

4-H

North Carolina 4-H is an educational program of NC State University and NC Agricultural and Technical State University and is part of the national 4-H organization. 4-H is best identified by its green four-leaf clover with an "H" on each leaf. The four H's on the emblem stand for head, heart, hands and health. The 4-H motto is "to make the best better". Connect with the 4-H community as a member or as a volunteer today. Visit the 4-H website www.nc4h.org to learn more.

Superintendent: Sherrie Watkins

Extension Liason: Dr. Shannon McCollum, Ed. D - Interim State 4-H Program Leader

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 11:59 PM

**Mailed entry forms must be postmarked by September 1st, 2026*

Entry Take-In:

- Enter through Gate 12.
- Saturday, October 10th, 2026 from 8 AM-6 PM - Education Building
- Sunday, October 11th, 2026 from 8 AM-6 PM - Education Building
- Monday, October 12th from 8 AM-12 PM - Education Building

**Mailed exhibits must be received by Monday, October 5th, 2026*

Judging:

- County Exhibits & Crafts: Tuesday, October 13th, 2026 at 8 AM
- Photography: Wednesday, October 14th, 2026 at 8:30 AM
- Hay Bales: Wednesday, October 14th, 2026 at 3 PM

Entry Pick-Up:

- Monday, October 26th, 2026 from 8 AM-6 PM - Education Building
- The fair is not responsible for entries left after 6 PM.

**Claim ticket from entry tags are required to claim your entries.*



4-H RULES & REGULATIONS

- The General Rules and Regulations of the Fair will govern this department, except in cases of conflict, where the following Rules and Regulations will prevail. Please read all rules & regulations carefully before submitting your entries.
- Submit questions to: NCSFCompetitions@ncagr.gov.
- Pre-registration is required, either [online](#) or by mail. Make your entries early.
- Open to all registered 4-H youth that are residents of North Carolina. All entries must be made by currently enrolled 4-H members.
- Exhibitors are allowed two entries per Class.
- Exhibits released from other fairs will be accepted until 3 PM on Monday, October 12 with entry tag from prior fair. Call 919-839-4513 for details.
- The point system used for judging in each class aids the judges in selecting winners, but is not the sole factor in the awarding of ribbons and placements.

NORTH CAROLINA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service helps people improve the quality of their lives by providing research-based information and informal educational opportunities focused on issues and needs. The Extension Service is a unique educational system with support from county, state, and federal governments, and close ties to the state's two land-grant universities: North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University. The important elements contributing to the organization's success include its unique structure, its use of research-based information, and its use of the strong guidance received from those it serves in setting priorities. The educational philosophy of the Extension Service is to help individuals, families, and communities learn to identify and solve their own problems.

4-H CRAFTS PREMIUMS

1st - \$10 2nd - \$5 3rd - \$3

Note: Cloverbuds receive Ribbons **ONLY**, no premiums

4-H CRAFTS RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. If a date appears on an item, it must fall between October 26th, 2025 and October 12th, 2026.
2. Only articles made since the 2025 State Fair will be eligible.
3. Articles considered not worthy will not be exhibited.
4. Replicas of guns will not be accepted. Weapons or replicas of weapons will not be accepted.
5. The NC State Fair does not permit anything controversial to be entered. This includes anything symbolizing cruelty, oppression, or of a sexual nature.
6. Please be aware that space for exhibits is limited, and we would appreciate your cooperation with limiting the size of your entry. Exhibits deemed too large will not be accepted.
7. 10" x 13" is a general size limit, unless item can be folded.

