

## Delaware 4-H Wildlife Judging Contest Guide 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

The 4-H Wildlife Judging Contest is an event designed to *teach youth the fundamentals of wildlife management*. Although it is a competitive event, its *primary function is education*. Natural resources management should be learned through involvement in this event, by holding traditional project meetings and related activities; including field trips and/or guest speakers. Additional benefits to youth, as a result of participation, include the development of leadership capabilities that focus around team-work, communication, organization and commitment. Meeting and speaking to other adults and wildlife professionals throughout the state provides an opportunity for 4-H youth to grow as well.

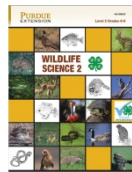
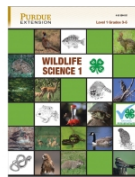
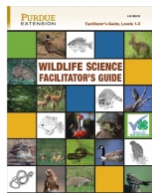
**There are two divisions for this contest**, Beginner and Senior. There are no pre-determined ages for these divisions. Youth should participate in the division that best suits their involvement in the 4-H Wildlife Project. The top 10 seniors from each county will participate in the state contest at the Delaware State Fair.

### Resources:

This contest will follow the Purdue Extension Wildlife Science Series Project Books. These books are available at [www.shop4-h.com](http://www.shop4-h.com). The digital download for all 4 resources is currently \$22.00.

<https://shop4-h.org/collections/searchresults?type=product&q=wildlife>

Contact your local county 4-H office with questions related to this resource.



**Please note:** There are sections in the project books, where youth will need to do some research in preparation for this contest. Although there will be word banks and multiple choice/matching, there will also be some opportunity for open-ended responses. Most of the questions that require open-ended responses will have many possible correct answers.

### Career Resources:

[http://stem-works.com/subjects/30-the-animal-kingdom/cool\\_jobs](http://stem-works.com/subjects/30-the-animal-kingdom/cool_jobs)

<http://wildlife.org/next-generation/career-development/careers/>

<https://www.wcs.org/about-us/careers>

### Wildlife Habitat Education Program Resource

[WHEP Manual with Delaware Information](#)

### How to Formulate a Set of Reasons for a Judging Class

[Creating Reasons for a Judging Class](#)

**Special Needs: If you are in need of special accommodations to participate in this program, please notify 4-H office, two weeks in advance of the event.**

This program is brought to you by the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, a service of the UD College of Agriculture and Natural Resources — a land-grant institution. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. If you have special needs that need to be accommodated, please contact the office two weeks prior to the event.

## **The Beginner Contest**

*Resources: Wildlife Science Facilitator's Guide  
Wildlife Science Level 1  
WHEP Manual for Delaware Regions*

- **Delaware animals and their foods:**

Be able to identify animals by pictures and name foods they consume\*

<b>American Bullfrog</b>	<b>White Tail Deer</b>
<b>Bluegill</b>	<b>Bald Eagle</b>
<b>Eastern Garter Snake</b>	<b>Groundhog</b>
<b>Black (Rat) Snake</b>	<b>Great Egret</b>
<b>Raccoon</b>	<b>American Horseshoe Crab</b>
<b>Red-Tailed Hawk</b>	<b>Piping Plover</b>
<b>Great Horned Owl</b>	<b>Coyote</b>
<b>Short-Eared Owl</b>	<b>Mole</b>
<b>Box Turtle</b>	<b>Opossum</b>
<b>Snapper Turtle</b>	<b>Beaver</b>
<b>Brown Bat</b>	<b>Delmarva Fox Squirrel</b>

\*This is not an exhaustive list of all wildlife found in Delaware

- **Animal Needs:** Be familiar with animals and their needs
- **Vertebrate Classes:**  
Be able to identify the 5 classes of vertebrates and be able to identify a vertebrate class given a picture or an animal name
- **Animal Traits:**  
Be able to discuss traits of animals
  - **2021:** Mammals
  - **2022:** Birds
  - **2023:** Fish
  - **2024:** Herptiles (reptiles and amphibians)
- **Using a Dichotomous Key:**  
Given a dichotomous key, be able to show how the key is followed and name the animals (information in back of guide)

# The Senior Contest

*Resources: Wildlife Science Facilitator's Guide  
Wildlife Science Level 2  
Wildlife Science Level 3  
WHEP Manual for Delaware Regions*

- **Beginner requirements above**
- **Animal Habitats (Level 2)**
  - **2021:** Mammals
  - **2022:** Birds
  - **2023:** Fish
  - **2024:** Herptiles (reptiles and amphibians)
- **Special Topics (Level 2)**
  - **Animal Endangerment: 2021**
  - **Wildlife Careers: 2022**
  - **Impact of Climate Change: 2023**
  - **Pioneers in Wildlife Conservation: 2024**
  - **Signs of Wildlife: 2025**
- **Habitat Management (Level 3)**

Understand wildlife management concepts and practices. Given descriptions of habitats, be able to identify animals found there.
- **Habitat Judging:** (Level 1-3 Putting it all together)

Participants will be provided pictures of 4 habitats. Participants will be asked to judge the 4 habitats based on requirements for a given species. Participants will provide written reasons for their decision.

