

Northern Maine Agricultural Fair

July 30 - August 3, 2025



4-H CONTESTS AND EXHIBIT HALL & CONTEST HANDBOOK

Theme 2025

“Sowing Seeds for the Future: Year of Youth in Ag”

Participation in the Northern Maine Agricultural Fair (NMAF) is an opportunity for 4-H members to be recognized for their efforts on projects they have completed and skills they have gained over the past 4-H year. Club members and independent 4-Hers from any part of Maine, who are members in good standing in their County 4-H program, are eligible and welcome to participate in 4-H activities at the Northern Maine Fair. All Aroostook County and State 4-H rules and regulations must be followed. No entry fees are charged for 4-H events.

4-H PLEDGE



I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking

My **HEART** to greater loyalty

My **HANDS** to larger service

My **HEALTH** to better living for my

Club, my Community, my Country and my World



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

4-H EXHIBIT HALL ENTRY DEADLINES 2

AROOSTOOK COUNTY 4-H FAIR CODE OF CONDUCT 2

4-H MEMBERSHIP AGE 2

WHY DO WE EXHIBIT 4-H PROJECTS 3

4-H RULES AND PROJECT GUIDELINES FOR 5-8 YEAR OLD MEMBERS 3

4-H CLOVERBUD EXHIBIT CARD 4

EXHIBIT CATEGORIES FOR CLOVERBUDS 4

4-H RULES & PROJECT GUIDELINES FOR 9-18 YEAR OLD MEMBERS 5

JUDGING CRITERIA FOR 4-H FAIR EXHIBITS FOR 9-18 YEAR OLDS MEMBERS 5

4-H EXHIBIT AND JUDGING CARD 6

JUDGING ACCORDING TO THE DANISH SYSTEM6

FAIR EXHIBIT HALL PROJECT CATEGORIES FOR 9-18 YEAR OLDS7

PREMIUMS FOR 4-H EXHIBIT HALL PROJECTS16

4-H CLUB EXHIBIT CONTEST16

4-H FAIR CONTESTS17

4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST17

4-H DEMO EX18

BARTLETT FARMS 4-H SIGN CONTEST19

4-H EGG-CELLENT EGG-HIBITS20

4-H SUPPER FROM THE SOIL CONTEST21



“To Make The Best Better”

4-H Entry Deadlines for Northern Maine Agricultural Fair

2025 Drop off instructions

- NMF Exhibit Hall: Monday, July 28th 12:00 - 4:00 or Tuesday, July 29 9:00 - 12:00.
- Members unable to drop off during the above time can deliver their entries to an Aroostook County Extension office (Houlton, Presque Isle, Fort Kent) on or before 3:00 pm July 25th.

Please contact Emily Dow (emily.dow@maine.edu or 532-6548) if you need assistance with getting your submissions to a local office or to the Exhibit Hall.

- Judging will take place Tuesday, July 29th.
- 4-H members, parents, and volunteers may not be present during the judging.
- Exhibits can not be removed prior to the close of the fair. Please plan to remove your entries at the time designated by the NMF Exhibition Hall.
- If you are unable to pick up your items at the designated time, 4-H staff will make best efforts to transport entries to a county extension office and arrange for you to collect them.

4-H Fair Code of Conduct

Members exhibiting or participating in any activities at the Northern Maine Fair must...

- Participate fully in this program.
- Follow all schedule times including curfew and wake-up hours, to be where assigned, when assigned.
- Follow the Dress code established for this program/event.
- Uphold the highest standards of behavior, manners and language.
- Refrain from using alcoholic beverages, non-prescribed or illegal drugs, tobacco products, or fireworks.
- Respect the rights of others at all times and make every attempt to include all participants in all activities.
- Leave the facilities in the same condition or better.
- Support and follow all leadership and direction received from coordinators, chaperones and any other adult authority.
- Respect the personal space and property of others in all settings including during overnight programs.
- Seek assistance and support from adult chaperones on behalf of myself or others should a situation arise that warrants adult intervention or makes me feel uncomfortable.

4-H Membership Age

The official age range for 4-H Membership in Maine is 5 to 18. "4-H Age" is defined as the age of the individual on December 31 for the current 4-H Year. The official 4-H year runs from October 1 of one calendar year to September 30 of the next. Participation in Fryeburg Fair activities in October is considered as part of the previous 4-H year. For example: If Johnny Smith is 8 years old on December 31 and turns 9 on January 1, then in accordance with Maine's 4-H age policy, Johnny would be 8 years in 4-H age for the current enrollment year.

At the discretion of the 4-H Youth Development Educator or Professional, individuals who are older than 18 may be enrolled when it is mutually beneficial for the Maine 4-H Youth Development program and the individual. For example, mentally-impaired individuals chronologically over 18 but who function at a developmental level that falls within the 5 to 18 4-H age-range could be enrolled as 4-H members.

Why Do We Exhibit 4-H Projects?

Project exhibits for the Exhibit Hall at the Northern Maine Agricultural Fair provide a chance for 4-H members to be recognized for the work they have done, information they have learned, and skills they have mastered over the past 4-H year. Public display of 4-H projects help members practice communication and demo skills and judging of the exhibits encourages them to create high-quality projects. The exhibit hall also provides the opportunity to teach the public about 4-H, to encourage membership in 4-H, and to gain support from the community.

