

4-H Wildlife Food Plot Project Record Book

Name (as enrolled in 4-H Online): _____

County of enrollment: _____

District (*circle one*): Delta Ouachita Ozark

Level as of 2018 project year (*circle one*): Junior Senior

[Make this report your own!
Add project photo or creative illustration here.]

By signing below, you state that you have completed this record book yourself and to the best of your knowledge, this information is correct.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

By signing below, you state that you are familiar with this work and to the best of your knowledge, the youth participant completed this book and the information is correct.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

4-H Agent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Instructions for County Extension Office: Email this document with signatures in a PDF format to the project coordinator, Rebecca McPeake, rmcpeake@uaex.edu. All signatures are required on cover page and County Agent Assessment must be included. Deadline for coordinator to receive project book and video is March 5. March 1 is listed as the deadline for participants to turn in materials to the county office on the website and in 4-H announcements. County offices may set the county deadline earlier in order to meet state deadline.

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4-H Wildlife Food Plot Project

Activity Checklist (4 points)

Place a check mark in each blank when each activity is completed.

- _____ Review project record book and write information as collected.
- _____ Select 1/8 acre area between 4628 sq ft and 6262 sq ft. (Plots outside this range are disqualified!)
- _____ Take soil sample.
- _____ Prepare plot. For example, add fertilizer and lime according to soil test report.
- _____ Pick up seeds from County Extension Office.
- _____ Prepare plot for planting seeds, such as disking.
- _____ Plant seeds.
- _____ Place enclosure cage in plot. An example of enclosure cage is two t-posts set three feet apart wrapped with ten feet of 2x4 inch welded wire of five-foot height.
- _____ Monitor rainfall with rain gauge, website data, or other means.
- _____ Observe your plot for wildlife.
- _____ Schedule a site visit with a County Agent or their authorized representative in the county where the food plot is located. Bring your project book with the County Agent Assessment Score Sheet for the county agent to complete. Youth must be present!
- _____ Take pictures:
 - Before planting, during planting, after planting
 - Any wildlife that may have visited or signs they left
 - Youth working on the plot
 - Youth educating others about the plot
- _____ Prepare a brief video at your food plot telling your project story (3 minutes maximum).
- _____ Turn in project record book at county office before March 1.
 - Include signed County Agent Assessment Score Sheet.
 - Include Soil Test Report.
- _____ Upload your video before March 1 to DropBox at this link: <https://uaex.edu/4hfoodplotvideos>
(If you encounter problems, take a flash drive or CD with your video to the local county Extension office for assistance.)

PREPARING YOUR PLOT

Site selection

1-1. What estimated size is your plot? (2 pts) _____ x _____

1-2. How many square feet? (2 pts) (Area = Length x Width) _____

(NOTE: The project plot should be approximately 1/8 acre in size and about 5,445 sq. ft. Plots less than 4,628 sq. ft. or more than 6,262 sq. ft. are not eligible for competition.)

1-3. Where did you decide to put your food plot? (e.g., at a neighbor's property, on a farm, on a power line right-of-way, in the backyard, etc.) (2 pts)

1-4. Why did you choose this particular site? (5 pts)

1-5. Sketch a map of your food plot, or paste a computer-generated map (e.g., Google Earth). Show the shape of the food plot and its surroundings. Include a rough measurement of the dimensions of the plot. (5 pts)

1-6. What type of habitat is around your food plot? (*Check all that apply.*) (2 pts)

- Field
- Woods
- Tree line
- Abandoned home site
- Fence row
- Stream or creek
- Other (please describe):

Soil testing

1-7. On what date did you take a soil sample? (1 pt)

1-8. What did your soil test recommend? (2 pts)

1-9. Who did you consult with about your soil test report? Write their name and affiliation, e.g., County Extension Agent. (5 pts if a county agent; all others 1 to 4 pts.)

1-10. What type of soil amendments (fertilizer, lime) did you use in your plot, if recommended? (2 pts)

1-11. Why did you follow, or not follow, the recommendations from the Soil Test Report? (*If soil recommendations were not followed, be sure to provide justification.*) (10 pts)

1-12. Briefly discuss why you agree or disagree with the following: "good soil = good wildlife." (5 pts)

1-13. Attach your official Soil Test Report on the next page. (5 pts)

[INSERT SOIL TEST REPORT HERE]

PLANTING YOUR PLOT

2-1. On what date did you plant your plot? (2 pts)

2-2. What did you do to prepare your plot? (e.g., disking, herbicides) (5 pts)

2-3. Describe the method used to spread seed. (e.g., broadcast by hand, used a seed spreader) (5 pts)

2-4. After planting the seed, did you lightly disk, use a roller, or other method to improve soil contact with the seed? If yes, explain. (2 pts)

2-5. Explain how weather conditions after you planted your seed helped or harmed germination. (5 pts)

MAINTAINING YOUR PLOT

3-1. During the course of this project, how much estimated total rain/precipitation did your plot get each month? (6 pts)

Month	Rainfall (inches)	Month	Rainfall (inches)
August		November	
September		December	
October		January	

