94th Annual
Mercer County
4-H Fair
July 28-29, 2012
Howell Living History Farm

Exhibitor Book


Brian M. Hughes, County Executive
Dear 4-H Family and Friends,

Please join us at the 94th Annual Mercer County 4-H Fair at the Howell Living History Farm. This event is the culmination of hard work by our 4-H leaders, members, and parents. Our fair is an excellent place for the members of Mercer County 4-H and the residents of Mercer County (the general public) to showcase their talents and receive recognition for their individual entries.

This exhibit book has been revised for 2012. Please take some time to look through the divisions and note the new classes that have been added. Also, notice that each division title refers you to a section of judging criteria. We hope that this section will help you to better prepare you for exhibiting your entry and for what to expect of the judging process.

4-H members must complete a green 4-H exhibit & evaluation form for each entry. For the open division (non 4-H members), a white form must accompany your entries. Exhibit forms will be available during exhibit entry on Friday, July 27th between 3:00 and 6:00 pm for 4-H exhibitors and from 4:00 to 8:00 pm for the general public, and are also available on page 10 of this booklet.

Again, thank you to the many 4-H club leaders, volunteers, and parents who support the 4-H program and the youth of our county. We look forward to seeing you all at the 2012 Mercer County 4-H Fair.

Sincerely,

Chad Ripberger
County 4-H Agent

Altaira Bejgrowicz
4-H Program Assistant

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County
Mercer County 4-H
930 Spruce Street, Trenton, NJ 08648
Phone: 609-989-6833

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GENERAL RULES

1. Individuals who are not 4-H members may enter exhibits in the *Open Division*.

2. Mercer County 4-H members are eligible to exhibit their work. 4-H members must have completed at least fourth grade and must not have been out of high school for more than one year. Cloverbud members (K-3) may exhibit their projects, but they will not be judged (a Cloverbud participation ribbon will be given).

3. A 4-H member may enter an exhibit judged against a standard (without other entries in division).

4. Entries must be delivered to Howell Living History Farm on Friday, July 27th, between 3:00 and 6:00 pm for 4-H members and between 4:00 and 8:00 pm for the general public.

5. Late entries will be accepted at the discretion of the 4-H staff.

6. Exhibit forms must accompany all entries. The form can be found on page 10 of this document and will also be available at the fair during entry.

7. 4-H Exhibit Entry and Evaluation forms must be securely attached to all exhibits throughout display time.

8. All exhibits must be the result of the current year’s work done by the individual entering the exhibit.

9. All exhibits must be removed between 4:00 - 5:00 pm on Sunday, July 29th. Entries not picked-up promptly will be left at the risk of the exhibitor. Someone other than yourself may enter and pick-up your items for you.

10. Please check the specific rules for each division.

11. Animal exhibitors are responsible for the care and clean-up of their animals at all times.

12. The judges may disqualify any entry not meeting the requirements as listed in this Exhibit Book.

OPEN DIVISION (*non* 4-H members)

To participate in the Open Division at the Mercer County 4-H Fair, one must:

1. Live in Mercer County or the surrounding area.

2. Have made or grown the exhibit within the past year, 2011-2012.

3. Open to any age – youth or adult
4-H DIVISION (4-H members)

To participate in the 4-H Division at the Mercer County 4-H Fair, you must:

1. Complete a record book and deliver it to your club leader.

2. Attend 70% of all club meetings.

3. Participate in club, county, or other public speaking events.

4. Be an active member in any Mercer County 4-H school, community, after-school, or special interest program.

5. The exhibit must have been made during the project year (September – present).

6. If competing in your club’s 4-H division, you may also enter in any non-animal class in the Open Division. For example, a woodworking 4-H member who exhibits in 4-H class 138 may also enter tomatoes in open class 77.

ANIMAL DIVISION

1. All animals must be current with all appropriate vaccinations.

2. No sick animals will be allowed on the fairgrounds.

SPECIFIC RULES for animal classes will be supplied by the division superintendent.

AWARDS

1. 4-H exhibits will be judged by the Danish system – no competition between exhibits. Each is judged independently against set standards.

2. Ribbons will be awarded to those judged “Excellent”, “Very Good”, “Good”, and “Fair”.

3. 4-H Cloverbud members (grades K-3) will receive a participation ribbon.

4. Exhibits may be entered for “Exhibition Only” upon the request of the exhibitor. Participation ribbons will be awarded to those entered for “Exhibition only”.