4-H exhibits entered at the Exhibit Hall should reflect on-going work done by the members in their project area during the current 4-H year. Projects should show, in detail, how skill levels in the project area have improved throughout the course of the year. An effective way to demonstrate this improvement is to plan an exhibit highlighting different stages of the project. For example, a cooking project might show photos and recipes from early cooking attempts. A second part of the display might show photos and recipes from more difficult cooking attempts. This would show the judges that skills have improved from basic to more complex. Similarly, a wood craft project might first show a simple, roughly done project demonstrating how basic tools were used; and a later example would include a more refined or finished project demonstrating that skills had improved with more practice with the tools. An art project may show sketches made along the way to a final drawing.

Exhibit Rules and Guidelines for Cloverbud Members (age 5-8)

While Cloverbuds, 4-H members ages 5 through 8, may not participate as competitive exhibitors in any 4-H events, they are encouraged to participate in fairs and other county events in other ways. Cloverbuds are encouraged to exhibit their activities in 4-H Exhibit Halls. As exhibitors, they should receive a standard participation ribbon or other small token as designed or chosen by each county/fair. Cloverbuds may not receive premiums. However, a small honorarium may be paid to the club or the member in an amount to be determined by each county/fair.

The Northern Maine Agricultural Fair provides an honorarium of \$4.00, per category. Although Cloverbud exhibits are not ranked or scored, it is important for the children to receive feedback on their exhibits.

- Exhibits may be submitted only by current 4-H members enrolled in Maine.
- Exhibits must be those of the 4-H member and no one else.
- Projects must be produced or prepared during the current 4-H year.
- Each exhibit must be accompanied by a 4-H Cloverbud Exhibit Card.
- Exhibits are not required to have a project record included; but project records are helpful for personal reflection and growth.

4-H Cloverbud Exhibit Card

Member _____

Club/Unit _____ Age _____

Item Name _____

Category _____

What I learned:



Instructions

1. Complete all of your personal and club information.
2. Please fill in the item's name & category.
3. Use a highlighter to mark at least two sections of the Life Skills Wheel that represent a skill you used to complete the entry.
4. Under the "What I Learned" section, please give a brief summary of something that you learned by completing this exhibit entry.

We encourage exhibit cards to be completed ahead of drop off. To request cards please email emily.dow@maine.edu or call 207-532-6548.

Exhibit Categories for Cloverbuds (ages 5-8)

Cloverbuds can submit one entry in each of the nine categories listed below. Entries can be photos, posters, models, crafts, or other items completed by the member that represent their learning and experience.

Plants

Identifying plants, or their parts, growing things, learning about seeds, etc.

Animals

Identifying animals or their parts, watching and feeding birds, pet care, entomology, etc.

Citizenship and Civic Education

Community service and civic responsibility, flag etiquette, my country, etc.

Healthy Lifestyle

Cooking, My Plate, healthy snacks, hand washing, first aid safety, fitness, etc.

Personal Development

A book about yourself, learning about families, celebrations around the world, the qualities of good character, being a good friend, etc.

Science and Technology

Weather, water, sounds, senses, kitchen chemistry, building things, kites and airplanes, etc.

Communications, Performing or Expressive Art

Theater, dance, music, creative writing, storytelling, art, crafts, hobbies, collecting, etc.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Budgeting time or money, manners, simple needle crafts, weaving, cooking, or canning (jams and jellies or pickles), etc.

Environmental Education/Earth Sciences

Wildlife, habitats, nature explorations, recycling, helping the environment, dinosaurs, maps, rock collections, etc.

Exhibit Rules & Guidelines for Junior/Senior Members (ages 9-18)

- Exhibits may be submitted only by current 4-H members enrolled in Maine.
- Exhibits must be those of the 4-H member and no one else.
- Projects must be produced or prepared during the current 4-H year.
- Members may only enter one exhibit per category except where multiple classes are listed. In that case, one entry per class will be allowed. Multiple items will be entered as a group and judged as one project.
- Each exhibit must be accompanied by a complete and accurate Exhibit Card and Life Skills Wheel.
- Exhibits are not required to have a project record included; but project records are helpful to the judges, and the Aroostook 4-H Leader's Association will pay \$1.00 for each exhibit that includes a project record. (Participants will receive this award at annual Achievement Awards). Project records are strongly encouraged!
- Kits are not allowed, except in categories where it is noted to be acceptable. If your project looks like it could be from a kit, and did not come from a kit, make sure there is complete information on both the Exhibit Card and accompanying project record.
- If a project was done for school, it may only be entered if accompanied by a project record showing how it was also a 4-H project. No written school reports allowed.
- Exhibits are to be judged according to the Danish System. Each award also brings a cash prize or premium to the exhibitor.

Judging Criteria for Junior/Senior Member Exhibits

Make sure you read through these pages carefully to ensure that you are aware of general rules and judging criteria. One of the criteria by which projects are judged is the degree to which members follow the requirements of the project. Projects that do not meet the requirements may not receive premiums. Read first, then plan your display or exhibit.

Does this 4-H project conform to standards laid out in the Project Exhibit Guide?

For example, a beginner entomology project must have a minimum of 15 different mounted species of insects with common names. Refer to the appropriate section of the Project Exhibit Guide for details on specific projects. In some cases, it may be necessary to give a one or more "ribbon mark-down" or even disqualify a project altogether if it does not conform to the requirements.

Is the project an appropriate item for the age and ability level of the exhibitor?

For example, a nine-year-old first year member doing a woodworking project would most likely not show the same level of craftsmanship as an older more experienced member. Members should note under "item description" the level of the project, i.e., "beginner birdhouse."

