

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Premiums Offered - \$15,700

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THE 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

4-H Youth Development Education Programs create supportive environments for culturally diverse youth and adults to reach their fullest potential. In support of this, 4-H:

- Provides formal and non-formal, community-focused, experiential learning,
- Develops skills that benefit youth throughout life,
- Fosters leadership and volunteerism in youth and adults,
- Strengthens families and communities, and
- Uses research-based knowledge and the Land Grant University System.

As a result of participating in the Fair, 4-H members are provided with an educational experience that includes:

- Learning and mastering life skills throughout the 4-H year.
- An interactive evaluation process with an evaluator. Evaluators award and encourage work that meets or exceeds desired standards. Evaluators will also provide positive comments and information that will help a member to reach desired standards
- An opportunity to showcase a completed project.
- Development of positive sportsmanship habits.
- An opportunity to develop teamwork skills by working with and helping others.

These combined help youth to become capable, competent, and caring citizens in their communities.

It is the goal of 4-H to foster educational growth and development of youth through 4-H youth development program projects based on the teachings and research of the land grant colleges in the United States. In an attempt to reach that goal, the following rules and regulations have been established.

ERIE COUNTY 4-H RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. ELIGIBILITY

- 1) Any youth, age 5 – 18 (as of January 1st), who is officially enrolled as a Cloverbud (5 – 7-year olds) or 4-H member (8 – 18-year olds, as of January 1st) in the Erie County 4-H Program by May 1, 2025 may exhibit. Members exhibiting market animals that will be sold at auction must be 9 years old as of January 1, 2025. Members that are 5-7 years old as of January 1, 2025 may exhibit non-sale poultry & rabbits, dogs, horses, dairy cattle, breeding sheep, breeding swine, breeding meat goats, breeding beef, dairy goats, and working goats. All animals must be shown by a 4-H member who is accompanied by an adult chaperone in the ring.
- 2) To promote continued participation and interest among older members, 4-H recommends a progression of challenging projects from basic to advanced.
- 3) Exhibits must be grown, made, or prepared by 4-H members since the 2024 Erie County Fair.

B. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE 4-H MEMBERS

- 1) **ENTRIES MUST BE DONE ONLINE ON OR BEFORE MONDAY, JULY 7, 2025 AT 11:59 PM.**
- 2) ALL 4-H Animal Science exhibitors and their parents are required to sign the entry form stating they consent to the International Association of Fairs and Expositions National Code of Show Ring Ethics as well as consenting to the rules and regulations stated in the 4-H Livestock Handbook, NYS 4-H Equine Show Rule Book, and the Erie County 4-H Dog Program Handbook.
- 3) No entry fee will be charged. There is no limit to the total number of exhibits entered per exhibitor; however, some classes have clearly stated limits. When two or more entries are exhibited in one class, they must be a significantly different recipe, variety, or design, etc.
- 4) If two exhibits are to be entered in one class, list the class number twice on the entry form.

C. PROCEDURES – Judging

*Judging of exhibits (except animals) takes place at the 4-H Youth Development Building on Saturday, August 2, 2025. Check the July 4-H News for judging times.

- 1) Exhibits will automatically be lowered one premium if they are not conforming to class specifications.
- 2) An Exhibitor's ticket will be given to each exhibitor over the age of 12. It is suggested that parents avail themselves of the opportunity to purchase a membership in the Erie County Agricultural Society. For further information, call 649-3900 ext. 6404. This provides unlimited access to the Fair.
- 3) Members will pick up Junior Exhibitor tickets at the 4-H Youth Development Building on Saturday, August 3, 2024 (except for livestock).

D. PROCEDURES – Erie County Fair Overnight

*Dorms for the 2025 Erie County Fair will be provided if there are chaperones

- 1) All 4-H youth must leave the 4-H livestock area and barns by 10:30 PM and not return before 6:00 AM. Lights will go off at 11:00 PM. 4-H'ers will be allowed to take dairy animals to milking parlor during hours of operation.

