member. No requirement as to mounting but must meet the size requirements listed under General Rules. Include the animal's name and the following information about the exhibitor's personal field experience, study, OR observations that relate to the exhibit.

D346002 – Taxidermy – (SF172) – Any legal fish, bird, or other wild animal properly processed by the member. No requirement as to mounting but must meet the size requirement listed under General Rules. Include the animal's name and the following information about the exhibitor's personal field experiences, study, OR observations that relate to the exhibit.

Rules

Please refer to the General Rules for more information

Wildlife and How They Live

Class

D340001 - Mammal Display - (SF154) - Examples: life history or other facts about one type of wildlife; how to manage wildlife on a farm or in town; managing habitat for one kind of wildlife; life requirements for one kind of wildlife during one season or through the year; wildlife behavior and habitats.

D340002 - Bird Display - (SF154) - Examples: life history or other facts about one type of wildlife; how to manage wildlife on a farm or in town; managing habitat for one kind of wildlife; life requirements for one kind of wildlife during one season or through the year; wildlife behavior and habitats.

D340003 - Fish Display - (SF155) - Examples: life history or other facts about one type of wildlife; how to manage wildlife on a farm or in town; managing habitat for one kind of wildlife; life requirements for one kind of wildlife during one season or through the year; wildlife behavior and habitats.

D340004 - Reptile or Amphibian Display - (SF156) - Examples: life history or other facts about one type of wildlife; how to manage wildlife on a farm or in town; managing habitat for one kind of wildlife; life requirements for one kind of wildlife during one season or through the year; wildlife behavior and habitats.

D340005 - Wildlife Connections - (SF157) - Board or poster exhibit. The purpose of this display is to show interconnections and related aspects among animals, plants, and other habitat components. All displays should show two or more interactions (connections) that occur between/among animals or between animals and their

habitat. Displays might show how animals interact with other animals, with people, or with their habitat. Examples: Food chain display. Use pictures, drawings, or other items to illustrate the source of food energy and where it goes - who eats whom or what. Use arrows to show the direction of the energy (food) flow; Show the role of predators, scavengers, insect eaters, or others in nature; Show how wildlife numbers (populations) change through the year; Show predation, competition, or other behavioral interactions of wildlife; Choose one kind of wildlife and make observations through a season or year, keep notes of interactions, then make a display of what you saw.

D340006 - Wildlife Tracks - (SF158) - Board or diorama-type box exhibit. Make a display of animal tracks using plaster-of-paris casts. There are 3 options. For all options, include a brief description of your experiences in making the tracks so the judges better understand what you did and learned. Positive casts (impressions as they would be in nature) are preferred. - Option 1 should show plaster-of-paris tracks of five or more kinds of wildlife along with a picture or illustration of each kind of animal. (OR) - Option 2 should show two or more plaster-of-paris tracks of one specific kind of wildlife and should include a picture or illustration of the animal, what the animal may eat, and what may eat the animal. (OR) - Option 3 should show two tracks and include the animal's habitat needs including preferred food, shelter, water, and space in addition to a picture or illustration of the animal.

D340007 - Wildlife Knowledge Check - (SF159) - Use electrical circuits, pictures, or other methods of teaching wildlife identification or other wildlife conservation or shooting sports-related knowledge. Plan size and shape to fit transportation and display; maximum size 24 inches x 24 inches.

D340008 - Wildlife Diorama - (SF160) Exhibit must be no larger than 24 inches x 24 inches. The exhibit might show a grassland, prairie, agricultural, woodland, riparian (stream or river corridor), wetland, and/or other areas with wildlife habitat. Example: show an area interspersed with several habitats such as windbreaks, farm fields, woods, waste areas, ditches, and pastures for edge-adapted species such as white-tailed deer, Northern bobwhite, mourning doves, cottontail rabbits, fox, squirrels, Northern cardinals, or blue jays. Label the habitats displayed and show at least five kinds of wildlife in their proper habitats.

D340009 - Wildlife Essay - (SF161) - Learn how to share educational information by writing. Choose a conservation or wildlife topic that interests you and write an essay about it. For example, write about a particular species of wildlife that you have observed or about the values of wildlife. You might write about wildlife on a farm, in town, in a backyard, at a backyard feeder, or at other places. You might write about ethics, proper behavior in the outdoors, hunting, or fishing. The essay is between 100 and 1000 words long and typed, double-spaced on 8 ½ x 11 inch paper. You might use books, magazines, or personal interviews as resources, but you must give credit to all sources by listing them.

D340010 - Wildlife Values Scrapbook - (SF162) - Make a scrapbook about the various values of wildlife. This would include aesthetic, scientific, commercial, game, genetic, and/or ecological. One resource would be the Wildlife Conservation project booklet (4-H 125).

D340011 - Wildlife Arts - (SF163) - The purpose of this class is to allow artistic exhibits that contain educational information about conservation and wildlife. Examples might include paintings, photographs, wood carvings, painted duck decoys, or songs or poems written by the exhibitor. Entries must be appropriate for fair display and no larger than 24 inches x 24 inches. For example, paintings or photographs should be displayed in notebook format or mounted on a sturdy display panel. All entries must include a title and brief explanation of the purpose or message (what is the exhibit meant to show).

Rules

Classes 1-4 are board or poster exhibits. The display may show any aspect of wildlife, wildlife habitat, or related conservation. No domestic livestock, pets, or insects are allowed. For other ideas, refer to project booklets. Remember to look at General Rules for this area.

Wildlife Habitat

Class

D342001 - Houses - (SF165) - Make a house for wildlife. Examples: birdhouse (bluebird, purple martin, wood duck, kestrel, barn owl, etc.) or bat house; no insect houses. Make the house functional so that dimensions, hole size, etc. are appropriate to fit the intended species' needs. Include the following information: 1) the kinds of animal(s) for which the house is intended, 2) where and how the house should be located for best use, 3) any seasonal maintenance needed, and 4) any evidence of your personal observations or experiences. Tips: check NebGuide on birdhouses and shelves.

D342002 - Feeders/Waterers - (SF166) - Make a birdbath or feeder. Examples: seed, suet, or nectar feeders. Squirrel feeder is okay; **no insect feeders**. Include the following information: 1) the kinds of animal(s) for which the water/feeder is intended, 2) where are how the water/feeder should be located for best use, 3) any seasonal maintenance needed, and 4) any evidence of your personal observations or experiences. Tips: check NebGuide on feeding birds.

D342003 - Wildlife Habitat Design Board or Poster Exhibit - (SF167) - Choose a backyard, acreage, or farm, and design a habitat plan to meet the food, water, shelter, and space needs of at least three kinds of animals you would like to attract. Draw an outline of the area and show what plants or another habitat will be provided. Indicate how the various parts of your plan provide the desired habitat needs. You might include an aerial photo of the area if you have one.

Rules

Please refer to General Rules for more information

Resources

22 Rifle

URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/186

Air Pistol

URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/187

Air Rifle

URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/188

Archery

URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/189

BB Gun

URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/190

Hunting Skills

URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/191

Muzzleloader

URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/203

Shotgun

URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/192

Smallbore Pistol

URL: https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/193