4-H CRAFTS CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

- I. Craftsmanship
- II. Originality and Creativity
- III. Practicality and Usefulness

POINTS

40

30

30

TOTAL POINTS: 100

DIVISION 101: 4-H CRAFTS - CLOVERBUD *Ages 5-7*

DIVISION 102: 4-H CRAFTS - JUNIOR *Ages 8-13*

DIVISION 103: 4-H CRAFTS - SENIOR *Ages 14-18*

CLASS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 01 - Artwork | 16 - Pottery <i>Sculptured Animals</i> |
| 02 - Basketry | 17 - Recycled Jewelry |
| 03 - Bead Jewelry | 18 - Recycled <i>Anything but Jewelry</i> |
| 04 - Block Stamped Printing | 19 - Soap Making |
| 05 - Braided Articles | 20 - Stained or Leaded Glass |
| 06 - Candle Making | 21 - Stenciling |
| 07 - Digital Art | 22 - Tie Dyeing, Batik |
| 08 - Fabric Painting, Original Design | 23 - Wired Jewelry |
| 09 - Fabric Painting, Pattern or Kit | 24 - Metal <i>Embossed, Tooled, Etched</i> |
| 10 - Leather Articles | 25 - Metal <i>Tin Punched</i> |
| 11 - Mechanical Crafts <i>Robots, Rockets</i> | 26 - Miscellaneous Crafts |
| 12 - Mosaics <i>Tile with Grout</i> | 27 - Natural Material <i>Painted rock, driftwood, etc</i> |
| 13 - Paper Crafts <i>Origami, woven paper baskets, scrapbooking</i> | This project features natural materials that have been carefully selected and preserved to ensure longevity without decomposition |
| 14 - Pottery <i>Coil, Slab, Wheel Thrown</i> | 28 - Wood Objects from Kit |
| 15 - Pottery <i>Pre-Formed Mold - Ceramic</i> | 29 - Woodworking (Animals, toys, accessories, original sculpture) |

4-H

4-H SEWING & NEEDLECRAFT
PREMIUMS

1st - \$10 2nd - \$5 3rd - \$3

Note: Cloverbuds receive Ribbons **ONLY**, no premiums

4-H SEWING & NEEDLECRAFT RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Only articles made since the 2025 State Fair will be eligible.
2. Articles considered not worthy will not be exhibited.
3. The NC State Fair does not permit anything controversial to be entered. This includes anything symbolizing cruelty, oppression, or of a sexual nature.
4. Please be aware that space for exhibits is limited, and we would appreciate your cooperation with limiting the size of your entry. Exhibits deemed too large will not be accepted.
5. 10" x 13" is a general size limit, unless item can be folded.

4-H SEWING & NEEDLECRAFT CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

	POINTS
I. Craftsmanship	40
II. Originality and Creativity	30
III. Finishing and Presentation	30
TOTAL POINTS:	100

DIVISION 104: 4-H CLOVERBUD SEWING & NEEDLECRAFT *Ages 5-7*

DIVISION 105: 4-H JUNIOR SEWING & NEEDLECRAFT *Ages 8-13*

DIVISION 106: 4-H SENIOR SEWING & NEEDLECRAFT *Ages 14-18*

CLASS

- 01 - Bags
- 02 - Crocheted or Knitted Articles
- 03 - Clothing *Machine Sewn*
- 04 - Cross-Stitch
- 05 - Hand-Stitched Item *All elements must be sewn by hand*
- 06 - Hand Weaving, Hand Spinning
- 07 - Latch Hook
- 08 - Needlework
- 09 - Pillow
- 10 - Quilted Articles
- 11 - Stuffed Toy
- 12 - Upcycled Item *Materials used must be modified or repurposed, not solely repaired.*

4-H

4-H PHOTOGRAPHY

PREMIUMS

1st - \$10 2nd - \$5 3rd - \$3

PHOTOGRAPHY RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All pictures must be securely framed/mounted and prepared for hanging or display.
2. Photographs may be contact prints or enlargements sized 8x10 or smaller.
3. All photographs must have captions.
4. The NC State Fair does not permit anything controversial to be entered. This includes any symbolizing cruelty, weaponry, or of a sexual nature.
5. Maximum frame size cannot exceed 10"x13". Larger sizes will not be accepted.

