



4-H & FFA DEPARTMENT

Sheryl Bennett – 4-H Extension Educator
Chris Rein - 4-H Program Coordinator
Beth Langvardt - 4-H Outreach Program Assistant
Amy Brueckmann and Rick Hodiak
Kathy Wojcik – FFA Educator

A. GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS - 4-H & FFA Department

1. Exhibitors will be limited to Howard County 4-H/FFA Club members and must be enrolled and active in 4-H/FFA work no later than June 1st of the current year, unless project requirements list an earlier date, then that date will be in effect. A 4-H'er must be at least 8 years old (5-7 years old for Clover entries) and must not have passed their 19th birthday by January 1, 2022.
2. **All 4-H Entries must be entered online through howard4-h.org on or before July 1, 2022.**
3. Each exhibitor is responsible for submitting and removing entries from the Fairgrounds on the dates required.
4. Exhibits or Projects must be verified by the 4-H Extension Educators as being **BONAFIDE 4-H PROJECTS**. Projects for competition **MUST** be the work of the 4-H'er submitting it. **4-H'ERS MUST BE ENROLLED WITH THE 4-H PROGRAM IN A PROJECT BY June 1st TO EXHIBIT THAT PROJECT.**
5. The 4-H Extension Educators shall be ultimately responsible for any decisions affecting 4-H Departments and Shows; this may include consultation with the 4-H Department Chairpersons, 4-H Livestock Oversight Committee, 4-H Code of Conduct Committee, and the Howard County Fair Board Code of Conduct.
6. All 4-H/FFA members exhibiting or participating in 4-H/FFA activities at the Howard County Fair must comply with all rules and regulations.
7. Each department will have Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Divisions when listed. Clover (age 5-7), Junior (8-10), Intermediate (11-13), and Senior (14-18) as of January 1, 2022. **Clover exhibitors are limited to departments designated for clovers.**
8. All 4-H'ers will receive an exhibitor's number which will be printed on the 4-H'ers fair pass. 4-H'ers will need this number to enter.

GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS (Cont.)

9. 4-H'ers are the responsibility of their parent(s)/guardians(s) at all times during the fair. For safety reasons the Howard County 4-H Program strongly discourages any 4-H'ers from spending the night at the fair.
10. The Maryland 4-H Code of Conduct will be in effect the entire week of the fair for all youth and adults.
11. Any request for consideration on behalf of 4-H exhibitors for any special needs (whether physical, medical, or educational) must be in writing with the 4-H Extension Educator by July 1st and properly documented. This information must be updated annually.
12. Special Awards solicited by the 4-H program will be awarded to 4-H participants only and 4-H members are required to submit a thank you note with a stamp. All special award monies will be mailed to 4-H'ers after the fair.
13. ALL THANK YOU NOTES for fair 4-H Special Awards MUST be completed and submitted by Noon on Sunday, August 14th. 4-Hers who do not submit thank you notes by the deadline will forfeit their special award(s). The thank you note submission box is located in the 4-H Indoor Building. The building will be open 12:00 noon until 10:00 P.M. daily.
14. University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.
15. The judge(s) decision(s)/placing(s) are final. Parents and/or 4-H/FFA members are not permitted to argue or interfere with a show or judge's placings.
16. 4-H'ers and parents who are rude, abusive or out of line will be excused from a show/fair and all premiums forfeited. Any instances of animal abuse will result in immediate expulsion from the fair.
17. **All protests must be submitted in writing to the supervising 4-H Staff within 24 hours of the occurrence.** They must detail the concern and the names of witnesses. Written protests must be accompanied by a certified check/money order/cash for \$150. If the complaint is sustained the accused party will incur the cost and the \$150 will be returned to the complainant. Protests must be in writing. Anonymous protests will not be accepted. Judging procedures will not be interrupted for protest investigations and depending upon the basis of the protest, a decision may be withheld until a complete investigation is completed.
18. 4-H/FFA exhibitor bathrooms (next to the wash racks) needs to be kept clean.

GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS (Cont.)

