

AQUATIC SCIENCE  
Not a State Fair Project

Superintendent – Teri Cook – 538-2623

MANUAL – 4-H 447-W (all levels) Record sheets in manual

**GENERAL GUIDELINES**

**ALL FISH MUST HAVE BEEN CARED FOR  
AT LEAST 4 WEEKS BY THE 4-H'ER.**

The poster option may be in place of or in addition to the live animal exhibit. Posters must meet poster guidelines described in 4-H Fair Exhibit Information section of this handbook and relate to some area of the manual the member is currently using.

***Please do not take any dead fish or articles from tanks unless they are yours. Please notify the superintendent or 4-H Office if you notice any problems.***

**Record books must be displayed with ALL fish exhibits.**

**In Aquatic Science, you may either exhibit in the breeding divisions or tank divisions. You cannot do both.**

***ALL FISH EXHIBITED IN CLASSES OTHER THAN TANK CLASSES ARE TO BE DISPLAYED IN A BOWL WITH AT LEAST ONE FLAT SIDE WITH NO COLORED ROCK, MARBLES OR PLANTS.*** These extra objects distort the fish, making judging more difficult.

4-H members in tank divisions must leave their aquarium and fish for display the entire fair unless approval is given by superintendent for removal.

In the breeding classes, 4-H member must check out their fish immediately after judging, or they will be required to stay the entire fair (unless approval is given by superintendent for removal).

In the breeding division you will pick one option under your division. You may do any division that interests you. Keep in mind some divisions are difficult and not for a beginner.

Entry Check-In/Check-Out - Staggered check-in and check-out times will be used. Times to be announced.

**BREEDING DIVISIONS GUIDELINES**

**Division 1 B**

Exhibit a specimen or pair of fish. If using livebearers, 3 fish (2 females and 1 male) are needed (all fish must be the same type and variety of fish which means that if one is a sunshine platy, then the other fish must also be sunshine platy). Fish must be exhibited in a bowl with one flat side with nothing in it but fish and water.

### **Division 2 B**

Exhibit a pair of fish which are not livebearers. Fish must be exhibited in a bowl with one flat side with nothing in it but fish and water.

### **Division 3 B**

Exhibit a pair of livebearers with at least two offspring. Breeding grass is permissible in order to protect offspring. Exhibit a bowl with at least one flat side.

### **Division 4B**

Exhibit Salt water coral propagation – try to show before and after propagation by using a drawing or picture.

## **TANK DIVISIONS GUIDELINES**

**All divisions are supposed to use a rectangle tank except for Division 3, which is the odd tank setup.**

### **Division 1**

**Tank Beautiful** – The 4-H'er should design a tank that is beautiful by their own standards. Three-dimensional flat backgrounds are acceptable. A rectangle tank of 5 gallons minimum and a maximum of 10 gallons should be used. Exhibit an appropriate number of fish for the tank size. Keep in mind the type of fish to be in the tank when creating the exhibit.

### **Division 2**

**Theme Tank** – Choose a theme and design a tank around it. Keep in mind the type of fish being used when creating the exhibit. Any three-dimensional backgrounds are acceptable. A rectangle tank of 5 gallons minimum and a maximum of 10 gallons should be used. Exhibit an appropriate number of fish for the tank size. Examples of themes: nursery rhymes, songs, poems, stories, etc.

### **Division 3**

**Novelty Set-Up Tank** – Design a tank that is not of the standard rectangle or drum tank shape. Use imagination for tank forms. Backgrounds should be a light, plain color if used. Maximum of 10-gallon tank. Exhibit an appropriate number of fish for the tank size. Keep in mind the type of fish being used when creating the exhibit.

### **Division 4**

**Natural Tank** – Design a tank using all natural plants – anything artificial is not acceptable. If a background is used, it should be a light, plain color. Keep in mind the type of fish in relation to the plants in the tank. Exhibit the fish with the tank. Rectangle tank of 5-gallon minimum or 10 gallon maximum should be used.

### **Division 5**

**Compatible Tank** – Design a tank using fish and plants from the same geographical area. Example: South American plants should be used with South American fish. If a background is used, it should be a light, plain color. Exhibit the fish with the tank. Rectangle tanks are to be used with a 5-gallon minimum and 10 gallon maximum.

**Division 6**

**Salt Water Tank** – Design a tank that is a salt water habitat. Use only salt-water items and fish. Keep in mind the type of set up you will have. The tank should be a maximum of 12 gallons.

**Division 7**

Experiments – Select one of the examples of advanced programs on pages 3 and 4 of the Aquatic Science Manual or devise an experiment of your own. Set a definite goal and keep a step-by-step record (log) of how the results are achieved. Exhibit the record (log) and fish.

**Division 8**

Same as Division 7 but experiment is conducted over approximately a one year time period. Exhibit the record (log) and fish.