4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

POINTS

I. Storytelling Ability	50
• <i>As suggested by the caption.</i>	
• <i>Contains few or no distracting or unnecessary elements.</i>	
• <i>All the elements within the picture are arranged to tell the story.</i>	
II. Photographic Quality	30
• <i>The photography is clear and sharp and shows detail in areas where appropriate.</i>	
III. Mounting	10
• <i>No larger than 10"x13" framed/mounted.</i>	
• <i>Pictures are mounted neatly and securely.</i>	
IV. Captions	10
• <i>Pictures have appropriate captions.</i>	
TOTAL POINTS:	100

DIVISION 107: 4-H JUNIOR PHOTOGRAPHY Ages 8-13

DIVISION 108: 4-H SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHY Ages 14-18

PREMIUMS

1st - \$10 2nd - \$5 3rd - \$3

CLASS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 01 - Color - Animal, Birds, or Insects | 10 - Black & White - Miscellaneous |
| 02 - Color - Building | 11 - Picture Stories - Computer Enhanced Photography
<i>Using technology to enhance your photographs</i> |
| 03 - Color - Landscape or Seascape | 12 - Picture Stories - Photos of 4-H Projects/Activities
<i>Submit a series of 4-6 photographs, with captions, of a 4-H project which tells a story: e.g.: crafts, food, safety, horse, electric, etc.</i> |
| 04 - Color - People, Individual, or Group | |
| 05 - Color - Miscellaneous | |
| 06 - Black & White - Animal, Birds, or Insects | |
| 07 - Black & White - Building | |
| 08 - Black & White - Landscape or Seascape | |
| 09 - Black & White - People, Individual, or Group | |

Due to space limitations, limit all poster sizes to a maximum of 14" x 20". Picture stories must be framed/mounted and wired for hanging.

4-H

4-H ENTOMOLOGY

Contact: Liz Driscoll, Extension Specialist, NCSU

ENTOMOLOGY RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The display boxes must be a minimum of 6.5" by 8.5" and a maximum of 19" by 25", made out of any material and have a glass or plexiglass cover. For more information see: go.ncsu.edu/4-H_Insects
2. The collection must be the work of the exhibitor.
3. Winning first place eliminates the insect collection from further competition in this class.

ENTOMOLOGY CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

- I. General appearance and neatness of collection (organized by order and then family).
- II. Specimens are correctly pinned, mounted and preserved.
- III. Correct placement and completeness of labels.
- IV. Number of orders, families and species of insects correctly identified.
- V. Insects collected by someone other than the 4-H'er are acceptable, if pinned, labeled, and mounted by the 4-H'er. The true collector's name should be on the label.
- VI. The majority of the insects must be collected by the 4-H'er.

DIVISION 109: 4-H ENTOMOLOGY, INSECT COLLECTION

PREMIUMS

1st - \$50 2nd - \$20 3rd - \$10 4th-5th - \$5

Note: Cloverbuds receive Ribbons **ONLY**, no premiums

CLASS

- 01 - Insect Collection - Cloverbud *Ages 5-7*
- 02 - Insect Collection - Junior *Ages 8-13*
- 03 - Insect Collection - Senior *Ages 14-18*

