

Entomology Guidelines

Insect Collections

1. Please refer to the fair book for specific rules and appropriate number of specimens to include for each year in the project. Please note, if you sign up for a class that requires 10-15 insects in 3 different Orders, don't bring 100 specimens! You will only be judged on the number you signed up for. Save any additional specimens for the following year.
2. Identification Accuracy: exhibitors should be able to identify the Order and the common name and/or species name of their specimens. There are many reference books available to help with identification. Examples include: *Peterson's Field Guides*, *National Audubon Society Field Guide*, *Eyewitness Handbooks*, and the *National Wildlife Federation Guide to Insects and Spiders*.
3. Pinning Insects: proper insect pinning and pointing techniques should be used. Insect pins should always be used because they will not rust like a regular sewing pin, and they come in different sizes for different insects. Size 2 pins are recommended; this size will work for most insects collected locally. Insect pins are available through BioQuip, online at www.bioquip.com. Please refer to the 4-H Basic Entomology Manual (4H1335) for detailed instructions. This manual is available online at: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/basic_entomology_members_guide_4_h_entomology_series_4h1335.
4. Labeling: All specimens must be properly labeled! Each label should include: Order of the insect, name of the insect (common and/or scientific), location, collection date, and collector's name. Please refer to the 4-H Entomology Labels sheet listed under Entomology in the Science Department section of the Ingham County 4-H Still Exhibits website. This is a downloadable and printable sheet in which you can fill in your collection data and print for your collection.
5. Collection Arrangement: insects for display should be in good condition (legs, wings, etc. attached to body), however missing a limb does not mean you can't include the specimen. Insects are fragile and breaks happen! Displays should be neat and orderly. Insects should be lined up in rows and columns within the display box, and should be displayed with like Orders (ex. a butterfly isn't in the same Order as a bee).
6. Please also see the Entomology Project Evaluation form listed under Entomology in the Science Department section of the Ingham County 4-H Still Exhibits online. This sheet is for reference only, and will give exhibitors an idea of how their collections and other entomology-related projects will be judged at fair.

Entomological Skills

The Entomological Skills class is an opportunity for exhibitors to showcase entomology skills without handling or pinning insects. Exhibitors are encouraged to create an educational or instructional display about an area of Entomology that interests them. Example projects include a project board or poster outlining insect life cycles, habits, anatomy, or economical use. Please note that bees and beekeeping are not included in this class.

Resources

- There are three 4-H Entomology Manuals available: Basic Entomology 4-H1335 (mentioned above), Advanced Entomological Techniques 4-H1336, and Insect Life Cycle Studies 4-H1406. There is also a Leader's Guide for all three 4-H1479.
- The MSU Bug House is an excellent field trip for clubs and families. A tour of the Bug House gives kids hands-on experience with live insects as well as an opportunity to learn about insect morphology and ecology. There is a fee for formal tours, but the Bug House has a free open house the second Monday of each month, with additional open houses around different holidays. The Bug House is located in the Natural Science Building, room 147. Call for information: 517-355-4662.
- There is a series published by the 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System called Insectaganza of Excitement. There are project activity guides that would be fun to do with a group.
- The MSU Butterfly House is located at the Plant and Soil Science Building. Call for information: 517-355-0348.

Have questions about insect collections or entomology-related projects? Email or call your Science Superintendent – She is an Entomologist!

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