

Several people have asked me how they find out the rules for the still exhibits. Since most of these rules appear in the fair book, which not everyone receives, I thought I would write out some recommendations.

Always remember that the purpose of a 4-H project should be for the member to learn something. The **items exhibited must be made during the current 4-H year.** (From September to the fair)
Still exhibit entries are limited to 18 entries and there may be only one entry per class.

Notebooks

Several projects require notebooks. Always check with the 4-H office for requirements. Several project areas have requirements. If there are requirements, these should be listed in a table of contents so that the judge can quickly locate the requirements and check that they are in the book. Be sure that the requirements are in the book and then add any other information and pictures that you want to make the book more personal.

Notebooks always look best when they are printed. If the member doesn't have access to a computer or typewriter and has to hand write their notebook it looks best in pen and on plain paper. While the Internet is a great tool for information, the information should be summarized. When the notebook consists of page after page of Internet information, as a judge I wonder if the member even read what was included or just hit "Print." Some things such as breed standards or rules can be taken straight from the source but should be footnoted.

When adding the next year's work to a notebook, put it in the front of the book with a divider to separate the years. This means that the current work is always in the front of the book with the first year in the back.

Other Still Exhibits

1. The 4-H member should be the person making the selection of which items to exhibit. The selection is part of the learning process.
2. Make sure that your exhibit fits the class you are entering. Silk flowers in a dried flower class make it appear that the exhibitor doesn't know the difference between silk and dried flowers.
3. If the class calls for "3" specimens enter 3, not 2 or 4. Often these categories are judged on uniformity of the specimens as well as the quality and if the correct number isn't there, the missing one isn't uniform or the extra one might not match as well.
4. Wood Science project is similar to a school "Wood Shop" project. The idea is to learn about measuring, cutting, sanding, (etc.) wood to make something useful. This is **not** the place for craft stick projects.
5. Natural Resources collections (Rocks & minerals, insects, leaves, etc.) and Hobbies & Collections. Label (identify, where found and date) each item. At least 10 items should be added each year.
6. Citizenship, Community Involvement, Challenge, Cultural Heritage, Energy, Health and Safety, and Management, projects **require a poster and notebook**. Label the poster with exhibitor's name and the title on the notebook so that the judge can easily locate both portions of the exhibit.
7. **ART** is just that. Entries in these categories should be what would be acceptable in a school art class. This means that the drawings should be **DRAWN** not a color book picture or a tracing. The same applies to the paintings.
8. **CRAFTS** make sure the item is in the correct category. Ceramic cold cast projects are not fired. Putting stickers on an item is not Picture Transfer.
9. **SEWING, WEAVING, LATCHHOOK, CROCHETING, EMBROIDERY, and CROSS STITCH** are all entered by the exhibitors year in the project so only one entry is allowed except for sewing not entered at Spring Achievement or the non apparel items.
10. **OUILTING & KNITTING** classes are entered by the object made. This should be an item.
11. **FOODS & NUTRITION** This project is to teach about nutrition as well as how to measure, what to use for leavening, what makes the recipe hold together, etc. Original recipes are just that. You experiment to make something **new** not a variation of an existing recipe.
12. **PHOTOGRAPHY** – This is to learn how to take good pictures. Picking a subject, contrasting the background to the object, as well as focus, framing etc. The **photos must be taken by the member** therefore it is unlikely the member would be in the picture.