B. 4-H & FFA INDOOR BUILDING ENTRIES

Interviewing will be added to the judging process at the Howard County Fair 4-H Indoor Building. Judges will be in each department as you drop exhibits off on the designated day. Judges will conduct a quick interview with each exhibitor regarding the entries they are entering for each department. Exhibitors will have to do this in each department that they have entries for. Junior age divisions are allowed to have a Parent or Guardian accompany them during the interview. However, the adult may not participate in the interview. Parents and Guardians will not be allowed for Intermediate and Senior age divisions. Clover age entries will be dropped off at the times provided. If you have any questions please contact Chris Rein at crein@umd.edu. All entry tags will be available for pick-up at the extension office starting July 28th. Plastic for Baked Goods and Entry Tags will be available during entry time on July 31st.

1. **All 4-H Indoor Building entries will be PRE-ENTERED by July 1st.** All exhibitors must abide by General Rules & Regulations. Entries are available at the 4-H web site www.howard4-h.org.
2. **Entry Times:**
 - a. **Early Entry** Creative Writing is due **July 1st** to the Howard County Extension Office by 4:30 P.M.
 - b. **Non-perishable** exhibits will be received and judged on **Saturday, July 30th from 1:30 - 4:00 P.M.** Must be in line to interview by 3:30 P.M. (Clothing, Clovers, Club Banners, Club Books, Club Booths, Crafts, Family Life, Fine Arts, Hobbies, Home Environment, Natural Resources, Photography, Science, and Woodworking and Electric.)
 - c. **Perishable** exhibits will be received and judged on **Saturday, August 6th from 8:30 – 10:00 A.M.** Must be in line to interview by 9:30 A.M. (Baked Goods, Candies, Flowers, Food Preservation, Herbs, Honey, and Vegetables).
 - d. **Contests-** see specific department for dates and times
3. Department eligibility may be open to Clovers, all 4-H'ers, or limited based upon project enrollment as of June 1st. (See department for specifics.) 4-H Campers may enter Crafts, Fine Arts, and Food Preservation.
4. Each exhibitor **may enter only ONE exhibit in each Class.**
5. Entry tags should be fastened securely to all entries.
6. Fair Ribbons will be given to money award winners. The Danish System of group judging, based on workmanship, consists of first judging each exhibit on its own merit and then placing all individual exhibits of similar quality in the same general group. Example: All excellent quality is Blue Sticker group; all good quality is Red Sticker group; all fair quality is White Sticker group. Quality is a colored sticker on the Entry Exhibit Tags.

4-H & FFA INDOOR BUILDING ENTRIES (Cont.)

7. 4-H'ers may exhibit in Open Class **only** if they are **not enrolled** in the specific project. 4-H'ers are encouraged by June 1st to know what projects they are carrying. 4-H'ers may show in the Junior Flower Show in open class. Use your 4-H Exhibitor Number for both 4-H and Open Class entries.
8. **Exhibits:**
 - a. All entries must be the work of the 4-H member and completed between August 2021 and August 2022. Previous years' exhibits are NOT acceptable in the Indoor 4-H Building and will be disqualified if exhibited.
 - b. **Copyrighted exhibits are prohibited.** Trademarked names, logos, characters, celebrities, professional role models or sport figures, etc. Cartoon Figures (such as Snoopy) cannot be used as they are copyrighted. No replication of Trademarks. Material purchased with trademark may be used. Exception – 4-H Clover may be used/replicated ONLY.
 - c. **Exhibits may not be removed for any reason until Sunday, August 14th 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.** Violation of this means prize money forfeiture. All exhibits must be removed at this time. Any exhibits left will not be the responsibility of the Howard County 4-H Department or the Howard County Fair Board and will be disposed of after 30 days.
 - d. All eligible quality Baked Goods and Candy exhibits will be sold to benefit the Howard County 4-H Program.
Bake Sale- 2:00 P.M. Saturday, August 6th - Indoor 4-H Building
4-H Bake Auction- 5:00 P.M. Sunday, August 7th - Show ring
 - e. **To ensure food safety, since refrigeration is not available, no uncooked potentially hazardous foods such as milk, half and half, evaporated milk, cream, cream cheese, yogurt, whipping cream, whole eggs, egg whites, egg yolks, or egg substitutes shall be used in fillings or icings. Eggs used in recipes must be cooked. Icings must be a non-refrigerated type recipe. Ingredients are to be freshly purchased quality products.**
 - f. The abbreviated Affirmative Action Statement **MUST** be displayed to be readable when displayed under the following departments- digital technology, posters, educational displays, banners, booths, bee keeping displays, etc. *University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.*
 - g. Exhibits are to be of individual work, unless labeled specifically group or club entry. Individual work – grown, made, taken, created, designed by exhibitor only, including plants, batter, photographs, etc. Not abiding will result in disqualification.

