

4-H GARDEN: SMALL FRUITS

(Blackberries, Blueberries, Grapes, Raspberries, Strawberries, and Others)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. **Judging of all 4-H Small Fruit projects will be done in early June, information will be sent.**
The harvest of fruit may have been completed or not yet begun.
2. You should do most of the “planting and caring for” of your small fruit yourself.
3. A part of the project is keeping accurate records – expenses, time you spend, value of the fruit, varieties planted, quantity produced, etc. A record sheet is to be completed before judging. This record is available on our website or at the Extension Office. **You MUST have the record sheet at judging.**
4. For strawberries, you should read the information in your 4-H Strawberry Manual (4-H 38). If you have any problems or questions, talk to your parent or 4-H Leader. Information for growing other small fruit is available from the Extension Office.
5. Start small the first year then you can set out more plants as you find more ways to use the fruit. For strawberries, 25 plants are a good start.
6. There are optional experiments for third year and advanced members. It is highly recommended that one of these experiments be conducted each year for third year members and above. Document your experiment on the record sheet. Examples include planting different varieties, using different fertilizers, and using different kinds of mulches.

EXHIBITS

ALL DIVISIONS (4-H 38): An official 4-H Small Fruits judge will visit your plot for evaluation. Your small fruits patch or container will be judged on the following basis:

- Health of plants: uniform bright green leaf color, crown size (3/4” or more in diameter). *
- Plants free from insect and disease damage. Ex: Spittlebug and leaf spotting diseases.
- Planting area free from weeds.
- Spacing and uniformity of the planting: In a patch, a well filled matted row with no vacant areas. Plants not overcrowded. Average spacing of 6 - 8” between runner plants for strawberries.
- In hill system, plants are uniform, spaced 12” each way with no vacancies and with no runner plants (except to fill vacancies). In containers, plants are uniform.
- Pictures of your plot will be taken by the judging team and displayed at the Vigo County Fair.