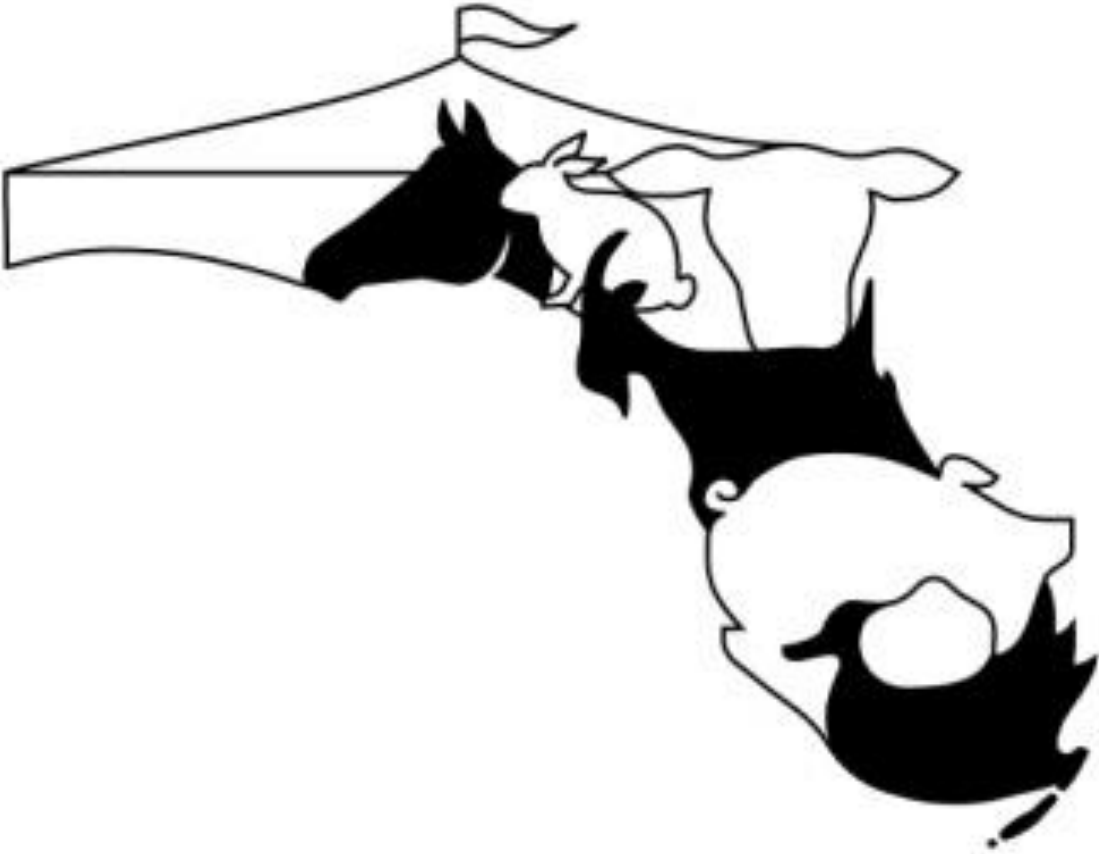


# Alachua County Youth Fair & Livestock Show 2024 Exhibit Judging & Non-Livestock Contests Handbook

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*February 16, 2024 Online Submission Deadline  
February 24 & February 29-March 5, 2024 Alachua County Ag & Equestrian Center*



Dear Youth Fair Participants,

The Alachua County Youth Fair & Livestock Show is coming soon, and we hope you will be participating! The five days are full of activity and fun with lots of events you can participate in. Please note, this book doesn't provide information on live animal exhibits. Information about all of the other Youth Fair activities can be found on the website.

2024 Exhibit Judging premiums: **Grand - \$5, Reserve - \$2, Blue - \$3, Red - \$1.**

Check out the many different events, both livestock and non-livestock. There are lots of contests and events to choose from. Save the date: **Exhibit Judging entries are due by February 16<sup>th</sup>, and interviews with judges will be on February 24<sup>th</sup> during fair setup!** *Please note that this year's ACYF Exhibit Judging submissions will be online, and interviews will be in-person.*

Online entry submission will be through Fairwire starting on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, which is the same site used for all of the ACYFLS livestock entries. There will be a \$1.00 entry fee for each Exhibit Judging entry (up to 20 entries per individual). Non-Livestock Contests do not have an entry fee. If you are showing livestock, you **MUST** remember your username and password in order to log in again to submit your Exhibit Judging and Non-Livestock Contest entries. Online entry submissions for Exhibit Judging and Non-Livestock Contests will be open from January 16<sup>th</sup> to February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Please read through this entire handbook before calling your 4-H or FFA Leader or the Extension office with questions. Then, if you do not find the answer, please give us a call. Make it your goal to have at least one exhibit in the fair.