Does the project show evidence of careful workmanship?

*Is labeling neat and precise? *Is spelling accurate? *Are items organized and easy to identify? *Is the project clean and neat? *Does it look like the 4-H member spent time and effort doing this project? *Are drawings and photos matted or mounted? *Are seams and edges finished? *Are baked goods, vegetables, and flowers attractively arranged? *Does the project show creativity? *Is the project pleasing and interesting to look at?

Does the project have a standard 4-H Exhibit and Judging Card?

*The Exhibit Card and Life Skills Wheel must be completely filled in. *Failure to fill the cards out as indicated will result in a one-ribbon "mark down".

Are there special considerations that should be given to the project?

*If an accommodation due to disability is required, please indicate this to 4-H Staff who will share this information with the judges.

*If a submission is damaged or unintentionally altered prior to judging, special consideration will be given.



Fair Exhibit Hall Project Categories for 9-18 Year Olds

Don't forget that projects accompanied by a project record will receive an extra \$1.00!

Project records can be downloaded at

<https://extension.umaine.edu/4h/volunteers/project-records/> or requested at the county office.

Division 02.01 Agriculture

Poster, scrapbook, or display on crop production, farm management, or other agriculture related topics.

Division 02.02 Art (no paint by number)

Within each class, you can enter one piece or use different techniques within a class to make a collection. One project record should be done for each CLASS whether it includes one piece or several. For example, you might show a landscape, a portrait, and an abstract piece all in watercolor; do one record over all three items and receive one ribbon and one premium for the collection.

Class 1 Oils/Acrylics	Technique
Class 2 Watercolors	(a) Landscape/Seascape
Class 3 Charcoal/Paste/Pencil	(b) Portrait (figure or face)
Class 4 Pen and Ink	(c) Still Life
Class 5 Sculpture	(d) Animal/Bird/Fish
Class 6 Computer Art	(e) Abstract
Class 7 Miscellaneous	(f) Cartoon

Art and other creative project areas are best exhibited when there is a collection of work that either shows how your skills improved or how a project developed. A sculpture might be accompanied by sketches or perhaps you may enter a group of watercolors showing different techniques or show examples of how you got better at painting throughout the year.

Division 02.03 Animal Projects

Any item the member has made for the project during the current 4-H year. These can include 6-8 regular size photos that tell a story, mounted as a unit and individually labeled, or a notebook the member has kept on their animal, or a poster depicting some aspect of animal care or training. If you wish to show more photos, please submit a scrapbook or photo album along with your poster. Separate entries may be submitted for each species of animal as long as each is conducted as a separate project. Exhibits may be entered for animals that are shown at the fair. No live animals displayed.

Class 1 Beef	Class 5 Goat	Class 9 Dog
Class 2 Dairy	Class 6 Horse	Class 10 Cat
Class 3 Sheep	Class 7 Alpaca	Class 11 Pets/Small Animals
Class 4 Swine	Class 8 Rabbit	Class 12 Poultry

Division 02.04 Astronomy

Poster or display showing something that was learned while doing the project.

Division 02.05 Automotive and Small Engines

Any item the member has made for the project during this 4-H year, **or** 4-6 regular size photos that illustrate the project, or a poster or item showing: engine design and operation, **or** care and maintenance of the machine, or safety considerations, **or** ignition or fuel system **or** similar exhibit. Separate entries may be submitted for each type of machinery or vehicle as long as each is conducted as a separate project.

Division 02.06 Beekeeping

One pint of honey from a member's beehive **or** a poster about beekeeping, social structure of bees, the beehive, or how to extract honey, etc. LIVE BEES will not be allowed as part of an exhibit hall entry.

Division 02.07 Bicycle

An exhibit showing safe bicycle use, **or** a poster with a schedule and map of a bike trip taken this year, **or** other exhibit as suggested in the project manual, **or** 4-6 photos that tell a story with individual labels.

Division 02.08 Camping

Display, poster, or an article used in camping and made by members. If submitting an article, include a short-written description of its use. Examples: survival kit, display of a safe fire pit, poster on setting up a tent, model of tripod used for cooking or Appalachian shelter, a poster with ten knots you've learned in the project, a display illustrating "no-trace" camping techniques, a poster with a written schedule and map of a camping/hiking trip taken this 4-H year.

Division 02.09 Child Care/Babysitting

A safe toy, game, or child's item made by the member, (note the age of child for whom it was made on the Exhibit Card), **or** a poster or scrapbook showing appropriate child care or safety information.

Division 02.10 Citizenship or Community Service

Display or poster illustrating one of the individual member's community service projects, **or** the importance of voting, etc., **or** enter a collection of historic items about your community, **or** 4-6 photos that tell a story with individual labels.

Division 02.11 Computers

A printout of a program written by the member, **or** a display showing parts of the computer and how they work, **or** a display showing a website created by the member.

Division 02.12 Crafts

Class 1 Baskets	Class 7 Wreaths/Wall Décor
Class 2 Candles	Class 8 Seasonal Items
Class 3 Ceramics, Pottery, or Paper-Mache	Class 9 Miscellaneous
Class 4 Stained or painted glass	Class 10 Scrapbooking
Class 5 Leather craft	Class 11 Dioramas and shadow boxes
Class 6 Metal craft	Class 12 Decorated clothing

Division 02.13 Creative Writing

A poster, scrapbook, or journal showing samples of the project work. Project must include at least 6 poems, **or** 4 written pieces (fiction or nonfiction), **or** at least one month's worth of journal entries.

