A. GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS - 4-H Department

1. Exhibitors will be limited to Howard County 4-H Club members and must be enrolled and active in 4-H work no later than June 1st of the current year, unless project requirements list an earlier date, then that date will be in effect. A 4-H'er must be at least 8 years old (5 years old for Clover entries) and must not have passed his/her 19th birthday by January 1, 2015.

2. Exhibits must be the result of the current year's projects (August 2014-August 2015). Previous years exhibits are NOT acceptable in the Indoor 4-H Building and will be disqualified if exhibited.

3. Copyrighted exhibits are prohibited. Trademarked names, logos, characters, celebrities, professional role models or sport figures, etc.

4. All 4-H Entries must be entered online through howard4-h.org on or before July 1, 2015.

5. Each exhibitor is responsible for submitting and removing entries from the Fairgrounds on the dates required.

6. Exhibits or Projects must be verified by the 4-H Extension Educators as being BONAFIDE 4-H PROJECTS. Projects for competition MUST be the work of the 4-H'er submitting it. 4-H'ERS MUST BE ENROLLED WITH THE 4-H OFFICE IN A PROJECT BY June 1 TO EXHIBIT THAT PROJECT.

7. The 4-H Extension Educators shall be ultimately responsible for any decisions affecting 4-H Departments and Shows in consultation with the 4-H Department Chairpersons, 4-H Livestock Oversight Committee, and 4-H Behavior Expectations Committee.

8. All 4-H members exhibiting or participating in 4-H activities at the Howard County Fair must comply with all rules and regulations.

9. Each department will have Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Divisions when listed. Clover (age 5-7), Junior (8-10), Intermediate (11-13), and Senior (14-19) as of January 1, 2015. Clover exhibitors are limited to departments designated for clovers.

10. All exhibitors must get an Exhibitor's Number from the 4-H Office before entering exhibits.

11. The Maryland and Howard County 4-H Behavior Expectations will be in effect the entire week of the fair for all youth and adults.
12. Any request for consideration on behalf of exhibitors for any special needs (whether physical, medical, or educational) must be declared on entry form and properly documented. This information must be updated annually.

13. Exhibitors with special needs - 4-H members with Disabilities - Determining Age Division (Junior - age 8-10 as of January 1 or if identified as having developmental disability, until the end of 5th grade year; Intermediate - age 11-13 as of January 1 or if identified as having developmental disability, from September 1 of 6th grade year thru August 31 of 8th grade year; Senior - age 14-18 as of January 1 or if identified as having developmental disability from September 1 of 9th grade year thru acceptance of terminal high school degree.

14. The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.

15. The judges decision(s)/placing(s) are final.

16. All protests must be submitted in writing to the supervising 4-H Staff within 24 hours of the occurrence. They must detail the concern and the names of witnesses. Written protests must be accompanied by a certified check/money order/cash for $150. If the complaint is sustained the accused party will incur the cost and the $150 will be returned to complainant. Protests must be in writing. Anonymous protests will not be accepted. Judging procedures will not be interrupted for protest investigations and depending upon the basis of the protest, a decision may be withheld until a complete investigation is completed.

B. 4-H INDOOR BUILDING ENTRIES
1. All 4-H Indoor Building entries will be PRE-ENTERED. All exhibitors must abide by General Rules & Regulations. Entries are available at the 4-H web site www.howard4-h.org.

2. Each exhibitor may enter only ONE exhibit in each Class.

3. Exhibits may not be removed for any reason until Sunday, August 16th 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. Violation of this means prize money forfeiture. All exhibits must be removed at this time. Any exhibits left will not be the responsibility of the Howard County 4-H Department or the Howard County Fair Board and will be disposed of after 30 days.

4. To ensure food safety, since refrigeration is not available, no uncooked potentially hazardous foods such as milk, half and half, evaporated milk, cream, cream cheese, yogurt, whipping cream, whole eggs, egg whites, egg yolks, or egg substitutes shall be used in fillings or icings. Eggs used in recipes must be cooked. Icing's must be a non-refrigerated type recipe. Ingredients are to be freshly purchased quality products.