5. In each division, a “Best of Division” award will be given if an exhibit is judged to be worthy of this award.

6. A “Care Takers Award” will be given to the exhibitor with the neatest kept animal area.

7. Open exhibits will be judged, and a ribbon will be awarded to first, second, and third in each class, at the discretion of the judge.
EXHIBITS CATALOG

DIVISION 1 – 4-H BOOTH DISPLAYS

1. Booths should follow the theme chosen for the current year’s fair. There will be no duplications of the dominant theme or props of previous years.

2. Members guided by leaders are to plan their own club displays. Adults may not assist youth in setting-up booth displays at the fair. Adult assistance will be grounds for disqualification.

3. No product in the display will be eligible for individual member award.

4. Club members must create displays. Materials used may be obtained from commercial sources.

5. Each booth display will have one 8-foot table to use.

6. All clubs will use the same standardized 4-foot booth backs, which are available at the Extension Office. Display may be 30” above the tabletop. Banners or signs may be hung from the front of the table and items may be placed on the floor in front of the table.

7. No electricity will be permitted, only batteries.

8. The 4-H office will supply the tables used. However, other materials, such as paper for tables, will not be furnished.

9. Clubs setting-up displays in this division must make an entry just as individual members in other divisions. Please use the correct entry form.

10. Displays will be judged on the following points:

   a. Attracts attention
      i. Suitable subject with viewer appeal 10
      ii. Effective title – clear, short and well planned 10
      iii. Good layout, color, and design 15

   b. Carries out theme 20

   c. General appearance and workmanship (neat, clean, Uncluttered, finished look, correct grammar and spelling) 20

   d. Originality and creativity 25

   e. Bonus points (best 4-H promotion, most original, most creative, best layout) 5

11. Booth displays must be assembled at the Fair between the hours of 3:00 and 8:00 PM on Friday, July 27th, ONLY. Judging will be Saturday, July 28th. All booths must be dismantled between 4:00 - 5:00 pm Sunday, July 29th.
DIVISION 2– ARTS AND CRAFTS (judging criteria, p.11)
4-H Exhibit Entry and Evaluation forms must be securely attached to exhibits throughout display time.

Class 1  Basket – must demonstrate at least one weaving technique, may feature purchased bottom
Class 2  Metal craft
Class 3  Leather craft
Class 4  Clay or other sculpture (unframed)
Class 5  Ceramics (pre-made)
Class 6  Origami – stamping –scratching paper
Class 7  Watercolor painting
Class 8  Oil painting
Class 9  Acrylic painting
Class 10  Pen and ink drawing
Class 11  Decoupage
Class 12  Holiday ornament
Class 13  Woodworking kit
Class 14  T-Shirt screen-printed
Class 15  Scrapbooking Project
Class 16  Duct Tape craft
Class 17  Any other craft or artwork (if from a kit, please indicate)

DIVISION 3 – CLOTHING AND TEXTILES (judging criteria, p.11)
4-H Exhibit Entry and Evaluation forms must be securely attached to exhibits throughout display time.

Class 18  Simple dress without a collar or set-in-sleeve
Class 19  Dress, vest or coat with a collar and set-in-sleeve
Class 20  Simple pants, shorts, capris, without zipper and pockets
Class 21  Pants, shorts or capris with zipper and pockets
Class 22  Home improvement project – pillow, bedspread, curtains
Class 23  Quilt sewn by machine
Class 24  Stuffed animals, puppets, or doll – may be from a pattern
Class 25  Any other sewn project – hand sewn or machine sewn

DIVISION 4 – NEEDLEWORK & HANDWORK (judging criteria, p.11)
4-H Exhibit Entry and Evaluation forms must be securely attached to exhibits throughout display time.

Class 26  Simple crochet project
Class 27  Advanced crochet – double, triple, or mixed stitch, afghan, or tatting
Class 28  Embroidery – crewel, cross stitch, candlewick or other
Class 29  Knitting – garter stitch, stockinette stitch, ribbon stitch or other
Class 30  Macramé – square knot, half hitch, jessophine knot, or other
Class 31  Needlepoint
Class 32  Quilting – any hand sewn patchwork, appliqué, trapunta or other
Class 33  Rug hook – latch hook, Danish tie or other
Class 34  Woven jewelry
Class 35  Handspun skein
Class 36  Any other needlework or handwork project
DIVISION 5 – FOODS AND NUTRITION (judging criteria, p.11)

All food must be on paper or plastic plates or in disposable containers
and must be placed inside a clear sealable plastic bag or use plastic wrap.