Division 02.14A Electricity

An article, model, or display illustrating what was done in the project.

Division 02.14B Engineering

A constructed item demonstrating an application of science in design, planning, construction or creation of the item. The project can be from any branch of engineering, such as civil, electrical, mechanical and chemical.

Division 02.15 Entomology

A poster or scrapbook display of what has been done in the project during the past year. Include an explanation of the project. Examples: planting a butterfly garden and displaying photos of butterflies visiting the garden; a non-toxic way to eliminate pests; pictures of insects in their natural habitat; or 6 photos that tell a story with individual labels. **NO LIVE BUGS!**

Exhibit insect specimens neatly mounted in a case protected by a see-through cover and labeled. 4-H members who cannot write small enough to fit the name on the label may have help. (Members may enter at only one level.)

Beginner - a minimum of 15 different mounted species of insects with common names. ▪

Intermediate - a minimum of 25 different mounted species in at least 5 orders, with common names.

Advanced - a minimum of 35 different mounted species in at least 6 orders with scientific names (double premium).

Master - a minimum of 45 different mounted species in at least 7 orders with scientific names (double premium).

Division 02.16 Environmental Science

An article or poster that illustrates what has been done in this project for the year. May include scrapbooks or articles in which member has made items from natural resources such as: gourd birdhouses, walking sticks, shadow boxes of natural or shore items, etc., a poster display or scale model on the ecology of a plant or animal species or on a habitat or community studied this year. An article or poster explaining project work on soil and water conservation topics.

Division 02.17 Field Crops and Fruits

Must come from a plot of 1/4 acre or more planted to the same crop.

Can be any of the following: 6 bean pods or 1 pint dry beans; 3 potatoes; 3 ears of corn; 1 pint of grain; or 3 of any produce you raised

OR 1 pint of berries; or a berry plant in a waterproof container.

OR a photo story consisting of 6 photos of your project's progression with a description of your plan for the crop.

Division 02.18 Fishing

An article made by member such as: collection of 6 flies including 1 dry, 1 nymph, 1 streamer and 3 other flies mounted on a wooden or poster board; fish print tee shirt; streamer wallet or tying tool blocks; hat band, fly rods, or other fishing related item appropriate to age and number of years in the project; or 4-6 regular-size photos that tell a story with individual labels.

Division 02.19A Food Preparation

A recipe collection of at least 10 recipes in a current 4-H project and displayed in a box or notebook. Each recipe should include its source and member's comments or recommendations. Recipes may be all one category (snacks, foreign foods, fat free, etc.) or may be varied. Only one recipe collection per member.

Division 02.19B Food Preparation

Foods made by the members showing appropriate skills for the member's age and number of years in the project. It should be something that will stay somewhat attractive for the week of the fair.

All such food exhibits must fit on a standard paper plate, be securely wrapped or sealed, and will be judged on taste, texture, and appearance. Be sure to include the recipe on a 3" x 5" card.

Division 02.20 Food Preservation

All jars and samples must be accompanied by a card listing the recipe, processing method and processing time used, and include the member's name (Members may enter at only one level). It is strongly suggested to consult the University of Maine Cooperative Extension for proper canning methods for this project.

Beginner - 2 jars of different produce - choice of fruits, berries, tomatoes, jam.

Intermediate - 3 jars of different produce - choice of fruits, vegetables, jam, jelly, berries, marmalade, pickles, or relish.

Advanced - 4 jars of different produce - choice of fruits, vegetables, jam, jelly, berries, conserves, pickles, relish.

Master - 4 jars of different produce - choice of fruits, vegetables, jam, jelly, berries, conserves, pickles, relish & 1 or more samples of dried fruits, vegetables, herbs, or fruit leathers.

Division 02.21 Forest Conservation

Six mounted photos that illustrate poor forest conservation practices, labeled to tell what the poor practice is and what might be done to "correct" the problem; or 6 mounted "before and after" photos that illustrate the member's own erosion prevention project, such as building diversion ditches or water bars, plantings of seedlings or ground cover, etc.

Division 02.22 Forestry

Specimens must be labeled with common and/or scientific names. (Members may enter at only one level).

Beginner - Collection of leaves, needles, twigs, or bark of at least 10 tree species.

Intermediate - Collection of seeds of 10 tree species.

Advanced - Collection of at least 4 diseases, insect, or animal damaged specimens, **or** a display of some phase of industrial forestry, such as Christmas tree production or commercial logging, etc.

Division 02.23 Gardening-Indoor

Specimens must be labeled with common and/or scientific names. (Members may enter at only one level).

Beginner - One houseplant grown by a 4-H member.

Intermediate – A collection of 3 houseplants with a description of specific care requirements.

Advanced – A collection of 5 house plants **or** dish garden **or** terrarium with a description of specific care requirements

Division 02.24 Garden Crops

(Not a Field Crops Project as described in 2.17. Exhibits must be labeled with variety names).

Class 1: A member may enter **one** Garden Crop exhibit, using any combination of the Home Garden produce for which member was responsible for preparing the soil, planting, tending, and harvesting as long as the produce exhibited will fit on a standard paper plate. Tops should be removed within one inch of the top of root vegetables. Brush vegetables but do not wash. Select for uniform size, shape and color. Tomatoes may be green.

Class 2: A container garden of fruits or vegetables (such as a patio tomato plant).