4-H & FFA ENTRIES DUE – July 1st

INDOOR – LIVESTOCK

All 4-H entries must be made online. Indoor entries are limited to 75 entries per exhibitor

HOWARD COUNTY 4-H ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS CEREMONY

Saturday, August 13th - Main Show Ring

(6:15 prior to 4-H All Star Showmanship Contest)

Ceremony will recognize 4-H member achievements including:

C. 4-H & FFA - AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER SCIENCES

1. Livestock Orientation - **MANDATORY** - Sunday, July 31st - 6:00 P.M. - Show Ring. This is for Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat, Rabbit, Poultry, and Dairy exhibitors. The exhibitor and a parent/guardian must attend.
2. Please notify the appropriate department superintendents at the Livestock Orientation if you are bringing less animals than entered.
3. Pen assignments for the beef, dairy, goats, sheep and swine will be posted by Wednesday evening before the fair.
4. Biosecurity procedures need to be followed throughout the week. Anytime you move animals and feces are deposited, it is the 4-H/FFA members' responsibility to clean the area.
5. The Maryland 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics applies to all 4-H/FFA livestock and animal exhibitors. The Oversight Committee consisting of 4-H UME Volunteers appointed by 4-H Educator and staff, will have authority to rule in cases of alleged violations. The Extension Educator serves as an ex-officio of this committee. Remember you are representing your family, 4-H club/FFA Chapter and the 4-H/FFA programs.
6. Blood, hair, and urine samples may be drawn on all champion market animals immediately following the show.

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7. All Beef Cattle, Swine, Dairy Cattle, Sheep and Goat breeding animals must be registered before July 1st in exhibitor's name. Registration papers will be checked by the 4-H Superintendent. Tags/tattoos, as required, must be in the ear on arrival. All 4-H/FFA Poultry and Rabbits must be registered with the 4-H program on an official Maryland Registration Form by June 1st.
8. All animal exhibitors are limited to two animals in each 4-H/FFA Breeding Class or Weight Class. Exhibitors must exhibit their own animals, except where two (2) animals fall in the same class. 4-H exhibitors may have another Howard County 4-H member (same age or younger) assist them. FFA members may have another Howard County FFA member assist them. Department Superintendents must be notified before show time.
9. Market animals will be shown and entered in the Rate-of-Gain Contest at the weight recorded on ID Day.
10. All 4-H/FFA Dairy animals, Beef Heifers, Breeding Sheep, Rabbits, Poultry and Breeding Goats may show in Open Class competition. 4-H animal entries will be entered at www.howard4-h.org and to enter your animals in Open or FFA class go to www.howardcountyfair.org. You must enter 4-H to show in the 4-H show and Open Class to show in the Open show.
11. **All Beef, Breeding Sheep, Swine, and Breeding Goat exhibits must be on the grounds by 7:00 A.M. Sunday, August 7th, and all 4-H/FFA Dairy Cattle exhibits must be on the grounds by 1:00 P.M. on Monday, August 8th. Market Lambs and Market Goats must be on the grounds Saturday, August 6th - 3:00 P.M. Unless otherwise specified herein, all 4-H livestock and dairy exhibits will be released early Saturday, August 13th morning before NOON.**
12. All entries are subject to the current Health Regulations as outlined by the Maryland Animal Health Department. Exhibitors need to have completed self-certifications to be presented with CVI's (health papers).
13. All feed and bedding must be furnished by the exhibitor. Beef will be bedded on tanbark at \$10.00 per head. Fee must be paid on Sunday, August 7th prior to conclusion of grading.
14. Fans in the Sheep and Goat Barn must meet fair regulations and be securely fastened above pens. Fans are not allowed in the aisles.
15. Exhibitors are responsible for the care of their animals while on the grounds and for the cleanliness of the barns and pens. Aisles should be kept clean and open. Animals found to not being taken care of properly will be dismissed by county 4-H staff and/or superintendents. (Only show boxes behind animals). No butt fans allowed.