5. Box Cake Mixes will be accepted for decorated cakes only. All items on a decorated cake and cupcake must be edible.

6. All recipes must be from scratch. All recipes must be attached to the entry including ingredients and instructions.

7. When two exhibits are made from the same batter, both will be disqualified.
8. 4-H’ers may exhibit in Open Class **only** if they are **not enrolled** in the specific project. 4-H’ers are encouraged by June 1st to know what projects they are carrying. 4-H’ers may show in the Junior Flower Show in open class. Use your 4-H Exhibitor Number for both 4-H and Open Class entries.

9. Fair Ribbons will be given to money award winners. The Danish System of group judging, based on workmanship, consists of first judging each exhibit on its own merit then placing all individual exhibits of similar quality in the same general group. Example: All excellent quality is Blue Stamp group; all good quality is Red Stamp group; all fair quality is White Stamp group. Quality is stamped on the Entry Exhibit Tags.

10. **Non-perishable exhibits will be received on Wednesday, August 5th from 4:00 - 8:00 P.M. and Thursday, August 6th from 4:00 - 8:00 P.M. only.** Perishables (Baked Goods, Flowers, Vegetables and Candies and Food Preservation) will be received on Saturday, August 8th from 7:30 - 9:00 am. Entries will be accepted at the back entrance of the Indoor 4-H Building. No items will be accepted after 9:00 a.m. on the 8th of August. All Baked Goods and Candy exhibits will be sold to benefit the Howard County 4-H Program.

11. All other non-perishable exhibits will be judged on Friday, August 7th and Saturday, August 8th. Perishable exhibits will be judged on Saturday, August 8th.

12. Computers, Creative Writing, and Club Books will be judged prior to week of fair on August 1st.

13. Entry tags should be fastened securely to all entries.

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**4-H ENTRIES DUE – July 1st**  
**INDOOR – LIVESTOCK**

All 4-H entries must be made online

Enter online at [www.howard4-h.org](http://www.howard4-h.org)
C. 4-H - AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER SCIENCES

1. The Maryland 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics applies to all livestock and animal exhibitors. The Oversight Committee consisting of 4-H UME Volunteers appointed by 4-H Educator and staff, will have authority to rule in cases of alleged violations. The Extension Educator serves as an ex-officio of this committee. Breed exhibition standards will be in effect. Blood, hair, and urine samples may be drawn on all champion market animals immediately following the show.

2. All Beef Cattle, Swine, Dairy Cattle, Sheep and Goat breeding animals must be registered before July 1st in exhibitor's name. Registration papers will be checked by the 4-H Superintendent. Tags/tattoos, as required, must be in the ear on arrival. All 4-H Poultry and Rabbits must be registered with the 4-H program on an official Maryland Registration Form by June 30th.

3. All animal exhibitors are limited to two animals in each 4-H Breeding Class or Weight Class. Exhibitors must exhibit their own animals, except where two (2) animals fall in the same class, then another Howard County 4-H member may assist them. Department Superintendents must be notified before show time.

4. Market animals will be shown and entered in the Rate-of-Gain Contest at the weight recorded on ID Day.

5. All 4-H Dairy animals, Beef Heifers, Breeding Sheep, and Rabbits may show in Open Class competition. 4-H and Open Class Entry Blanks for breeding animals are filled out and sent to the Fair Secretary on or before July 1st, with entry fee. Postmark will be used. Only 1 entry is needed for 4-H and Open Class.

6. All Beef, Sheep, Swine, and Breeding Goat exhibits must be on the grounds by 7:00 A.M. Sunday, August 9th and all 4-H Dairy Cattle exhibits must be on the grounds by 1:00 p.m. on Monday, August 10th. Market Lambs and Market Goats must be on the grounds Saturday, August 8th - 6:00 p.m. Unless otherwise specified herein, all 4-H livestock and dairy exhibits will be released at 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 15th.

