



4-H Shooting Sports

Learn by Doing

Red Willow County Handbook 2025

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GENERAL RULES

AGE GUIDELINES

Youth **8 years old** by January 1, 2025
to participate in the following
disciplines

**BB Gun
Air Rifle
Air Pistol
Archery
Hunting Skills**

Youth **9 years old** by January 1, 2025
to participate in the following
disciplines

**Small Bore Rifle
Small Bore Pistol
Shotgun
Muzzleloading**

ENROLLMENT

Each participant must complete the enrollment process at v2.4honline.com and add the specific Shooting Discipline project to their profile before attending practices.

CONTEST DRESS CODE

- All 4-H exhibitors are required to wear the current Red Willow County 4-H t-shirt and long, dark blue jeans whenever a person or project is being judged or while participating in a contest.
- Shooting Sports exhibitors, in addition to the dress code are required to wear close toed shoes, safety glasses or protective eye wear, and ear protection. Caps or sun visors are allowed to be worn during outdoor shooting events.
- BB Gun/Air Rifle should not wear high top boots.
- All 4-H members not following the dress code during judging or while participating in contest will be dropped one ribbon placing.

RIBBONS & AWARDS

- “**Change**” All ribbons and awards will be presented at the conclusion of each shooting discipline contest this year.
- If you are unable to stay to the conclusion of the contest you may pick up your ribbon/award at the Extension office.



Overall High Point Marksman



EVENT DETAILS:

To be eligible for this event you must fill out this form and submit it to the extension office no later than February 1, 2025. Choose 3 shooting disciplines to practice, compete and be scored in. The course of fire is different with each discipline but we have weighted them so the point value will be even. Once your selections have been made you can not change. If for some reason you can not attend the required practices or competitions you will forfeit your opportunity to compete in this event.

Choose 3 from the following list

- 1) BB Gun
- 2) Air Rifle
- 3) Air Pistol
- 4) Small Bore .22 Rifle
- 5) Small Bore .22 Pistol
- 6) Muzzleloading
- 7) Shotgun
- 8) Archery

After all of the contests are over, we will calculate the scores to determine who the overall high point marksman is. This award will be announced and awarded at the 4-H Achievement Celebration.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

I AM SIGNING UP TO COMPETE IN THE FOLLOWING (3) DISCIPLINS:

____ (1) BB Gun ____ (2) Air Rifle ____ (3) Air Pistol ____ (4) Small Bore .22 Rifle
____ (5) Small Bore .22 Pistol ____ (6) Muzzleloading ____ (7) Shotgun ____ (8) Archery

Return this to: Nebraska Extension Red Willow County 1400 W 5th St McCook, NE 69001 by February 1, 2025

Overall High Point Marksman

New this year is the Overall High Point Marksman. This event is for you, if you are interested in competing in different shooting sports disciplines. At the beginning of the year, you should pick the 3 areas you would like to be scored on. Notify the office of your choices by February 1, 2025. After that time, you cannot change the disciplines you chose. You should attend practices and compete in the county fair contests. (Even though the course of fire is different among the disciplines the scores are weighted to keep the point value even.)

The options are:

- 1) BB Gun
- 2) Air Rifle
- 3) Air Pistol
- 4) Small Bore .22 Rifle
- 5) Small Bore .22 Pistol
- 6) Muzzleloading
- 7) Shotgun
- 8) Archery

****Remember you must pick 3. You must be enrolled in each and compete in each of the 3 disciplines you choose. If you cannot make the practice requirement or the contest on the contest date you will not be considered for this award. ****

After **all** the contests are over, we will calculate the scores to determine who the overall high point marksman is. This award will be announced and awarded at the 4-H Achievement Celebration.

ARCHERY

Must be 8 years old by January 1, 2025 to participate in the Archery Discipline.

Enrollment- Each participant must complete the enrollment at v2.4honline.com and add the Shooting Sports: Archery project to their profile before attending practices.

Rules:

- 4-H'er must attend TWO practices to be eligible to participate in the contest.
- Scoring will be on an N.F.A.A. single or five spot (Archer's choice) 40 cm target, 48 inch target face for outdoors. 4-H'ers will shoot 6 sets of 5 arrows for an opportunity of a total score of 150 possible points.
- May shoot in more than one division
- Dress Code- Must wear 4-H dress code during contest.
- Eye Protection is recommended but not required.
- Jewelry is should not be worn.

Divisions- 4-H'ers will compete amongst other 4-H'ers within each division.

1. Traditional - Bows made of wood or composite without cams (i.e. recurve, longbow, ILF, or take down recurve) that utilize only the shelf or archer's hand to contain the arrow and with a defined nocking point on the bow. The archer may not use any type of sight, stabilizer, or release aid other than a finger tab or shooting glove. May also be shot using fingers only. Arm bands for this style will be required to protect the archer's arm.

2. Compound Barebow - A compound bow with a defined nocking point that does not utilize sights or stabilizers but may incorporate an arrow rest. May be shot with fingers, finger tab, shooting gloves, or a release aid.

3. Compound Freestyle - A compound bow with any sight or scope, any stabilizer, any rest, and any release aid may be used provided it is hand-operated and supports the draw weight of the bow.

Indoor Range

Cubs - 10 yards

Youth - 20 yards

Young Adult - 20 yards

Outdoor Range

Cubs - 10, 20, 30 yards

Youth - 20, 30, 40 yards

Young Adult - 30, 40, 50 yards

County Classes Only – Premium 6

F500933 - Young Adult - 15 years old & older as of January 1

F500934 - Youth - 12-14 years old, as of January 1

F500935- Cubs - 8-11 years old, as of January 1

Archery Contest – Sunday, June 8, 2025, 6:00 pm, Alice Arena

**Red Willow County 4-H
2025 Archery Calendar of Events**



Leaders: David Barber: (308) 737-7051
 Sam Halloran: (402) 677-8736
 Spencer Smith: (308) 737-9345
 Adriann Smith: (303) 482-7868
 Micaiah Barber: Youth Leader



Day	Date	Time	Event	Notes
Sunday	12/8/2024	6-7:30 pm	Practice	
Sunday	12/22/2024	6-7:30 pm	Practice	
Sunday	1/5/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	
Sunday	1/19/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	
Saturday	1/25/2025	8am	State Competition	State Indoor 4-H Competition
Sunday	2/9/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	
Sunday	2/23/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	
Sunday	3/2/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	
Sunday	3/9/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	
Sunday	5/4/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	
Sunday	6/8/2025	6:00 PM	Competition	RWC 4-H Competition Invite Family and Friends!

