

CROPS

PLEASE NOTE: Any changes/updates from the previous year will be *BOLDED* and *ITALICIZED*! Pay special attention to any projects with *BOLD, ITALICIZED WORDS* because they have changed from last year.

Completion, exhibition participation, and State Fair information for Crops			
Division/Level	Grades (suggested)	Completion Activities Needed*	Maximum State Fair Entries
Crops- Corn			
Level 1- Beginner	Grades 3-5	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	No State Fair Entry
Level 2- Intermediate	Grades 6-8	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	No State Fair Entry
Level 3- Advanced	Grades 9-12	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	No State Fair Entry
Crops- Hay, Alfalfa			
All One Level	Grades 3-12	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	No State Fair Entry
Crops- Soybeans			
Division 1	Grades 3-12	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	No State Fair Entry
Division 2	Grades 3-12	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	No State Fair Entry
Division 3	Grades 3-12	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	No State Fair Entry
Division 4	Grades 3-12	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	No State Fair Entry
Division 5	Grades 3-12	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	No State Fair Entry
Crops- Wheat, Oats			
All One Level	Grades 3-12	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	No State Fair Entry

SUGGESTED REFERENCE MATERIALS (available for purchase in Extension Office or shop4-h.org)

- Crops & Soils Projects: Corn
- Crops & Soils Projects: Soybeans
- Crops & Soils Projects: Small Grains: Wheat, Oats, Barley & Rye

GUIDELINES

1. Refer to the Hendricks County 4-H Policies, Entry & Exhibit Guidelines for poster and general display guidelines.
2. Be sure to enroll in the project on 4-HOnline and enter exhibit information into FairEntry by designated date.
2025 designated FairEntry Deadline is Tuesday, July 1st at 11:59 p.m.
3. Complete the Record Sheet (if not exhibiting at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair).
4. Attach a 4-H exhibit tag to each crop exhibit. On the corn or soybean exhibit tag, add the variety, date planted, and fertilizer used. Hay exhibitors should add the type of hay exhibited to this card.
5. Healthy corn and soybean plants will be judged on the basis of freedom from deficiency, root and stalk development, freedom from disease and insect damage, and general appearance and uniformity.
6. A Champion and Reserve Champion exhibitor will be selected from each crop. A Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion exhibitor will be selected from the individual crop champion and reserve champion exhibitors.
7. Members may exhibit in one, multiple, or all crops listed below.
8. For personal safety, do not include personally identifiable information such as mailing address or phone numbers on posters/displays/exhibits.

CORN

You can learn about how corn plants work, the pests that attack corn, uses of corn and the safety practices when growing, harvesting, and storing corn. In the advanced levels you will learn about hybrid corn, the types and sources of nutrients for corn, soil erosion, producing and comparing hybrids, and planting and growing corn crops.

For Every Level: You cannot exhibit the same activity twice.

Use the Crops Record Sheet 4-H 626-W to record your project progress in all crops; all divisions.

Level 1: Beginner – first and second year in project (Recommended Grade 3– 4) – “Corn” (4-H 672)

Project Completion Recommendations

- Plan your project year.
- Grow a plot of corn.
- Make an exhibit from one of the project activities you selected.
- Complete "Crops Projects Record Sheet" (first page only.)

Exhibit – one (1) of the following as outlined in detail in Beginner’s Corn Project Book “Suggested Fair Exhibits:”

- “The Parts of a Corn Plant” Exhibit one (1) fully grown corn plant with the plant parts correctly identified and labeled using 3x5 inch cards. (see activity 4 in the Beginner’s Corn Project Book)
- Exhibit “Identifying Some Pests of Corn” (using Activities #5, #6, and #7) Exhibit one (1) full grown corn plant in which you have prepared for exhibiting as well as four (4) labels describing pests. One (1) each of two (2) shipping tags or 3 x 5-inch card put a picture of a corn insect (or the actual bug itself), its name, and the plant part it attacks. Do the same for two (2) corn diseases. Then on a fully-grown corn plant which you’ve prepared for exhibiting, attach the four (4) tags or cards to the specific plant parts affected by those insects and diseases
- Exhibit “Effects of Planting Depth on Corn Growth” (using Activity #3) Exhibit four (4) containers of growing corn which were seeded at the same time but at 1-inch, 2-inch, 3-inch, and 4-inch depths, with a record of your observations, displayed on an 8 ½ by 11-inch card.

Level 2: Intermediate – third, fourth, and fifth year in project (Recommended Grade 5-7) - “Hybrid Corn” (4-H 673)

Project Completion Recommendations

- Plan your project year.
- Grow a large plot of corn.
- Make an exhibit from one (1) of the project activities you selected.
- Complete "Crops Projects Record Sheet."

Exhibit – one (1) of the following:

- Exhibit one (1) fully grown corn plant in which you have prepared for exhibiting as well as four (4) labels describing pests. One (1) each of two (2) shipping tags or 3X5 inch cards, put a picture of a corn insect (or the actual bug itself), its name, and the plant part it attacks. Do the same for two (2) corn diseases. Then on a fully-grown corn plant which you’ve prepared for exhibiting, attach the four (4) tags or cards to the specific plant parts affected by those insects and diseases (see Activities #5, #6, and #7 in the Beginner Corn Book).
- Exhibit one (1) of the suggested exhibits from the ‘Intermediate 4-H Corn Project Book’ “Suggested Fair Exhibits.”
 1. “My Own Corn Germination Test” (see Activity #8)
 2. “Effects of Weed Competition on Corn Growth” (see Activity #11)
 3. “Know How to Read Pesticide Labels” (see Activity #13)
 4. “Making the Farmstead Safer” (see Activities #16 and #17)
 5. “The Role of Corn in Other Foods” (see Activity #22)

Level 3: Advanced – sixth year and beyond in project (Recommended Grade 8-12) - “Corn Growth” (4-H 674)

Project Completion Recommendations

- Plan your project year.
- Grow a large plot of corn.

