



# How to Enter 4-H Contests at the Lancaster County Super Fair

*The information below is from the 2025 Lancaster County Super Fair Book, pages 16–20, 56 and 70.  
See Fair Book for information about Prepared Speech & Public Service Announcement, Illustrated Presentation & Video Communication, Shooting Sports, Rabbit Judging, Poultry Judging and Livestock Elite Showmanship contests.*

All 4-H contests are open to 4-H members ages 8–18 unless otherwise stated. Premium payouts for all contests held before and during the fair must be picked up on Monday, August 4, 7–11 a.m. at the Sandhills Global Event Center – Ag Society Hall (except livestock judging, rabbit and poultry contests).

EACH INDIVIDUAL IS LIMITED TO ONLY 1 ENTRY PER CLASS NUMBER unless indicated otherwise. A specific project can only be entered in 1 category or class except Fashion Show garments must also be entered in the Static Exhibit clothing.

## Dog Virtual Trivia

The 4-H Dog Virtual Trivia Contest is an opportunity for youth to test their knowledge of dog science and skills in working with dogs — as well as expand their knowledge.

Held before the fair, this contest will be available:

**Wednesday, May 7, Noon through Wednesday, May 14, 11:59 p.m. Registration is not required.**

The contest consists of questions including, but not limited to, breed identification, dog body language, grooming, parasites and nutrition/feed (age/stage). This year's contest will focus on Hound dog breeds.

Contest links for each age division will be posted at <https://lanaster.unl.edu/4h/fair/contests/#dog>. No study resources are to be used online while participating in this contest.



### RESOURCE: STUDY GUIDE

A study guide with links to American Kennel Club web resources is available online at <https://lanaster.unl.edu/4h/fair/contests/#dog>

## Life Challenge

The 4-H Life Challenge judging contest helps 4-H members learn more about issues related to family and consumer science (FCS). Held before the fair, this contest will be **Thursday, May 29, 8:30 a.m.** at the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County conference rooms, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln. **Register by Monday, May 19** (note: Fair Book has an incorrect deadline) by calling 402-441-7180 or emailing Kristin Geisert at [kristin.geisert@unl.edu](mailto:kristin.geisert@unl.edu) (there is no entry form). A study packet is available online at <https://go.unl.edu/life-challenge>.

## Plant Science Contest

Open to all 4-H members ages 9–18 (by Jan. 1 of the current year) from all counties. Held before the fair, this contest will be on **Wednesday, June 18, 10 a.m.–Noon** at the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County conference rooms, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln. **Register by Tuesday, June 17** by calling 402-441-7180. 4-H members choose which contest(s) to participate in and will be able to use a list of plants while identifying samples. Ribbons will be awarded at the Super Fair or mailed.

- **Tree Identification** — identify tree samples. See “Tree Identification Manual” (4H332) for list of trees that will be used.
- **Weed & Grass Identification** — identify weed and grass samples.
- **Horticulture Contest** — identify samples of vegetables, fruits, nuts, herbs and landscape ornamentals. The plant list contains plants that are commonly used or sold in Nebraska.



### RESOURCES: STUDY RESOURCES

A compiled list of study resources, including plant lists, publications and PowerPoints with photos, are available online at <https://lanaster.unl.edu/hort-fair>

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## Fashion Show

Fashion Show is open to 4-H members ages 5–18.

### Judging and a Clover Kids optional modeling practice session will be held before the fair on

**Tuesday, July 22**, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County conference rooms and lobby, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln. Time slots will be assigned for judging. Clover Kids may practice modeling any time after 8 a.m.

**The public Fashion Show will be Thursday, July 31, 7:30 p.m.** at the Sandhills Global Event Center – South Hall.

Fashion Show garments must also be entered in the Static Exhibit clothing area. Garments should be age appropriate. Clothing garments to be modeled shall display tasteful design and modestly cover the body. Examples of design features to avoid include, but are not limited to, revealing low-cut necklines, extremely short hemlines, extremely short shorts and swimwear with minimal body coverage.

Once you have exhibited in a higher level, you are not eligible to exhibit in a lower level. Example: once you exhibit in STEAM Clothing 3, you are not eligible to exhibit in STEAM Clothing 2. Exhibitors may only exhibit in 1 level each year.

If a 4-H member sewed a garment(s) for someone else to wear, garment(s) may be modeled by the individual it was sewn for.