All practices will be held in the Alice Arena. **You must attend at least 2 practices to participate in the fair contest. You must be enrolled in 4-H to attend any practices.**

B.B. GUN

Must be 8 years old by January 1, 2025 to participate in the BB Gun Discipline.

Enrollment- Each participant must complete the enrollment at v2.4honline.com and add the Shooting Sports: BB Gun project to their profile before attending practices.

Rules:

- Each participant must attend TWO practices to be eligible to participate in the contest.
- The contest will include the target shoot (16 feet, all divisions) B.B. gun defined as smooth bore. B.B. Guns will shoot .177 steel BB's. Daisy 5-meter, 10 bull's eye, 2 sighted targets (AR4/10) will be used.
- Ten shots from four (4) positions will be shot, (prone, standing, sitting and kneeling fired in this order). Contestants will fire one (1) shot at each bull's eye.
- Shooting mats or pads allowed by rulebook will be allowed. NRA 5-meter B.B. Gun Rule Book will be used for all rules not specified here.
- Contestants must check in their own equipment at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the match.
- Coaching - Coaching shooters on the firing line is permitted. Coaches may load the gun as well as move the gun to accommodate the various shooting positions. Coaches may also provide aiming corrections if wanted.
- Safety glasses or protective eye wear are required.
- Dress Code - Must wear 4-H dress code during contest shoot.
- High top boots cannot be worn while shooting.

County Only Classes – Premium 6

F500905 - Division 1 - 14 years & older, as of January 1

F500906 - Division 2 - 11-13 years old, as of January 1

F500907 - Division 3 - 8-10 years old, as of January 1

BB Gun Contest – Saturday, April 26, 2025 5:00 pm Red Willow Co 4-H Building

AIR RIFLE

Must be 8 years old by January 1, 2025 to participate in the Air Rifle Discipline.

Enrollment- Each participant must complete the enrollment at v2.4honline.com and add the Shooting Sports: Air Rifle project to their profile before attending practices.

Rules

- Each participant must attend TWO practices to be eligible to participate in the contest.
- Will follow the National Standard Air Rifle rules. Air rifles are defined as having a rifled bore. Air rifles will use .177 lead pellets.
- No air rifles larger than .177 caliber are allowed.
- Will shoot from 10 meters or 32.8'. Air rifle will follow the 3 x 10 course of fire, which consists of 10 shots each in the prone, standing, and kneeling position, fired in that order.
- No scopes allowed.
- Coaching - Coaching shooters on the firing line is permitted. Coaches may load the gun as well as move the gun to accommodate the various shooting positions. Coaches may also provide aiming corrections if wanted.
- Dress Code - Must follow 4-H dress code for contest participation.
- Safety glasses or protective eye wear are required.

County Only Classes – Premium 6

F500967 - Division 1 - 14 years & older, as of January 1

F500968 - Division 2 - 11-13 years old, as of January 1

F500969 - Division 3 - 8-10 years old, as of January 1

BB/Air Rifle Contest – Saturday, April 26, 2025 5:00 pm, Red Willow Co 4-H Building

AIR PISTOL

Must be 8 years old by January 1, 2025 to participate in the Air Pistol Discipline.

Enrollment- Each participant must complete the enrollment at v2.4honline.com and add the Shooting Sports: Air Pistol project to their profile before attending practices.

Rules:

- Each participant must attend TWO practices to be eligible to participate in the contest.
- The name of the rule book to be followed is USAS-NRA Progressive-Position Air Pistol Rule.
- Each contestant will get 40 shots. B40/4targets will be used. The positions will vary by age: Basic Supported and Standing Supported. The air pistols allowed to be used will be decided by the rule book only.
- Coaching - Coaching shooters on the firing line is permitted. Coaches may load the gun as well as move the gun to accommodate the various shooting positions. Coaches may also provide aiming corrections if wanted.
- Dress Code - Must follow 4-H dress code for contest participation.
- Safety glasses or protective eye wear are required.

County Only Classes-Premium 6

F500926 - Division 1 - 14 years & older, as of January 1

F500927 - Division 2 - 11-13 years old, as of January 1

F500928 - Division 3 - 8-10 years old, as of January 1

BB/Air Rifle Contest – Saturday, April 26, 2025 5:00 pm Red Willow Co 4-H Building



Red Willow County 4-H
2025 BB Gun, Air Rifle and Air Pistol Calendar of Events



Leaders: Spencer Smith: 308-737-9345
 Adriann Smith: 303-482-7868
 Janet Baker: 620-397-8167
 Gabe Smith: Youth Leader



David Hoyt: 308-340-6600
 Dave Fulkerson: 308-340-3414
 James Neel: 308-737-9319
 Bill Hoyt: 308-340-7576

Day	Date	Time	Event	Notes
Thursday	1/9/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	In the Community Bulilding
Thursday	1/23/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	In the 4-H Building
Monday	1/27/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	In the 4-H Building
Thursday	2/6/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	In the 4-H Building
Monday	2/10/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	In the 4-H Building
Thursday	2/20/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	In the 4-H Building
Monday	2/24/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	In the 4-H Building
Monday	3/10/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	In the 4-H Building
Saturday	3/15/2025	8am	State Competition	NE 4-H State Competition in Grand Island
Thursday	3/20/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	In the 4-H Building
Monday	3/24/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	In the 4-H Building
Thursday	4/3/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	In the 4-H Building
Monday	4/7/2025	6-7:30 pm	Last Practice	In the 4-H Building
Saturday	4/26/2025	5:00 PM	Competition	RWC 4-H Competition Invite Family and Friends!

****You must attend at least 2 practices to participate in the fair contest. You must be enrolled in 4-H to attend any practices. Eye protection is required at all practices as competition. Remember no boots while shooting****

SMALL BORE (.22) RIFLE

Must be 9 years old by January 1, 2025 to participate in the Small Bore Rifle Discipline.

Enrollment – Each participant must complete the enrollment process at v2.4honline.com and add the Shooting Sports: 22 Rifle project to their profile before attending practices.

