

NATURAL RESOURCES DAY

Lausche Youth Exploration Space

Monday, August 3, 2026

LINDSEY VAN GUNDY & JANE WRIGHT, Assistant Superintendents

EVENT GUIDELINES

1. Age of Participants:
 - Junior - age 13 and under
 - Senior - 14 and older
2. Participation Guidelines:
 - The winner of any class in 2025 is not eligible to participate in the same class for 2026.
 - No more than one participant per county in any one class is allowed.
 - No individual may participate in more than one class.
 - Wild bird feathers, except legal game species, and all bird nests and eggs are protected under state and federal laws and are not permitted to be collected, possessed, or presented as a part of any display.
3. Type of Evaluation:
 - Participants have a personal interview evaluation with a judge.
 - The judge evaluates each participant on the following basis (see sample score sheet):
 - 40% Knowledge (Basic concepts learned in the project)
 - 20% Communication (Presentation of the project)
 - 20% Project book
 - 20% Project Display (Quality)
4. Participant to bring:
 - Registration information provided by county 4-H educator.
 - Completed project book. (Participants in Self-Determined Natural Resources must complete the Self-Determined Project Guide)
 - A display representing the learning experience of the current project. The display should be one used either at local 4-H judging or at county fair and should be limited in size to what the participant can maneuver on his or her own. (Participants in *How Does Your Garden Grow* are not required to bring planters)
5. When you arrive:
 - On the day of the event, please report to registration in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space no more than 15 minutes before your county's scheduled time. You will be directed to the judging area. When you have completed your interview, you are free to enjoy the fair until 5:00 p.m., when awards will be presented on the center stage (time is subject to change to later if needed for additional judging time). Those not present for the awards ceremony may pick up their awards, or arrange for another adult to do so, from the 4-H fair office until the conclusion of the fair. Unclaimed awards will be sent to county Extension Offices after the fair.

CLASSES

J-1	Beekeeping, Junior	J-8	Explore the Outdoors
J-2	Beekeeping, Senior	J-9	Exploring Ponds
J-3	Insect Adventures 1	J-10	Why Trees Matter
J-4	Insect Adventures 2	J-11	Ohio Birds, 1 st year
J-5	Insect Adventures 3	J-12	Ohio Birds, 2 nd year
J-6	Outdoor Adventurer: Beginning Fishing	J-13	Trapping Muskrats in Ohio
J-7	Outdoor Adventurer: Intermediate Fishing	J-14	How Does Your Garden Grow?
		J-15	Grow Your Own Vegetables, Junior

J-16	Grow Your Own Vegetables, Senior	J-22	Edible Landscapes
J-17	Growing with the Seasons	J-23	Field Crops and Forages
J-18	Be a Sustainability Hero	J-24	Water Matters
J-19	Farm to Table to Career	J-25	Geology: Can You Dig It?
J-20	Canning and Freezing	J-26	Self-Determined Natural Resources, Jr
J-21	Exploring Polar Science	J-27	Self-Determined Natural Resources, Sr

JUDGING SCHEDULE

The exact schedule of participation will depend on the number reporting at any one time. Members should bring registration information provided by their County 4-H Professional to the registration desk in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space. Registration will begin 15 minutes before judging time.

9:30 a.m.	Ashland, Clark, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Pickaway
10:00 a.m.	Allen, Champaign, Franklin, Logan, Marion
10:30 a.m.	Coshocton, Crawford, Greene, Licking, Madison, Muskingum
11:00 a.m.	Hardin, Hocking, Holmes, Knox, Morrow, Richland, Union
11:30 a.m.	Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Ottawa, Perry, Ross, Wyandot
1:00 p.m.	Athens, Auglaize, Clinton, Guernsey, Morgan, Shelby, Vinton
1:30 p.m.	Highland, Huron, Jackson, Medina, Meigs, Pike, Seneca, Stark, Summit, Williams
2:00 p.m.	Belmont, Hancock, Mahoning, Tuscarawas, Wayne, Wood
2:30 p.m.	Butler, Carroll, Clermont, Darke, Defiance, Erie, Hamilton, Harrison, Lorain, Lucas, Warren
3:00 p.m.	Jefferson, Monroe, Noble, Paulding, Portage, Preble, Putnam, Sandusky, Scioto, Van Wert
3:30 p.m.	Adams, Ashtabula, Brown, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Fulton, Gallia, Geauga, Henry, Lake, Lawrence, Trumbull, Washington