Put a recipe card and suggested number of servings on item (see specific class for details).

Class 37  Muffins
Class 38  1 coffee cake
Class 39  Loaf of quick or fruit bread
Class 40  4 drop cookies
Class 41  4 rolled cookies
Class 42  4 cookie bars
Class 43  4 cupcakes
Class 44  1 single layer cake
Class 45  1 double layer cake, frosted
Class 46  3 pastries
Class 47  1 yeast bread – white or other
Class 48  3 yeast rolls
Class 49  Pie – single or double crust or crumb of any variety
Class 50  3 candies – chocolate, hard jellied or other
Class 51  Revise an old recipe to make it more healthful
Class 52  Home preservation – jelly, jam, canned tomato sauce, pickles or other canned goods
Class 53  Any other baked good or food related item

DIVISION 6– PRIDE OF THE CROP (judging criteria, pp. 11-14)

Bring your own paper plate for your item (where appropriate)

Class 54  Sheath of grain
Class 55  Bale of hay
Class 56  Bale of straw
Class 57  Sample of grain – 1 cup
Class 58  3 tree fruit – apple, pear, peach or other
Class 59  1 cluster or cup vine fruit – grape or other perennial
Class 60  1 vine fruit – annual such as cantaloupe, watermelon, honeydew, or other
Class 61  1 pint or cup bush fruit – strawberries, currants, blackberries, or other
Class 62  3 pods of snap beans – any color including pole
Class 63  3 pods of flat beans – any color including pole
Class 64  3 pods of Lima beans – either pole or bush
Class 65  3 beets – any color or type, stems and leaves should remain on
Class 66  Cabbage – one head
Class 67  3 carrots – with stems and leaves
Class 68  3 ears of sweet corn – any color
Class 69  3 slicing cucumbers
Class 70  3 pickle type cucumbers
Class 71  3 onions, either bulb or bunching type
Class 72  1 eggplant of any color
Class 73  3 peppers – bell or non-bell type, hot or sweet
Class 74  3 sweet potatoes
Class 75  3 bush type squash – zucchini, yellow, patty pan, etc.
Class 76  3 vine type squash – pumpkin, acorn, butternut, etc.
Class 77  3 tomatoes – any type or variety of standard size
Class 78  3 small tomatoes – cocktail, yellow, plum, etc.
Class 79  1 any other vegetable
Class 80  Any collection of five herbs – one sprig of each 5 inches or longer
Class 81  Any one herb – 3 sprigs – 5 inches or longer
Class 82  Tallest stalk of corn
Class 83  Heaviest tomato
Class 84  Largest squash (including pumpkin)
Class 85  Largest vegetable
Class 86  Largest fruit
Class 87  Oddest shape fruit or vegetable
Class 88  Any other fruit or vegetable of which you are proud – explain why
Class 89  Scarecrow – may be done by one person or by a group
Class 90  Vegetable characters – use at least 3 vegetables or fruits to create one or more characters from your imagination or TV or movies – you do not have to grow the vegetables or fruits – name your creation.

DIVISION 7 – FLOWERS AND HOUSE PLANTS (judging criteria, p.14)

You must provide a container, vase or paper plate.

Class 91  Any annual started from a seed – 3 blooms/stems each category
A.  Marigolds – 3 blooms
B.  Zinnias – 3 blooms
C.  Cosmos – 3 blooms
D.  Ageratum – 3 stems
E.  Salvia – 3 spikes
F.  Petunias – 3 blooms
G.  Any other annual – 3 blooms or spikes

Class 92  Any garden annual started from another method – 3 stems

Class 93  Any everlasting started from seed – ex: coxcomb, strawflowers, statice, etc. – 3 stems

Class 94  Any spike annual – snapdragon – 1 spike

Class 95  Any perennial started from a tuber – dahlias – 1 spray

Class 96  Any perennial started from a bulb, ex: gladiolus – 1 spike

Class 97  Rose – 1 bloom
A.  Floribunda
B.  Other

Class 98  Rose – Spray
A.  Floribunda
B.  Other

Class 99  Any other blooming shrubs such as Hydrangea – 1 bloom

Class 100  Any other perennial – 1 bloom or 1 spike

Class 101  Wreath – any size or material

Class 102  Table centerpiece – any material, fresh, dried, or silk

Class 103  Miniature arrangements – not over 3 inches high including container, any material

Class 104  Theme arrangement – 4-H using green and white, patriotic using red, white and blue, this year’s County Show theme or holiday season

Class 105  Any other arrangement such as Japanese, natural container such as a gourd; silk flowers (must be made by arranger)

Class 106  Flowering houseplant – must be in bloom ex: African violet, etc.