- Make an exhibit from one (1) of the project activities you selected.
- Complete "Crops Projects Record Sheet."

Exhibit – one of the following:

- Exhibit three (3) stalks of corn with roots attached. Wash the roots clean and exhibit them in a five (5) gallon plastic bucket.
- Exhibit one (1) of the suggested exhibits from the Advanced 4-H Corn Project Book "Suggested Fair Exhibits"
 1. "Plant Nutrient Deficiencies" (see Activity #1)
 2. "Fertilizer Nutrient Calculations" (see Activity #3)
 3. "Fertilizer Cost Comparison" (see Activity #5)
 4. "My 4-H Corn Project Field's Erosion Rate" (see Activity #6)
 5. "Best Tillage-Planting System for My 4-H Corn Project Field" (see Activity #7)
 6. "Cross-, Self-, and Open-Pollination Experiment" (see Activity #8)
 7. "My Corn Performance Trial Results" (see Activity #9)
 8. "Last Safe Planting Date for Corn Hybrids" (see Activity #10)

HAY & ALFALFA

Youth will learn about growth stages and parts of plants, characteristics of varieties, fertilizers, germination, injurious weeds, diseases and insects, products made from harvest, and good management practices and their importance.

EXHIBIT CLASSES

All One Level: Grades 3–12

Manual (Optional): For Hay: 'Small Grains Project' – 4-H 749
 For Alfalfa: 'Alfalfa Project Outline' – 4-H-39-W
 Use the Crops Record Sheet 4-H 626-W to record your project progress in all crops; all divisions.

HAY Exhibit 1/4 bale of cured hay in one or more of these categories: alfalfa, clover, grass, and mixed.

SOYBEANS

The Soybean project introduces youth to one of Indiana's major crops, the soybean through fun experiences and hands-on projects. Youth will learn about selecting soybean varieties, planting and harvesting soybeans, and uses for soybeans.

Manual: "The Soybean Project" (4-H 209) – for all levels: Grades 3–12

For every level: You cannot exhibit the same activity twice

Use the Crops Record Sheet 4-H 626-W to record your project progress in all crops; all divisions.

Division 1

Project Completion Recommendations

- Keep accurate records using the 4-H Crops Record.

Exhibit – one (1) of the following:

- Exhibit one (1) fully grown healthy soybean plant with parts labeled, including roots.
- Exhibit one (1) of the exhibit suggestions given for Division 1 in the 4-H Soybean Project Book (page 31).
 1. "Germination of the Soybean Seed" poster project using Activity #1
 2. "Using the Soybean" poster project using Activity #13
 3. Exhibit one (1) peck of soybeans

Division 2

Project Completion Recommendations

- Keep accurate records using the 4-H Crops Record

Exhibit – one (1) of the following:

- Exhibit one (1) fully grown healthy soybean plant AND one (1) plant showing insect damage. Identify the type of insect on a 3 x 5-inch card by name and with a picture of the insect if possible.
- Exhibit one (1) of the exhibit suggestions given for Division 2 in the back of the 4-H Soybean Project Book
 1. “The Effect of Light and Darkness on Flowering” poster project using Activity #4 in the 4-H Soybean Book
 2. “Soybean and Plant Nutrition Deficiencies” poster project using Activity #7 in the 4-H Soybean Book
 3. “Preparing Soybeans for Home Use” poster project using Activity #14 in the 4-H Soybean Book
 4. Exhibit one (1) peck of soybeans

Division 3

Project Completion Recommendations

- Keep accurate records using the 4-H Crops Record.

Exhibit – one (1) of the following:

- Exhibit 12 fully grown healthy soybean plants
- Exhibit one (1) of the exhibit suggestions given for Division 3 in the back of the 4-H Soybean Book
 1. “Differences in Flowering Among Soybean varieties” poster project using Activity #5 in the 4-H Soybean Book
 2. “How Planting Dates Affect Soybean Yields” poster project using Activity #6 in the 4-H Soybean Book
 3. “Preparing Soybeans for Home Use” poster project using Activity #14 in the 4-H Soybean Book

Division 4

Project Completion Recommendations

- Keep accurate records using the 4-H Crops Record.

Exhibit – one (1) of the exhibit suggestions given for Division 4 in the back of the 4-H Soybean Book

- “Soybean Herbicide Survey” or “Soybean Insect Study” or “Soybean Disease Study” poster project using Activity #9 in the 4-H Soybean Book
- “Measuring Soybean Harvest Losses” using Activity #12 in the 4-H Soybean Book
- Exhibit one (1) peck of soybeans

Division 5 & above

Project Completion Recommendations

- Keep accurate records using the 4-H Crops Record.
- Grow at least five (5) acres of soybeans using cultural practices described in current agronomy (AY) publications. These are available in the Extension Office.

WHEAT & OATS (SMALL GRAINS)

Youth will learn about growth stages and parts of plants, characteristics of varieties, fertilizers, germination, injurious weeds, diseases and insects, products made from harvest, and good management practices and their importance.

EXHIBIT CLASSES

All One Level: Grades 3–12

Manual (optional): For Wheat & Oats: ‘Small Grains Project’ – 4-H 749
Use the Crops Record Sheet 4-H 626-W to record your project progress in all crops; all divisions.

WHEAT Exhibit one (1) gallon of wheat from current crop.
OATS Exhibit one (1) gallon of oats.