

Entomology

Project Superintendent: Kaitlyn Imhoff
Phone: 574.453.7316

State Fair Entry: 3 collection exhibits per county, one per level: 3 educational exhibits per county, one per level

Project Check In: Tuesday, June 24, 2025; 11:30AM-12:45PM; Home & Family Arts Building, Kosciusko County Fairgrounds

Judging: Tuesday, June 24, 2025; 1:00PM; Home & Family Arts Building, Kosciusko County Fairgrounds

Exhibition Guidelines: This project will help you study insects and their relationship with people. You can also learn how to collect, preserve, and identify insects.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be used, with parent permission, when creating this exhibit and is to be documented as a reference. A majority of the work to create this exhibit is to be the 4-H member's original work. All posters, notebooks, and display boards must include a reference list indicating where information was obtained, giving credit to the original author, to complete the 4-H member's exhibit. This reference list should/might include web site links, people and professionals interviewed, books, magazines, etc. It is recommended this reference list be attached to the back of a poster or display board, be the last page of a notebook, or included as part of the display visible to the public. A judge is not to discredit an exhibit for the way references are listed.

Posters are to be 22"x28" and displayed horizontally and placed in a clear plastic sleeve or covered with clear plastic to protect contents. Display boards should be designed to sit on a table using no more than 36" of tabletop space. Space should be left in the lower right-hand corner to place an exhibit tag provided by Purdue Extension staff.

Collections are to include the following: Specimens may be displayed in a collection box no larger than 24" x 18" x 3", displayed horizontally.

- Title as Insect Collection, year in Entomology
- Order – refer to ID-401, page 57.
- Display – mounted insects are to have been legally and personally collected in the United States and displayed in an 18"x24" collection box displayed horizontally. Collections including multiple boxes are to be numbered 1 of 3, etc. ID 401 A-F cards (for grades 3-8) and 401-I cards (for grades 9 - 12) are to be placed inside the display box in an attractive manner.
- Identification – Collection display boxes are expected to contain the specified number of insects, families, and orders specified (see chart below). All insects must be in the adult stage and be properly mounted on insect pins or be contained in vials as directed.
- Pin Labels - Each pin or vial must contain two labels:
 - a. Top label is to include collection date, location, and collector name.
 - b. Bottom label is to include common name and other optional identification data.
- Box Labels – Box labels (computer generated or neatly printed) are used for orders and families as required (see chart below) and are to be placed flat against the bottom of the box. Insects must be properly grouped directly under the correct order and family label. For example, all insects belonging to a particular order must be placed under that order label. Orders to be used are listed in the reference book ID- 401. If family level identification is required, the insects should be further grouped together under the correct family label.
- Educational Box – One additional box (educational), based on the specific theme (see chart below), is required for grades 9-12, in addition to the insect collection boxes. This box can be created in any manner chosen (without the mounting, pinning or identifying restrictions specified above).

Monarch Butterfly Statement:

Q: Many have noticed the decrease in number of Monarch butterflies both in Indiana and throughout the country and wonder if and how Entomology at Purdue is responding. Are 4-H and youth still required to catch these endangered insects for their collection boxes?

A: Monarch butterflies are now officially on the threatened species list. While we know that collecting Monarch butterflies for 4-H collections or displays does not constitute a significant risk to their population when compared to the effects of climate change, pesticide contamination and habitat loss, capitalizing on this opportunity to discuss their decline is an excellent way to bring public focus to this important issue. We want our youth (and all IN citizens) to recognize the Monarch butterfly, understand its biology and be empathetic to its conservation. Therefore, we have

instituted the following update to our youth and 4H Entomology programs. Effective immediately, we no longer encourage students to 'collect' Monarch butterflies for exhibits, displays or 4-H insect collections. But, rather than simply removing the Monarch butterfly from the list of 150 insects that 4-H students are to recognize, we want to highlight it so that students really do learn to recognize them and understand their peril. After all, the more we are familiar with this species, the more apt we will be to assist and support the conservation of this iconic species.

Link to a recent article from our department pertaining to Monarch butterflies:

<https://www.purduelandscapeport.org/article/where-have-all-the-monarch-butterflies-gone/>

Spotted Lanternfly Statement:

Q: Are there any new changes to rules or directions for the 4H or FFA youth projects or competitions that students and coaches should look for?

A: To keep the youth Career Development (CDE judging) and 4-H collection projects current, it is important to occasionally add new insects to the list. Due to the invasion of a serious new insect pest throughout the Midwest called the Spotted Lanternfly, we have added it to the list of insects found in the "How to Make an Awesome insect Collection and (ID-401) and Who Let the Bugs Out (ID-402) extension resources. Please be aware that students are now expected to identify and understand its biology and behavior as well as its potential impact in Agriculture.

Indiana 4-H Youth Development partners with Purdue University academic departments to develop 4-H project guidelines. The Monarch butterfly and Spotted Lanternfly statements are provided by Dr. Timothy J. Gibb, Department of Entomology.

Beginner Level 1st-3rd Year in Entomology: Create a collection based on the year in Entomology or an educational exhibit.

Year in Entomology	Collection Information	Total Boxes
1 st year	10 insects, identified and pinned on cards (ID 401A)	1
2 nd year	20 insects, mounted (pins or vials). Identify all insects by common name and identify five (5) to order. Include card ID 401B.	1
3 rd year	30 insects, mounted (pins or vials). Identify all insects by common name and identify 15 to order. Include ID 401C.	1

Intermediate Level 4th-6th Year in Entomology: Create a collection based on the year in Entomology or an educational exhibit.

Year in Entomology	Collection Information	Total Boxes
4 th year	40 insects, exhibit a minimum of 6 orders, mounted (pins or vials). Identify all insects by common name and order. Include ID 401D.	2
5 th year	50 insects, exhibit a minimum of 8 orders, mounted (pins or vials). Identify all insects by common name and order. Identify ten (10) to family. Include card ID 401E.	2
6 th year	60 insects, exhibit a minimum of 10 orders, mounted (pins or vials). Identify all insects by common name and order. Identify 30 to family. Include card ID 401F.	2

Advanced Level 7th-10th Year in Entomology: Create a collection based on the year in Entomology or an educational exhibit. Advanced level insect collections are to also include an education box, for a total of four boxes. Advance level youth may instead create an independent study topic of choice.

Year in Entomology	Collection Information	Total Boxes
7 th year	70 insects, exhibit a minimum of 12 orders, mounted (pins or vials). Identify all insects by common name, order, and family. One educational box, theme: insect behavior. Include card ID 401I. (1-3 collection boxes plus 1 educational box*). Place ID 401I in first collection box only.	3
8 th year	80 insects, exhibit a minimum of 14 orders, mounted (pins or vials). Identify all insects by common name, order, and family. One educational box, theme: insect pest management. Include card ID 401I. (1-3 collection boxes plus 1 educational box*). Place ID 401I in first collection box only.	3
9 th year	90 insects, exhibit a minimum of 16 orders, mounted (pins or vials). Identify all insects by common name, order, and family. One educational box, theme: insects in the environment. Include card ID 401I. (1-3 collection boxes plus 1 educational box*). Place ID 401I in first collection box only.	3

10 th year	100 insects, exhibit a minimum of 18 orders, mounted (pins or vials). Identify all insects by common name, order, and family. One educational box, theme: benefits of insects. Include card ID 401I. (1-3 collection boxes plus 1 educational box*). Place ID 401I in first collection box only.	3
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