

THE COUNTY FAIR

One of the highlights of the year for 4-H members is being able to exhibit their completed projects in the Weber County Fair, and then hopefully to have their exhibits selected for Utah State Fair competition!

When is the fair? The Weber County Fair is held in August each year at the Fairgrounds in Ogden. As part of the fair, members have an opportunity to compete in horse, livestock and small animal shows, as well as enter completed projects for the indoor exhibits.

Who can enter the fair? Any Weber County 4-H member who meets the enrollment and tagging deadlines can participate in the fair.

What projects can we enter in the fair? The Weber County Fair Board will print and distribute the fair catalog in June, listing all the 4-H and open classes that can be entered. The catalog is also posted on the county Web site at www.webercounty4-H.org. Generally, classes do not change a lot from year to year, so you can look at previous catalogs to get ideas for projects to enter in the fair.

How do we enter exhibits in the fair?

INDOOR EXHIBITS: To enter indoor 4-H exhibits in the fair, complete a pre-entry form, either online at www.webercounty4-H.org (*preferred*) or paper, listing each project your child will be entering in the fair. Pre-entry forms are due in the 4-H office by August 1. **Late entries will be dropped one ribbon placing.** Youth can enter no more than ten projects in the fair (no more than one project per lot).

When pre-entering exhibits, make sure to provide a detailed description of the item. For example, list a red and white, polka-dot skirt with bottom ruffle, not just a skirt. Items must CLEARLY fit into the class and lot listed. Call the 4-H office if you have any questions.

ALL cloverbud entries should be listed under the code FD (*Cloverbuds – Introduction to 4-H*) regardless of what project is entered.

On the Monday afternoon prior to the fair (see catalog for specific time), bring your completed entries to the Fairgrounds for check-in. The 4-H office will prepare exhibit tags in advance for all pre-registered fair entries.

All exhibits must be picked up on the Monday afternoon following the fair (see catalog for specific time).

LIVESTOCK EXHIBITS: Extension staff will announce the dates to have 4-H livestock animals tagged. Tagging identifies the members' project animal(s) and ensures the member has had the animal in their possession for the minimum length of time required (90 days for steers; 60 days for hogs and lambs). At fair time, animals need to be brought to the Fairgrounds at the designated time for official weigh-in.

HORSE EXHIBITS: Each exhibitor must complete the pre-entry form by the announced deadline to show in the Fiesta 4-H Horse Show during the county fair.

OTHER ANIMAL EXHIBITS: There are numerous open shows in which club members can exhibit animal projects (rabbits, goats, poultry, etc.). Follow the guidelines in the fair catalog to enter a project animal in these shows.

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How are exhibits judged?

Indoor Exhibits: We use the same judging criteria for the Weber County Fair that is used for the State Fair. To see the judging sheets that will be used, go to www.utah4-H.org. All indoor exhibits are judged on the Danish judging system with each entry earning a blue, red or white ribbon. In addition, the following special awards are presented:

- Up to 20% of the blue ribbon entries are selected to go to the State Fair. These entries will receive a special sticker indicating their selection.
- Cloverbud entries (K-2nd grade) are not judged. Each entry receives a participation ribbon.

Youth receive cash premiums based upon the color of ribbon earned: \$3 – blue (excellent), \$2 – red (good), and \$1 – white (fair).

Livestock Exhibits: Grand and Reserve Champions are selected for each species and will receive a rosette and an award. Livestock exhibits are judged on the Danish judging system, with each entry earning a blue, red or white ribbon. In addition, showmanship awards are presented for 1st-3rd place. Additional special awards may be presented based upon sponsorship (see catalog).

Horse Exhibits: Rosettes and premiums are awarded for 1st-6th place. Additional special awards may be presented based upon sponsorship (see catalog).

When are exhibits released?

Indoor Exhibits: Entries must be picked up from the Fairgrounds on the Monday following the county fair (see catalog). Premiums are collected at Premium Bank in the Golden Spike Arena.

Livestock/Small Animal Exhibits: The release date for each animal is listed in the fair catalog. Early release is not allowed.

HORTICULTURE ENTRIES: Because of the timing for harvest, horticulture entries (flowers, fruits, vegetables, crops, etc.) do not have to be “selected” at the county fair to compete in state fair competition. 4-H members who want to enter horticulture entries in the Utah State Fair need to pre-enter with the 4-H office by September 1.