Division 02.25 Garden Flowers

Specimens must be labeled with common and/or scientific names. A member may enter an exhibit in each class for which he/she was responsible for preparing the soil, planting, and tending.

Class 1: Container grown (a) flowers (b) herbs - - may submit one of each (a) and (b).

Class 2: Cut garden flowers.

Class 3: Flower arrangement, corsage, or bouquet.

Class 4: Any poster or display of the member's flower garden showing labeled specimens, may include a drawing or map to describe plant placement in the entire garden.

Division 02.26 Geology/Rocks and Minerals

Exhibits must be neatly mounted, labeled, and protected with a see-through cover. At least 1/2 of the rocks or minerals must have been collected by the 4-H member during this 4-H year. (Members may enter at only one level).

Beginner - A minimum of 10 different rocks or minerals.

Intermediate - A minimum of 15 different rocks or minerals.

Advanced - A minimum of 20 different rocks or minerals.

Division 02.27 Health, First Aid, Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Any poster or item display that could be used to inform the public about health or safety issues, such as nutrition, benefits of exercise; first-aid skills; home, outdoor, or farm safety; emotional health, sports health, etc.

or an item, such as a first aid kit, made by the member with an explanation of its usefulness.

Posters or displays that promote physical activity or a tobacco-free lifestyle or that teach the public how to prepare for an emergency are especially encouraged.

Division 02.28 Hobbies and Collections

A representative sample of the hobby or collection with a mounted photo of the entire hobby or collection, or the complete collection if in scrapbooks or binders.

Division 02.29 Home Improvement

Four to six photos that show the project from beginning to end, (suggested topics: decorating or renovating a room, a building project, landscaping a yard, etc.), **or** an item made to improve the home with 4-6 photos of other items made in the project.

Division 02.30 Jewelry

Handmade jewelry, submitted in a Ziploc bag, including but not limited to: metal, polished stones, cloth, paper, ceramic, etc. Includes necklaces, pins, bracelets, earrings, hair clips, and rings.

Division 02.31 Knitting and Crocheting

4-H Members may enter at only one level per class.

Beginner - Any article showing either garter stitch (all knit), or stockinette stitch (knit and purl).

Intermediate - Any article showing the beginner level of stitches plus three other techniques.

Advanced - Any article showing the beginner level plus four or more other techniques. (Ideas for articles may include, but are not limited to: scarf, headband, pot holder, doll blanket, small or large sweater, afghan, slippers, stockings, mittens, hat, etc...)

Class 1 – Knitting	Class 2 - Felted Items	Class 3 – Crocheting
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Division 02.32 Maple Syrup

One pint of syrup, sealed, with the threaded ring removed. Must be in a clear glass jar. Include a label, which describes the process of making the syrup, dates and where sap was gathered.

Division 02.33A Mechanical Sciences

An 8 ½" X 11" exhibit showing: 1. Engine design and operation; or 2. Care and maintenance of the machine; or 3. Safety considerations; or ignition or fuel system; or 4. Similar exhibit. Separate entries may be submitted for each type of machinery as long as each is conducted as a separate project.

Division 02.33B Models (Kits accepted)

Article made by the member, showing appropriate skills for the member's age and number of years in the project. Please make sure to note on the Exhibit Card how many years you have been doing this!

Division 02.34A Music and Musical Instruments

A display or exhibit that illustrates to the public what has been done in the project during the current 4-H year. Include a written explanation of the exhibit on a 3"x5" card. Separate entries may be submitted for each musical instrument, as long as each is conducted as a separate project. (Recordings are welcome, but you must bring something to play them on!)

Division 02.34B Performing Arts

A series of four pictures of the 4-H member practicing or performing in public, properly matted and individually labeled which tells a story.

Division 02.35 Pen Pal

A poster or portfolio including pictures and facts about the pen pal. Letters from the pen pal should accompany the exhibit. The pen pal must be from outside Aroostook County.

Division 02.36 Photography

Class 1 A photo story displayed in a notebook. A photo story is a story told with pictures such as: how to make a garden, how to raise an animal for the fair, or the story of your vacation.

Captions should be placed under each photo, neatness counts.

4-H Members may enter at only one level.

Beginner - One photo story of five pictures using as many of the following as possible: people pictures, animal pictures, flash pictures, 4-H project pictures.

Intermediate - One photo story of ten pictures using as many of the following as possible: indoor pictures with flash, action pictures, fill-in flash pictures, close-up of person or pet made with a camera to subject at distance of 4.5 feet, low camera angle, level camera angle, high camera angle pictures.

Advanced - One photo story of fifteen pictures using as many of the following as possible: flash pictures, existing light pictures, close-up pictures, pictures with great depth of field, pictures with shallow depth of field, pictures illustrating a creative interpretation of a common place subject.

Class 2. Framed or matted photo collections

Members may enter in only one of the following categories.

- 1 or more 8x10 photo
- 2 or more 5x7 photos
- 4 or more smaller photos
- A combination of the above sizes on one topic.

Division 02.37 Physical Fitness and Sports

A display that illustrates to the public what has been done in the project during this 4-H year, such as 6-8 photos that tell a story with individual labels. All project activities must be about the member's participation in the fitness activity or sport. Being a spectator does not count. The project should highlight how participation contributes to a healthy lifestyle.

Division 02.38 Public Speaking

A display should illustrate to the public what the member has actively done in the project during this 4-H year, such as 4 photos that tell a story with individual labels or a written collection of speeches with dates given.