See you at the fair!

Mary Lee Sale  
4-H Extension Agent

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## **Rule changes:**

### **Changes for 2024**

Exhibit Judging categories have been updated.

Exhibit Guidelines have been added:

1. Exhibits should be no larger than 3'x3'
2. Exhibits should be physical items, not digital submissions
3. Writing-based exhibits should be no longer than 2 pages; when sampling from a longer piece, you may provide context for the sample
4. Photography exhibits should include the photograph's title on the frame or attached to the photo for viewers to see
5. Individual photographs will not be accepted for categories outside of the Photography category (i.e. do not submit a single photo of a horse in Class 3: Horse)
6. Exhibits in classes 1-11 should be educational, informative, or persuasive in nature

## NON-LIVESTOCK EVENTS AND CONTESTS

### Hay Bale Decorating Contest

This contest will show off your club or chapter to other exhibitors and members of the public visiting the Youth Fair. Hay bale exhibits will be placed outside of the clubhouse in the designated area. Clubs and Chapters are encouraged to promote their club/chapter with a sign or banner as part of their exhibit.

#### Contest Rules:

- The Alachua County Hay Bale Decorating Contest is open to all 4-H Clubs and FFA Chapters in Alachua County.
- Hay bales will NOT be provided. Participating clubs/chapters will need to provide their own hay bales for this contest.
- Each club/chapter may use a maximum of 1 round bale and up to 5 rectangular bales for decoration. Any combination/configuration is allowed.
- Entries will be judged based on visual impact, craftsmanship, originality/creativity, completeness, and youth-adult partnership.
- Hay bales may be decorated at fair setup. The bales should be decorated with the theme for the year. Youth should prioritize helping with youth fair setup before setting up their hay bales.
- Bales can be placed lying on their side or standing on end. This will be your club's/chapter's choice.
- Hay bale location is on a first come, first served basis.
- Decorations should be wind and weatherproof. Decorations must be secure since exhibits will be outdoors for the duration of the fair.
- Paint may be applied to the hay bale.
- The exhibit must be cleaned up between Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Any decorations left behind after Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm will be discarded, not saved. Clubs/chapters that leave decorations behind will not be eligible to compete in next year's contest.
- Register for the Hay Bale Decorating Contest by February 16<sup>th</sup> on Fairwire. Only one individual per team needs to register on behalf of the team.

Overall Appearance – 40 points

Originality – 20 points

Relation to Theme – 20 points

Showcases Club/Chapter - 20 points

**2024 Theme:  
County Wide  
Agricultural Pride**

## Table Setting Contest

Table settings can be formal or casual. Each table setting should at least include a table covering, centerpiece, a decoration for each setting and placemats.

- **Team Size** Teams can be made of different age groups. Parents/adults may provide general guidance, but all decorations must be created, purchased, or brought from home and set by youth. Youth may also choose to participate as individuals or in sibling teams.
- Tables will be judged in two categories: formal and casual
- **Themes:** Pick a theme for your table: Some examples are “Horsing Around” a western themed setting and “Save the Monarchs” a monarch butterfly themed setting.
- **Description:** Describe your table display using an 8x10 or 9x12 surface (a blackboard or picture frame are good options) tell your guests: Club name, team members, theme of the table, and a brief description of how you decided the theme.
- **BE CREATIVE!** Dress the table to impress.
- **Create a menu** to go with your meal
- **Table Set Up:** Table decorations/placements should be brought to fair setup. Tables will be left up to be exhibited during the fair. All decorations should be removed on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Any decorations left behind after Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> will be discarded, not saved. Clubs/chapters that leave decorations behind will not be eligible to compete in next year’s contest.
- For more information and details on table setting we recommend contacting Martha Maddox, Alachua County Family & Consumer Science Extension Agent at [mmaddox@ufl.edu](mailto:mmaddox@ufl.edu)
- Register for the Table Decorating Contest by February 16<sup>th</sup> on Fairwire. Only one individual per team needs to register on behalf of the team.

