

This General 4-H Information Bulletin contains information that all 4-H members need to know for project completion regardless of project. Please use it in conjunction with the specific Project Newsletter which outlines exact project requirements and rules. This General 4-H Information Bulletin, as well as the Project Newsletter, will be updated in December of each year, if necessary, based on changes made at the 4-H Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting.

Project Completion

- All 4-H members must complete a project to complete their 4-H year.
- Completion of your project qualifies you to move on to any further county, provincial, or national 4-H competitions relating to that project in the current 4-H year.
- Achievement Day allows members to display their project work to the public and have their project work evaluated, non-competitively.

Project completion at Achievement Day is based on the following system:

A Green project completion sticker will be given to a member who has completed:	A Silver project completion sticker will be given to a member who has completed:	A Gold project completion sticker will be given to a member who has completed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record Sheet • Project Work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record Sheet • Project Work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record Sheet • Project Work
Plus, one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications • Club Contribution • Judging 	Plus, two of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications • Club Contribution • Judging 	Plus", all three of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications • Club Contribution • Judging

PROJECT WORK – Project work requirements (as outlined in the specific project newsletter) are evaluated according to standards for the project, with consideration to age and level of experience. A 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place ribbon will be given based on that evaluation. At Achievement Day, project work will receive a written or verbal evaluation.

RECORD SHEET – Each member must complete a satisfactory record sheet. Record sheets may be hand written or typed. *For more useful information, refer to Record Sheet Guidelines.* Record Sheets are evaluated at Achievement Day along with Project Work.

COMMUNICATIONS – Members who participate in speaking and/or demonstrations will receive recognition on their Achievement Day Certificate. Each club has its own standards for communications, so members should confirm with the general club leader.

CLUB CONTRIBUTION – Members are encouraged to be actively involved in their club, county, province, and community. The club contribution aspect is an assessment on things as a member's attendance at meetings and events, attitude, effort, cooperation, and self-expression. Each club has its own standards for club contribution. Evaluation of this Achievement Day component is done by the Club General Leader and / or project leader(s). The standard for club contribution should be communicated clearly to all members by club leaders at the beginning of the 4-H year.

JUDGING – Members are asked to compare four (4) articles or livestock relating to the project, evaluate them to place the class from first (closest to the ideal) to fourth (furthest from the ideal), and then give oral reasons on the class to an official judge.

General

Junior Members: 9 - 13 years of age as of January 1, as of the current year.

Senior Members: 14 - 21 years of age as of January 1, as of the current year.

Club: 4-H members may register in the club and county of their choice, but must only be registered in one club, in one province. Members may register in one club and access projects in a neighboring club if that club is willing to assist with leadership of a certain project.

Achievement Day: If you are unable to attend your own club Achievement Day, please make prior arrangements with your Agriculture Extension Coordinator.

Livestock: To complete, each member must have their own (not shared) project animal (exception is the "Basics" projects). The animal that a member shows, and completes with, at their Achievement Day cannot be changed or substituted following Achievement Day.

School projects: School projects are not permitted to be used as 4-H projects.

Resources: Each project member should ensure they have a project newsletter, record sheet and this general information sheet for each project they are enrolled. Leader guides are available to project leaders by contacting the Agriculture Extension Coordinator. Clubs are reminded that the Agriculture Extension Coordinator can provide additional resources on topics such as judging, meeting management, recreation. A practice judging box is also available in each region.

Judging Classes: 4-H animals participating in the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show competitions are used to make up livestock judging classes. Members should make their animals available for the judging class unless they have a class near the assigned judging class time.

Additional Opportunities For 4-H Members

For more information about any "non-project specific" opportunities listed, please contact the Agriculture Extension Coordinator.

4-H POSTER CONTEST – Create a hand-drawn or computer-generated poster focused around the annual 4-H Theme. This competition is part of Rally. Be sure to check county deadlines for submission dates.

4-H THEME CONTEST – Put on your thinking cap and be the one to come up with next year's 4-H theme! Submissions due to Provincial 4-H Office by July 1st. (i.e. "4-H Leads the Way in 2020").

WOOL & RECYCLING COMPETITION – Open to all 4-H members. These articles must be made from 100% wool or a minimum of 75% recycled materials and members must exhibit a Competition Report Sheet with their entry.