Rules:

- Participants must attend TWO practices to be eligible to participate in the contest.
- Guns will be always unloaded, bolts open, chamber flag inserted, clips removed, guns in racks, until it is the shooter's turn at the firing line.
- For any malfunctions, dud ammo, etc., after the firing time is over (2½ minutes), have gun muzzle in safe direction (downrange), raise a hand to notify range officer of a problem. At that time, the range officer will allow extra time to finish shooting your round.
- Safety glasses and ear protection must be worn.
- Caps or sun visors are permitted.
- Dress Code- Must wear 4-H dress code during contest.
- .22 rim fire only, no "stingers."
- Furnish your own shooting equipment.
- Contestants will shoot 40 rounds for the contest, 10 each at chickens, pigs, turkeys and rams.
- Tie breaker will be 5 shots at rams, continuing until tie is broken.
- Coaching - Coaching shooters on the firing line is permitted. Coaches may load the gun as well as move the gun to accommodate the various shooting positions. Coaches may also provide aiming corrections if wanted.
- Additional rules and information in NRA silhouette rule book will be followed. Range officers have the option to modify any rules to better suit the group.
- Please be quiet when shooters are at the line. You will be asked to leave by the Range Officer or Match Director if you display any inappropriate behavior.

County Only Classes – Premium 6

F500914 - Division 1 Open Sight Rifle – 14-18 years old

F500915 - Division 2 Open Sight Rifle – 9-13 years old

F500916 - Division 1 Scoped Rifle – 14-18 years old

F500917 - Division 2 Scoped Rifle – 9 -13 years old

Small Bore Contest -Saturday, June 12, 2025, 8:00 am at the City Rifle Range

SMALL BORE PISTOL (.22) SILHOUETTE

Must be 9 years old by January 1, 2025 to participate in the Small Bore Pistol Discipline.

Enrollment – Each participant must complete the enrollment process at v2.4honline.com and add the Shooting Sports: Pistol project to their profile before attending practices.

Rules:

- Participants must attend TWO practices to be eligible to participate in the contest.
- Guns will be always unloaded, bolts open, chamber flag inserted, clips removed, guns in racks, until it is the shooter's turn at the firing line.
- For any malfunctions, dud ammo, etc., after the firing time is over (2½ minutes), have gun muzzle in safe direction (downrange), raise a hand to notify range officer of a problem. At that time, the range officer will allow extra time to finish shooting your round.
- Safety glasses and ear protection must be worn.
- Caps or sun visors are permitted.
- Dress Code- Must wear 4-H dress code during contest.
- .22 rim fire only, no "stingers."
- Target ranges are approximate: Chickens 40 m (44 yds.); pigs 50 m (55 yds.); turkey 75 m (83 yds.); ram 100 m (110 yds.) 10 shots at each target.
- Target will be NRA hunter's pistol sized. Targets must be knocked down, not just hit.
- Furnish your own shooting equipment
- Tie breaker will be 5 shots at rams, continuing until tie is broken.
- Coaching - Coaching shooters on the firing line is permitted. Coaches may load the gun as well as move the gun to accommodate the various shooting positions. Coaches may also provide aiming corrections.
- Additional rules and information in NRA silhouette rule book will be followed. Range officers have the option to modify any rules to better suit the group.
- Please be quiet when shooters are at the line. You will be asked to leave by the Range Officer or Match Director if you display any inappropriate behavior.

County Only Classes - Premium 6

F500974 - Division 1 Open Sight Pistol – 14-18 years old

F500975 - Division 2 Open Sight Pistol – 9 -13 years old

F500976 - Division 1 Scoped Pistol – 14-18 years old

F500977 - Division 2 Scoped Pistol – 10-13 years old

Small Bore Contest -Saturday, June 12, 2025, 8:00 am at the City Rifle Range

MUZZLELOADING

Must be 9 years old by January 1, 2025 to participate in the Muzzleloading Discipline.

Enrollment- Each participant must complete the enrollment at v2.4honline.com and add the Shooting Sports: Muzzleloading project to their profile before attending practices.

Rules:

- Participants must attend TWO practices to be eligible to participate in the contest.
- The Range Safety Officer (RSO) will inspect all equipment upon arrival. If the RSO rules that a gun is unsafe, it will not be fired. Guns must arrive at the range unloaded and shall not be loaded until the RSO gives the command of “COMMENCE LOADING, YOU MAY FIRE WHEN READY.” There will be no early or late firing. Muzzleloading guns use black powder, which is flammable, remember to always use caution.
- For any malfunctions, have gun muzzle in safe direction (downrange), raise hand to notify RSO of a problem.
- Furnish your own shooting equipment as well as safety glasses and ear protection which must be worn.
- Caps or sun visors are permitted.
- Targets will be Combination and Bottle paper targets at 25 and 50 yards and will be provided.
- Division 2 participants may shoot supported either on shooting sticks or the bench.
- Equipment – Any muzzle loading rifle is allowed. Round ball ammunition ONLY. No more than 50 grains of powder charge. No Wooden ram rods or spit patches allowed.
- Contestants – Will shoot 5 shots at the bottle target and 6 shots at the combination target. Tie breaker will be 5 shots at the bottle target until the tie is broken.
- Coaching – Coaching shooters on the firing line is permitted. Coaches may provide aiming corrections.
- Additional Rules and information in the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association’s Rules and Regulations book will be followed. RSO has the option to modify any rules to better suit the group. Please be quiet when shooters are at the line. You will be asked to leave by the RSO or Match Director if you display any inappropriate behavior.

County Only Classes – Premium 6

Division 1 – 14–18 years

Division 2 – 9–13 years

Muzzleloading Contest -Saturday, June 12, 2025, 10:00 am at the City Rifle Range

Red Willow County 4-H
2025 Muzzleloader and Small Bore (.22 Pistol and Rifle) Calendar of Events

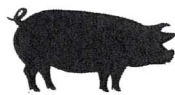
Leaders: Spencer Smith: 308-737-9345
 Adriann Smith: 303-482-7868
 Janet Baker: 620-397-8167
 Gabe Smith: Youth Leader



David Hoyt: 308-340-6600
 Dave Fulkerson: 308-340-3414
 James Neel: 308-737-9319
 Bill Hoyt: 308-340-7576

Day	Date	Time	Event	Notes
Thursday	4/17/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	City Range (Outside) ← moved to 24th
Thursday	5/1/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	City Range (Outside)
Monday	5/5/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	City Range (Outside)
Thursday	5/15/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	City Range (Outside)
Thursday	5/29/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	City Range (Outside)
Monday	6/2/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	City Range (Outside)
Thursday	6/12/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	City Range (Outside)
Monday	6/16/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	City Range (Outside)
Thursday	6/26/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	City Range (Outside)
Monday	7/7/2025	6-7:30 pm	Practice	City Range (Outside)
Saturday	7/12/2025	8:00:00 AM (Small Bore) 10:00 AM (Muzzleloader)	Competition	RWC 4-H Competition for all small bore start at 8 am. All muzzleloader start at 10 am. Invite Family and Friends!

