

FCS Project Information

County Extension agents need to understand all 4-H FCS projects and the opportunities and competitive events associated with them, including:

- Project Timeline
- Overview of the Food and Nutrition Project
- Food Show Essentials
- Food Show Contest Planning Guide
- Food Challenge Essentials
- Food Challenge Contest Planning Guide
- Quiz Bowl Essentials
- Quiz Bowl Planning Guide
- Overview of the Clothing and Textiles Project
- Fashion Show Essentials
- Fashion Storyboard Essentials
- Fashion Show and Fashion Storyboard Contest Planning Guide
- Duds to Dazzle Essentials
- Duds to Dazzle Planning Guide
- Overview of the Consumer Education Project
- Consumer Decision-Making Essentials
- Consumer Decision-Making Contest Planning Guide
- Overview of the Family Life Project
- Overview of the Health Project
- Healthy Lifestyles Invitational Essentials
- Overview of the Housing and Home Environment Project
- Overview of the Safety Project
- Educational Presentation Essentials
- Roundup Educational Presentations Planning Guide
- Recordbook Essentials
- Recordbook Judging Planning Guide
- Contest Resources
 - ✧ Contest Integrity Checklist
 - ✧ Contest Information Checklists
 - ✧ Suggestions for Making Comments on Judging Scorecards
 - ✧ Tips for Improving Contest Record Forms and Interviews

All current FCS project contest information and guidelines are available at
<http://texas4-h.tamu.edu>.

For more resources, visit <http://fcs.tamu.edu> and the FCS agent-only website.
Username: county name
Password: county office zip code

Links to third-party websites in this guide and on the FCS website are for the user's convenience only;
4-H FCS 101 does not control and is not responsible for the content or availability of third-party websites.

4-H Project Timeline

This project timeline can help you work with a task force to develop a project calendar. A calendar will help you build in time to promote project activities and for the 4-H members to plan their project experiences.

All project calendars can be combined into one countywide 4-H calendar of activities, contests, and deadlines (be sure to tell your coworkers that you are developing a calendar).

4-H Project Timeline		
Date	Event	Comments
6 months before the district contest	Identify task force members.	Include adults (project leaders) and 4-H members who have been successful in the project.
5 months before	Plan the task force meeting.	Send out the announcement.
5 months before	Hold a task force meeting/project leader training.	Be excited. Plan and prepare for the project year (workshops, tours, guest speakers). Plan multi-county workshops. Have resources available. Plan community service activities. Set at least five sequential learning activities (at least 30 minutes each). Plan some activities that correlate to the score sheet (you may need to use last year's score sheet/paperwork).
5 months before	Advertise the project.	Possible outlets include the 4-H newsletter, 4-H meeting reports, emails from 4-H Connect, and social media Talk it up!
4 months before	Hold the first project meeting.	Conduct a hands-on activity led by the project leader. Include community service (quick and easy). Members should set goals (youth driven).
4 months before	Hold project meetings	The meetings can be club/county and can be self-directed. Encourage the members to do record keeping at the end of the meeting. Allow the project members to take leadership roles (use junior/teen leaders). Inform the members of all contest/learning opportunities.
If project members choose not to compete, they stop here. That is okay—they have had a great experience!		
3 months before	Receive district competition packet.	Thoroughly review the district packet for deadlines, contest rules, entry requirements, and details.
5–6 weeks before	County entries due.	Tell the participants about the deadlines. Get the packet out early.
5 weeks before	Prepare for the county competition.	Use the district score sheet. Check the participants' ages.
1–3 weeks before	Check grade eligibility.	Depends on when the 3- or 6-week period ends

4–5 weeks before District competition	Hold the county competition.	Have one! Practice interviews. Have qualified judges. Use the Contest Integrity Checklist. Be organized and prepared. Have good-quality recognition. Try to mimic the district competition. Include a community service opportunity. Use the Texas Extension Education Association for prizes and refreshments.
2–3 weeks before	District entries due	Ensure that the information is sent in by the deadline (packets and 4-H Connect). Use the checklist (if provided in district packet).
2 weeks before	Prepare for the district competition.	—
1–3 weeks before	Check grade eligibility.	This will depend on when the 3 weeks/6 weeks ends.
—	District competition	If you are assigned a task as a CEA, please complete that assignment. You may need to appoint a parent/leader to whom all participants report after the competition
1 week after	Evaluate the program.	This can be formal or informal. It could be as simple as “What went well, and what could be fixed for next year?”
—	Continue to meet?	This can maintain interest in the project.