AWARDS AND SPONSORS

1. All participants will receive a participation ribbon sponsored by The Ohio State Fair.
2. “Outstanding of the Day” ribbons, sponsored by The Ohio State Fair, will be awarded to the top 20% of the class.
3. A clock trophy will be awarded to the class winner. In 2024 the trophies were sponsored by **Doug Mainzer Howard Hanna Mortgage Services, The Troutman Family, Ohio Township Association, Derek & Angela Dusthimer, Derek and Angela Dusthimer, Terry and Anita Hoelscher Lukac, Molly Hunt Ohio Geological Survey, and the York Family.**
4. Awards will be presented at 5:00 pm (subject to postponement if additional judging time is needed).
5. Those not present for the awards ceremony may pick up their awards, or arrange for another to do so, from the 4-H state fair office located in the Lausche Youth Exploration Space until the conclusion of the fair. Unclaimed awards will be sent to county extension offices after the fair.
6. Results will be posted online at <https://ohio4h.org/ohiostatefair>.

2025 CLASS WINNERS

J-01 Beekeeping, Jr	Karson Slutz, Tuscarawas
J-02 Beekeeping, Sr	Liam Velderrain, Franklin
J-03 Insect Adventures, Level 1	Kathryn Keller, Licking
J-04 Insect Adventures, Level 2	Carson Heighland, Defiance
J-05 Insect Adventures, Level 3	Josiah Edwards, Fairfield
J-06 Outdoor Adventurer: Beginning Fishing	Mason Gunthert, Jackson
J-07 Outdoor Adventurer: Intermediate Fishing	Lawson Hagemeyer, Montgomery
J-08 Explore the Outdoors	Lauren Petronella, Seneca
J-09 Exploring Ponds	Addison Eis, Henry
J-10 Why Trees Matter	McKinley Kuns, Wood
J-11 Ohio Birds, 1st year	Laney Hawk, Stark
J-12 Ohio Birds, 2nd yr	Evelyn Miller, Ottawa
J-13 Trapping Muskrats in Ohio	Colton Easton, Portage
J-14 How Does Your Garden Grow?	Ana McClain, Wayne
J-15 Grow Your Own Vegetables, Jr.	Harper Dieringer, Auglaize
J-16 Grow Your Own Vegetables, Sr.	Alexandria Elchert, Seneca
J-17 Growing with the Seasons	Kathryn Ogden, Highland
J-18 Be a Sustainability Hero	Kristen Wild, Fairfield
J-19 Farm to Table to Career	Makenna Lybarger, Fairfield
J-20 Canning and Freezing	Isaac Richard, Allen
J-21 Exploring Polar Science	James Patti, Franklin
J-20 Edible Landscapes	Kendall Schagel, Meigs
J-21 Geology: Can You Dig It?	Kynlee Wood, Wyandot
J-22 Self Determined-Natural Resources	Renee Johnson, Delaware

4-H State Fair Project Evaluation Sheet

Name: _____ Exhibitor number: _____

County: _____ Age as of January 1 (current year): _____

Project name: _____ Number of years in project: _____

Please provide a brief description of what you brought today to display your project (i.e., poster, equipment, etc.):

Keep this sheet with you until the judge calls your exhibitor number.

Judges—Please place an “x” in the column that most closely describes this entry.

Judging Guidelines	Excellent Outstanding work that exceeds expectations	Very Good Well done, with few minor if any errors	Good Appropriate for member's age and experience	Average Solid grasp of fundamentals
Knowledge (40%) Member demonstrates knowledge of basic concepts, skills, safety protocols (if applicable), and other project information.				
Communication (20%) Member communicates effectively with a positive attitude and with appropriate personal appearance.				
Project Book (20%) Project book is completed appropriately and provides an accurate record of project activities.			(book is complete)	(book needs some work)
Display (20%) Content is accurate, complete and displayed in a way that is neat and creative. It showcases knowledge and skills gained through project work.				
Strengths:				
Areas for improvement:				

White copy – 4-H member, Yellow copy - Judge