GIANT VEGETABLE COMPETITION – Each year a new vegetable is selected for the Giant Vegetable competition held at the 4-H Provincial Show. Each county can send one junior and one senior entry to the show. **2020 is LONGEST CUCUMBER. No specific variety and measured from the top to bottom not including any stem.**

TRACTOR DRIVING COMPETITION – The tractor competition is open to teams of 3 members (1 driver and 2 assistants); the driver must hold a valid class #5 license or tractor license. The driver will drive a tractor and trailer through an obstacle course. The score is calculated based on safe operation and judge's evaluation. One team per county will advance to 4-H Provincial Show.

RECORD KEEPING COMPETITION – An entry will be one record sheet for a project completed in the current year by that member, with a detailed analysis. Entries must include a 1- 4 page analysis of the work and costs in the project for the given year in order to be eligible. Entries should be displayed in a binder/folder. The top two senior and top two junior record sheets per county will be eligible for the Record Keeping Competition at the 4-H Provincial Show, but entries must first qualify at county level. All county entries must be forwarded to Truro by September 15th for judging.

AWARDS, TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES, AND SCHOLARSHIPS – Each year, 4-H Nova Scotia covers the registration fee to National and International travel opportunities for members awarded such travel experiences. Also, there are several scholarships available to 4-H members in Nova Scotia.

JUNIOR LEADER PROJECT – This project is designed to build leadership skills by providing members with the opportunity to lead any aspects of their club which interest them (e.g., projects, recreation, communication, etc.).

GRADE 10 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT – Members must achieve GOLD completion and document at least 110 hours of 4-H leadership and skill development work to qualify. For more information visit the [NS Department of Education & Early Childhood Development Personal Development Credit website](https://pdc.ednet.ns.ca/) <https://pdc.ednet.ns.ca/>

NOVA SCOTIA YOUNG SPEAKERS FOR AGRICULTURE – Senior Members and screened volunteers up to age 24 compete by creating and presenting a speech on one of five topics from Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture (<https://cysa-joca.ca/>). The winner represents 4-H Nova Scotia at the Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture competition held annually in November at the Royal Agriculture Winter Fair in Toronto. Deadline to register for the competition is September 15th of the current 4-H year.

4-H SPORTSMANSHIP – BE A GOOD SPORT!

In 4-H, Sportsmanship plays a key role in living by the motto of 'Learn to Do by Doing'. Please take the opportunity to consider good sportsmanship when at 4-H events. Here are some key factors to good sportsmanship:

GOOD CONDUCT – Demonstrate and maintain high standards of personal behaviour and conduct. You are representing your family, your club, your community and the 4-H program.

FAIRNESS – Learn and follow the rules. Be objective and honest. No matter what the results try your best by using your true skills without cheating. Treat others fairly.

HONESTY – Be a reliable person, do not lie or deceive. Be straightforward in everything you say and do. Understand your abilities and skills, accept the fact that you cannot do everything perfectly, but you still can do many things well.

COMPETITION - Competition experiences enhance positive youth development and prepare youth with competitive knowledge, skills and attitudes. Take pride in your accomplishments and in improving your skills – you are all winners, even if the ribbon color doesn't appear to reflect this.

COURTESY – Be well-mannered in your conduct. Be respectful, thoughtful, considerate, cooperative, friendly, and cheerful, no matter whether you do well or not. When you have concerns, questions, or suggestions, be polite in expressing them. Be pleasant and nice toward other participants, spectators, program officials, judges, the media, your leaders, parents and others. Give others the benefit of the doubt. Treat people and animals kindly. Keep your emotions under control.

GRACEFUL ACCEPTANCE OF RESULTS – Accept judges' results and suggestions with a positive attitude. The judge's decision is final. Regardless of the outcome; thank all that were involved in helping you put forth your best effort. Thank the organizers for their efforts; Sponsors for their generous donations; Agriculture Leadership Coordinators for their wisdom and guidance; Judges for their skilled eye and time given to the 4-H program; and anyone else who has helped you along the way.

The work in any 4-H project should always be done by the members. Hiring, or the use, of professionals and/ or adults to prepare projects for 4-H shows are not acceptable. Using these people as resources provides 4-H members with the information and skills to do the job on their own.

4-H Nova Scotia has a Code of Conduct in effect for all members and leaders. It is to be followed always throughout the year. If you would like a copy of what are acceptable practices in the 4-H program, please visit <http://novascotia4h.ca/codeofconduct/>.