

County Fair Exhibit Ideas - Entomology



The county fair . . . what a great time it is! Every summer, families flock to county fairs to see the latest 4-H project exhibits. Exhibiting is a fun way for you to showcase your project work. The following list of exhibit ideas is based on the latest 4-H curriculum. Use it to generate project entries for your next county fair. If you're a county fair superintendent, use this list to enhance your county fair premium book.

Unit 1: Creepy Crawlies

1. Display of insect body parts
2. Pitfall insect trap
3. Insect observation records
4. Model of an insect's eye
5. Display on types of insect control in the home
6. Insect display
7. Display on animals and plants that eat insects
8. Completed member guide (06853)

Unit 2: What's Bugging You?

1. Poster on how insects use color for defense
2. Insect collection or observation records
3. Insect trap
4. Display on entomology careers
5. Insect display
6. Poster on proper insect pinning techniques
7. Report on an insect experiment
8. Poster on insect metamorphosis
9. Display of insect leg parts
10. Display of various types of insect legs
11. Insect extractor
12. Insect separator
13. Poster on understanding insect pesticide labels
14. Completed member guide (06854)

Unit 3: Dragons, Houses & Other Flies

1. Insect collection or observation records
2. Report on an insect experiment
3. Insect key
4. Butterfly garden plans
5. Display of insect mouth parts

6. Display of various types of insect mouths
7. Mosquito rearing/observation chamber
8. Spider web display
9. Display of insect wing parts
10. Display of various types of insect wings
11. Insect journal
12. Insect display
13. Completed member guide (06855)

Tips for County Fair Exhibitors

When you enter an Entomology exhibit at the county fair, you'll be showing the public, and the judge, what you've learned in the project. Make your exhibit the best it can be. Here are some tips.

1. Identification
 - a. Specimen should be correctly identified to order
2. Pinning and spreading
 - a. Specimens should be in good condition.
 - b. Wings should be spread properly.
 - c. Specimens should be of uniform height on the pin.
 - d. Specimens should be level and straight on the pin.
 - e. Pin position should be correct for the insect order.
3. Labels
 - a. Should be neat and accurate (with common name, scientific name, date collected, where collected, collector's name or initials).
 - b. Labels should be of uniform height on the pin.
 - c. Labels should not be twisted.
4. Arrangement in boxes
 - a. Exhibit should have a variety of insects with no duplications.
 - b. Specimens should be properly grouped and spaced.
 - c. Background/mounting surface should be unobtrusive.
5. Displays should be covered properly with a protective cover of transparent material.