Overall Appearance – 40 points

Neatness – 20 points

Originality – 20 points

Technique – 20 points

### **Rain Barrel Art Contest**

Paint a rain barrel to be entered! All entries must function as a working rain barrel. Barrels should at least have a painted front; feel free to utilize the entire barrel space. Barrels should be 55 gallon drum size.

#### Categories

- Individual – create a masterpiece by yourself!
- Pairs – find a partner and create artwork together.
- Club/Chapter - Any 4-H Club or FFA Chapter

Barrels should be brought to fair setup on February 24<sup>th</sup> and removed on Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Any barrels not removed by Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> will be considered a donation to Alachua County 4-H and may be auctioned, sold, or otherwise used at the discretion of the Alachua County 4-H Agent.

Register for the Rain Barrel Art Contest by February 16<sup>th</sup> on Fairwire. Only one individual per team needs to register on behalf of the team.

Overall Appearance – 40 points

Neatness – 20 points

Originality – 20 points

Technique – 20 points

### **Horse Show & Model Horse Parade – 12pm Sunday**

Come see a horse show demonstration by the Bits & Spurs 4-H Club! Club members will be riding different disciplines to show interested youth what a horse show is like.

Following the horse show demo, all youth ages 5-18 may participate in a Model Horse Parade. Participants will bring their favorite model/toy horse and visit each station in the parade to learn all about horsemanship. The parade will end in the Winner's Circle where participants will receive their awards! Stations will be appropriate for all ages, and content will be tailored to each youth visiting the station regardless of age.

- Youth should bring one model/toy horse. Examples include Breyer, Schleich, or other brands and can be purchased at stores like Tractor Supply, Rural King, Amazon, etc. Any brand, type, and size of handheld model/toy horses are acceptable.
- Participants do not need to register in advance or be members of 4-H or FFA. Any youth ages 5-18 are eligible to participate.

## EXHIBIT JUDGING

### WHEN AND WHERE

Submissions of all exhibits must take place by February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 via Fairwire. Interviews with judges will be done on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 9:00am to 11:00am at fair setup. Absentee forms will be available via Google Forms upon request. Youth will bring their exhibits to fair setup on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

### WHO CAN EXHIBIT IN THE YOUTH FAIR NON-LIVESTOCK DIVISION?

#### 4-H

All youth enrolled in a 4-H club and students enrolled in 4-H school programs are eligible to exhibit.

#### FFA

All youth enrolled in FFA as chapter members are eligible to exhibit agriculture-related items.

### WHAT IS AN EXHIBIT?

An exhibit is the item or display that you have made in your 4-H or FFA project. Posters, science exhibits, educational displays, etc. are all exhibits. Exhibits should be a physical item that you bring to the fair, not a digital submission.

### WHAT CAN I EXHIBIT?

Review the exhibit list for the Youth Fair at the end of this book. This listing is meant to provide you with ideas for exhibiting (other than live animals) in each 4-H or FFA project. Use it as your guide in preparing your exhibits. Join the fun and enter your exhibits!

### HOW MANY ITEMS CAN BE ENTERED?

#### In-Person Attendees Limits

- 6 exhibits per class
- 20 total exhibits

#### Absentee Attendees

- 6 total exhibits

### **WHAT DO I DO?**

Take 1-3 photos of your exhibits prior to submission. Submit your photo(s) online and complete the associated questions. Each exhibit entry has a \$1.00 entry fee paid online. Then, bring your projects to fair setup on and complete your interview with a judge.

### **HOW ARE PREPARED FOODS EXHIBITED?**

Prepared foods can be exhibited via display board that includes your recipe, steps taken, and photographs of the process/completed dish.

### **ENTRY CARDS**

For each exhibit you enter, you will need to securely attach a completed Entry Card. These will be printed with the information you submit online, and they will be available at Fair Setup at judging interviews.

### **WHAT IF I CAN'T BE THERE ON FEBRUARY 24th?**

You can still submit your entries by February 16<sup>th</sup>. Then, you'll need to request the Absentee Form from [msale@ufl.edu](mailto:msale@ufl.edu) in order to have your entries judged. Your Absentee Form is also due on February 16<sup>th</sup> so that it can be distributed to judges. Participants using Absentee Forms are limited to six (6) exhibits.