****You must attend at least 2 practices to participate in the fair contest. You must be enrolled in 4-H to attend any practices. Eye and ear protection is required at all practices and competition.****



HUNTING SKILLS PROJECTS - Premium 6

Hunting Skills Contest – This contest will be held on June 14th at 4pm at Barnett Park. It will include activity centers for youth to demonstrate the knowledge gained by attending the hunting skills program activities prior to June 14th. You must attend at least two activities to be eligible to participate in the contest. Areas of knowledge will include knife safety, fire safety, tracking, first aid, animal identification and firearms information.

County only Classes

D900905 – Level 1 Age 8-11

D900906 – Level 2 Age 12 and up

County Fair Exhibits

Soap Carving – You must attend the knife safety class held on Saturday, March 15th, 2025, at the lower shelter at Kelly Park to receive safety instructions and certification to be eligible to submit your soap carving exhibit at fair. You will receive a card at the end of the class. That card must be turned in with your carving as well as supporting information answering the following questions:

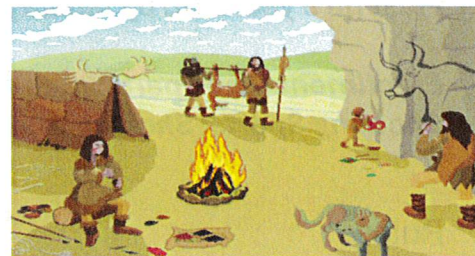
1. What was your inspiration for this project?
2. What steps did you take to complete this project?
3. What is one thing you learned from creating this project?

Each participant will make a carving out of a bar of soap to be submitted to the 4-H building as a static exhibit. The carving should be a single bar of soap of your choice. It must be carved with a pocketknife only. The inspiration for the carving can be anything 4-H or animal related.

D900904 – Hunting Adventure – Go on a hunting adventure. Keep a scrapbook or make a poster about what type of adventure you went on and your findings. Include at least three and no more than six photos. Posters must be displayed in an attractive manner and must be no larger than 22" x 28". All entries must include NAME, COUNTY, AGE AND YEARS IN THE PROJECT on the back. Scrapbooks can be added to year after year if they are appropriately labeled. The exhibit will be scored on the difficulty of the adventure, how close you got to the animal, sharpness of the photos and the overall appearance of the exhibit.

**Red Willow County 4-H
2025 Hunting Skills Calendar of Events**

Leaders: Adriann Smith: 303-482-7868
Spencer Smith: 308-737-9345



Day	Date	Time	Location	Notes
Saturday	1/18/2025	3 - 4:30 pm	Extension Office	Fire (Good Weather) Bad Weather (First Aid)
Saturday	2/8/2025	2 - 3:30 pm	Extension Office	We will do the one we didn't get to do in Jan. either fire or first aid
Saturday	3/15/2025	2 - 3:30 pm	Lower Shelter Kelly Park	Knife safety class (Needed for soap carving project!)
Saturday	4/12/2025	3 - 4:40 pm	Barnett Park by the Tank	Tracking hike and making molded tracks
Saturday	5/24/2025	4 - 5:30 pm	City Outdoor Range	Firearms Information Day (Please bring eye and ear protection!)
Saturday	6/14/2025	4 - 6 pm	Barnett Park by the Tank	RWC 4-H Contest, Invite Family and Friends!

****You must attend at least 2 classes to participate in the fair contest. You must be enrolled in 4-H to attend any classes. Plan to dress warm as most activities will be outside. If you want to enter a soap carving exhibit at fair you must be at the safety class in March****

SHOTGUN

Must be 9 years old by January 1, 2025 to participate in the Shotgun Discipline.

Enrollment- Each participant must complete the enrollment at v2.4honline.com and add the Shooting Sports: Shotgun project to their profile before attending practices.

Rules:

- Exhibitors must attend TWO practices to be range qualified and be eligible to participate in the contest.
- Ear and eye protection is mandatory.
- Caps or sun visors are permitted.
- No reloaded shells may be used. No hammer action shotguns are allowed.
- The practice of resting the muzzle of a shotgun on a shooter's toe is not advised and is discouraged.
- For contest, participants will shoot two rounds of 25 shots.
- Dress Code- Must wear 4-H dress code during contest.
- The traveling trophy will be awarded to the top scoring individual for the contest. The winner can keep the trophy until the 2026 contest. Please take the trophy to McCook lettering to have your name added to the plaque. (This is done at the family's expense.)

County Only Classes - Premium 6

F500919 - Division 1 - 14 years old & over - 50 targets

F500920 - Division 2 - 11-13 years old - 50 targets

F500921 - Division 3 - 9-10 years old - 50 targets

Trap Contest – Monday, July 29, 2025, 5:00 pm at the McCook Gun Club.



Red Willow County 4-H 2025 Shotgun Shooting Sports Calendar of Events



Leaders: Mitchell Johnson: 402-525-9087
 Jason Blomstedt: 308-345-8893
 Staci Blomstedt: 402-540-3257
 Jackson Blomstedt: Youth Leader

Julie Gillespie: 308-350-0032
 Curtis Smith: 308-737-6012
 Rob Hinze: 308-340-2855
 Zach Hinze: Youth Leader

To Fill Cards call: Paul Teel 308-340-7097

Day	Date	Time	Event	Notes
Thursday	03/06/2025	5:45 PM	Initial Meeting	Safety, Rock Purchases, Rust buster rounds
Thursday	03/13/2025	5:45 PM	Practice	
Thursday	03/20/2025	5:45 PM	Practice	
Thursday	03/27/2025	5:45 PM	Practice	
Thursday	04/03/2025	5:45 PM	Practice	
Thursday	04/10/2025	5:45 PM	Practice	
Thursday	04/17/2025	5:45 PM	Practice	
Thursday	04/24/2025	5:45 PM	Practice	
Thursday	05/01/2025	All Day	State JH Shoot	Cornhusker Trap Shoot
Friday	05/02/2025	All Day	State HS Shoot	Cornhusker Trap Shoot
Saturday	05/03/2025	All Day	State HS Shoot	Cornhusker Trap Shoot
Thursday	06/05/2025	5:45 PM	Practice	Safety, Trap Basics, Rock Purchases, Intro Shoot
Thursday	06/12/2025	5:45 PM	Practice	
Thursday	06/19/2025	5:45 PM	Practice	
Thursday	06/26/2025	5:45 PM	Practice	
Thursday	07/03/2025	5:45 PM	Practice	
Tuesday	07/10/2025	5:45 PM	Practice	
Tuesday	07/17/2025	5:45 PM	Practice	
Wed-Sunday	7/23/2025 - 7/27/2025	All Day	County Fair	
Monday	07/28/2025	5:00 PM	Competition	RWC Fair competition Invite your friends and family!

