

2026-2027

Charlotte County 4-H Citrus Project Rules & Guidelines

Eligibility

This project is open to all youth aged 5–18 who are enrolled in Charlotte County 4-H through 4honline.com as of October 1, 2026. Age for the project this year is determined as of June 1, 2026.

Register your project on www.showman.app entry fee is \$25.00

Sign-Up Priority

Youth without a market animal project and new 4-H members will be given first consideration. After that, trees will be assigned based on sign-up order and availability.

Participation Requirement for Market Sale

To participate in the market citrus sale at the Charlotte County Fair, youth must be members in good standing in the Charlotte County 4-H Citrus Club and must have a tree issued by Charlotte County 4-H.

Project Requirements

1. Limit one tree per individual.
 2. Only the tree issued in June 2026, by the 4-H Citrus Club may be shown.
 3. Trees must remain in pots and cannot be planted in the ground or grown hydroponically.
 4. Pots must be provided by the exhibitor. Optional decorations must not extend above the pot's rim. Nothing may be placed under the container to make the tree taller.
 5. Charlotte County 4-H and/or the Charlotte County Fair has the right to reject entries of inferior quality or diseased plants, as well as those missing identification tags. If an identification tag is issued in June, the original tag must be present on the tree at the time of the fair.
 6. All members must participate in at least 70% of citrus meetings, events, and workshops to be eligible to participate in next year's citrus project.
 7. **Required** project materials include: (1) completed record book (handwritten), (1) educational backboard or presentation, and (2) sets of buyer's letters (3 unsealed, stamped, addressed letters per set).
 8. Interview Judging is required at the fair.
 9. Late entries of any projects or failure to make-up any activities will result in disqualification
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Project Timeline & Deliverables

- All citrus exhibits including the required record book and the backboard must be delivered to the Charlotte County 4-H Office between January 19–23, 2027. Late entries of any projects or failure to

make-up any activities will result in disqualification.

- All citrus trees must be checked in and dropped-off at the Charlotte County Fair on January 28, 2027, from 5:30–7:30 PM. Once the tree is checked in with the 4-H Leader, you must check in with the fair office in the small animal barn.
- All trees will be inspected by the Florida Department of Agriculture when dropped off at the fair. Any tree that possesses greening or any other disease determined risky by the inspectors will be disqualified and must be removed immediately. All decisions made by FDACS are final and may not be challenged.
- Members **must** attend the market sale in official 4-H dress on Friday, February 6, and check in with their club leader. All exhibitors are required to recruit their own buyers.
- Post-fair cleanup on February 8th is mandatory and youth must submit a completed thank-you letter to their buyer at that time.

Judging & Awards

- Classes will be based on tree variety. At least four trees per variety are needed for a class to stand alone.
- Cloverbuds may exhibit but only receive participation ribbons.
- Class winners will be considered for Grand Champion. The second-place winner of the Grand Champion's class will be eligible for Reserve Grand Champion.

Expectations & Conduct

Members may not sign in and leave meetings. Doing so results in immediate disqualification.

- All citrus trees must be cared for by the exhibitor both at home and during the fair.
- Disqualification may occur at any time due to inappropriate behavior.
- Extenuating circumstances (illness, school, etc.) may be reviewed for exemptions at the discretion of Charlotte County 4-H.
- Failure to complete the project may disqualify the youth from receiving a tree next year. Any member who receives a tree but does not complete all requirements will not be eligible to raise a tree in the coming year as they will not be considered a member in good standing. *****Even if your tree does not make it to the fair, you still need to complete the record book and educational backboard/presentation as well as interview judging.***

Buyer Instructions

- Youth selling their tree must provide written care instructions and a personalized thank-you letter to the buyer.
- Letters must be submitted in an unsealed, stamped, and addressed envelope during post-fair cleanup.

Please remember that the purpose of the Charlotte County 4-H Citrus program is to conduct activities which are educational and promote good citizenship.

Please sign below if you have read and fully understand the stated rules and requirements of the Charlotte County 4-H Citrus Project. I have also read and fully understand the Charlotte County 4-H Citrus Rules and Regulations. All members are required to follow these rules as stated. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from exhibition or participation in Charlotte County 4-H and/or the Charlotte County 4-H Citrus Program.

Exhibitor: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: