



DELAWARE WILDLIFE JUDGING LEADER'S GUIDE 2017-2018

The 4-H Wildlife Habitat 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 is learned through participation in the contest and associated activities. Additional benefits are the development of leadership capabilities and meeting youth, adults and wildlife professionals throughout the state. In this program, youth will learn that management of wildlife means management of wildlife habitat and providing for the needs of wildlife.

The top ten seniors from each county will participate in the state contest at the Delaware State Fair.

The beginner contest will include:

- **Wildlife Species Identification:** Participants must be able to recognize wildlife species from pictures or specimens
- **Wildlife Foods:** Participants must be able to recognize wildlife food items from pictures or specimens and list one food that a given species consumes.
- **Wildlife Management Practices:** Participants will be given photos of definitions of wildlife management practices and asked to identify / match them.
- **Habitat Judging:** Participants will be provided pictures of 4 habitats. With a given species in mind, participants will be asked to judge the 4 habitats based on requirements for a given species. No reasons are required for beginners.

The senior contest will include:

- **Wildlife Species Identification:** Participants must be able to recognize wildlife species from pictures or specimens AND identify which region they are from.
- **Wildlife Foods:** Participants must be able to recognize wildlife food items and list the foods that various species consume.
- **Wildlife Management Practices:** 4-H'ers will be given photos of wildlife management practices and asked to identify them.
- **Habitat Judging:** Participants will be provided pictures of 4 habitats. Participants will be asked to judge the 4 habitats based on requirements for a given species. Seniors will also be asked to provide written reasons for their decision.
- **Current Topic in Wildlife Management:**
 - **For County Contest:** Create a poster (on site; you may not bring a completed poster with you; you may bring a 3x5 index card with information to the contest) Poster should be educating the general public about **Coyotes in Delaware (2017)**. Information will not be provided at this event. Poster materials will be available. Poster will be returned for your use as a state fair exhibit. **2018 Current Event Topic: Urban Coyote Awareness**
 - **For State Contest:** Participants will be required to answer questions about the current topic.



Materials needed for training

Information on species and habitat requirements

Use the Delaware Revised version of the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Handbook, found online at: <https://cdn.extension.udel.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/12071915/WHEP-Manual-2009.pdf> or in hard copies, while supplies last, from your 4-H Educator. This manual contains the animals currently being studied and the regions which cover Delaware: Southeast Mixed and Outer Coastal Plain Forest, Wetlands, and Urban.

Information on Management Practices please visit:

http://www.whep.org/uploads/Whep_Manual-4.pdf

Information on Habitat Selection from Aerial Maps visit:

http://whep.org/uploads/Whep_Manual-5.pdf

Information on Definition of Food Groups visit:

<http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/WHEP/2016WHEP-manual-pgs249-252-Appendices.pdf>

2017 Current Event Topic: **Coyotes in Delaware**

<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/Hunting/Pages/Coyotes.aspx>

2018 Current Event Topic: **Urban Coyote Awareness**

<http://www.urbancoyoteproject.com/blog/2016/3/19/10-ways-to-help-your-neighbors-be-coyote-aware>

Species List

Southeast Mixed and Outer Coastal Plain	Wetlands	Urban
American kestrel	Beaver	American Robin
Black Bear	Bluegill	Big Brown Bat
Bluegill	Bullfrog	Bluebirds
Brown thrasher	Canada goose (breeding habitat)	Butterflies
Coyote	Largemouth bass	Common/Lesser Nighthawk
Eastern bluebird	Mallard (breeding habitat)	Cottontails
Eastern cottontail	Mink	European Starling
Eastern gray squirrel	Muskrat	Frogs
Great horned owl	Raccoon	Gray Squirrel
Hairy woodpecker	Redhead Duck	House Finch
Largemouth bass	Red-winged blackbird	House Sparrow
Lark Bunting	Wood duck	House Wren
Mallard (winter habitat)		Hummingbird
Mourning dove		Northern Flicker
Northern bobwhite		Raccoon
Raccoon		Rock Dove
Red- eyed vireo		Song Sparrow
White-tailed deer		
Wild turkey		
Wood duck		



Wildlife Foods

Aquatic Plants	Fish	Mammals
Bark	Forbes	Mussels
Birds	Frogs & Salamanders	Nectar
Buds	Fungi	Scorpions
Carrion	Grain	Seeds
Centipedes & Millipedes	Grass	Snails
Crayfish	Hard Mast	Snakes
Earthworms	Insects	Spiders
Eggs	Leaves & Twigs	Soft Mast
Ferns	Lichens	Tubers
	Lizards	Turtles

Wildlife Management Practices

Control Non-Native Invasive Vegetation	Ponds: Reduce Turbidity / Reseed Watershed
Decrease Harvest	Ponds: Repair Spillway/Levee
Delay Crop Harvest	Ponds: Restock
Establish Field Buffers	Create Snags
Establish Native Grasses and Forbs	Streams: Dams, Boulders or Logs
Fish or Wildlife Survey	Streams: Remove Fish Barriers
Forest Management Techniques	Tillage Management
Increase Harvest	Water Control Structures
Leave Grain Unharvested	Water Developments for Wildlife
Manage disturbance	Wildlife Damage Management
Nesting Structures	
Plant / Manage Food Plots	Urban Wildlife Management Practices
Plant Trees	Artificial Feeders
Plant Shrubs	Mowing
Ponds: Construction	Plant Flowers
Ponds: Deepen Edges	Rooftop / Balcony
Ponds: Fertilize / Lime	

The Contest:

Beginner: * 2017

Beginner: < 2018

<p>Species (10)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *American Kestrel *Black Bear *Coyote *Eastern Cottontail *Largemouth Bass *Wood Duck *American Robin *European Starling *White-tailed Deer *Beaver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Bluegill *Bullfrog *Muskrat *Eastern Gray Squirrel *Song Sparrow <Great Horned Owl <Hairy Woodpecker <Northern Bobwhite <Raccoon <Mink <Wild Turkey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <Bluegill <Coyote <Big Brown Bat <Muskrat <Common/Lesser Nighthawk <Eastern Gray Squirrel <White Tailed Deer <Wood Duck <American Kestrel
<p>Foods (10)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Aquatic Plants *Bark *Birds *Carrion *Crayfish *Earthworms *Ferns *Forbes *Frogs & Salamanders *Grains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Hard Mast *Mammals *Seeds *Soft Mast *Tubers <Bark <Buds <Centipedes & Millipedes <Eggs <Fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <Fungi <Grass <Insects <Leaves & Twigs <Lizards <Lichens <Mussels <Scorpions <Snails <Seeds
<p>Management Practices (5)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Delay Crop Harvest *Establish Field Buffers *Nesting Structures *Create Snags *Plant Shrubs *Water Control Structures *Plant/Manage Food Plots *Ponds: Restock 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <Repair Spillway/Levee <Tillage Management <Artificial Feeders <Fish or Wildlife Survey <Plant Flowers <Rooftop/Balcony <Establish Native Grasses/Forbs <Ponds: Construction
<p>Habitat Judging</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *American Beaver <Muskrat 		

Senior Contest 2017

Species (10)	Any from the species list
Foods (10)	Any from the Wildlife Foods list
Management Practices (10)	Any from the Wildlife Management Practices list
Habitat Judging with Reasons (1)	1 from the following list: American Beaver, Wood Duck, Northern Bobwhite
Current Issue	Create a poster about Coyotes in Delaware (2017) Create a poster about Urban Coyote Awareness (2018)

Please note: The state contest (at the Delaware State Fair) will not require another poster to be made, but will contain a section of questions surrounding the current issue topic listed above.