Division 02.39 Quilting

Article made in the, showing appropriate skills for the member's age and number of years in the project.

Division 02.40 Reading

An original book cover or 8 ½" x 11" copy illustrating some aspect of a book read by the member and a 3"x 5" card file with a separate card for each book the member has read this 4-H year that lists the following information: title, author, publisher, publication date, number of pages, and a brief synopsis of the book.

Division 02.41 Recycling

Any usable or creative product made from recycled materials. Must show appropriate skills for member's age and number of years in the project.

Division 02.42A Robotics

A quality robot made demonstrating the knowledge learned in this project. It may or not be computer controlled. If computer programmed, please provide results of your programming and/or your robotics journal.

Division 02.42B Rocketry

A model rocket may be used for display. (Kits accepted) Any creative way of presenting to the public such things as: rocket design, operation, safety considerations, ignition or fuel systems, or similar exhibit. Please make sure the exhibit is safe.

Division 02.43 Sewing

Any one item made by the member. Attach a 3"x5" index card on which is written the sewing skill(s) the item illustrates. A hanger must be provided for items needing hanging. Entries will be evaluated on the level of experience the members have in sewing projects. Level must be indicated on the exhibit card.

Beginner - 1 year or less of experience.

Intermediate - 2 to 3 years of experience.

Advanced - 4 or more years of experience.

Division 02.44 Science and Math

Any science project that is framed in Science concepts; this could include physical, life, earth, space, social, historical and natural science. Activities shall be age appropriate and designed to allow members to self discover the knowledge through their senses, knowledge bases, and resources.

Division 02.45 All Terrain Vehicles and Snowmobiles

Six photos, **or** a poster, **or** other relevant display illustrating ATV/Snowmobile activities, safety, or functions.

Division 02.46 Stitchery (Kits accepted)

May submit up to one item in any or all classes or a collection of items in a class.

Class 1 Needlepoint	Class 4 Candle-wicking
Class 2 Bargello	Class 5 Crewel
Class 3 Rug Hooking	Class 6 Cross-Stitch

Division 02.47 Veterinary Science

One display or poster on: the parts of an animal, normal vital signs, diseases, health, heredity, nutrition, reproduction, or animal first aid.

Division 02.48 Wildflowers

A display of different specimens mounted on poster board or in a field notebook, labeled with common and/or scientific names, and covered with a see-through cover for protection.

Junior (age 9-13): 10 specimens

Senior (age 14 - 18): 15 or more specimens

Division 02.49 Wildlife

Class 1 Bird watching or Bird feeding

An item made by the member for the project during this 4-H year (Please submit a duplicate rather than the actual used one if it is soiled with droppings, old seed, etc.), or 6 photos individually matted and labeled that illustrate the project, **or** a notebook kept on the project.

Include a list of your sightings that consists of date, species and number, place and any other pertinent comments.

Class 2 Other Maine Wildlife (mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians, endangered species)

A poster or display with 6 labeled sketches or 6 mounted photos of the wildlife you studied (including factual information about the animals), track casts, an item you made related to your project, or a collection of wildlife items, or a collection of field notes.

Division 02.50 Woodworking

Any article made by the member during this 4-H year showing appropriate woodworking skills (such as joining, cutting, fitting, finishing, etc.) **or** if project is not portable, make a poster with 4 - 6 labeled sequential photos of the woodworking project. Attach a 3"x5" index card listing other items made in the project. No pre-cut kits. An adult may cut pieces for young members.

Division 02.51 Wool

One or more samples of fleece, with the breed identified, or yarn which has been spun by the member, or an item made by the member from wool from their own sheep.

Division 02.52 GPS/GIS/Technology

Class 1 GPS/GIS projects: Any project illustrating and/or using GPS technology or mapping with GIS software.

Class 2 Any kind of computer project such as web design, programming, game design, etc.

Class 3 Community mapping project – a map or series of maps showing community resources, environmental features, or issues along with a written description of the purpose and use of the map(s).

(Since the security in the Exhibit Hall is not 100%, members may not want to leave computers on display. A collection of 4-6 printed screens, maps, photos or drawings with captions or narrative can illustrate the project.)

Division 02.53 Garden Art

Class 1 Stepping Stone	Class 4 Birdhouse
Class 2 Handmade Decorative Plant Markers	Class 5 Decorative Plant Container
Class 3 Bird Bath	Class 6 Any other Decorative Garden Item

Division 02.54 Creativity Unlimited

Any exhibit made entirely by the member during the current 4-H year in a project that isn't covered under another project category in these rules. (This is not a place to put extra projects that fall under other categories such as art or crafts). Label the Exhibit Card with "Creativity Unlimited" and the name of the project (e. g. "Creativity Unlimited - Composting"). More than one exhibit may be entered in this category as long as it is about a bona fide 4-H Project, and it is the member's only entry in that project. Leaders are asked to carefully check these exhibits to make sure they fit this category.

Premiums for Junior/Senior Exhibit Hall Projects

First

\$6.00/Blue Ribbon

Second

\$5.00/Red Ribbon

Third

\$4.00/White Ribbon

Projects accompanied with a current Project Record will receive an extra \$1.00 bonus from the 4-H Leaders' Association.

Judge's Choice Ribbon: This ribbon is to be awarded at the discretion of each judge for the project that they felt reflected best in the show.

