

Winnebago County Fair

Higher Awards for Non-Animal Departments

If Judges would like to consider an exhibit for a higher award, they will mark the exhibits with a star on the entry tag that is attached to the exhibit. These exhibits will be set aside/gathered at the end of judging and evaluated by Department to receive Best of Show and Awards of Merit.

Explanation of Awards:

- **Best of Show (Purple Rosette)** – The highest award a non-animal exhibit can earn. Top 1% of all exhibits. All departments receive at least one Best of Show ribbon to give out...but in smaller departments judges may decide not to award a Best of Show if there are no outstanding exhibits they would like to recognize. A “Best of Show” in non-animal projects is equivalent to a “Champion” in the animal exhibits.
2021 Update: Best of Show is replacing State Fair Awards AND Special Plaques. A new LARGE rosette in purple is being created for Best of Show this year.
 - **State Fair Award** – Eliminated due to changes in State Fair’s process. County Fairs are no longer the “qualifying event” for State Fair. Any youth ages 12-19 may enter to exhibit at the state fair.
- **Award of Merit (Yellow Rosette)** – Second highest award a youth can receive on their non-animal project. Approximately 2-3% of exhibits can receive this award. An “Award of Merit” in non-animal projects is equivalent to a “Reserve Champion” in the animal exhibits.
- **Honorable Mention (Light Blue Standard Ribbon)** – Any “starred” projects that did not receive a Best of Show or Award of Merit will receive a light blue Honorable Mention ribbon.

NOTE: Starred exhibits cannot receive more than one Higher Fair Award. They will either get “Best of Show” OR “Award of Merit” OR “Honorable Mention”

Other Special Awards:

- 4-H Programs sometimes use County Fair as the “qualifying” event for higher level 4-H Shows/Exhibits. These awards can only be given to 4-H members and can be given in addition to the Fair Awards. This is the only time an exhibit may receive more than one award.
 - State 4-H Conference Art Exhibit – Process TBD by WI Extension for 2021
 - State 4-H Photography Exhibit – Process TBD by WI Extension for 2021
- **Outstanding EXHIBITOR** – any award entitled “outstanding exhibitor” are not being given in the animal OR non-animal departments for the 2021 Fair. As we’ve been reviewing our awards and processes – we discovered that the outstanding exhibitor process is very inconsistent from Dept. to Dept. In order to create a more meaningful and inclusive process across all departments, we will be reviewing what it means to be an Outstanding Exhibitor and taking the time to create a quality process for 2022. We welcome suggestions – please submit to winnebagoountyfair@gmail.com . Thank you!