



Information for Judges What's New in 2012

Nebraska 4-H has embarked on a new 5-year Strategic Plan. The plan focuses on 5 outcomes that were identified by stakeholders as important to the youth of Nebraska. These outcomes are being integrated into the 4-H program in many different ways: at club meetings, at workshops, at new programs and more. One additional way may be in the exhibits you will judge at county fairs and the Nebraska State Fair. Be sure to review the information in the county or state fairbook or talk with Extension staff to see if this applies to the department/exhibits you'll be judging.

The outcomes are:

- **4-H Science:** Developing science interests, skills and abilities in the areas of agriculture, energy, environmental stewardship and technology. Helping youth think and problem solve within a scientific framework and encouraging an excitement for science.
- **Agricultural Literacy:** Ensuring that Nebraska youth have a knowledge and appreciation of Nebraska's largest industry.
- **Career Development/College Readiness:** Preparing youth to make informed decisions about their college and career path. Developing skills in young people that will lead to greater persistence in college and employability.
- **Citizenship and Leadership:** Fostering youth's commitment to their communities and growing future leaders.
- **Healthy Living:** Educating youth about how to make healthy and safe decisions in their daily lives.

How might these be combined into fair exhibits?

Child Development

As an example, in the State Fair Child Development exhibits for this year, four of the traditional exhibits will be making an adjustment to fit these outcomes. Exhibitors in the Child Development project area are asked to focus on the new outcomes areas. Classes 1-4 of child development exhibits (Toy, game, or activity made for identified age group) must be tied to one or more of the outcome areas.

The exhibitor should consider and develop exhibits for these classes related to one or more of the outcome areas. This could be a game that teaches about healthy eating (healthy lifestyles), or an activity that teaches about being a farmer (careers/agricultural literacy).

Some other ideas for each of the outcome areas are:

- 4-H Science – A stuffed bug for an infant.
- Agricultural Literacy – A barn to play in for toddlers.
- Careers – A picture book of careers in your community for preschoolers
- Citizenship/Leadership – A game about being a citizen for grade-schoolers.
- Healthy Living – A matching game of fruits and vegetable pictures for preschoolers.



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.



4-H Science

The **Premier 4-H Science Award** is a new award being offered at the State Fair. It will recognize 4-H youth static exhibits incorporating or demonstrating concepts from the areas of 4-H Science (science, technology, engineering, or applied math). Exhibits in all curriculum areas will be considered for the award.

If we look at how 4-H Science can be integrated into other project areas, we may see these types of exhibits:

- *Decorate Your Duds* – T-shirt embellished using a bleach pen or spray.
- *Photography* – a photograph of technology (mist coming from a center pivot, or a robot performing a task) OR using technology to edit a photo (removing color or special effects)
- *Agronomy* – Crops poster showing how genetically engineered foods are helping feed the world
- *Child Development* – Texture cards for toddlers to compare and contrast different textures

What Does This Mean for You as a Judge?

In the case of the State Fair Child Development department, exhibits must relate to one of the outcomes. As a judge, you will need to be able to recognize this and take this into account when making placings and comments.

While doing interview judging at county fairs, reinforce the learning process and outcomes when talking with the exhibitor. For example, some general processing questions to ask for each outcome may be:

- 4-H Science – How did you decide to use this particular process for the project? Why is science important to us?
- Agricultural Literacy – What is the source of the components/supplies/materials used in this exhibit? (Not the store, but instead a forest, farm, animal, etc.) Why is important for us to learn about agriculture?
- Careers – What is a career in your community that relates to your exhibit/project?
- Citizenship/Leadership – How can what you learned be used to improve your community?
- Healthy Living – How can this exhibit be related to improving one's health/activity level/eating habits?

You can also reinforce the outcomes by making positive comments to the exhibitor. Sample comments are:

- "Seeing this project from start to finish was a big responsibility."
- "The changes you made to this recipe were really healthy choices."
- "Your presentation was very interesting, have you ever considered a career as a"
- "You did a great job using up to date technology to create this project. Those are skills you'll be able to use in the future."