4-H Club Exhibit Contest

2025 Theme: Sowing Seeds for the Future: Year of Youth in Ag"

Your club's 4-H exhibit should tell the public about the 4-H theme as well as some special information about your club and its projects and activities. Use your exhibit to illustrate how your members use their leadership and citizenship in service to their club, their community, their country and their world! Exhibits should be constructed by the club members with only **guidance** from the adult volunteers.

Criteria for Judging 4-H Club Exhibits

Fair theme is displayed prominently and the exhibit reflects the theme	15 points
Exhibit highlights club's interests	15 points
Exhibit includes the name of the club	5 points
Exhibit shows creativity and originality	15 points
Exhibit is neat, well-organized, easy to understand, and easy to see at a distance	20 points
Exhibit helps the public understand the goals and philosophy of 4-H	15 points
Exhibit shows evidence of member's involvement in the club (such as with photos)	10 points
Exhibit includes the 4-H Life Skills Wheel, Motto, Pledge, and/or Logo	5 points
	<hr/> 100 points

Premiums for 4-H Club Exhibits

First \$35.00/Blue Ribbon **Second** \$25.00/Red Ribbon **Third** \$15.00/White Ribbon

Fourth-Participant Ribbon **Fifth**-Participant Ribbon **Sixth**-Participant Ribbon

4-H Northern Maine Fair Contests

4-H Photography Contest

Separate from exhibit hall photography entries!!!

Please clearly label or indicate to 4-H Staff at drop off if the photo is for the contest or exhibit hall entry.

This contest is open to all Aroostook County 4-H members and Volunteers. Please only submit photos taken between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

All individual photos submitted must be **8 x 10**, either framed, matted and mounted or mounted on either cardboard (for stability) or foam board and must be labeled clearly on the back. Photographs may be either color or black and white.

Only 4-H members are entitled to premiums. Members can submit one entry per category.

Entries must be delivered to an Extension office by Friday, July 25 or directly to the Exhibit Hall during the day on Tuesday, July 29.

Please contact Emily Dow (emily.dow@maine.edu or 532-6548) if you need assistance with getting your submissions to a local office or to the Exhibit Hall.

Entry labels and a copy of the judging sheet will be posted on the Aroostook County 4-H website. <http://extension.umaine.edu/aroostook/houlton/4-h/fair-info/> or can be sent to you on request by calling 532-6548.

Age divisions	Photo categories
Cloverbuds (participation award)	"This is 4-H"
Juniors 9-13 years of age	Animals
Seniors 14-19 years of age	Sports/action
Volunteers (enrolled adult volunteers)	Nature/landscape
	People

Premiums for 4-H Photography Contest

First \$6.00/Blue Ribbon

Second \$5.00/Red Ribbon

Third \$4.00/White Ribbon

Prizes for the following contests may be awarded during the annual 4-H Achievement Celebration scheduled in the fall.

4-H Demo Ex Contest

This contest is open to all Aroostook County 4-H members. Members may enter only one of the three classes for the event.

Exhibitors in all classes should demonstrate a connection between their topic and 4-H. And must follow the same time limits based on their age.

The location of the contest may vary year to year and is subject to change due to weather, please plan accordingly.

Public Speaking & Demonstration Class

Exhibitors presenting in the public speaking & demonstration class are able to present on a topic of their choice. Presentations will be evaluated in a similar fashion to traditional 4-H Public Speaking events.

Scoring in this class will focus on the presenters ability to communicate effectively with the audience.

Examples: persuasive speeches, cooking demos, informative speeches, skills and hobbies, plants, animals.

Pet & Animal Presentation Class

Exhibitors presenting in the pet/animal class will deliver a presentation focusing on the health, care, and knowledge of their animal. Visual aids (posters, supplies, etc..) are encouraged. The pet/animal should be in attendance. Exhibitors who are not able to have their animal in attendance should present in the Public Speaking & Demonstration class with an animal topic.

Scoring in this class will focus on the knowledge and care of the animal.

Examples: household animals (hamsters, dogs, cats, fish), small livestock, trained and well mannered large livestock.

*Please note this contest may take place in an enclosed space and has an audience. If your animal is not comfortable with those environments please don't enter the Pet/Animal class.

*Animals must be contained or on leads at all times. Small animals may be removed from cages for demonstrations.

Performing Arts Class

Exhibitors presenting in the performing arts class will deliver a performance followed by a spoken piece that will describe the connection between 4-H and their performance.

Examples: dance, monologue, vocal or instrumental performance.

*Note location of Demo Ex may be on turf or outside, please plan accordingly.

Age Categories:

Cloverbuds (ages 5-8)

Juniors/Seniors (ages 9-18)

Length of Presentations:

Cloverbuds 3-5 minutes

Juniors/Seniors 3-8 minutes

Pre-registration is required for this contest. To register email, emily.dow@maine.edu or call the Houlton Extension office 532-6548 or 1-800-287-1469

Sample score sheet available upon request.

Premiums for 4-H Public Speaking/Demonstration Contest

Junior/Seniors

First \$50.00/Blue Ribbon

Second \$30.00/Red Ribbon

Third \$20.00/White Ribbon

Cloverbuds will receive a 4-H gift item and participation ribbon.

Bartlett Farms 4-H Sign Contest

Sponsored by Bartlett Farms. The purpose of the contest is to use your creativity to showcase your animal or project while educating the public. **One sign per member.** Livestock signs will be clearly visible and installed over or next to your stall or pen, or any other space designated as appropriate. Non Livestock signs will be displayed at the 4-H Food Booth or other designated location.