3-2. How did you come up with this estimate? (rain gauge, weather data from which website?) (2 pts)

3-3. Describe any pest, weed, or disease problems in your plot. (2 pts)

3-4. How did you manage or prevent problems with pests, weeds, and diseases? (2 pts)

OBSERVING YOUR PLOT

4-1. Which of the plants identified on your seed label grew inside your plot? (5 pts)

4-2. Place a photo or sketch of two plants found inside your food plot in the space below. Write the name of the plant next to the photo or sketch. If you don't know its name, look in a field guide or online at a plant database. You can also ask your local County Extension Agent for assistance. (6 pts)

4-3. Write the definition of a native plant and your source for the definition. (2 pts)

4-4. Using the definition of native, tell whether each plant you identified in Question 4-2 is native or non-native. (4 pts)

4-5. Look for evidence of wildlife using your plot (e.g., tracks, scat, feathers, scrapes, game camera images). Place photos or sketches of two different items of evidence you found in the space below. Write what animal you think it is next to the photo or sketch. (6 pts)

4-6. Based on your observations, how were animals using your plot? (feeding, passing through, bedding, etc.?) (2 pts)

4-7. Describe the enclosure cage you placed inside your plot. (e.g., size, type of wire) (2 pts)

4-8. Describe how plants inside the cage were different, or the same, as those found outside the cage. (2 pts)

PROJECT STORY (PICTURES)

In this section, provide pictures taken during your project showing what you did and how your food plot turned out. For example, show a picture of you taking a soil sample, planting seeds, a deer track, a time-series from day one of the food plot and at intervals of two or three weeks; or take a picture of the enclosure cage compared to what's outside the cage.

Provide 10 photos with captions. Earn 1 point for each picture that shows a different project activity. Get another point for providing a caption to the picture.

Number of pictures showing different activities associated with the project (1 pt each)	Number of captions provided for pictures (1 pt each)	Total number of points (20 maximum pts)
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6-1. _____ + _____ = _____

Insert pictures starting here. Add pages as needed.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

7-1. What effort did you make to promote your 4-H Wildlife Food Plot Project? **(35 pts)**

Points will be awarded based on the number of presentations and the audience. For example, presenting to the local Lions Club or Quorum Court will receive more points than presenting to your local 4-H Club. Those presenting to all three will receive the highest number of points.

Examples:

- Gave a presentation at your 4-H club, science class, a local meeting, or Quorum Court.
- Use tracks and feathers as a show and tell project at school.
- Made an exhibit or display which was shown at a local meeting or event.
- Invited guests from school, 4-H club, or hunting club to visit plot and discussed your project.
- Posted pictures of your project on social media.
- Shared project video at 4-H club, school, etc.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Description of Outreach</i>	<i>Number in audience, or number of viewers</i>

7-2. Did you write a thank you letter to either Eagle Seed Company or Quality Deer Management Association? Addresses are listed below. (5 pts)

- Brad Doyle; Eagle Seed Company; P.O. Box 308; Weiner, AR 72479
- Hank Forester; Quality Deer Management Association; P.O. Box 160; Bogart, GA 30622

[Place a copy of the letter or note here.]

PROJECT EVALUATION

8-1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how successful was your food plot? (*Circle one number below.*) (2 pt)

Not Successful 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Very Successful

8-2. Did you read any articles in magazines from the Quality Deer Management Association, also called Rack Pack? (2 pts)

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Didn't receive magazines

8-3. What is something you learned from this project? (2 pts)

8-4. What improvements, if any, would you suggest for making this project better for everyone? (2 pts)

8-5. JUDGES ONLY: Rate the neatness, orderliness, and completeness of the project book. (10 pts) _____

VIDEO

SCORE SHEET

[To Be Completed by Judges Only]

Part 1: Subject matter (45 pts) <i>Scale for scoring: 0 = very poor, no points; 15 = outstanding, maximum points</i>	Points awarded
9-1. Knowledge of food plot concepts and terms	
9-2. Experience in preparing, planting, maintaining and observing food plot	
9-3. Description of what was learned	
Part 2: Presentation (15 pts) <i>Scale for scoring: 0 = very poor, no points; 15 = outstanding, maximum points</i>	
9-4. Poise, voice, and body language	
Part 3: Video submission & following directions	
9-5. Correct video file name was applied (add 10 pts) (District_County_FirstLastName)	
9-6. Video longer than 3 minutes (deduct 10 pts and not judge beyond 3 minutes)	
9-7. Did not submit a video (deduct an additional 30 pts)	
Total points	

Preparing Your Video

Make a brief (3 minutes maximum) video about your 4-H Wildlife Food Plot Project. Using your own words, tell what you did for this project, and don't get off track! Use any device like a cell phone or video camera to record your video. The video doesn't need to be fancy or formal. Just stand in front of your food plot and talk as if you were telling a friend about your project. (Special video graphics, manipulations, or enhancements will not be considered in judging and therefore are unnecessary.)