Class 107  Houseplant grown for foliage – such as ivy, rubber plant, etc.

Class 108  Succulent – such as jade, agave, cactus

Class 109  House plant grown from seed by exhibitor – include date seeded

Class 110  House plant propagated by a non-seed method by exhibitor – include method and date

Class 111  Hanging basket grown for foliage or flowers

Class 112  Other houseplant

Class 113  Potted topiary – herbs, foliage or plant

Class 114  Terrarium – may be forest, desert, or other type of miniature garden, landscape, seascape

Class 115  Container garden – any container 8 or more inches in size with one or more flowers, vegetables or fruits for patio use
Class 116 Hydroponics – plant rooted and growing in water
Class 117 “I grew it in a shoe” or any other unusual container
Class 118 Any other horticulture project

DIVISION 8 – ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (judging criteria, p.15)

Design a project or poster demonstrating your topic, if collection - label all items with common and scientific names and mount.

Class 119 5 specimens of shrub leaves or needles, pressed
Class 120 5 twigs of trees or shrubs
Class 121 5 specimens of fruit or seeds from trees
Class 122 5 blocks of wood
Class 123 5 wildflowers
Class 124 5 dried grasses
Class 125 5 garden weeds
Class 126 Seedlings – 3 pots of a deciduous tree or evergreen seedling
Class 127 Pressed flower arrangement
Class 128 Recycling
Class 129 Entomology
Class 130 Composting
Class 131 Soil conservation
Class 132 Pollution
Class 133 Energy
Class 134 5 specimens – rock/mineral
Class 135 5 specimens – sea shells
Class 136 5 specimens – any other collection
Class 137 Any other environmental project

DIVISION 9 – WOODWORKING (judging criteria, p.15)

Label all entries explaining the intended use of the project and type of finish used (if any).

Class 138 Simple project – such as breadboard or rack for holding tools
Class 139 Advanced project – such as furniture
Class 140 Woodcarving – figure or plaque, hand or kit
Class 141 Wood burning

DIVISION 10 – PHOTOGRAPHY (judging criteria, p. 15)

Photos can be either black and white or color; photos must be mounted, and ready for hanging. Entries must be labeled on the back with exhibitor’s name, grade, and type of camera.

Class 142 Single photos
A. Buildings  F. Action
B. People  G. 4-H project related
C. Animals or Birds  H. 4-H Camp
D. Landscape  I. 4-H Fair
E. Nature  J. Picture of recognized notoriety  K. Other

Class 143 Two to six photos
A. Buildings  F. Action
B. People  G. 4-H project related
C. Animals or Birds  H. 4-H Camp
D. Landscape  I. 4-H Fair
E. Nature  J. Still life  K. Other
Class 144 3 photos following a theme – black/white, color, or computer/digital  
Class 145 Photo manipulation art

**DIVISION 11 – VIDEO AND COMPUTER** (judging criteria, p.15)  
Class 146 Computer art, may be image, sound, animation  
Class 147 Video – Maximum 3 minutes in length

**DIVISION 12 – LITERARY WORK** (judging criteria, p.15)  
Class 148 Write a poem, short fiction or non-fiction work.

**DIVISION 13 – MARKETING 4-H** (judging criteria, p.16)  
*Be sure to include your name on all documents. Make sure that your item is neatly printed or typed.*  
Class 149 Write a news article about 4-H or your project  
Class 150 Design a poster about your project or 4-H  
Class 151 Write a speech about your project or 4-H  
Class 152 Design a computer generated poster about your project or 4-H  
Class 153 Design a website and display a hard copy

**DIVISION 14 – SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING** (judging criteria, p.16)  
*Any project applying science to achieve a practical purpose through invention, planning, or manipulation*

Class 154 Robotics  
Class 155 Navigational/orienteering project using GIS, GPS  
Class 156 Aerospace  
Class 157 Electric  
Class 158 Small engines  
Class 159 Wind Power  
Class 160 Water and wetlands  
Class 161 Plant and soil science  
Class 162 Crop Science

**DIVISION 15 – 4-H CLOVERBUD**  
*Open to all Mercer County residents, grades K-3 (grade just completed). The projects will not be judged (a Participation ribbon will be given for Cloverbud exhibits).*

See you at the fair!