### **WHAT IS EXHIBIT JUDGING?**

Each exhibit you enter will be judged. You have the opportunity to meet with your judge in an interview type situation. The judge will evaluate and place your exhibit with you. The judge will ask you questions, such as how you made your exhibit, problems you encountered and how you solved them, and may offer suggestions on ways to improve it. Do not be afraid to ask your own questions of the judge too. Only the exhibitor is allowed to present the exhibit to the judge. Parents may listen, but may not take the exhibitor's place, or answer questions. This year, each exhibitor will only have one interview for all exhibits rather than one interview for each exhibit. Interviews will focus on the overall experience rather than going through each individual project, though the judge may ask questions about individual projects.



## WHAT AWARDS CAN I WIN FOR MY EXHIBITS?

1. Blue, red, or white ribbons, unless otherwise indicated, will be awarded to each exhibit. The judge determines final placing.
2. Cloverbuds (ages 5-7) will receive green ribbons only. They are still encouraged to participate in the interview experience, but their exhibits won't be judged. Cloverbuds will not receive premium money.
3. \$3.00 cash premiums for blue ribbon exhibits & \$1.00 cash premiums for red ribbon exhibits.
4. Additional \$5.00 cash award for Grand Champion exhibits and \$2.00 for Reserve Grand Champion.

## WHEN CAN I TAKE MY EXHIBIT HOME?

1. **You must pick up your exhibits between 1-2 pm, Monday, March 5th.**
2. If you can't pick up your exhibits, please make arrangements to have someone else do so. Your cooperation in promptly removing your exhibits is needed.
3. ***If items are not picked up by March 5th and arrangements are not made, projects will be forfeited. The 4-H office is not responsible for these items, and they may be discarded.***

## WHAT CAN I DO TO GET READY FOR JUDGING?

As you work to prepare your exhibits for the fair, remember to prepare yourself, too! Because exhibit judging includes an evaluation of both the actual exhibit and your learning and knowledge of the exhibit, you should prepare for both parts of the evaluation.

Think about what you learned in preparing the exhibit, decisions you made and why you made them, and the quality of your finished exhibit. Knowing and carrying out the following should help you.

1. Prepare exhibit carefully and neatly.
2. Know why you chose this particular item as your exhibit and how it fits your project.
3. Know how you prepared the exhibit.
4. Know how much the exhibit cost in time, materials and effort.
5. Be able to explain what decisions you made and why in preparing the exhibit.
6. Study some background information about the exhibit topic.
7. Be able to explain some of the problems you had in making this exhibit and what you might do differently if you were able to do it again.
8. Decide if the results were worth the costs and what you learned.
9. Know what other kinds of exhibits and future projects you might be interested in.

Remember that competition has some risks. Everyone cannot be the champion. Others may have more skills, time, advice, or money in preparing their exhibits. However, if your exhibit helped you learn something you wanted to learn in your project or is something that you or your family can use, then you are a winner no matter what the results of the competition!

## AN EASY DISPLAY YOU CAN MAKE



Here is one way of creating a display. This display is usually three-sided. Be sure the design is simple with few elements and lots of space. Avoid making it cluttered. Too much written material makes it hard to follow. It should be easy to understand. The display should read from left to right and top to bottom. The title, the pictures or objects, the written copy and the overall design should have an obvious message. All parts should tell the message. The display should have a strong attention getter. Does the message come through loud and clear? Is the message positive? Use lettering that is large and easy to read. Use a style that is bold and not too fancy. Use all one color for letters. Dark colors are best, such as black, blue, or brown. Use light colors on dark backgrounds and dark colored letters on a light background, as lettering should contrast with the background.

Other exhibit examples can include art, sewing projects, livestock posters, and more. See the full list at the end of this book.



## General Rules

1. Each entry (maximum of 20 per individual) will have a \$1 entry fee.
2. Exhibits from 2023-2024 projects only.
3. Exhibits divided into 4 age groups as of 9/1/23. Ages 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, and 14-18.
4. Limit of 6 exhibits per class. No more than 20 total exhibits. Absentee exhibits are limited to 6 total.
5. The Alachua County Youth Fair and/or UF/IFAS Extension Office are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged exhibits.
6. Entries by ages 5-7 will not be judged, however, the youth may speak with a judge. No exhibit premiums are paid to exhibitors aged 5-7.
7. Each exhibit must have an entry card attached. These will be printed for you and available at judging.

