2013 Nebraska State Fair
Department Insect Identification Contest

Superintendent – Jim Kalisch, Lincoln

General Rules:

- Participant Eligibility:
  - Participant must be 10 years old on January 1of the current year.
  - Contestants must be 4-H members at the time of the contest.
  - Contestant eligibility will be verified by county extension staff.
- Participants are required to pay a non-refundable fee of $5/person.
- Participants will be notified of the location of the contest prior to State Fair.
- General rules from the 4-H section of the Nebraska State Fair apply.

Age Divisions:

F500031 Intermediate: 4-H'ers must be 10-13 by January 1 of the current year.
F500030 Senior: 4-H'ers must be 14-18 by January 1 of the current year.

Contest Guidelines:

- Participants may enter only as an individual.
- Individuals compete according to their age division.
- Members do NOT need to be enrolled in a 4-H Entomology project to participate.
- Contestants will have at least an hour to identify 50-60 insect specimens. Identifications will be scored strictly by the names given on the Specimen List, as common names may vary according to resources studied.
- Contestants will identify specimens by common name only, and will use a key consisting of eligible orders and insects from which to write the corresponding letter (for order) and number (for insects) on an answer sheet. Every 5th specimen will have a multiple-choice insect knowledge question about the insect. The question may require the meaning of the order name, type of antennae, legs or mouthparts, kind of metamorphosis, a fact about biology, or the scientific name of the specimen. Scoring: Each correct order answer is worth 1 point, and each correct insect answer is worth 1 point. Each multiple-choice question is worth 2 points.
- Contestants will not be allowed to touch specimens during the contest.
- Ties will be broken with a supplemental tie-breaker section at the end of the contest answer sheet consisting of 10 specimens to identify to order along with 2 insect knowledge questions. These specimens will be much more difficult to identify.
- Contestants must bring their own pencil or pen.

Contest Resources:

- Insect ID Contest--Specimen List, State Fair
- Insect ID Contest—Blank Answer Sheet, State Fair
- Insect ID Contest—Key for Answer Sheet

- Supplementary Study Resources:
    - **Field Guide to Insects and Spiders of North America**, by Arthur Evans, National Wildlife Federation, Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., New York, 2007.
    - **Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America**, by Eric R. Eaton and Kenn Kaufman, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007.
    - **National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Insects and Spiders**, by Lorus and Margery Milne, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1980.
    - **Peterson Field Guide to Insects**, by Donald J. Borror, Richard E. White, and Roger Tory Peterson,1998.
    - **Insectigator: Bug or Insect - Do You Know the Difference?** University of Nebraska Extension 4-H Curriculum H4110, 2009.
    - Websites: (Note: Classification systems may be different.)
        - **Introduction to Insect Identification**, UNL Department of Entomology (entomology.unl.edu/tmh/ent116)
        - **BugGuide** (www.bugguide.org)
        - **Insect Identification.Org** (http://www.insectidentification.org)

State 4-H Insect Identification Awards:

- Individuals for both age divisions:
    - Medals: Gold (1st), Silver (2nd), Bronze (3rd)
    - Placement Ribbons: 1st through 10th place individual ribbons