****You must attend at least 2 practices to participate in the fair contest. You must be enrolled in 4-H to attend any practices. Ear and Eye Protection are required at every practice. The gun club membership fee is \$10.00 a year. The cost of rocks is currently \$5.00 per round. Checks can be made out to: McCook Gun Club.****

The following section is taken from the 2024 Red Willow County Fair 4-H Premium Book. These are additional projects that relate to shooting sports and may be exhibited in the 4-H Building. If you plan to exhibit any of these items, please refer to the 2025 Red Willow County Fair 4-H Premium Book for any changes that may have been made. The 2025 book will be available approximately April 1, 2025.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & EARTH SCIENCE

Conservation, Wildlife & Shooting Sports

Conservation, Wildlife and Shooting Sports gives 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. **Only one entry per class, per exhibitor may be entered.**
2. **Show What You Did & 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.
3. **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

4. **Whose Exhibit?** The exhibitor's name, county, and age must be on the back or bottom of all displays.
5. **Wildlife & Wildlife Laws:** "Animal" or "wildlife" in the following classes includes 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.
6. **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.
7. **Board and Poster Exhibits:** Mount all board exhibits on ¼" plywood, Masonite or similar panel no larger than 24" high x 24" wide. Poster exhibits should be on regular poster sheets, no larger than standard size (22" by 28"), but half size, 22" by 14", is recommended.
8. **Exhibit Size:** Exhibits other than poster/display board should not exceed 48" x 48" and be able to be moved by two people.

Resources

<https://go.unl.edu/ne4hconservation-wildlife-shooting>

22 Rifle

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

Air Pistol

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

Air Rifle

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

Archery

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

BB Gun

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

Hunting Skills

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

Muzzleloader

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

Shotgun

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

Smallbore Pistol

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

Wildlife and How They Live – Premium 6

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

Classes

D340001 - Mammal Display – 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 – 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 – 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 – 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 - 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:

1. 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.
2. Show the role of predators, scavengers, insect eaters or others in nature.
3. Show how wildlife numbers (populations) change through the year.
4. Show predation, competition or other behavioral interactions of wildlife.
5. 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 - 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.

1. 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)
2. 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)
3. Option 3 should show two tracks and include the animal's habitat needs including preferred food, shelter, water, and space in addition to picture or illustration of the animal.

D340007 - Wildlife Knowledge Check - 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" x 24".

D340008 - Wildlife Diorama - Exhibit must be no larger than 24" x 24". The exhibit might show a grassland, prairie, agricultural, woodland, riparian (stream or river corridor), wetland and/or other area 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 - 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 8½ x 11 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 - 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 - 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" x 24". 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).

WILDLIFE HABITAT - Premium 6

Please refer to General Rules for more information.

Classes

D342001 - Houses - Make a house for wildlife. Examples: bird house (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 bird houses and shelves.

D342002 - Feeders/Waterers - Make a bird bath or feeder. Examples: seed, suet, or nectar feeders. Squirrel feeders are okay, no insect feeders. Include the following information: 1) the kinds of animal(s) for which the waterer/feeder is intended, 2) where or how the waterer/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 - 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 other 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.

HARVESTING EQUIPMENT - Premium 6

Please refer to General Rules for more information.

Classes

D343001 - Fish Harvesting Equipment - 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:

1. The purpose of each item
2. When or where each item is used
3. Any personal experiences you've had with the item(s).

D343002 - Build a Fishing Rod - Rod building kits with instructions are available for this purpose. A fishing rod educational exhibit may not exceed 96 inches in length. Exhibit must be mounted on a board. Include with the exhibit:

- o Explanation of cost of materials/components
- o Where materials/components were purchased
- o How many number of hours 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 rod. Guide wraps of size A to D, nylon or silk thread. Exhibit will be judged on: workmanship, labeling of parts, information, and neatness.

D343003 - Casting Target - Make a casting target for exhibit and use. Target must be under 48" x 48". 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 - 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 - Use engineering principles to invent or adapt equipment that helps you harvest fish or wildlife. This could include wildlife calls, adapted fishing pole for shallow water, a blind, decoys, etc. Share your drawing (or adapted plans), how the equipment works, how you tested it, and the results of testing your prototype and any adjustments you made.

TAXIDERMY - Premium 5

Please refer to General Rules for more information.

Classes

D346001 - Tanned Hides - Exhibit of a wild animal hide 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.

D346002 - Taxidermy - Any legal fish, bird, or other wild animal 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 experiences, study, or observations that relate to the exhibit.

SHOOTING SPORTS - Premium 6

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 the General Rules for this area.

Classes

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

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

D347003 - Practice Game or Activity – Invent or adapt an activity to practice or teach a project skill. Include pictures of youth playing the game, testimonials for 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 or Shooting Sports, Conservation or Wildlife Essay or Display 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 – 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 – Share a display on a citizenship project or leadership project 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, 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 – 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 1000 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 – 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.

D347009 - Ag Literacy-Value Added Agriculture Interview or Research Project – 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.

OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES - Premium 7 **Class**

D361001 - Design Your Own Exhibit in Natural Resources, Conservation, Geology or Ecology - 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" x 24". All entries must include a title and should be clear (a brief explanation or other method) about the intended purpose or message - what the exhibit is meant to show. Think about accuracy, creativity, educational value for viewers and evidence of exhibitor's personal experiences and learning.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES LEVEL 2 - Premium 7

Please refer to General Rules for more information.

Classes

D341001 - Poster - Topics may include, but 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 - 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 project, leading the hikes, planning the camping trip, 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 of drawing of observations encouraged. Exhibits measure no larger than 16" X 16".

D341003 - Camping/Hiking Safety - Must include explanation of use of item and why selected/purpose, 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 - Use digital media to show video/slideshow/presentation of setting up a tent (include why 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 report cover or notebook.

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

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES LEVEL 3 - Premium 7

Please refer to General Rules for more information.

