



2026 District 12 4-H Educational Presentation Categories

Before selecting your category, make sure the presentation does not fit better in another educational presentation category. All presentation categories have been updated with what we hope are clearer descriptions.

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

The relationship between agriculture and natural resources is essential because agriculture relies heavily on natural resources like fertile soil, water, and sunlight. Sustainable agricultural practices aim to manage these resources in ways that ensure their long-term availability while minimizing negative impacts on the environment.

Topics could include:

- Topics related to agriculture:
 - Practice of cultivating plants for food, fiber, medicinal plants, and other products used by humans.
 - Farm and ranch economics
 - Meat science
 - Dairy cattle
 - Topics related to activities such as planting, growing, harvesting, and managing crops.
 - Ag technology
 - Farm safety

Topics related to the breeding and raising of livestock or small animals should be under those specific categories: Beef, Sheep & Goats, Swine, Horse, Animal Science.

- Topics related to Natural Resources:
 - Entomology
 - Forestry
 - Range Science
 - Water Conservation
 - Horticulture
 - Wildlife & Fisheries
 - Shooting Sports
 - Soil & Land Management
 - Outdoor Education
 - Environmental Stewardship
 - Food production & Food Security
 - Other ANR field of study

Youth will relate information to knowledge or skills learned in the field of Agriculture and Natural Resources. **Note: You must choose only one category, but Ag Technology related topics could be submitted under the STEM category. Farm Safety related topics could be submitted under the Safety & Injury Prevention category.**



ANIMAL SCIENCE

The topic focuses on the study of animals that are **smaller in size and often kept as pets**, including but not limited to dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, and birds. This presentation aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of various aspects related to the care, behavior, health, training, and well-being of small animals.

Topics could include:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Nutrition
- Housing and Environment
- Healthcare and Preventive Medicine
- Behavior and Training
- Reproduction and Breeding
- Common Diseases and Vet Care
- Pet Selection and Responsible Ownership

Presentations focused on large animals must be entered respectively in the Beef, Sheep & Goats, Swine or Horse category or those focused on Wildlife should be in the Agricultural and Natural Resources category.

BEEF

A beef educational presentation pertains to the delivery of information regarding a range of relevant subjects, both present and future-oriented, that encompass:

Topics could include:

- Advanced reproductive technologies
- Animal Husbandry
- Effective nutritional management practices
- Optimal animal health strategies
- Considerations in breeding and genetics
- Behavioral insights in beef cattle
- Understanding beef carcasses and end-products
- Analysis of production costs
- Fundamental aspects of overall herd management
- Insights into cattle marketing strategies

These presentations may be tailored to specific sectors within the beef industry, including cow-calf, stocker, or feedlot segments. The aim is to provide comprehensive knowledge to individuals engaged in beef production and management, enabling them to make informed decisions that enhance the efficiency, sustainability, and profitability of their operations.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER EDUCATION

Family and Consumer Education (FCE) is a subset of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) that specifically focuses on educational programs and initiatives aimed at enhancing the knowledge, skills, and well-being of individuals and families. The subject matter of Family and Consumer Education encompasses a range of topics designed to empower individuals with practical life skills, promote healthy family dynamics, and contribute to the overall betterment of society.

Topics should be centered around improving the well-being of individuals and families by addressing various aspects of daily life. Topics can include, but are not limited to:

- Life skills education
- Family dynamics and relationships
- Financial literacy and management
- Consumer education and decision making
- Nutrition and healthy eating
- Culinary arts and food science
- Fashion and interior design
- Home management and organization
- Parenting and child development
- Consumer education and decision making
- Communication and Conflict Resolution

Please review the description for Health & Wellness and Safety and Injury Prevention for topics pertaining to those subject areas.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Health and wellness refer to the state of well-being that encompasses physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being. Health and wellness involve the conscious pursuit of optimal health through lifestyle choices, practices, and attitudes that promote vitality, resilience, and a high quality of life. The topics covered encompass a range of subjects relevant to youth health and wellness, encouraging active living, and chronic disease prevention.

Topics could include:

- Physical Activity and Exercise
- Mental Health and Stress Management
- Sleep Health
- Substance Abuse Prevention
- Disease Prevention
- Heart Health
- Environmental Health
- Preventing the spread of the cold and flu/Covid-19
- Body Image and Self-Esteem

Presentations should focus on healthy lifestyles, chronic disease prevention and wellness, not illness/treatment. It is suggested that project experiences in this area include topics aimed at youth health/wellness, the promotion of active living, and chronic disease prevention.

Please review the description for Family Consumer Education and Safety and Injury Prevention for topics pertaining to those subject areas.

HORSE

The educational presentation aims to encompass the theoretical and hands-on proficiencies acquired within the 4-H horse project. The presentation can cover various aspects of horse care, management, training, and usage. It aims to provide both theoretical understanding and practical insights to the audience. The goal is to empower the listeners with valuable information and techniques that they can apply in real-life scenarios involving horse projects, such as improving their ability to care for horses, manage their well-being, enhance their training, and make informed decisions about horse-related activities.