**MERCER COUNTY 4-H STAFF**  
Chad Ripberger, 4-H Agent; Sharon Gore and Miss Harmon, Program Associates; Lou Ann Mastromarino and Altaira Bejgrowicz, Program Assistants; and Adele Dinges, Secretary.
4-H EXHIBIT ENTRY & EVALUATION FORM

DATE ________________________________

NAME OF EXHIBITOR ________________________________

CLUB ___________________________________________ GRADE __________________

DIVISION _________________________________________ CLASS __________________

EXHIBIT __________________________________________

PUBLIC COMMENTS: ________________________________

Ratings: Excellent Very Good Good Fair Judge’s Initials ____________

RATING __________________________

4-H EXHIBIT ENTRY & EVALUATION FORM

DATE ________________________________

NAME OF EXHIBITOR ________________________________

CLUB ___________________________________________ GRADE __________________

DIVISION _________________________________________ CLASS __________________

EXHIBIT __________________________________________

PUBLIC COMMENTS: ________________________________

Ratings: Excellent Very Good Good Fair Judge’s Initials ____________

RATING __________________________
JUDGING CRITERIA BY DIVISION

DIVISION 2 – ARTS AND CRAFTS

- Overall appearance – attractive, good workmanship, pleasing decorative choices. Material used – suitable for project, durable, condition of materials. Appropriate skills for class.

DIVISION 3 – CLOTHING AND TEXTILES

- Overall appearance - clean and neat, well pressed, adequate size. Stitching - even, neat and secure. Thread matches fabric. Correct tension and stitch length. Ends of thread are tied and trimmed to ½ inch or back tacked. Seams - even in width, appropriate finish, correct width, pressed appropriately and clipped, square corners.

DIVISION 4 – NEEDLEWORK AND HANDWORK

- Overall appearance: cleanliness, attractiveness. Material used: suitable for project, durable, condition of materials. Workmanship: appropriate skills for class requirements, accuracy of project.

DIVISION 5 – FOODS AND NUTRITION

- Internal characteristics: Texture, grain, color.
- Flavor
- Recipe: accurate, legible, cost.

DIVISION 6 – PRIDE OF THE CROP

Follow the rules for the number of specimens required (see specific classes.) Consider all of the following: shape, color, size, age, insects, diseases, weather, handling, crowding in rows, large, old, wilted, improperly trimmed, small, young, dirty, peeled, scrubbed.

Beans

How to Exhibit: An exhibit of beans is most impressive when the beans are thin, long, and seemingly copies of each other. Selecting matching beans to exhibit does take time, and preparing multiple specimen plates is a challenge. A small section of stem should be attached to the fruit but trimmed neatly to about ¼ inch.
**Beets**

**How to Exhibit:** Beets should be of medium size, from 1 ½ to 2 ½ inches in diameter, and of typical shape for their variety. Good attention should be given to cleaning the beet gently without leaving any scars. Cleaning is best accomplished by rubbing your hands over the roots in warm water. The tops should be neatly trimmed leaving 1 inch of leaf stalks, and the beets should be well matched. Pull off secondary fine roots and trim the tap root below the beat to about 1 ½ inches. Beets on a single plate should all be the same length, from the trimmed top of the leaf stalks to the lowest part of the tap root.

**Cabbage**

**How to Exhibit:** Cabbage is normally exhibited as a single head. The head should be surrounded by 3 or 4 wrapper leaves. The ground end should be cut squarely, and little or no insect damage should be apparent. Green, red, Savoy, and Chinese heading cabbages should all be exhibited in this way.

**Carrots**

**How to Exhibit:** Carrots for an exhibit should be free of injury and true to varietal type. They should not have green shoulders or other discolorations, and they should match up well with each other in a single exhibit. Display carrots with healthy leaves left on or with leaves cut off about 1 inch above the root (or according to the standards of your exhibit list). Hairlike side roots should be removed and the thin extension below the tap root should be cut to 1 inch. Do not exhibit carrots that are forked. Make sure no cleaning marks are left on the root by a rough brush or cloth. These will show up very clearly after the carrot has dried. Bruises also allow moisture to leave the root, causing the carrot to shrivel.

