

Helpful Hints for 4-H Demonstrations

- Select a topic, then use your own imagination to make it personal, original, and interesting. Your idea is what makes a demonstration different from all the rest.
- Use a catchy title that gains attention from the audience. For example: instead of “How to Make a Rope Halter”, use “Give Them Enough Rope”.
- Remember you are part of your demonstration. Be clean and neat, poised and confident.
- Your name, club and title may be at the beginning of your demonstration, or this information may be given by the person introducing the demonstration.
- Greet your audience in a friendly manner. Smile often and hold your head up.
- Talking during your demonstration does not need to be constant, but you should avoid unnatural, long pauses.
- Demonstrations should be given without notes. Beginners may use notes at club level, but they should be used inconspicuously.
- A common suggestion given by judges is that demonstrators need to speak louder. Practice talking in a large room using a moderate tempo, not too slow or too fast.
- Plan for unexpected happenings and decide not to let them throw you, judges are pleased to see demonstrators who can handle a situation calmly.
- Keep the space in front of you clear and uncluttered so the audience can see what you are doing.
- Do not talk over noisy equipment (such as sewing machines, blenders, etc.)
- Use safety practices: always cut away from you; use safety goggles.
- Work quickly and neatly - stack used containers out of the way. Provide for

disposal of trash (paper or plastic bag may be taped to tray, table or machine.]

- After you conclude your demonstration, say “This concludes my demonstration, are there any questions”. Either repeat the question “The question has been asked _____”, or state the question in your answer. Always use complete sentences. Know your subject matter well but do not guess at questions. If you do not know the answer, say “I don’t know (repeat question), but I will research it and find out.” Only the judges are supposed to ask questions at County Presentation Day. Once they have concluded, say, “If there are no more questions this completes my presentation, thank you.”
- Use foam board for posters 20" x 30". Most demonstrators use both sides - you need to learn how to place content in the correct order on the poster for turning. Learn the proper way to turn posters on an easel.
- Posters should be eye-catching, simple in design, uncluttered and large enough for all the audience to see. Items should be listed in the order they will be used or mentioned in the demonstration.
- If possible, cover the poster until you refer to it in your demonstration. Keep your finished posters in a large garbage bag to keep them clean.
- A table cover is good, especially in a cooking demonstration. Cooking demonstrators should always mention washing their hands before starting.
- Place equipment and supplies on desk/table in the order they will be used. Remember to keep the center space clear.
- Product labels and trade names should be covered. When possible use the generic name in presentation.