



# YOUR 4-H DEMONSTRATIONS



## WHAT IS A DEMONSTRATION?

A demonstration is the way you show others how to do something by doing it yourself. At the same time you explain how and why. You have probably done this quite often. Did you ever show and tell someone how to hold a bat, how to sew on a button or how to play a game? Then you have already given a demonstration.

For a 4-H demonstration you simply show and tell other 4-H members how to do something. You may show them how to do something entirely new, or you may show them how to do an old job better.

## WHY GIVE DEMONSTRATIONS?

Haven't you found that you can learn how to do something better if somebody tells and shows you how? Most people remember what they see much better than what they hear. That is why demonstrations are important.

But when you prepare and give a demonstration, you yourself learn. You gain more information and greater skill in your subject. You get practice in organizing your material. You grow in poise and self-confidence from the experience of working and talking before others.

## HOW LONG IS A DEMONSTRATION?

Your first demonstrations should be simple. They may take two or three minutes. They feature one idea. You show and tell how to do something. You may or may not give much why.

As you become experienced your demonstration is better planned, organized and

presented. It may be 5 to 15 minutes. It has one idea, but you go into more details of how and why.

## WHERE DO YOU GIVE DEMONSTRATIONS?

As a 4-H Club member, you should give at least one demonstration during the year at a community 4-H Club meeting or before your 4-H project group. This may be either an individual or team demonstration. In addition you could give demonstrations at special groups such as: school, Home Demonstration Clubs, civic clubs, neighbors, community development organizations, county 4-H Council, and at other county, district and state events.

You first help your 4-H leader show other club members how to do something, such as measure flour, cut material, transplant a seedling, or hold a calf. Then start thinking about a special demonstration.

## GETTING READY FOR YOUR DEMONSTRATION

### 1. Choose Your Subject

a. Select one idea for your demonstration:

\*You should think through several possible ideas for your demonstration. (Refer to 17 Ways to Get Ideas for Demonstration on last page.)

\*You should know something about the subject. You should have enough information and understanding of your subject to explain it correctly and answer questions. And you should be able to do the action easily and skillfully. You could choose something you have learned in a 4-H project or activity.

\* You should enjoy doing this particular skill.

\* You should select an idea that will be of real help to the people who see your demonstration.

\* The one idea should have action. The more action, the more interesting your demonstration will be to others.

\* You should be able to present the one idea well in a short time. Don't undertake too much. If you do, you will omit points. Select one idea -- something you can present completely in a few minutes. For example, if you want to give a demonstration on how to make a dress in 5 to 15 minutes, you couldn't show how to make the entire dress, but you could show how to hem a dress.

b. Give the one idea a title. This should be a catchy action title.

c. Decide whether you should give the demonstration alone or with someone else. When the presentation is given alone it is an individual demonstration; and with one or more others it is a team demonstration. If it is to be by a team, does each person have about the same amount to do and say? If not, the subject or idea is not suitable for a team demonstration.

## 2. Gather Information

Find out as much as you can about your subject. Be sure your information is correct, complete and up to date. Your 4-H project leader and your community 4-H Club leader will help you find information in addition to that in your 4-H record books, manuals and other bulletins. Your parents, your own experience will give you ideas.

## 3. List Needed Equipment, Charts or Posters

## 4. Organize Your Demonstration

To give a good demonstration you must plan ahead what you are going to do and say. A demonstration has an introduction, the body (the demonstration) and a summary.

Introduction. Tell who you are if you have not already been introduced. Tell what club or county you represent. Give the title of your demonstration. Explain why the subject is worthwhile and how it fits into the needs of the families of the community.

Body (the Demonstration). Carefully

plan the different steps you will have to show, and what is the most convenient and effective order of doing these steps.

Write down the different steps in the right order. List the equipment you will need for each. Plan what you are going to say but do not memorize your talk.

You show how to do the job; you explain how you are doing it and why. As you demonstrate, make words fit action. You may want to fill in with interesting facts you have experienced or observed. Keep the audience's attention and interest. If you stop talking, except for brief pauses, you may lose them.

Include in your demonstration sources of information. Have a copy of each. Before you finish this part of the demonstration show the information to the audience and tell them how and where to get copies.

Summary. Clear the table and display the final product.

Give a brief summary of the main points the audience should remember. (A chart listing these points would help the audience understand what you have done and said.)

Make an interesting, logical ending. Don't just stop talking. Be a salesman. Don't be afraid to ask the audience to try or use what you have demonstrated.

Thank the audience and ask for questions. Be sure to repeat each question before answering it. If you don't know the answer, say so rather than give the wrong information.

## 5. Collect Your Equipment

Make a list of everything you will need. Check off the items as you get them.