**Corn**

**How to Exhibit:** To display corn, remove the husks entirely, cut the stalks very close to the ear, and put the specimens for a single exhibit in a plastic bag so the kernels will not dry. This allows the judge to examine the entire ear. Windowing, or pulling off a few husk leaves, is a satisfactory alternative, but the exposed kernels will dry out quickly. There should be no evidence of insect damage and the kernels should be of fairly uniform size and in straight rows. Tip fill should be good, meaning well-developed kernels extend almost to the tip of the ear. Varieties differ in their ability to produce kernels at the tip. There should be no bird damage in that area. The color and size of the corn should be typical of the variety listed. Corn deteriorates rapidly, so it must be kept on ice or very cool until the time of the exhibit.

**Cucumber**

**How to Exhibit:** Cucumbers of newer varieties grow uniformly. Those selected at the proper eating stage should be lined up and specimens of uniform size, shape, and color should be
chosen for an exhibit. Slicing types are long, thin, and dark green. Do not substitute them for pickling types, which have a short, squat shape and are lighter green, striped with yellow. Trim the stems neatly to about ¼ inch. Make sure the cucumbers are clean. Use water and a soft sponge to remove soil, being careful not to bruise them.

**Eggplant**

**How to Exhibit:** Normally, 1 or 2 eggplants are displayed per exhibit. They should be glossy with a rich color and good form for their variety. Soil should be wiped clean from the fruit and the stem trimmed neatly about 1 inch above the fruit and sepals.

**Herbs**

**How to Exhibit:** Herbs are normally bunched; 4 to 8 sprigs or shoots per bundle. The smaller the shoot or area of leaf tissue, the more sprigs or shoots should be in a bundle. For example, 10 to 15 leaves of chives may be needed to make an acceptable bunch. The diameter of the bunch should be at least 1 inch where it is tied. A rubber band or other type of tie should be used to hold the bunch together. Cut ends should be neatly and evenly trimmed, and leaves should not be tightly pressed together. Uniformity is important in color, size of leaves, and shoot length. Different herbs should not be mixed. Potted herbs can be displayed at some exhibitions, and they sell well at markets; they should be well trimmed and formed and of usable size.

**Onions**

**How to Exhibit:** The specimens in a single exhibit, usually 3 onions, should be clean and uniform in color, size, and shape. They should match the description of their variety. Trim the tops to about ¾ inch above the bulb, and cut the roots to just below the bulb. The onions should have a well-cured outer skin and neck, with unsightly bulb skin pulled away. Onions that are not well cured may start to re-grow, sending up green leaf stalks while they are being exhibited. This is not an acceptable condition.

**Peppers**

**How to Exhibit:** Peppers chosen for an exhibit should be cleaned well with a soft cloth or running water. Exhibits normally require multiple specimens, and a larger number of small pepper varieties, such as jalapeno, chili, and cayenne, may be required. The peppers should have a glossy texture, accurately match the description of their variety, and be uniform in shape, size, and color. For example, if their variety is supposed to have three lobes per fruit, then all specimens in the exhibit should have three lobes per fruit. The stem should be attached and trimmed neatly to about ½ inch. Colored peppers, which are fully mature, make a very attractive exhibit or market display; be sure they are well matched in color.

**Pumpkins**

**How to Exhibit:** Pumpkins are normally exhibited as one specimen. The pumpkin should be true to its variety description, clean, bright in color, and symmetrically shaped. Trim the stems neatly. Some exhibits have a prize for the largest pumpkin, measured either by weight or by
circumference. Certain squashes have the potential to grow much bigger than a true pumpkin. Be sure your pumpkin is not competing against squashes that look like pumpkins. Squashes have corky stems, and pumpkins have ridged, star-shaped (in cross section) stems.

**Squashes, summer**

**How to Exhibit:** Several specimens are required for a single exhibit. Make sure they are true to the description of their variety and uniform size, shape, and color. Take off any remnants of the dried blossoms and cut all stems evenly to within ½ inch of the fruit. Very young squashes can be exhibited as baby vegetables. Baby zucchini should be 2 to 3 inches long and are most attractive with the blossom attached. Baby patty pan squash should be 1 to 1 ½ inches in diameter.

