

ENTOMOLOGY

Superintendent: TBD

ENTOMOLOGY RULES

- Insect specimens must be properly mounted and displayed and have complete collection data. Display cases described in the 4-H entomology project guide or museum size insect drawers or polystyrene insect cases covered with plastic sheets are acceptable means to display a collection. Please ask the 4-H Educator for a copy of the 4-H Entomology Project Guide if needed.
- Exhibits incorrectly prepared will not be evaluated.
- A copy of the judging criteria may be obtained from the 4-H office.
- For Class 7, the exhibitor must receive approval prior to June 27th.
- All bullets listed must be met for entry into the class.

AWARDS:

Blue \$5.00 Red \$4.00 White \$3.00

Classes 1 - 10

GENERAL INSECT COLLECTIONS

Class

1. First Year Project Exhibits

- must include a minimum of 20 specimens representing 5 insect orders.
- Classification need not be taken further than order names.
- Mounting: The wings of all butterflies and moths must be spread.

2. Second Year Exhibits

- Must include a minimum of 40 specimens representing 9 insect orders.
- 20 specimens must have been collected during the current year.
- 20 specimens must also be identified as to common name with name written on a label and pinned separately near the specimen (easily visible, to aid in judging).
- The addition of scientific names is optional in this class. Mounting: the wings of all butterflies and moths must be spread and at least one small insect must be mounted on a point or minutien pin.

3. Third Year Project Exhibits

- Must include a minimum of sixty (60) specimens representing twelve (12) orders.
- Thirty (30) specimens must have been collected during the current year.
- 30 specimens must be identified to common name and
- at least 5 specimens (representing at least five families) must be identified to family.
- Scientific names (genus and species) should be included wherever possible, although insects from some orders will be difficult to identify to this level; common and/or scientific names should be placed on a separate label pinned near the specimen as in Class #2.
- Mounting: the wings of all butterflies and moths must be spread and at least two small insects must be mounted on points or minutien pins.

4. Fourth year and beyond projects.

- Must consist of general collections.
- Must include 80 specimens representing at least 12 orders.
- Forty specimens must be collected during the current year.
- Forty specimens must be identified to common name.
- At least 10 specimens (representing at least 10 families) must be identified to their family. Scientific names should be included wherever possible. Common names should be placed on a separate label, pinned near the specimen as in Class #2.
- Proper mounting (pinned properly, wings of Lepidoptera spread, two small insects on points or minutien) will be strongly emphasized.

5. Advanced Insect Collections

- For Advanced Collections Riker mounts may also be used.
- Complete collection data should accompany all exhibitors (where collected, date, and by whom?); can be placed on back of exhibit as long as the evaluator can tell which label goes with which specimen. If you exchange specimens, label as completely as possible, giving locations (county, state or province, nearest town), date collected, name of collector, plus any ecological information available such as plant or insect host, habitat, etc.
- Imagination and individuality are encouraged.
- The rules for mounting, as set up general collections, do not have to be followed if by doing so; the advanced collection can be enhanced. The scientific aspects and educational value, appearance, quality, and arrangement will be evaluated.
- An Exhibitor information statement should accompany the exhibit and contain educational value to you (what have you learned) as well as what you see the educational value to others to be.

6. Club Exhibits – single collections prepared by the combined efforts of a club.

- May be any kind of insect collection or may represent a group activity that can be presented as an exhibit.
- Evaluation will be based on number of members and completeness of exhibit.
- **Premiums and ribbons for club exhibits will go to the club. The leader must complete the entry form, not the individual members.**

(OVER)

7. Living Insect Exhibit

- Exhibits must convey an educational message to the public and/or the educational opportunities that exist through 4-H work in the field of entomology.
- *Live educational exhibits* are encouraged. Possible exhibits include living adult butterflies, butterfly chrysalides from which the adults are emerging, caterpillars, honeybees, ant farms and aquatic insects in water tanks. The showing of a living exhibit requires that the exhibitor be on hand to care for the needs of his or her “livestock” daily.
- Exhibits will be evaluated on educational value; appearance; quality and arrangement.
- Those planning to prepare exhibits must first make arrangements with the 4-H extension educator prior to June 30th.

8. Honeybee/Apiculture Exhibits

- Honey – 1 pound container
- Bee/Honey products made from Beeswax – Examples: candles (at least 2), lip wax.
- Display/Poster – Individual or Group – a series of posters/photos or three-dimensional exhibits representing any aspect of beekeeping. Examples: equipment, disease, bee colony management.
- Project record book for 4-H beekeeping project.

9. Introduction to Entomology Collection

- This class is best suited for those interested in entomology that do not yet have the knowledge or skills to complete a “First Year Project Exhibit” (class 1).
- This collection should display different types (different orders, families, genus, or species) of insects properly pinned, mounted, and labeled.
- Labels should include the location (state, county) and date of collection, the name of the collector, and the name of the insect (can be as broad as order or as specific as species). More information on pinning and labeling can be found here: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/ent4h/know-your-insects/>
- This can serve as “year 0” for Entomology projects (i.e. 4-H members who complete class 9 one year, can move on to class 1 the next year).
- **This class does not meet state guidelines, so projects completed under class 9 are not eligible for the New York State Fair.**

10. Miscellaneous

- Entomology exhibit that does not fit in the class listed above. Exhibit must be approved by 4-H Educator before being entered.

NOTE: Special Requirement for 4-H exhibitor who will not be talking with the Fair Evaluator

For any 4-H member who is unable to bring his/her exhibits/entries to the 4-H Youth Development Building on Saturday, August 2, 2025, to speak personally with the evaluator, the following Exhibitor Information Statement is required to be completed for each exhibit/entry. The evaluator will be requiring this in order to accept the exhibit/entry. (Cloverbuds should complete this information to the best of their abilities; regular 4-H'ers (ages 8-18 as of January 1st) should complete these statements fully in their own handwriting if possible. Age and experience will be taken into consideration.)

1. What is the Kind _____ and Variety _____ of your exhibit (relates to vegetables, flowers, etc.)
2. Describe what you did to complete this project. Provide a list of materials, products and/or equipment used and why they were selected. Briefly explain your methods of construction process and your source of ideas. (3-5 sentences is sufficient)
3. In approximately 3 – 5 sentences, describe your feelings about this project: what you learned, what challenged you, and /or how you would improve your exhibit in the future.
4. Additional information requested in the Section for this class (Be sure to read complete guidelines in the section)
5. Additional information or special needs to be noted by the evaluator.