

Fairs and Fun Matches

When, Where, Who and What should I bring?

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- List of New Hampshire fairs with brief description
- Events in other states
- Due dates, entries, & paperwork
- Suggested packing list and tips
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NH Fairs

Fun Match - Small, low stress, lots of fun

- Webster Park, Epsom NH. Usually 2nd Saturday in July. Outdoors, rings aren't under a tent, on grass. Run by Rolling Bones. Just a dog show, no fair.

Stratham – First fair of the season

- Stratham Hill Park. Usually Sunday after fun match. Outdoors, rings under large tent. Cows move out day before dog show, lots of distracting smells and ring shavings. Dog show run by Sarah Gardner.

North Haverhill – Personal favorite

- North Haverhill Fair Grounds. Usually Thursday near end of July. Indoors in large barn, don't need easy up tent. Ring gates are rope and flooring is shavings. Low key fair. Great place to qualify for the Big-E. Starts at noon. Long drive.

Belknap – Last Big-E qualifier

- Belknap Fair Grounds. Usually 2nd weekend in August. Rings under tent, ring gate is high chain link fence, grass has been prickly. Set up area is under a barn, don't need Easy Up tents. Pack light, fair won't let cars into pack up at the end of the day, but will bring things to your car.

Hopkinton – The biggest NH fair

- Hopkinton Fair Grounds. Usually 1st Saturday in September. Big fair, lots of competition, great prizes and premiums. Rings under a tent on grass/dirt. Busy fair, lots of fairgoers. Dog show run by Sarah Gardner.

Hillsborough – Last but not least

- New Boston Fair Grounds. Usually Saturday after Hopkinton. Rings under a tent on grass. Pretty small fair, nice & low key after Hopkinton. Good chance to practice & have fun before Big-E

Paperwork

Put copies of the following forms in your binder. You will need copies of these forms at each fair

- Approval forms,
- Code of conduct
- Medical form
- Health sheet
- Rabies Vacation Certificates



A necessary evil

Entry Forms

Each fair have a website. Look for the exhibitor handbook, that will have all of the information about classes offered, fair rules, entries and other forms to send in. The entry forms vary form fair to fair.

Late entries are not accepted. Entries are the 4-Her's responsibility, not mom or dad's.



Fun match: the entry forms will be emailed to the club. Just print them out & send them in.

Stratham: the entry forms are found online at the Rockingham County Extension Office. Due June 23rd.

North Haverhill: Online Entries. Under forms/rules. Due July 1st.

Belknap: Under forms. Due mid July (15th?)

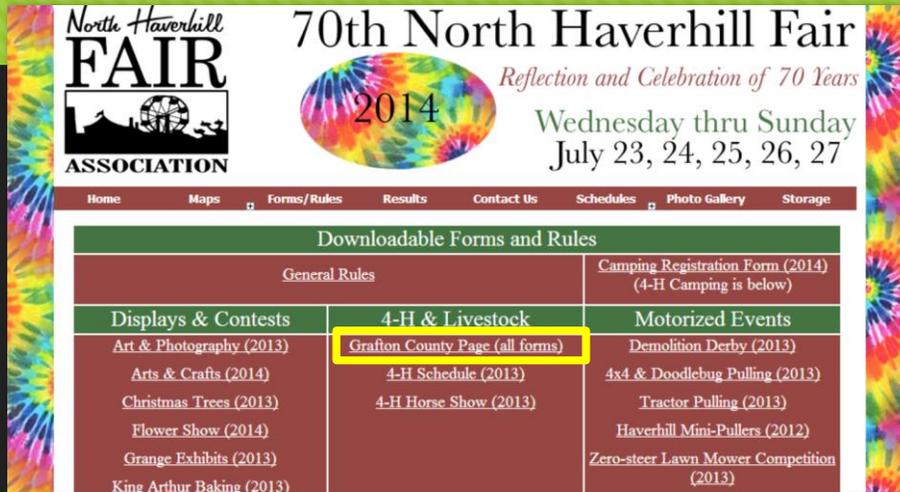
Hopkinton: Under handbooks. Due Aug 1st.

Hillsborough: Under Exhibitors, then look for the handbook. Due in August.

North Haverhill Fair - Online

1.)