Classes

D341006 - Poster - 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 - Written report of actual, virtual or imagined expeditions/camping/hiking, OR field journal (notes of actual experiences, sights, sounds, smells, etc.). Explain growth in project, challenges in leading a group, teaching others about wildlife and nature identification and "Leave No Trace." Exhibits measure no larger than 16" X 16".

D341008 - Expedition Safety - Must include an explanation of use of items, why selected/purpose of item, 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 - 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 report cover or notebook.

D341010 - Other Expedition Items - 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" X 24"

Entomology

Entomology exhibits give 4-H'ers the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge about insects and insect displays. This category has multiple projects that allows 4-H'ers to progress over numerous years.

Learn the difference between an insect and a bug; Identify insect parts and know why each is important; Find and examine bugs and insects in the field; Design your own insect or create a home for an insect; Make an insect collection; Learn where to look for insects; Learn how to identify and classify insects; Complete an insect collection table; Plan an insect collection trip; Raise meal worms; Explore insect legs and collect insects with an extractor; Test ant food preferences; Conduct honey bee learning experiments; Record insect observations; Identify insect mouth types

Resources: <https://go.unl.edu/ne4hentomology> or https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/61

Rules

1. Specimens in display collections should be mounted properly and labeled with location, date of collection, name of collector, and order name. Follow mounting and labeling instructions in the Nebraska 4-H Entomology Manual. Boxes are preferred to be 12" high x 18" wide, and landscape orientation so they fit in display racks at State Fair. Purchase of commercially made boxes is allowed. All specimens are to be pinned and labeled by the exhibitor. No purchased specimens allowed.
 2. No projects over 50 pounds allowed.
- Exhibitors may, and should, correct and update collections for competition at the State Fair.

Classes 1-2 Premium 5, Classes 3-8 Premium 4

H800001 - Entomology Display, First Year Project - Collection to consist of 25 or more different kinds (species) of insects representing at least 6 orders. Limit of one box.

H800002 - Entomology Display, Second Year Project - Collection to consist of a minimum of 50 kinds (species) of insects representing at least 8 orders. Replace damaged or poorly mounted specimens. At least 25 species must be present from after July 1 of the previous year. Limit 2 boxes.

H800003 - Entomology Display, Third Year or More Project - Collection to consist of a minimum of 75 kinds (species) of insects representing at least 10 orders. Replace damaged or poorly mounted specimens. At least 25 species must be present from after July 1 of previous year. Limit of 3 boxes.

H800004 - Special Interest or Advanced Insect Display - Educational display developed according to personal interests and/or advanced identification capability. This is also an opportunity to highlight favorite insects in a creative arrangement. Insects should conform to pinning and mounting standards as in Classes 1-3 and be protected in an insect box. Each specialty display should include names of the insects, interesting information about them and why the display was made. Advanced identification collections should have insects grouped with labels that correspond with identification level (e.g. family, genus, species). A specialty collection may consist of insects by taxonomic group (e.g. butterflies, grasshoppers, dragonflies, scarab beetles) or by host, subject or habitat (e.g. insect pests of corn, aquatic insects, insect mimicry, insect galls, insects from goldenrod, insect pollinators, etc.).

H800005 - Insect Habitats - Habitats consist of any hand-crafted objects, made of natural or artificial materials, to be placed outdoors, which promote or conserve insects in the environment. Insects may include bee pollinators, butterflies, beneficial insects, etc. A one-page report describing activities must accompany the exhibit. Report should include placement, target insect, why materials were chosen, functional design and indicators of success. See the following resources for reports:

- Nebraska Extension NebGuide: Creating a Solitary Bee Hotel (G2256)
- University of Minnesota: Wild Bees and Building Wild Bee Houses
- National Wildlife Federation: How to Provide Water in Monarch Gardens

H800006 - Macrophotography – Subjects should be insects, spiders or other arthropods, or any nests, webs or constructions they make. All exhibit prints should be either 8" x 10" or 8½" x 11" and mounted on rigid, black 11" x 14" poster or mat board. Either orientation is acceptable. No frames or mat board framing is allowed. A caption of a few sentences should explain the subject and be printed on white paper and glued below the print on the poster board.

H800007 - Insect Poster/Display Exhibits – Exhibits can be posters or three-dimensional displays and artistic creativity is encouraged. Posters should be no larger than 22" x 28". They should be instructional and can be attractive and have pictures, drawings, charts or graphs. Posters and displays may show any aspect of insect life, habitat or related conservation or management. Examples include life history and other facts about an insect; insect anatomy; how to manage insects in a farm, home, lawn or garden setting; experiences rearing one kind of insect; survey of an important insect; insect behavior (ex. nesting, finding food, mobility, defenses, etc.); habitats (e.g. forests, grasslands, wetlands, rivers or lakes) and what insects are found there, etc. Three-dimensional displays, such as dioramas, sculptures, models or decorative boxes should have a page of explanatory information accompanying them and fit within a 22" x 28" area.

H800008 - Reports or Journals – Reports and journals should be in a 3-ring binder. A report may be informational, that is, an original article about a favorite insect, a history of insect outbreaks, diseases caused by insects, insects as food, etc. Or, it may be a research report about an investigation or experiment done in a scientific manner. It then should have a basic introduction of the insect studied, methods used, observations and results of the project. Tables, graphs and images are helpful to include. A journal is an observational study over a period of time with personal impressions. It may cover watching changes in kinds of butterflies over the summer, rearing a specific insect from egg to adult, managing a bee hive, observations of insects in a specific habitat, accounts of insect behavior in a forest or flower garden, etc.

Forestry - Premium 6

This category provides 4-H'ers an opportunity to prepare displays that show their expertise in many aspects of forestry. Involvement in this category will lead to expansion of seed, twig, wood, leaf, and tree knowledge for 4-H'ers. In addition, participants would learn more about common Nebraskan trees. Learn to use a dichotomous key to classify trees; Identify common Nebraska trees. For more information about tree classification visit this website https://4hcurriculum.unl.edu/index.php/main/program_project/65.