- Set up your video at your food plot site.
- Start by telling your name and county.
- Provide a view of your food plot.
- Describe your food plot and if you think it was successful or not.
- Tell about your experiences in preparing, planting, maintaining, and observing your food plot.
- What wildlife visited your plot?
- What did you learn?
- Make sure your video is under 3 minutes. The judges will not evaluate video recorded after 3 minutes.

Submitting Your Video

- Either you or your county office can upload the video.
- Title the video file name as follows: "District_County_FirstLastName," e.g. Ouachita_Saline_BeckyMcPeake. This will help judges with organizing the videos.
- Go to this DropBox link to upload your video: <https://uaex.edu/4hfoodplotvideos>. Depending on the file size and internet speed, be prepared to let the system work for a while on uploading.
- If you need help, bring your video to the county office on a flash drive or CD, and ask for assistance. **County Office Instructions:** If you continue to encounter difficulties, please email Rebecca McPeake (RMcPeake@uaex.edu) by March 1 about the issue, and then mail a flash drive or CD to her at the state office.

County Agent Assessment Score Sheet

[TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY AGENT]

Directions: Evaluate the food plot using this scorecard, and sign the last page where indicated. You can either provide this scorecard to the youth, or add it to their project book before submitting to the project coordinator. If you are located in a different county than the youth's home county, send this scorecard to the youth's home county. This document is a mandatory part of the project book as testimony that the food plot exists and rules were followed.

Plot Parameters

What you will need: Bring a tool, or use a computer map, to measure the dimensions of the plot. A measuring wheel or a 100 foot tape measure will work well, but if you know your "pace," that is a much easier way to measure in the field. Alternatively, use an app or computer program to estimate area of the plot.

10-1. Shape of Plot (*please check the most applicable*): (2 pts)

- rectangular or square circular
 linear irregular shape, please sketch outline:
 triangular

10-2. Estimated Size of Plot (in feet): (4 pts)

- Length: _____
Width: _____
Area (length x width): _____

10-3. Is the plot between 4,628 sq. ft. and 6,262 sq. ft.? (4 pts)

- Yes No (disqualified from competition)

Distance to Cover

Cover is considered any place an animal can use for living space or provides the ability for an animal to hide. For the purposes of this project, cover can be defined as "non-open areas" lacking livestock including woods and thickets such that a person may have difficulty walking through. Components of cover include all forms of vegetation, forest, and any physical entities such as brush piles, fallen logs, snags.

10-4. Distance from center of food plot to the nearest cover:

- Greater than 500 feet (0 pts)
 250 feet to 500 feet (2 pt)
 Less than 250 feet (4 pts)

10-5. Percent of food plot within 250 feet of dense woody cover, escape cover or ungrazed woodland:

- 25% or less (0 pts)
 26 – 50% (2 pt)
 51 – 75% (4 pts)
 Greater than 75% (6 pts)

Plant Health and Vigor

10-6. From your knowledge of local conditions, describe what factors influenced the health and vigor of plants that could not be controlled (e.g., drought, abundant rainfall yielding optimal growing conditions, feral hog damage).

10-7. From your knowledge of local conditions, describe what factors influenced the health and vigor of plants that could have been prevented by using proper practices. (e.g., not following Soil Test Report, locating food plot where there is excessive shade from trees.)

10-8. Considering factors from Questions 10-5 and 10-6 above, rate the health and vigor of the food plot. For example, if drought conditions adversely affected germination but practices were followed, a score of 25 is possible in this assessment.

RATING: _____

0 = plants displayed extremely poor health and vigor because of food plot practices, not local conditions.

12 = plants displayed moderate health and vigor given local conditions and food plot practices.

25 = plants displayed exceptional health and vigor given local conditions.

Discussion of Food Plot with 4-H Participant

Informally discuss the food plot with the participant. Feel free to offer recommendations upon request or as the opportunity presents itself.

10-9. How knowledgeable was the 4-Her about the food plot and the work involved? (*Check one.*)

_____ Exceptionally knowledgeable (10 pts)

_____ Very knowledgeable (8 pts)

_____ Moderately knowledgeable (6 pts)

_____ Somewhat knowledgeable (4 pts)

_____ A little knowledgeable (2 pts)

_____ Not at all knowledgeable (0 pt)

Other Miscellaneous Features (tie-breaker bonus questions)

10-10. If the participant goes above and beyond to ensure the success of their food plot, we want to give credit. Report features or additional practices they conducted.

- _____ More than one enclosure cage: how many? _____
- _____ Trail (game) camera: how many? _____
- _____ Agronomic practices in addition those recommended: please describe below.
- _____ Installed nest boxes near food plot
- _____ Constructed brush piles near food plot
- _____ Other habitat improvements near food plot: please describe

COMMENTS:

Documentation

*I visited a wildlife food plot prepared by 4-H member (print name) _____
who was present during the site visit. The food plot was located in _____
County. This assessment accurately reflects the work of the 4-H member.*

County Agent* Name (Printed): _____

County Agent* Signature: _____

Date of site visit: _____

*Or someone unrelated to the 4-H participant on behalf of the county agent as designated by the county office.