



2026 Kentucky 4-H Country Ham Project

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ COUNTY _____

BIRTHDATE _____ GRADE _____

Please read each and initial you understand the requirements of the project:

By taking part in the country ham project, I am responsible for the following:	4-H Member initial	Parent/ Guardian Initial
Must complete 6 hours of training under the supervision of a certified livestock volunteer.		
Giving a 3-5-minute presentation at KY State Fair on the required topic: Junior (Born 2016-2012) The difference between wet and dry cured hams. Grocery stores throughout the Southeast sell wet and dry cured hams. Discuss the differences between wet cured (aka City Ham) and dry cured (aka Country Ham), include differences in how they are made, flavor differences, and how they are stored. Senior (Born 2007-2011) The science of curing and aging country hams. Discuss the science of curing and aging country hams, including the purpose of salt, sugar, and nitrite; what happens during aging aka the summer sweat, and why country hams do not need refrigeration. Please note – ALL SENIOR'S PRESENTATIONS MUST BE AT LEAST 2 MINUTES LONG OR THEY WILL BE DIS-QUALIFIED AND HAMS FORFIETED.		
4-H members ages 9-18 pay \$55.00 fee – you will receive 2 hams Cloverbuds/Adults \$55.00 per ham Hams are to remain at County Designated facility until state fair– Will NOT be allowed to be individuals homes/facilities. (failure to complete the project, fee will NOT be refunded, and you will forfeit both hams, Upon forfeit, if the two hams are not returned an additional \$75.00 fee will be charged and if the additional fee is not paid the 4-H member will not be able to participate in next years' country ham project).		

All winning hams will be placed on display at the Kentucky State Fair and at its conclusion will be returned.

Parents Signature _____ Date _____

4-H'er Signature _____ Date _____

Agent Signature _____ Date _____

Agents please scan this document into 4-H Online when you sign up youth.

Important Dates:

12/05/2025: Registration Due (or submit at 4-H Awards Reception on 12/07/2025)

1/19/2026: Curing Day

April 2026: Speeches presented at County level

8/20/2026: Speeches presented at State Fair

Cooperative Extension Service

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 Family and Consumer Sciences
 4-H Youth Development
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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities
 accommodated
 with prior notification.