North Haverhill Website, under "Forms and Rules"



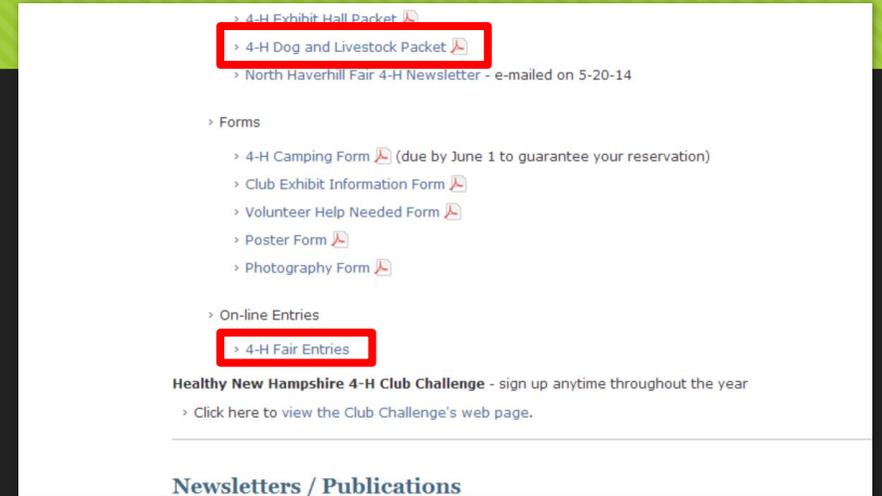
3.)

Then you will be on this webpage, select "Create New Account"



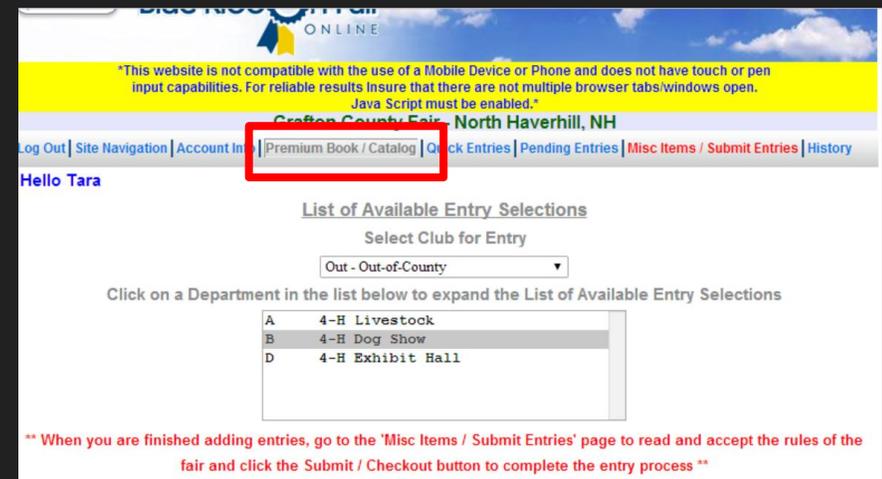
2.)

Grafton County Page, scroll down to "4-H Fair Entries" "4-H Dog & Livestock Packet" has the fair info for classes, etc



4.)

You can make entries from selecting "Premium Book/Catalog" click on "Dog Show" then follow the steps from there.



Out of State Opportunities

Spring Fling

Westborough, MA. Near the end of March.
Indoors at SureFire Dogs Training Center.

Great way to practice and kick off the show season with showmanship, obedience, and rally-o. See the article in the April 2014 club new letter for more info.



AKC Thanksgiving show

West Springfield, MA. Around Thanksgiving
Indoors at the Big-E fair grounds.

Perfect finish to the show season. You get to compete in a 4-H only showmanship class at an AKC show.



Suggested Packing List

Dogs

- Crate or x-pen, bedding, crate cover
- Showmanship lead
- Grooming equipment/Tack Box
- Obedience collar & leash
- Bowls, water, & kibble
- Poop bags
- Bait/treats
- First Aid kit
- Binder/forms
- Dumbbell/Jumps (for Open & Utility)

People

- Green & Whites & 4-H patch
- Change of clothes
- Weather appropriate clothes
- Show shoes
- Muck boots/Puddle boots
- Lunch & drinks
- Chairs
- Shade Protection, i.e. Easy Up tent

Set up

Most fairs are outdoors, the rings are typically under a tent, but there isn't room to set up crates and chairs