Resources: <https://go.unl.edu/forestry>

Rules

1. The official reference for all forestry projects is The Tree Identification Manual (4-H 332) which was recently revised. Other helpful forestry references include Trees of Nebraska (EC 92-1774-X), Leafing Out (4-H431) and Plant a Tree (EC 17-11-80).
2. Display "boards" must be made from wood or wood composite, e.g., plywood, fiberboard or masonite, ¼" to ½" thick and no larger than 24" x 24". Display boards may be coated, e.g., painted or varnished on both sides to prevent warping.
3. Display "posters" must be made from a material, e.g. foam board or poster board, that will stand upright without buckling and be no larger than 24" x 24".
4. Display "books" must measure no more than 16" x 16".
5. At least 5 of the 10 samples in Class 2, 3, 4, and 5 must be from the list of 60 species described in 4-H 332. Samples must be from 10 different tree species. For example, Emerald Queen Maple and Crimson King Maple are both varieties of the same species (Norway Maple), and thus have the same genus and species name, i.e. *Acer platanoides*. All samples must be from trees, NO shrubs. If more than 10 samples are included in the display, only the first 10 samples from the current year will be judged.
6. Due to emerald ash borer infestation, no true ash species (Green Ash, White Ash, Black Ash or Blue Ash) may be included in any collections. Inclusion of a true ash species will result in the project being disqualified.
7. Remember that other general labeling standards apply. For example, scientific names are always italicized or underlined. Also, the first letter of a Genus name is always capitalized. The first letter of a species name is always lower case. When required, always indicate complete scientific names (Genus and species) and common names, (e.g. Norway Maple) even when "variety names" are included. For example, the scientific name of Emerald Queen Maple is *Acer platanoides* and the common name is Norway maple. "Emerald Queen" may be included as the variety name, but variety names are not required.
8. How well the exhibitor follows written directions is an important factor in judging.

Classes

D320001 – Design Your Own Exhibit – Prepare an educational exhibit about some aspect of trees, forests, or forestry that is of special interest to you. Possible topics include paper recycling, wildfire, forest products, forest wildlife, or forest pests. The only requirement is that the display must be no larger than 24" x 24" x 24". Photographs, drawings,

samples, charts, posters, etc. can be used, but include enough information to adequately explain the topic. Your display should be substantially different from other display classes. Be as creative as you like.

D320002 - Leaf Display – The leaf display must include samples of “complete leaves” from at least 10 different tree species. The display must include at least two samples of simple leaves, compound leaves, and conifer leaves. Leaves should be pressed, dried, and mounted.

Collection: Whenever possible, collect leaves from mature trees. Collect leaves any time after they have reached full size, usually beginning in early summer. Leaf samples should be in good condition and representative of the average leaves on the tree. Keep in mind that shaded leaves are often much larger than normal. Carefully remove leaves from the twig with the entire petiole or rachis intact. After collection, fresh leaf samples can be temporarily stored within the pages of an old magazine, but they should be properly pressed and dried for display. Be sure to record pertinent information during collection. All collection must be done by the exhibitor.

Mounting: Leaves may be displayed in a notebook or on a display board. Any method may be used to mount leaves, e.g. wire, glue, tape, staples, plastic bags, but be sure all their features can be clearly identified.

Labeling: The label for each sample must include:

- 1) Common name
- 2) Scientific name
- 3) Leaf type
- 4) Leaf arrangement (for broadleaf trees)
- 5) Leaf composition (for broadleaf trees)
- 6) Collector's name
- 7) Collection date
- 8) Collection location (be specific, state and county at a minimum)

If a twig is included with a sample, indicate “twig included” on the label. For example, the twig may be included with an eastern red cedar sample because the leaves are very small and difficult to remove from the twig.

Supplemental information: e.g. general uses, common products, fall color, etc., may be included to enhance educational value.

D320003 - Twig Display - The twig display must include twig samples from at least 10 different tree species. The display must include at least two samples of opposite and alternate leaf arrangements from broadleaf trees.

Collection: Twig samples should be collected during the dormant season (November-April) when the buds are mature. Twig samples must be at least 6 inches long and exhibit buds. Leaves must be removed and side branches must be trimmed to less than 1 inch in length. All collection must be done by the exhibitor.

Mounting: Twigs must be mounted on the display board. Any method, e.g. wire, glue, tape, staples or plastic bags, etc. may be used to mount twigs, but be sure all features can be clearly identified. The non-terminal end must be cut at a slant so the pith can be seen.

Labeling: The label for each sample must include:

- 1) Common name
- 2) Scientific name
- 3) Leaf arrangement (for broadleaf trees)
- 4) Collector's name
- 5) Collection date
- 6) Collection location (be specific, state and county at a minimum)

Supplemental information: e.g. general uses, tree characteristics, etc., may be included to enhance educational value.

D320004 - Seed Display - The seed display must include seed samples from at least 10 different tree species.

Collection: Tree seeds should be collected at the time of year when they mature, which varies widely depending upon tree species. For example, Silver maple seeds mature in May while red oak acorns do not mature until September. Seed samples should be free of insect or disease symptoms. Remember to display seeds, not fruit. For example, the seed of honeylocust is enclosed in a pod. Remove and display the seed, not just the pod. It is acceptable to display the fruit with the seed, but clearly label each. All collection must be done by the exhibitor.

Mounting: Seeds may be displayed in a variety of ways, e.g. mounted on a display board, displayed in jars in a rack, etc., but they must be securely mounted and easily viewed. Be as creative as you like.

Labeling: The label for each sample must include:

- 1) Common name
- 2) Scientific name
- 3) Type of fruit, if known (e.g. samara, pod, nut, legume, etc.)
- 4) Collector's name
- 5) Collection date
- 6) Collection location (be specific, state and county at a minimum)

Supplemental information: e.g. maturity date, average number of seed in the fruit, etc., may be included to enhance educational value.

D320005 - Wood Display - The wood display must include wood samples from at least 10 different tree species.

Preparation: Samples may be of any shape, e.g. sections from a board, wood cylinders turned on a lathe, horizontal or vertical cross-sections of a small log with bark attached, etc., but all samples should be the same shape, e.g. all wood cylinders or all sections of a board. Each sample can be no larger than 4" x 4" x 4". Cut surfaces should be sanded to show the grain. Treating samples with a clear finish (no stain) is optional. All collection must be done by the exhibitor.

Mounting: Samples may be displayed in a variety of ways, e.g. mounted on a display board, displayed in a box or rack, etc., but they must be securely mounted and easily viewed. Be as creative as you like.

