

## 2020 SC 4-H Wildlife Food Plot Project Guidelines



**Who:** Youth ages 5-18

**What:** A hands-on environmental education program and an independent-study project that allows youth an opportunity to establish, maintain, and observe a wildlife food plot

**When:** Deadline to register is Friday, August 7

Deadline to plant is Friday, November 6

Deadline to submit completed record books is Friday, January 22

**Why:** Youth learn concepts of wildlife conservation, plant identification, and habitat management and have the opportunity to put that knowledge into practice.

**How:** Call your [local Extension Agent](#) for more information or to register to participate

### **Registration:**

- For a registration fee of \$18 for current 4-H members or \$18 + 4-H Annual Membership Fee for non-members, youth will receive a project record book, enough seed to establish an approximately  $\frac{1}{8}$  acre (5,445 square feet) food plot, a year's membership to QDMA's Rack Pack youth program, and newsletters/informational resources to help throughout the project. Participants will be contacted by the local Extension Agent on a date following the August 7 registration deadline to schedule a time to pick up supplies.

### **Rules:**

- Youth will be required to prepare, establish, maintain, and observe a food plot that meets specified requirements (see plot requirements below). If the youth does not have space that meets food plot requirements, every effort will be made by the Extension Agent to provide a space.
- Youth must plant the seed they are given, provided by Wannamaker Wildlife.  
**No additional seed may be added.**
- Plots must be planted no later than Friday, November 6.
- Youth will be required to complete and submit a project record book no later than Friday, January 22.
- State winners (Junior and Senior) from the previous year are not eligible to win for this project year in the same age division, but they are encouraged to participate.

***Plot Requirements:***

- The plot must be approximately  $\frac{1}{8}$  acre in size. Thus, the plots should cover around 5,445 sq. ft.
- Seed is not to be split between multiple plots.
- Plots should be situated close to natural cover such as woods, fencerows, or brush piles, with consideration to adequate sunlight.
- Plots should not be located very close to houses or other human activities. However, if there is no alternative, this is permissible.
- Further suggestions for plot location and planting will be included in the first 4-H Wildlife Food Plot Project Newsletter.

***Record Book:***

- Record books are to be done by the youth, completed throughout the course of the project, and submitted online to Zingbooks no later than Friday, January 22. There are separate, age-appropriate record books for Cloverbuds (ages 5-8)\* and Juniors (ages 9-13) and Seniors (ages 14-18).

\*Cloverbuds are a non-competitive division. The purpose is to provide a fun and educational experience that helps children to learn life skills, explore their interests, learn subject matter skills, build self-confidence through healthy experiences, prepare for competitive events, and have fun!

***Judging and Awards:***

- Youth will be divided into three (3) age-appropriate categories prior to judging: Cloverbuds 5-8, Juniors 9-13, and Seniors 14-18. Cloverbuds will be given participation ribbons upon completion of the project. Junior and Senior record books and food plots will be judged on the county level. Only projects scoring 128/170 (75%) or higher are eligible to move on to Regional and State level judging. Winning Junior and Senior record books will be sent to the regional level for competition. The winners in both age categories on the regional level will receive awards and be sent to the state level for competition. The top Junior and top Senior record book will receive state awards. Awards given on the regional and state levels will be sponsored by QDMA's State Advisory Council of South Carolina.
- Youth should expect at least one site visit from a judge. Local Extension Agents will coordinate the site visit date, which should fall after the close of deer season. Youth are encouraged to be present for this site visit.
- The actual food plot and record book will both be taken into consideration upon judging on the county level, which will be done by qualified Extension Agents and/or wildlife experts. Although the score sheet from the county level will be included, only the record book will be judged at regional and state levels. Only projects scoring 128/170 (75%) or higher are eligible to move on to Regional and State level judging.

***Timeline:***

- Friday, August 7 Deadline to register for the contest
- Friday, November 6 Deadline to plant food plot
- January 3-22 Site visit from judge, date determined by local Extension Agent
- Friday, January 22 Record books due online to Zingbooks
- County winners will be announced mid-February
- Regional and state winners will be announced in March

***Resources:***

[www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/project\\_areas/natural\\_resources/wildlife\\_food\\_plot/index.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/4h/project_areas/natural_resources/wildlife_food_plot/index.html)