Topics could include:

- Breeds
- Anatomy
- Nutrition
- Health and Veterinary Care
- Behavior and Training/Showmanship
- Grooming and Maintenance
- Tack and Equipment
- Housing and Facilities
- Riding Skills and Techniques
- Breeding and Reproduction
- Equine Careers
- Ethics and Welfare
- Horse-Related Legislation and Regulations
- Equine Industry Trends

These topics provide a well-rounded understanding of horse care, management, and horsemanship, catering to both newcomers and experienced individuals in the 4-H horse project. The presentation aims to empower participants with the knowledge and skills needed for responsible horse ownership, successful project management, and participation in horse-related activities.

OPEN

This category serves as an option for youth participants when their presentation does not align with the predefined categories. This category enables participants to showcase their unique ideas,



creativity, and skills. It encourages innovative thinking and provides an opportunity for youth to explore subjects that are important to them even if those subjects do not fit within the existing educational presentation category.

Make sure your topic does not fit better within another category before selecting Open.

UPDATED! PROMOTE 4-H

Participants are encouraged to select a target audience not familiar with 4-H to promote the overall 4-H program, or some aspects of 4-H, by exhibiting a promotional approach that effectively communicates the principles and values of the 4-H program. The presentation should demonstrate their marketing and promotional skills by effectively showcasing and explaining the essence of 4-H. The presentation serves as a delivery method to enhance the visibility of 4-H among audiences in and outside the 4-H community.

SAFETY & INJURY PREVENTION

An educational presentation on safety and injury prevention addresses the importance of safeguarding oneself from potential hazards and minimizing the risk of injuries. This presentation aims to inform and educate the audience about strategies and practices that contribute to their well-being in various environments, including home, school, work, and recreational settings. The goal of this presentation is to empower individuals with information and tools that enable them to make informed decisions, minimize risks, and create safer environments for themselves and those around them.

Topics could include:

- Safety Awareness
- Safe Practices
- Home Safety
- Fire Safety
- First Aid/Emergency care
- Transportation Safety
- Digital Safety
- Recreational Safety
- Emergency Preparedness
- Farm Safety

Please review the description for Family Consumer Education and Health and Wellness for topics pertaining to those subject areas.

Note: You must choose only one category, but Farm Safety related topics could be submitted under the Safety & Injury Prevention category.

NEW! SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY, AND MATH (STEM)



This presentation aims to illuminate the synergies between STEM disciplines by examining how technology, research, and cutting-edge ideas converge, it fosters an understanding of the ways in which scientific advancements can revolutionize methods, boost efficiency, and address contemporary challenges in the field. Through this exploration, the presentation seeks to inspire an appreciation for the dynamic relationship between STEM evolution.

Topics could include:

- Biotechnology
- Ag technology
- Biogenetics
- Bioengineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Space Exploration and Astrophysics
- Green Energy and Sustainable Technologies
- Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR)
- Cybersecurity and Data Privacy
- Robotics and Automation
- Coding and Programming

Note: You must choose only one category, but Ag Technology related topics could be submitted under the STEM category.

NEW! SHEEP & GOAT

A sheep and goat educational presentation involves providing information on a wide array of pertinent subjects, encompassing both current and forward-looking aspects related to the raising of sheep and/or goats, as well as the utilization of their meat, milk, or fiber.

Topics could include:

- Animal Husbandry
- Reproductive technologies
- Effective practices for nutritional management
- Optimal strategies for animal health
- Considerations in breeding and genetics
- Behavioral insights specific to sheep and goats
- Analysis of production costs
- Fundamental elements of comprehensive herd management
- Insights into marketing strategies for sheep and goats
- Reproduction and breeding techniques

These informative sessions can be tailored to focus on either sheep or goats or both, and topics may span various aspects, such as diverse breeds, lambing or kidding and care of ewes and does, wool production and processing (if applicable), and approaches to marketing lamb meat and wool products.



NEW! SWINE

Swine related presentations can cover a diverse range of topics, from basic swine anatomy and breeds to advanced swine management practices, ensuring that attendees gain valuable insights into every aspect of swine care and production.

Topics could include:

- Animal Husbandry
- Breeds
- Anatomy
- Nutrition
- Health and disease management
- Behavior/handling
- Market trends
- Reproduction and breeding
- Housing
- Market trends/economics

These presentations should provide a comprehensive exploration of swine care and production, covering topics from swine breeds and anatomy to advanced management practices, fostering a deeper understanding of the world of pigs for participants of all levels of experience.

The category of Ag Technology and Farm Safety was discontinued for 2023-2027. Those presentations that have been entered into this category in the past, will still have a place under either Ag & Natural Resources, STEM, or Safety and Injury Prevention.