DIVISION 110: 4-H ENTOMOLOGY, SPECIAL STUDY

PREMIUMS

1st - \$50 2nd - \$20 3rd - \$10 4th-5th - \$5

CLASS

- 01 - Junior Special Study *Ages 8-13*
- 02 - Senior Special Study *Ages 14-18*

DECORATED HAY BALE

DECORATED HAY BALE RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. This contest is open to County 4-H groups in North Carolina.
2. 4-H agents or designated representative must register their county by Tuesday, September 15th by 11:59 PM.
3. Each county is allowed to enter **one** hay bale that must be approved and registered by the 4-H agent.
4. The North Carolina State Fair will provide a 5 ft. wide, 4 ft. deep round bale for each participating county to decorate. Counties may bring up to 8 additional small rectangular bales to use in the exhibit.
5. Bales should be designed around promoting NC 4-H.
6. Entries will be judged on eye appeal, construction, use of materials, and creativity.
7. All Designs **MUST** include the Tractor Supply Logo Somewhere within the Design.
8. Hay bales may be decorated between Saturday, October 10th and Monday, October 12th and will be judged Wednesday, October 14th. The bales should be decorated with a good clean wholesome nature. No vulgar or suggestive decorations will be allowed-this includes people rolled up inside a bale with feet or head sticking out.
9. Please call the State 4-H office with any questions 919-515-8486.
10. Bales can be placed lying on their side. This will be your choice. Please specify position of bale on entry form. If you will be providing a maximum of 8 small rectangular bales for feet or decoration, please list on entry form. For safety purposes round bales will not be stacked on top of each other.
11. The NC State Fair does not permit anything controversial to be entered. This includes any symbolizing cruelty, weaponry, or of a sexual nature.
12. Decorations should be weather and wind-proof. They will be checked and maintained daily.
13. Paint may **NOT** be applied to the hay bale or grass.
14. No Commercial or Political party signs of any kind are allowed.
15. Decorations may **ONLY** be removed on Monday, October 26th, 2026 from 8 AM-5 PM. Decorations not removed by 5 PM on Monday, October 26th, will be discarded.
16. All premium checks will be written to county 4-H programs.

DIVISION 111: 4-H DECORATED HAY BALE

PREMIUMS

1st - \$375 2nd - \$250 3rd - \$150 4th - \$100 5th - \$100

CLASS

01 - 4-H Decorated Hay Bale



4-H

4-H COUNTY EXHIBITS

4-H COUNTY EXHIBITS RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Five 4-H exhibits, one from each extension service district and two from NC 4-H, will be found in this department.
2. The exhibits are the results of ideas and work by youth who have participated in the 4-H program
3. These exhibits will emphasize the social, physical, and mental growth of boys and girls enrolled in 4-H.

4-H COUNTY EXHIBIT CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

POINTS

I. Communication to Viewers	28
• Does it expand the visibility of the 4-H? • Does it arouse and hold interest? • Does it tell a coherent, clear-cut story with a logical sequence of thought? • Are title and caption effective in conveying the message?	
II. Education	24
• Is there an appeal for behavioral change? • Is information accurate and factual? • Does the exhibit instruct and teach?	
III. Creativity	20
• Idea clearly defined and shows understanding of purpose and direction. • Originality in adapting ideas. • Is the idea enthusiastically portrayed? • Does the exhibitor convey the feeling that he knows what he is trying to say?	
IV. Design and Mechanics	20
• Is there effective use of color, lighting, sound, and motion? • Is the number of items or materials used appropriate for the exhibit in that they give neither a cluttered nor a bare appearance? • Are design, lettering, posters, figures, and equipment in a relative proportion to area and shape of booth? • Is there a professional-like touch in the effective use of equipment and materials?	
V. Group Involvement	8
• Were at least five 4-H members and/or leaders involved in planning, preparing, and erecting the exhibit?	
TOTAL POINTS:	100

DIVISION 112: 4-H COUNTY EXHIBITS

PREMIUMS

1st - \$725 2nd - \$625 3rd - \$525 4th - \$500 5th thru 7th - \$475

CLASS

01 - 4-H County Exhibits

4-H SPECIAL AWARDS

AWARD

🍀 Best of Show - Junior

🍀 Best of Show - Senior

🍀 Ashe County Piecemakers Quilt Award - Junior

The Ashe County Piecemakers Quilt Guild will award \$25 to the Junior blue ribbon winner for Class 26

🍀 Ashe County Piecemakers Quilt Award - Senior

The Ashe County Piecemakers Quilt Guild will award \$25 to the Senior blue ribbon winner for Class 26

🍀 4-H County Sweepstakes

PREMIUMS

\$15 and Ribbon

\$15 and Ribbon

\$25 and Ribbon

\$25 and Ribbon

1st - \$150 2nd - \$120 3rd - \$90 4th - \$60 5th - \$30

SWEEPSTAKES RULES AND REGULATIONS:

1. Sweepstakes awards will be made to the counties amassing the highest point scores for individual entries in Junior and Senior Divisions.
2. Scoring will be based on 7 points for each Blue Ribbon, 3 points for each Red Ribbon, and 1 point for each White Ribbon.
3. In the case of a tie, premium money will be divided equally between the counties involved.