- 2) All participants in the 4-H Youth Development Department staying on the grounds overnight must register and sleep in the 4-H Dormitory. Dormitory rules and regulations requiring signatures and parental permission slips must be completed for each youth exhibitor. Please contact the 4-H Office for the registration information.
- 3) Flagrant violations of the rules and regulations will result in expulsion from the dormitory of those involved, with a subsequent forfeit of awards, premiums and privileges of participating in the 4-H Youth Development Department of the 2025 Erie County Fair and/or New York State Fair.

E. PROCEDURES – Camping

- 1) A limited number of camping spaces are available for a weekly rate. Campers/tents are only allowed on the grounds for the duration that the exhibitors' animals are on the Fairgrounds.
- 2) The camping request must be submitted online to Erie County Fair, by Monday, July 7, 2025. Spots will be reserved on a first-come first-served basis.

F. PROCEDURES – Release & Premiums

- 1) Neither Erie County Fair nor Cornell Cooperative Extension nor New York State Fair assumes responsibility for the loss or damage done to exhibits while on display.
- 2) Exhibitors must pick up exhibits displayed in the 4-H Youth Development Building, Monday, August 18, 2025 between 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM. The 4-H Program is not responsible for any unclaimed items after 6:00 PM. All animal exhibits should be picked up as indicated, per species. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor not to remove his or her exhibits before the stated time. Exhibitors whose exhibits are removed before the stated time will automatically forfeit their premium money and all exhibiting privileges in the 4-H Youth Development Department of the 2025 Erie County Fair.
- 3) Please pick up post-fair envelopes the last Sunday of the Fair, August 18th, from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM in the Showplex Office, or on Monday, August 18th, the day after the Fair in the Youth Development Building from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM. Post-fair envelopes will contain your premium check and may also contain items such as pictures, ribbons, and 2025 enrollment packets. These envelopes cannot be mailed, so please pick them up on Sunday or Monday. All premium checks must be cashed within 60 days of the check's date or they will be forfeited to the Erie County Agricultural Society.

G. STANDARDS

- 1) REJECTION OR REFUSAL OF AN EXHIBIT.
 - A. The Erie County Fair shall reserve the right to reject/refuse an exhibit and order the removal of that exhibit from the Fairgrounds based on the opinion of its board of directors that an exhibit is not eligible or unworthy of showing or has not met the livestock health requirements.
 - B. The Erie County 4-H Youth Development shall reserve the right to reject /refuse an exhibit and order the removal of that exhibit from the Fairgrounds based on any of the following:
 - Failure to comply with 4-H rules and regulations
 - Failure to submit completed Fair entry by 11:59 PM, July 7, 2025
 - Behavior not consistent with 4-H standards including, but not limited to possession of or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances and/or possession of a firearm or weapon
 - Erie County Fair rules and regulations
 - IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics
 - C. Violations of any of the above may result in immediate expulsion of exhibit and exhibitor from the Fairgrounds, forfeit of all awards and premiums, and forfeit of future participation in the Erie County 4-H Youth Development Program, The Erie County Fair and New York State Fair.
- 2) In all cases involving the interpretation of the rules, regulations, and behavior herein and any item not covered by this premium list, the decision of the Extension Educator, or any designee thereof, will be final.
- 3) If an exhibit is not the result of a 4-H project, the entry must be of comparable quality and complexity. Contact the 4-H office if there are questions.

H. PROCEDURES – State Fair

- 1) If your exhibit is selected for display in the State Fair Youth Building, you will receive notification and procedures.
- 2) It is your responsibility to correctly complete your two-part Entry Card and Statement. The EIS card has now changed to a two-part Entry Card and Statement. Please attend a State Fair meeting offered in the Youth Development Building (TBA).
- 3) State Fair entry book can be found on the NY State Fair's website. Please look up your chosen projects and double check your entry information for the Entry Card.