4-H & FFA – AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER SCIENCES

16. **4-H/FFA animals MUST be fitted and cared for by the exhibitor. ONLY IMMEDIATE FAMILY AND OTHER HOWARD COUNTY 4-H MEMBERS MAY ASSIST IN PREPARATION OF 4-H ANIMALS. ONLY IMMEDIATE FAMILY AND OTHER HOWARD COUNTY FFA MEMBERS MAY ASSIST IN PREPARATION OF FFA ANIMALS. 4-H/FFA members are encouraged to do all their own work. OUT OF COUNTY HELP IS NOT ALLOWED. Family employees are not allowed to help.**
17. All beef, goat, sheep and swine shows are unfitted shows.
18. Exhibitors may show a market or breeding animal in livestock, dairy, or goat showmanship classes, provided the animal is entered and exhibited in the 4-H & FFA Department by that exhibitor.
19. Overall Showmanship Champions are not eligible to compete in the same Showmanship Department again.
20. **NO UNRULY ANIMALS WILL BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN ON THE GROUNDS OR IN THE SHOW RING.** The department superintendent in consultation with the supervising 4-H staff will be responsible for decisions affecting this rule.
21. **Beef, Sheep, Swine, and Goat Market Animals must meet minimum rate of gain to show in market classes. Rate-of-Gain is calculated from ID Day to Weigh-in at fair. There is no tolerance. (BEEF - 2.0 pounds day, GOAT - .15 pounds day, SHEEP - .35 pounds day, SWINE - 1.4 pounds day). There will be NO reweighs.**
22. Market animals that do not make minimum Rate of Gain (ROG) may exhibit in Market Exhibition classes only. Market Exhibition classes will be conducted at the start of the market show for each respective division. Class can be broken at the discretion of the Superintendent and 4-H Educator. Animals shown in the Market Exhibition classes are not eligible for Champion Market Awards or participation in the Livestock Sale.
23. No portable livestock scales permitted on the fairgrounds.
24. **Livestock Road will be closed Saturday, August 6th, from 3:00-9:00 P.M. for the Jersey Show. Exhibitors will be excused from participating from the fair for moving the barriers.**
25. Lost ear tags need to be reported to the 4-H Educator within 48 hours of losing the tag and there will be a \$10.00/per tag cost to replace.
26. All 4-H/FFA livestock, poultry, and rabbit exhibitors must clean their pens and stalls the final night of the fair. Beef exhibitors must remove all straw, hay, trash, etc., from aisleway in front of stalls and from the tanbark. Beef exhibitors do not need to remove tanbark.
27. All 4-H/FFA animals must be removed from the fairgrounds by 12:00 noon on Sunday, August 14th.
28. Remember to wash your hands after handling animals.

4-H & FFA – AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER SCIENCES (Cont.)

D. 4-H - ANIMAL SHOW ATTIRE

1. The prescribed show attire is required for all showmanship classes, breed shows, market shows and the livestock sale.
2. No farm names or other identification shall appear on show uniforms.
3. Safe appropriate attire, including footwear is required at all times.
4. Premiums shall be forfeited if dress code is violated!
5. No **Hats or Cell Phones** allowed in the ring.

4-H DAIRY CATTLE AND DAIRY GOATS:

White pants or slacks, **white shirt or blouse with a sleeve (long or short) and collar**, and green or black tie or neck piece.

Approved neckpiece includes: neck tie, bow tie, bolo tie or tied bandana. Jewelry does not qualify as a neckpiece – no exceptions. No crop tops, scoop necks, or lace up blouses.

4-H LIVESTOCK (BEEF, SHEEP, SWINE, MARKET & PYGMY GOAT) & CANINE:

Tan or forest green pants, slacks, or jeans, **white shirt or blouse with a sleeve (long or short) and collar**, and green or black tie or neckpiece.

Approved neckpiece includes: neck tie, bow tie, bolo tie or tied bandana. Jewelry does not qualify as a neckpiece – no exceptions. No crop tops, scoop necks, or lace up blouses.

FFA: FFA members must wear official dress. FFA jackets will be worn at the discretion of the judge.

Superintendents may excuse anyone inappropriately dressed.