**Use this format for written reasons: Introduction, Body, and Conclusion**

Intro	I placed this class _____ (name class) 3,1,2,4
Body	I placed 3 over 1 because.... I placed 1 over 2 because... I placed 2 over 4 because...
Conclusion	For these reasons, I placed this class of _____ 3,1,2,4.

## **STATE CONTEST:**

The state event will include a “role play scenario”. These are found in the Level 3 project book. One topic will be selected from the choices below; participants should be familiar with both.

**2021:** You are a Teacher

**2025:** You are the Mayor

**2022:** You are a Food and Fiber Producer

**2026:** You live in a Wildlife Habitat

**2023:** You are a Teacher

**2027:** You are a Legislator

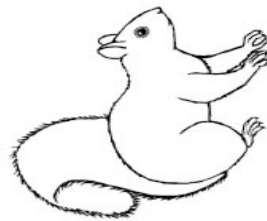
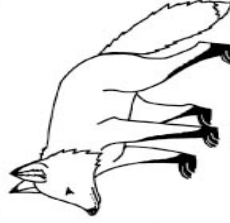
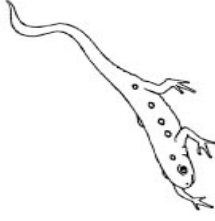
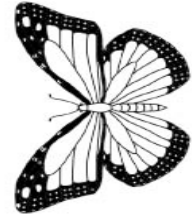
**2024:** You are a Homeowner

## Learn How to Use a Dichotomous Key - Common Animals

Use the dichotomous key to reach the names of each of the 12 animals AND the pathway you used to get there. This is about learning to use a key – not about knowing the names of these common animals (it is assumed you know their names). So use the blanks under the animal pictures to write the animal names AND the numbers in the key you follows to reach their names.

1. Does the animal have a backbone?  
 Yes - Go to 3  
 No - it is an insect - Go to 2
2. Does the animal change (go through metamorphosis) from a caterpillar to an adult form?  
 Yes - it is a butterfly.  
 No - it is a grasshopper.
3. Does the animal lay eggs?  
 Yes - Go to 4  
 No - Go to 9
4. Does the animal have feathers?  
 Yes - it is a bird.  
 No - Go to 5
5. Does the animal lay eggs in the water?  
 Yes - Go to 6  
 No - Go to 7
6. Does the animal live on land but come back to the water to lay its eggs.  
 Yes - Go to 8  
 No - it is a fish.  
 Yes - it is a turtle.  
 No - it is a snake.
8. Does the animal have lots of warty bumps and no tail?  
 Yes - it is a toad.  
 No - it is a newt (red eft).
9. Is the animal a carnivore (eats mostly meat)?  
 Yes - it is a fox.  
 No, Go to 10
10. Is the animal an omnivore (eats meat and plants)?  
 Yes - it is a raccoon.  
 No - it is a herbivore - Go to 11
11. Is the animal a rodent?  
 Yes - it is a squirrel.  
 No - it is a moose.

## Dichotomous Key Animals - Answer KEY



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Please visit the Delaware 4-H Science Page for wildlife project meeting ideas:

Delaware 4-H Science Page Website: <https://sites.udel.edu/kentcountyclover/delaware-4-h-science/>

**Project Activities and Ideas**

 <b>Foods and Clothing Science</b> <a href="#">Egg Detective</a> Provided by Minnesota Extension  <a href="#">The Science of Ice Cream</a> Provided by Minnesota Extension  <a href="#">Reverse Tie Dye</a> Provided by Minnesota Extension	 <b>Wildlife Project Meeting Ideas</b> Iowa Extension <a href="#">Ideas for Wildlife Project Meetings</a>  Florida Extension <a href="#">Ideas for Wildlife Project Meetings</a>  Illinois Extension <a href="#">Wildlife Project Spark Sheet</a>	 <b>Animal Science Project Meeting Ideas</b>  <a href="#">Ohio Extension Animal Ideas</a> Includes: Cavy, Pocket Pets, Bees, Dairy, Beef Goat etc... Great resource to help with record book
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You will also find additional resources on the Delaware 4-H Science Page, in the Delaware 4-H Wildlife Judging Contest section, also found on the site above.

## Delaware 4-H Science Announcements and Events

 <b>DE 4-H Judging Contests</b>  More to come below!  → <a href="#">Wildlife Judging</a>  <a href="#">Horticulture Judging</a>  <a href="#">Woodworking Judging</a>	<b>DE 4-H Shooting Sports</b>  Instructor Certification Trainings	<b>Computer Science Pathways</b>  <a href="#">CS Pathways Equipment</a> Contact Jenny Trunfio ( <a href="mailto:jtrunfio@udel.edu">jtrunfio@udel.edu</a> )  <a href="#">Online Coding Resources</a>	<b>De 4-H Animal Science</b>  <a href="#">Animal Science Website</a>
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As you hold your regular wildlife project meetings, be sure to cover a new part of the judging event, and review past lessons, so that youth can prepare for the judging event throughout the year.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Cook at [kristin@udel.edu](mailto:kristin@udel.edu)