## Exhibit Guidelines

7. Exhibits should be no larger than 3'x3'
8. Exhibits should be physical items, not digital submissions
9. Writing-based exhibits should be no longer than 2 pages; when sampling from a longer piece, you may provide context for the sample
10. Photography exhibits should include the photograph's title on the frame or attached to the photo for viewers to see
11. Individual photographs will not be accepted for categories outside of the Photography category (i.e. do not submit a single photo of a horse in Class 3: Horse)
12. Exhibits in classes 1-11 should be educational, informative, or persuasive in nature

## **Exhibits Class List**

Class limit = 6 per exhibitor

### **Class 1: Animal Industry**

(Beef, Goats, Swine, Poultry)

### **Class 2: Small Animals & Pets**

(Cats, Dogs, Rabbits, Other small animals/pets)

### **Class 3: Horse**

### **Class 4: Plants & Gardening**

### **Class 5: Entomology**

### **Class 6: Marine Science**

### **Class 7: Forestry**

### **Class 8: Foods Education, Nutrition, & Preparation**

For food preparation, create a display that shows your recipe and steps taken, along with a photo(s)

### **Class 9: Health & Safety**

### **Class 10: Citizenship/Leadership**

### **Class 11: Science & Technology**

### **Class 12: Woodworking**

### **Class 13: Sewing**

### **Class 14: Needlecrafts**

### **Class 15: Jewelry & Beadwork**

### **Class 16: Drawings**

### **Class 17: Paintings**

### **Class 18: Other Art**

### **Class 19: Crafts**

### **Class 20: Creative Writing**

Limited to 2 pages per entry

### **\*Class 21: Photography – People**

Any photo where the main subject is a person or people; still shots or active

### **\*Class 22: Photography – Flora/Fauna**

Plants or animals; living things in nature

### **\*Class 23: Photography – Scenic**

Cityscapes, rural landscapes, natural settings that do not fit into Flora and Fauna

### **\*Class 24: Photography – Still Life**

An arrangement or display of inanimate objects

### **\*Class 25: Photography – Black & White**

Any subject presented in black and white

### **\*Class 26: Graphic Design – Brochures**

8.5x11" tri-fold

### **\*Class 27: Graphic Design – Flyer**

8.5x11" document that promotes a topic of your choice

### **\*Class 28: Graphic Design – PowerPoints**

5-10 slides with notes/script

### **\*Class 29: Graphic Design – Other**

Any other materials such as bookmarks or postcards

\*Junior, Intermediate, and Senior winners from all (not each) of the Photography and Graphic Design categories will be eligible to compete in the 4-H State Contest

## Code of Ethics

Youth are expected to be sincere, honest and act in sportsmanlike ways at all times. Youth represent the entire program and their behavior reflects on their parents, leaders, club, and the entire youth program. All adults involved with the youth program, leaders as well as parents, are expected to set positive examples, serve as positive examples, and serve as positive role models by what they say and do. Any youth who breaks the Code of Ethics or allows another person (adult or peer) to talk them into violating this Code of Ethics will forfeit all prizes, awards, and premiums.

Youth agree to follow these guidelines:

1. I will do my own work, appropriate for my age, physical and mental development. This includes research and writing of exhibit explanations, preparing exhibits (such as sewing, cooking, refinishing, etc.), care and grooming of animals, etc. Adult assistance should help guide and support me, not do it for me.
2. All exhibits will be a true representation of my work. Any attempt to take credit for other's work is prohibited. Copyright violation or allowing others to complete your exhibit is considered misrepresentation and is prohibited.
3. I will treat all people and others' exhibits with respect.
4. I will present exhibits that are safe for consumption. All food exhibits will be safe to exhibit and for judges to evaluate.
5. I am responsible for my exhibit, and I will not allow others to violate this Code on my behalf. By my entering an exhibit in this fair or exhibition I will accept any disciplinary action taken by the management of this fair or exhibition for any violation of this Code of Ethics and any other rules of competition of the fair or exhibition without recourse against the fair or exhibition.
6. I want my exhibit to be an example of how to accept what life has to offer, both good and not so good, and how to live with and learn from the outcome.
7. I will not be involved in any illegal activities while participating in 4-H and FFA events.
8. If approached by members of the media, I will have a positive attitude, be respectful to what they may say or ask, and answer with truthfulness. If a member of the media confronts you in a disrespectful or confrontational manner, reply with respect and find your parent, club leader, chapter advisor, fair board member, or the 4-H Agent.

I agree to conduct myself in an honest, ethical, and upstanding manner and I understand that disciplinary actions will result if these rules are violated. I understand that I am expected to represent the program in a positive manner. I have read, understand, and agree to follow this Code of Ethics.

Exhibitors and parents will be asked to electronically sign this document in the online form.