

GUIDELINES FOR ALL RI 4-H COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS

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 also be enrolled in the *specific project area* that they are competing in as a Rhode Island 4-Her for the current year and must declare *specific projects* that they will compete in as a Rhode Island 4-Her for the current year.
3. The 4-H exhibitor **may not** participate in another state's 4-H competitions in projects they have declared as Rhode Island 4-H project, even if they are dually enrolled in another state's 4-H program. However, the 4-Her may participate in any non-competitive educational 4-H program in any state. They may also compete in any regional or national 4-H program where they have declared the project area in Rhode Island, are representing Rhode Island, and are registered for that event as a Rhode Island 4-Her. In that case, the 4-Her may use a regional or national competition to show progress towards their Rhode Island declared 4-H project.
4. Youth age 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 chairperson/superintendent/coordinator of the event. **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 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 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 these rules.
10. Judges will place exhibits by using the Danish award system: Blue ribbons for exemplary work, Red ribbons for satisfactory work, White ribbons for work that needs improvement, and 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.