

GUIDELINES FOR ALL RI 4-H COMPETITIONS

These 4-H rules will be followed in all RI 4-H events and contests and any 4-H classes in open shows. Individual fairs and competitions may have additional requirements, limitations on number of entries in classes and or special classes pertaining specifically to that event so please read each event's rules carefully.

1. All project work must be the result of the current year's work of the 4-H member exhibiting. The year includes the time from the previous year's event or contest.
2. The 4-H exhibitor must be enrolled as a Rhode Island 4-H member, special interest or 4-H school group during the current 4-H year (October 1 of last year to September 30 this year). The 4-Her must be enrolled in the specific project area that they are competing in as a Rhode Island 4-Her for the current year. The 4-Her must declare specific projects for Rhode Island 4-H that they will compete in as a RI 4-Her for the current year. A RI 4-H fair may allow registered 4-Hers from other states to compete in their fair. It is at the discretion of the 4-H fair committees. The 4-H Office should be given 3 weeks notice, so that they can contact the other state, to confirm 4-H membership and the out of state 4-Hers will be representing their state in the competitions.
3. Youth can dually enroll in 2 states, but not in the same project area. Example: A youth can enroll in MA 4-H Horse and RI 4-H Dog in the same year. If a child dually enrolls in another state's 4-H program, they cannot participate in 4-H competitions in the other state in a project area that is declared a RI 4-H project. You may however, participate in any non-competitive educational 4-H program in any state, in any project. You may also compete in any regional or national 4-H program where you have declared the project area in RI, you are representing RI and you are registered as a RI 4-Her and use that as progress towards your RI declared 4-H project.
4. Youth ages 5-7 as of January 1st of the current year, are considered Cloverbuds. Adding 4-H Cloverbud classes to district fairs and events is at the discretion of the local fair committees. **All Cloverbuds should receive green participation ribbons and should receive encouragement from the judge and feedback on how they can improve their project.**
5. Only articles made, produced, raised, etc, as a part of a 4-H project in the club, or individually by a 4-H member, can qualify for an exhibit. Exhibits will be accepted that were not exhibited for credit outside of 4-H.
6. **Deadlines stated for each event must be followed.** If, after registering, a member is not able to show, please notify officials of that event/fair so that space can be used by others.

7. 4-H will not assume responsibility for items stolen, damaged or lost. All possible precautions will be taken to safeguard items exhibited.
8. Interpretation of rules and decisions about questions not specifically covered in the rules are the responsibility of the superintendent/event coordinator. If a situation cannot be resolved, the superintendent or chairperson should first contact the 4-H Event/Fair Committee, then the Event/Fair Committee then should contact the State 4-H Office or 4-H Staff person on site.
9. Behavior of Exhibitors: Participation in 4-H Exhibit Events is a chance to show the public the best of 4-H. No alcohol or drugs will be allowed, and actions must be cooperative and helpful. The 4-H Superintendent/event coordinator has the authority to take such disciplinary action as may be necessary to enforce such rules.
10. Judges will place exhibits by using the Danish award system: Blue ribbons for exemplary work, Red ribbons for satisfactory work, and White ribbons for work that needs improvement, Green ribbons for work that does not meet requirements for regular placings. After the required Danish awards are presented to all participants, individual placings may then be awarded. **Decisions of judges are final.** Optional - "Best of Show" awards will be determined by a vote of the judges following an evaluation of all exhibits. Therefore, "Best of Show" winners may not necessarily have the highest score in points.