- Sun protection, usually Easy Up tents, but beach umbrellas will work too
- Tarp or mat
- Chairs
- Crates
- Display items



Choosing a crate

Wire:

Pros – folds flat, good ventilation, secure

Cons – heavy, difficult to carry

Fabric:

Pros – folds flat, packs well, easy to carry

Cons – not secure, dogs rip out

Plastic:

Pros- Very secure & private

Cons- doesn't fold flat, can be hard to pack

Exercise or X-pen:

Pros – easy to carry, good for multiple dogs

Cons- not very secure, dogs can jump out or knock them over & not as private



Crate Accessories

Create Cover: Anything really can make great crate cover. Old sheets work well. But if you're feeling fancy there are many places to buy them online in all sorts of styles & fabrics prints. They also fun & easy to make yourself! Choose something light in color to reflect sunlight & a fabric that doesn't totally block airflow. Provides sun protection & privacy.

Bedding: Typically nothing too & warm. Small rugs or a crate pad works well. Fairs are typically hot, so dogs don't need much insulation.

Water dishes that attach to the crate: these are not a necessity but they are nice. A regular bowl will work fine. Available in bucket styles or ones that bolt on the side/door



Grooming Equipment/Tack Box

Grooming equipment is breed specific, different coat types need different of equipment. Generally it's best to do most of the grooming at home like bathing, brushing, trimming and cleaning ears, then just do touch ups, quick brush and wipe down at the show. It's helpful to keep your grooming equipment organized in a bag with multiple pockets. Gardening bags & tool boxes work well.



Generally Pack

- Brushes, i.e. Slicker, pin, etc.
- Combs, i.e. Greyhound, etc.
- Towel(s)
- Bug spray & sunscreen
- Wet wipes & hand sanitizer
- Grooming apron
- Product, like a spray conditioner
- Hair Elastics, hair spray & human hair brush
- Lint Roller
- Small bag, i.e. mesh make up bag, pencil case to keep your showmanship lead and collar



Clothing, what to wear? What to pack?

Dress Code

See the New Hampshire guide to 4-H dog shows for info on the dress code

http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource001854_Rep2657.pdf

Even when you're not in the ring, you must dress appropriately. And safe, close toed foot wear is a must at all times.

What to Pack

Weather appropriate clothing, like rain gear or a warm jacket

Some fairs can get rather messy, dogs move in after cows move out, wear shoes that you don't mind getting dirty. Puddle boots can be a good idea in the morning in the wet grass when you are setting up.

Remember a change of clothes for the ride home.

Packing Tips

- Pack before, not the morning of the fair
- Review your checklist so you don't forget anything important
- Load the car so that it is easy to unpack at the fair site
- Have your leash and poop bags accessible at all times
- Have your fair passes ready
- What are you going to do with your dog between arrival and when your crate is set up? Will they stay in the car with the door open? Can someone hold them? Do you want to set up the crate first?



Packing is an art form

Fair Survival

Fairs are fun, really fun. They can also be hot, long and busy days. A few fair survival tips can make them extremely enjoyable

- **Be prepared.** load the car the day before, look up directions and know when you have to leave in the morning.
- **Take care of yourself.** Eat breakfast, stay hydrated, bring some snacks incase you don't have time to get lunch. Pack a lunch if you want something that isn't deep fried.
- **Take care of your dog.** Make sure they are hydrated, watch for signs of stress. Keep an eye on fairgoers, occasionally a few of them are not very respectful. Crate covers get lifted up, X-pens get opened, dogs get fed things, people pick up small dogs without asking, etc. Always keep an eye on your dog's crate. If you are walking around ask another 4-Her or parent to keep an eye on your setup.
- **Ask Question.** the club has done these fairs before and will be happy to answer your questions
- **Know your dog!** Fairgoers love seeing the dog show and petting the dogs. If you ever feel like your dog is overwhelmed or uncomfortable. It's okay to say "My dog is stressed out right now, he needs a nap" and give them a break in their crate.
- **Be prepared for silly questions.** Fairgoers often know very little about dogs and dog shows. Remember to always be polite when answering their questions. It is okay to excuse yourself from some conversations if you have to be somewhere.
- **Have fun!** That is the whole point after all. Take pictures, meet some new friends and enjoy the day with your dog. You've worked hard for this!