**Squashes, winter**

**How to Exhibit:** Large winter squashes are normally displayed as 1 specimen per exhibit. The fruit should fit the description of its variety. It must be of good size and proper shape, with a bright color. Remove all soil and trim the stem to 1 or 2 inches. Two fruits may be required for a single exhibit of smaller squashes such as buttercup, butternut, spaghetti, or table queen. In some exhibits, there are contests for the “largest squash” displayed. These specimens are often described incorrectly as giant pumpkins, but squashes are genetically different. Special growing techniques are used to produce the largest, heaviest fruit for these contests. Giant squash varieties include Big Max, Atlantic Giant, Big Moon, and others.

**Sweet Potatoes**

**How to Exhibit:** An exhibit of sweet potatoes normally consists of 3 roots. Choose 3 that are well matched in size and shape and similar in skin color. No damage should be visible. Clean them in water, preferably after curing, rubbing gently with your hand or a soft sponge. If the potatoes have been cured and their skin is firm, each surface can be polished by rubbing it lightly with your hand. If the soil is very sandy, they may only need brushing to be cleaned.

**Tomatoes**

**How to Exhibit:** Tomato specimens in an exhibit should be typical in form and color for their variety. All specimens should be uniform in size, shape, and maturity. The stems should be removed entirely, and there should be only a small blossom scar on the opposite end. Display small cherry, pear, and plum types in a pint basket. The specimens should be clean and bright.

**DIVISION 7 – FLOWERS AND HOUSE PLANTS**

- Follow the rules for the number of specimens required (see specific classes.) Consider all of the following: shape, color, size, age, insects, diseases, weather, handling, crowding in rows, height (too short or tall,) not in appropriate container, not attractively arranged.
DIVISION 8 – ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

- Collections and projects - general appearance and neatness, creativity/originality, completeness of display, labeling of specimens, level of skill required, level of skill attained, effort expended. Projects and Posters – conveys an effective message, idea or principle. Content, title and illustrations are logically arranged. Lettering is easy to read, colors are pleasing. Neat workmanship.

DIVISION 9 – WOODWORKING


DIVISION 10 – PHOTOGRAPHY

- Composition - has a definite subject, interesting picture – shows imagination / tells a story. Balance – utilizes the rule of thirds, fills the frame / no unnecessary detail or distractions, utilizes natural line and patterns, perspective enhances the image.
- Use of light - appropriate lighting for subject and effect, flash used as appropriate, reflected light used to advantage, corrections made for artificial light.
- Focus - appropriate part of image in sharp focus, camera held steady.
- Exposure - bright image and details that stand out. Not over exposed (light washed out appearance,) not under exposed (dark images and lack of detail.)
- Print quality and presentation - clean, neat, no glue residue or mounting guidelines show. Mounting technique forms stable bond; holds together. Proportion of photo to mat or mount enhances appearance, color of mat or mount enhances photo, paper and inks suitable for purpose. Resolution a good match for the size of print.

DIVISION 11 – VIDEO AND COMPUTER

- Effective communication - has a clear message or story, story has a beginning, middle, and end generates interest. Creative and original
- Capturing video - camera steady, focus, lighting and exposure, scene length, camera angles and composition, use of wide, medium, and close-up shots, capturing action.
- Capturing sound - effective use of sound, level (loudness), narration comprehensible, background sounds, sound editing and transitions.
• Editing - length, pacing, variety of scenes, appropriate use of transitions, special effects enhance, titles or text enhance the video, video and audio support each other.
• Image - interesting composition - shows imagination / tells a story.

DIVISION 12 – LITERARY WORK

• Entries will be judged on content, creativity, originality, neatness, grammar and spelling. Be sure work is free of proof reading marks and comments.

DIVISION 13 – MARKETING 4-H

• Subject information is accurate and adequate. Does it give a message or teach a lesson? Can it be understood by all age groups? Are 4-H (clover) and the theme represented? Appearance – is the title effective, neat, good layout and colors, spelling. Creativity – original and clever?

DIVISION 14 – SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING

• Creativity - ingenuity in design and development of project, creativity in design of the display.
• Scientific thought - the problem is stated clearly. Collected data justifies the conclusion made. The project ties in with related research. Scientific literature or popular literature cited. Solution workable and economically feasible.
• Thoroughness - project indicates understanding of topic, information is accurate, sufficient data collected. Notes complete, if used. Conclusions based on single or multiple experiments.
• Skill: project reflects 4-Her’s own work. Sturdy and well constructed. Skilled use of tools and methods of science.
• Clarity: project is self-explanatory, neat and accurate. Are visual aids an asset to understanding the project?