Participants need to fill out one of the following entry forms for EACH entry:

- Fashion Show Narration Entry Form — for item(s) constructed by 4-H members ages 8–18.
- Shopping in Style Fashion Show Written Report With Narration — for purchased item(s) exhibited by 4-H members ages 8–18.
- Clover Kids Fashion Show Entry Form — for item modeled by 4-H members ages 5–7.

**Forms MUST be emailed by Monday, July 14** and are available online as fill-in PDFs at <https://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/fair/contests>. Email forms to Kristin Geisert at [kristin.geisert@unl.edu](mailto:kristin.geisert@unl.edu). Please include the narration into the body of the email. For sewn garments, a printed copy of the completed Fashion Show Narration form including fabric sample(s) and a sketch/picture of pattern MUST also be mailed or delivered to: Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528.

For each entry, 4-H members write the narration which will be read as they model their garments.



### RESOURCES: HANDOUT & VIDEOS

A how-to handout, “4-H Fashion Show — Procedures and Information,” is available online at <https://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/fair/contests> and at the Extension office. All participants are strongly encouraged to read the handout.

Three YouTube livestreamed videos, “4-H Fashion Show at Super Fair” from 2022, 2023 and 2024 are linked at <https://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/fair/contests>

## Table Setting Contest

4-H members may enter only one category and must bring a card table for the display (except for the picnic category, in which an appropriate blanket or other covering may be placed on the floor). **Contest will be Friday, Aug. 1** at the Sandhills Global Event Center – South Hall. **Register by Tuesday, July 22** by calling the Extension office at 402-441-7180 (there is no entry form). Time slots are assigned

at 5 p.m., 6 p.m. or 7 p.m.

Participants are to display 1 place setting — include table coverings, dishes, glassware, silverware, centerpiece and menu. **DO NOT PREPARE FOOD.** Participant’s attire should correspond with the theme/occasion of their table setting.

Why participate in the Table Setting Contest? It is a fun way to learn how to: properly set a table, plan nutritious meals, express originality and creativity in choosing a theme, present to a judge and express knowledge of food, nutrition and food safety.



NEW in 2025 — “Holiday” category replaces the “Birthday” category. Any holiday celebrated throughout the year may be used for this theme. All holiday-themed tables will need to compete in the “Holiday” category. For example, a 4th of July picnic or a formal Christmas dinner will compete in the “Holiday” category, instead of “Picnic” or “Formal,” respectively.



### RESOURCES: HANDOUT & VIDEO

A how-to handout, “4-H Table Setting Contest Procedures and Guidelines,” is available online at <https://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/fair/contests>. All participants are strongly encouraged to read the handout.

A YouTube video example, 4-H Table Setting Judging Example: Casual Junior Division (Re-enactment)” is linked at <https://lancaster.unl.edu/4h/fair/contests>

## Livestock Judging Contest

Open to 4-H and FFA members. Come join the fun judging livestock and bring your parents! There will be a short orientation before the contest outlining how to fill out the judging cards and where to answer questions for those who have never judged before.

**Contest will be Sunday, Aug. 3, Noon–2 p.m.** at the Sandhills Global Event Center – Currency Pavilion Arena, West Side. **Register by Thursday, July 31, 6 p.m.** in the livestock office.

Youth may judge as individuals or teams. Teams will consist of 4 youth and 1 adult.

Seven classes shall consist of 2 beef, 2 sheep, 2 swine, 1 meat goat. Classes will be decided day of contest and could consist of market and/or breeding animals. Contestants will have 12 minutes to judge each class. No reasons will be given, however, questions will be asked on 3 classes.

## Horse Judging Contest

Open to all 4-H members ages 8–18 — need not be enrolled in the horse project. **Contest will be Saturday, May 31, 2 p.m.** at the Sandhills Global Event Center – LivestockMarket Pavilion. Enter day of contest. The Horse Judging Contest may consist of 4 classes of 4 horses, 2 halter and 2 performance, to be judged by 4-H members in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior age divisions. 4-H members in the senior age division may be asked to judge 1 additional class. All division participants must complete 1 set of oral reasons to be eligible to win the championship buckle. The required dress for judging is a 4-H shirt or plain white T-shirt, blue jeans, belt, boots and 4-H armband OR English attire. No hats, shorts or sandals are permitted. Volunteers and handlers should be properly attired, while in and out of the ring. Note: This is a premium event but does not count as one of the premium events in the horse division.