Labeling: The label for each sample must include:

- 1) Common name
- 2) Scientific name
- 3) Wood type (softwood or hardwood)
- 4) Collector's name
- 5) Collection date
- 6) Collection location (be specific, state and county at a minimum)

Supplemental information: e.g. common products, wood density, etc., may be included to enhance educational value

D320006 - Cross Section Display - A disc cut from a tree species listed in 4H 332. The sample must be collected, by the exhibitor, within one year of the County or State Fair judging day. The disc must measure 6 to 12 inches in diameter and 1 to 3 inches thick. The bark should be firmly attached, which may be difficult if the tree was dead when the disc was cut. Sand at least one side of the disc so the grain can be easily seen. If the disc is treated with a clear finish, both sides must be treated to minimize warping. As the disc dries, some cracking or checking can be expected and is allowed.

Labeling: The following parts must be clearly and accurately labeled on the cross section with pins, paper tags, or some other form of identification:

- 1) Pith
- 2) Heartwood
- 3) Sapwood
- 4) One growth ring (beginning and end)
- 5) Cambium
- 6) Bark

A separate label attached to the back of the disc must include:

- 7) Common name
- 8) Scientific name
- 9) Tree classification (softwood or hardwood)
- 10) Age (of the cross section)
- 11) Collector's name
- 12) Collection date
- 13) Collection location (be specific, state and county at a minimum)

D320007 - Parts of a Tree - This project is only for ages 8 – 11. Prepare a poster, no larger than 24" x 24" that clearly identifies the main external parts of any tree:

- 1) Trunk
- 2) Crown
- 3) Roots
- 4) Leaves
- 5) Flowers
- 6) Fruit
- 7) Buds
- 8) Bark

Identifying other internal parts, e.g. phloem, xylem, cambium, annual ring, pith, etc., is optional. Attach a separate label on the back of the poster that includes the exhibitor's name and age.

D320008 - Living Tree Display – a living tree seedling grown by the exhibitor from seed in the display container. The seed must be from a species listed in 4H 332. The seedling must be 60 days to 1 year old (on State Fair judging day). The display container must contain at least 8 inches of soil (potting mix or suitable natural soil), have a drainage hole(s), and a drain pan to catch drainage water.

Labeling: A waterproof label must be attached and include:

- 1) Common name
- 2) Scientific name
- 3) Seed treatments (if any)
- 4) Planting date
- 5) Emergence date
- 6) Collector's name

Supplemental information about the tree: e.g. where the seed was collected, growth measurements, uses for that species, etc., may be included in an attached notebook, poster, etc. to enhance educational value.

Supplemental information will be an important factor in judging.

D320009 - Forest Product Display - Prepare a visual display and/or collection tracing the origin of one non-lumber product that comes from trees and/or forests. The display must be no larger than 24" x 22" x 28". Photographs, drawings, samples, charts, posters, etc. can be used. Posters submitted may be no larger than 22" x 28" and may be either vertical or horizontal. The contestant must identify what species of tree the product is derived from and where the product is harvested, grown, or otherwise collected. The product listed must be partially or fully derived from trees; if partial the approximate percentage should be articulated in the display.

- The goal of this exhibit is for students to learn that many products come from trees and forests and to explore one of these products through in-depth study.
- Information about the tree or forest product: e.g. information about harvesting, processing, industry information, and environmental or other benefits may be included to enhance educational value. Supplemental information will be an important factor in judging but should not exceed three printed pages of text. Cite sources of information.
- Personal interviews with industry professionals are encouraged as a source of information.

D320010 - Forest Health Display - Prepare a visual display outlining a specific forest health issue such as a tree disease, insect pest, animal- or human-caused damage, or an abiotic issue such as weather damage. The display must be no larger than 24 inches by 24 inches by 24 inches. Original photographs, drawings, samples, charts, posters, etc. can be used. Actual specimens are strongly encouraged but must be properly preserved, i.e. insects pinned or placed in vials of alcohol, leaves pressed and dried. Posters submitted may be no larger than 24 inches x 24 inches.

- Explain through the display what species of trees the health issue affects, diagnostic features of the issue (symptoms in trees, identifying features of the pest, etc.), and management options.
- Include common and scientific names of trees and pests.
- Supplemental information about the tree or forest health issue: e.g. origin, proliferation in Nebraska/United States, and physiological effects on the tree may be included to enhance educational value. Supplemental information will be an important factor in judging but should not exceed three printed pages of text. Cite sources of information.
- Attach a separate label on the back of the display that includes the exhibitor's name and age.

D320011 - Wildfire Prevention Poster - Prepare a poster, no larger than 24 inches x 24 inches that promotes wildfire prevention strategies. Strategies articulated in the poster can include personal and/or land management actions. Attach a separate label on the back of the poster that includes the exhibitor's name and age.

- Supplemental information about wildfire prevention should be attached to the poster: e.g. frequency of wildfires in Nebraska/United States, financial costs of wildfires, environmental factors that contribute to wildfires, etc. to enhance educational value. Supplemental information will be an important factor in judging but should not exceed three printed pages of text. Cite sources of information

D320012 - Sustainable Landscape Diorama - Box must be no larger than 24" x 24". The exhibit must show a Nebraska landscape that includes elements such as windbreaks, fields, pastureland, CRP, public lands, community/municipal landscapes. The goal of this exhibit is for students to articulate conservation and sustainability best-practices that can be implemented on a landscape, while addressing landowner and other stakeholder interests.

- Label point/nonpoint sources of pollution, carbon sequestration, water-wise practices, wildfire prevention strategies, renewable energy sources, and other conservation practices as well as at least 10 species of plants included in the diorama.
- Attach to the exhibit a brief report including supplemental information describing the diorama, defining conservation practices, and outlining opportunities for landscape improvements to enhance educational value. Supplemental information will be an important factor in judging but should not exceed three printed pages of text. Cite sources of information.

D320013 – Tree Planting Project Display – Plant a tree in your community. Prepare a visual display where the student articulates proper tree planting techniques, why the individual tree species was chosen, as well as steps taken to continue care for the tree after initial planting. The display must be no larger than 24" x 24" x 24". Photographs, drawings, samples, charts, posters, etc. can be used. Posters submitted may be no larger than 24" x 24". The tree must have been planted 60 days to 1 year before County or State Fair judging day. Students must obtain permission from necessary authorities and property owners before planting any trees.

- Labeling: the following information about the tree must be included in the display: 1. common name 2. scientific name 3. planting location 4. planting date 5. tree source 6. planter's name 7. proper tree planting steps 8. tree care (after planting)
- Supplemental information about the tree: e.g. why the species was chosen, growth measurements, uses for that species, etc., may be included in an attached notebook, poster, etc. to enhance educational value. Supplemental information will be an important factor in judging but should not exceed three printed pages of text. Cite sources of information.