7. All entries are subject to the current Health Regulations as outlined by the Maryland Animal Health Department. Copy of health papers must be sent with entry.

8. All feed and bedding must be furnished by the exhibitor. Beef will be bedded on tanbark at $10.00 per head. Fee must be paid on Sunday, August 9, 2015.

9. 4-H members are responsible for the care of their animals while on the grounds and for the cleanliness of the barns and pens. Aisles should be kept clean and open. Animals found to not being taken care of properly will be dismissed by county 4-H staff and/or superintendents. (Only show boxes behind animals). No butt fans allowed.

10. 4-H animals MUST be fitted and cared for by the exhibitor. IMMEDIATE FAMILY AND OTHER HOWARD COUNTY 4-H MEMBERS MAY ASSIST IN PREPARATION OF OTHER 4-H ANIMALS. 4-H members are encouraged to do all their own work. OUT OF COUNTY HELP IS NOT ALLOWED. Family employees are not allowed to help.
11. Overall Showmanship Champions are not eligible to compete in the same Department again. Sweepstakes competition is open to all former overall winners regardless of age.

12. NO UNRULY ANIMALS WILL BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN ON THE GROUNDS OR IN THE SHOW RING. The department superintendent in consultation with the supervising 4-H staff will be responsible for decisions affecting this rule.

13. Exhibitors are the responsibility of their parents at all times. Permission slips acknowledging parental responsibilities will be available from the 4-H office and must be completed by all who stay on the grounds OVERNIGHT.

14. All 4-H livestock, poultry, and rabbit exhibitors must clean their pens and stalls the final night of the fair.

15. Beef, Sheep, Swine, and Goat Market Animals must meet minimum rate of gain to show. Rate-of-Gain is calculated from Id Day to Weigh-in at fair. There is no tolerance. (BEEF - 2.0 pounds day, GOAT - .2 pounds day, SHEEP - .4 pounds day, SWINE - 1.5 pounds day). There will be NO reweighs.

16. Livestock Orientation - MANDATORY - Sunday, August 2nd - 6:00 P.M. - Show Ring. This is for Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat, Rabbit, Poultry, and Dairy exhibitors.

17. 4-H’ers may show a market or breeding animal in livestock, dairy, or goat showmanship classes, provided the animal is entered and exhibited in the 4-H Department by that 4-H member.

D. 4-H - ANIMAL SHOW ATTIRE
1. The prescribed show attire is required for all showmanship classes, breed shows, market shows and the livestock sale.
2. No farm names or other identification shall appear on show uniforms.
3. Safe appropriate attire, including footwear is required at all times.
4. Premiums shall be forfeited if dress code is violated!
5. No Hats or Cell Phones allowed in the ring.

DAIRY CATTLE AND DAIRY GOATS:
4-H boys - white pants, white shirt with a sleeve (long or short) and collar, and green or black tie. (Caps shall not be worn in the show ring).
4-H girls - white slacks white blouse with a sleeve (long or short) and collar, and green or black neck piece. Approved neckpiece includes: neck tie, bow tie, bolo tie or tied bandana. Jewelry does not qualify as a neckpiece – no exceptions. (Caps shall not be worn in the show ring). No crop tops, scoop necks, or lace up blouses.

LIVESTOCK (BEEF, SHEEP, SWINE, MARKET & PYGMY GOAT) & CANINE:
4-H boys - tan or forest green pants or jeans, white shirt with a sleeve (long or short) and collar, and green or black tie. (Caps shall not be worn in the show ring).
4-H girls - forest green or tan slacks or jeans, white blouse with a sleeve (long or short) and collar, and green or black neck piece. Approved neckpiece includes: neck tie, bow tie, bolo tie or tied bandana. Jewelry does not qualify as a neckpiece – no exceptions. (Caps shall not be worn in the show ring). No crop tops, scoop necks, or lace up blouses.

4-H Superintendents may excuse anyone inappropriately dressed.
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