Choose equipment that is practical and is adaptable to the job being done. For example, a bowl used for cake making must be large enough that you can mix the batter easily. Know how to use the equipment. Add a mirror to your list of supplies. If appropriate, this mirror held tilted over your work will help you explain your work and show your finished product. Have trays for carrying supplies and small equipment and for helping to keep supplies organized.

Posters and charts should be neat and attractive. Don't try to tell or show too much on them. Lettering should be large enough to be read easily by everyone in the room. If possible, you should have a part

in preparation of illustrative material.

### PRACTICE YOUR DEMONSTRATION

Practice is important. This is when you can work out the easiest way to arrange materials and equipment. You also will find out if you really:

- \* Do things in order
- \* Explain every action
- \* Know your subject
- \* Have all the equipment needed
- \* Keep equipment in plain sight
- \* Give reliable information.

### GIVING YOUR DEMONSTRATION

Your appearance. Be neat and clean and dress appropriately. Do not wear conspicuous jewelry, fancy clothes or anything that will take away from the demonstration. Remember to keep good posture.

Your manner and speech. Smile. Be natural. Look at and talk to your audience. Speak slowly and clearly enough that all can hear you and use good English. Change speed and tone of voice for interest.

Your actions. Arrange your equipment and supplies conveniently before you start. Have everything you will need. Everything except what you are using should be in the background. Keep tall things in the back. Remove used equipment. Keep table clean and clear.

Always make sure your audience can see what you are doing. Never get between the audience and the equipment you are working with. Do not reach in front of your teammate. Put posters and charts where they can be seen easily. Know what is on poster - do not read to it. Arrange posters in order of use and keep under cover until needed.

Use your equipment properly. Show that you enjoy what you are doing. If you make every step look easy, your audience will want to try it too.

### AFTER YOUR DEMONSTRATION

Find out what your weak points are, and try to improve them for your next demonstration. This is how you can continue to make your best better. Ask your 4-H leader for a copy of the "North Carolina

4-H Demonstration Score Card" and check your rating.

### IDEAS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS

(You can think of others)

Grub Control  
Constructing a Bunker Silo  
Treating for Bloat  
Building a Back Scratcher

Care and Use of Steam Iron  
How to Press Wool  
How to Alter a Pattern  
Removing Stains From Fabrics  
Equipping a Sewing Box

Good Habits in Woods  
Transplanting Pine Seedlings  
Propagating Forest Trees

Keeping a Dairy Record Book  
Choosing Your Calf  
Electric Dohrning  
Testing Milk for Butterfat

How to Build an Appliance Tester  
How to Make a Hot Plate  
Today's Adequately Wired Home  
Illuminated Street Numbers  
How to Make a Portable Yard Light  
Automatic Flood Lighting

Correct Posture  
Dental Health  
How To Make a First Aid Kit

Collecting & Mounting Butterflies  
How to Make a Killing Bottle  
Making an Insect Net  
Controlling Moths

Treating Corn Seed  
Testing Seeds  
Calibrating a Grain Drill  
Controlling Stored Grain Insects  
Reducing Root Rot

Assembling a Quick Lemon Cheese Cake  
Bar-B-Que for Patio  
Baking While Traveling  
The Art of Salad Making  
4-H Chuck Wagon  
Tricks and Treats With Milk Fancies

Planting a Seed Bed Flat  
How to Take a Soil Sample  
Making a Garden Plan  
Grafting Fruit Trees

Debeaking  
Making a Range Shelter  
Mixing Poultry Feed  
Controlling Poultry Lice  
Grading and Candling Eggs

Mixing a Gilt Ration  
Ear-Notching Pigs  
Making a Movable Loading Chute

#### 17 WAYS TO GET IDEAS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS

1. List new skills that you have learned from project.
2. List things you do at home and would like to show others.
3. List the things you learned on a tour.
4. Think of a long demonstration, such as "How to Make a Lamp" or "How to Make a Dress." List the short demonstrations included in this long one.
5. List the important things going on in

your community.

6. List the community projects you or your club have carried out.
7. List the things you want to learn this year.
8. List the things that you feel you do very well and would like to teach others.
9. List the things that younger members should learn this year.
10. List the things research has found out about your project this year.
11. List the ways you help other members in your club learn.
12. List new ways of doing a job you see on television.
13. Ask professional people such as the school nurse, fireman, conservation officer, for ideas.
14. List how-to-do items from newspapers and magazines.
15. Read a magazine related to your project; list ideas you gather.
16. As you listen to the radio report, list ideas that could be demonstrated.
17. Gather all possible information about your project. List ideas for demonstrations from this material.



Prepared by 4-H Specialist

Published by  
THE NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

North Carolina State University at Raleigh and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperating. State College Station, Raleigh, N. C., George Hyatt, Jr., Director. Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.