



McLean County 4-H Show Judge's Packet

Below is your Fair Ticket!
Please remove and bring with
you to enter the fairgrounds.

Dear McLean County Fair Judge,

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a judge for the McLean County 4-H Show!

Serving as a 4-H judge is both an honor and a responsibility! It's recognition of your expertise in a subject area and abilities in working with young people. At the same time, it's important to realize the significance of your responsibilities and to do the best job possible!

If you are a first time judge and would like to review the project manuals, please contact us at 309-663-8306 and we will make arrangements with you to review the manuals. They are not available at the fair grounds.

Enclosed in this mailing you will find:

- Fairbook page(s). Check the section related to your judging area. These are the requirements we set for each 4-H member to meet. Please follow these requirements as you are judging.
- Scorecard sample used in judging process. (If available.)
- Your ticket into the fair.

This packet will help inform you about how we view the judging process and answer any of your questions. Thank you for helping to create a great fair experience for our 4-H members!

Sincerely,

Theresa Chambers
4-H Community Worker
McLean County

Kathy Schwoerer
4-H Program Support
McLean County

Evaluation and Recognition: An Important Part of the 4-H Educational Experience

Evaluation is important to help members know where they stand in knowledge, skills, and attitudes so they can build on their strengths and overcome their weaknesses. Recognition is a basic human need. 4-H members are recognized for many kinds of achievements including:

- participation in educational experiences
- individual progress towards goals
- achievement of standards of excellence
- results from peer competition

As a judge you will only be able to evaluate and recognize members "as they are" on judging day. You will not be able to evaluate their progress. Do not allow yourself to be put in the position of trying to decide who learned the most, who worked the hardest or other aspects of members' progress. Evaluation and recognition of such progress can best be done by 4-H advisors and others who work with the youth throughout the year and who know their background and resources. It cannot be done by a 4-H judge during an interview at the conclusion of a project!

Where are we located?

The Interstate Center is the home of the McLean County Fair. It is located just west of the junction of I74 and I55 West of Bloomington on Route 9, exit 160A. Turn North from Route 9 to enter the fairgrounds West of Bloomington. Blain's Farm & Fleet is .3 miles East of the Fairgrounds. You will see the official Interstate Center sign on the right at the main entrance.

As a judge, you want to conduct interviews that will be positive educational experiences for members. The following tips will help you accomplish this:

Before Judging Day

Please become familiar with county rules and placing criteria. Not all counties are the same.

On Judging Day

- Dress comfortably but professionally
- Arrive early to arrange your judging area and otherwise make sure you are prepared for judging
- Parents, advisors, other 4-Hers, siblings, and the general public should not be allowed in the judging area
- There may be 3 shows simultaneously happening in your area: 4-H Show, Junior Show, and McLean County Pride (sponsored by the McLean County Farm Bureau for beef, dairy, goats, sheep, and swine)

Choosing Award Placings

There are two forms of judging for livestock judges. Please use this guide when awarding placing to members.

American (Junior show & McLean County Pride) - The judging process to rank exhibits against one another and award one first placing, one second placing, etc.

Danish (4-H Show) - The judging process to compare each exhibit on its own merit against the scorecard or recognized standard and an A, B or C rating is awarded.

You will have the opportunity to award specific projects the following awards:

Junior Show (and possibly McLean County Pride)

- 1st – 10th place
- Champion & Reserve Champion
- Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion

4-H Show Rating levels:

- A (Blue Rating) = meets standards, good exhibit
- B (Red Rating) = some improvement needed
- C (White Rating) = does not meet standards, much improvement necessary

Judge's Checklist at the End of the Day

- Select all award placings before leaving
- Sign ALL Judges' Sheets in Blue Book – this verifies classes have been judged
- Complete Evaluation to help make your judging experience better
- Pick up judge's check, if available, at the 4-H office

From Start to Finish

Have fun! Although being a 4-H judge is sometimes tiring, it's also a most satisfying and inspiring experience! Almost all the 4-H members you interview will have worked hard on their projects and will have some exciting accomplishments to share. Don't forget your own positive experiences as you work with our exhibitors! Enjoy them and your 4-H judging experience! Thank you!