This contest is open to 2 age divisions

- Juniors (9-13 year olds)
- Seniors (14-18 year olds)

If you want your sign judged for this contest, please sign up with 4-H staff.

All Signs must include the following information:

- Your name and the name of your town
- The name of your 4-H club (or independent membership)
- At least one standard clover and the words/numbers "4-H"



Livestock signs, you must also include the following information:

- The name of your animal
- The breed of your animal
- The age of your animal
- At least 2 educational facts about your animal (for 9-13 year olds)
- At least 5 educational facts about your animal (for 14-18 year olds)

Livestock signs will be clearly visible and installed over or next to your stall or pen, or any other space designated as appropriate.

Project signs, you must also include the following information:

- The 4-H motto or slogan
- At least 2 educational facts about your project
- At least 1 piece of information that educates the public about 4-H

General information for all signs:

- All signs must be constructed of weatherproof materials if intended to hang outside.
- Signs meant to be displayed indoors must be made of sturdy material such as foam-core board or other similar, sturdy material.
- All signs must be a **minimum** of 18" x 18". They may be any shape.
- Spelling counts
- Neatness counts
- All signs must bear a tag received when the entry form is submitted that is visible from a distance and indicates they are entered in the sign contest.

Premiums for Bartlett Farms 4-H Sign Contest

First	Second	Third	Fourth
\$20.00/Blue	\$15.00/Red	\$10.00/White	\$5.00/Yellow

Cloverbuds: All Cloverbud entries will receive an identical participant ribbon.

Egg-cellent Eggs-hibits

This cross listed exhibit & livestock contest allows members to showcase their poultry projects in a market and art class. A single member can submit one entry in each class.

Entry Drop off: Please see exhibit hall submission times and dates.

Market Eggs Class

Requirements:

- ½ Dozen eggs (6) from chickens raised and tended by the member.
 - Families with more than one member may pull eggs from the same flock, so long as members are equally responsible for tending the flock.
- Standard egg carton is required for display.
 - Must be free of marketing, names, or identifiable text/images. (often the top of a store bought carton can be removed to fulfill the requirements)

Scoring:

Eggs will be scored in areas essential for producing a marketable (store quality) product.

- **Uniformity:** Consistent color and size throughout the carton.
Eggs of any size or color may be submitted, but the dozen should all be as similar as possible (ie: all medium size, all brown)
- **Shell Condition:** Texture, free of lumps, ridges, calcium deposits.
- **Soundness:** Free of cracks and breaks.
- **Cleanliness:** Free of foreign material & stains.
- **Egg Carton:** Clean, free of foreign material & stains. No commercial marketing or identifiable markings.

Cloverbud submissions will be ranked as FAIR, GOOD, EXCELLENT and receive comments.
Junior/Senior submissions will be scored using the danish system.

Creativity Class

Requirements & Scoring

- ½ Dozen (6) eggs that are decorated or displayed in a cohesive theme.
- Eggs can be displayed in a container or box of choice. Display can not be larger than 13X13.
- Scoring will be based on creativity, neatness, and development of theme.

Additional resources for exhibiting eggs can be found at

<https://livestock.extension.wisc.edu/articles/exhibiting-eggs-as-a-4-h-or-ffa-project/>

Premiums for Egg-cellent Eggs-hibits

First	Second	Third	Fourth
\$20.00/Blue Ribbon	\$15.00/Red Ribbon	\$10.00/White Ribbon	\$5.00/Yellow Ribbon

Cloverbuds: All Cloverbud entries will receive a participant ribbon.

Supper from the Soil Contest

Open to all Aroostook 4-H Members. Supper from the Soil allows members to showcase their gardening and growing skills with an eye toward food production. Members will create a container garden themed around a meal or dish.

Examples include salsa garden, spaghetti garden, snack garden, or salad garden. Members are encouraged to use their imagination and green thumb to produce a garden that fits their taste and ability.

These gardens will be on display in the 4-H Livestock/Food Booth area throughout the fair. 4-H Staff will make best efforts to water them during the week.

Entry drop off: Please see exhibit hall submission times and dates.

Requirements:

- Container must be a 5 gallon pail or equivalent.
 - Cannot display any marketing, or identifying text or images.
- Must be prepared and tended by the member.
- Collection of any number of edible plants.
 - Consider the growing requirements and space when selecting plants.
 - Consider plants that pair well together in growing conditions as well as meals.
- Must include a 8.5x11 information sheet that will be displayed with the garden. The information sheet must include the following...
 - List of plants in the garden.
 - Recipe or meal using plants in the garden.
 - If a plant is grown in the garden for the purpose of attracting pollinators, or other companion planting benefits, but is not to be eaten please make a note of its use.
 - Drawings and creativity are encouraged.
 - “4-H” or clover displayed somewhere on the sheet.
 - Additional information regarding plant selection, care, successes or failures is encouraged.
 - Do not include member name or club information as these are judged blind.

Scoring:

- Garden
 - Container
 - Plant health & condition
 - Overall appearance
- Information Sheet
 - Clear and legible
 - Appropriate display of skill for member’s age and ability
 - Information is accurate and informative
 - Creativity
 - Meal/Recipe/Theme

Premiums for Supper From The Soil

First	Second	Third	Fourth
\$20.00/Blue Ribbon	\$15.00/Red Ribbon	\$10.00/White Ribbon	\$5.00/Yellow Ribbon

Cloverbuds: All Cloverbud entries will receive a participant ribbon.