

CULTURAL ARTS AND HERITAGE

Program of Work • Effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028

Situation:

Kentucky is enriched with hundreds of talented Extension Homemakers who create handmade works of art for all to enjoy. Whether their items are crafted at home, or during classes hosted by Cooperative Extension and beyond, Extension Homemakers may choose to enter their creations in contests to be judged.

The Extension Homemaker Cultural Arts Contest provides the opportunity for these artists to be recognized among their peers. For consistent and fair judging, emphasis is on proper category and sub-category placement of the entry. If a creation is entered in the incorrect category or does not meet the contest guidelines this can result in disqualification and disappointment.

To encourage participation in and satisfaction with the Extension Cultural Arts Exhibits, focus will be placed on the Contest category and sub-category definitions and requirements. This awareness should encourage Extension Homemakers to try new crafts and learn new skills and feel confident when entering their items in an Extension Cultural Arts Exhibit.

Over the course of three years, the emphasis will be on:

- Baskets
- Fibers
- Felting

Year ONE Focus (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026): BASKETS

Goal: Increase knowledge related to the BASKETRY category of our Cultural Arts Exhibit and provide guidance so that entries in the Exhibit are placed in the correct sub-category

Objectives:

- Clearly define the Cultural Arts and Heritage Exhibit BASKET sub-categories
- Identify different basket materials appropriate for weaving (for example, cane and reed)
- Interpret judging criteria and expectations for the BASKET Category

Activities:

- Attend basket workshops, weave a basket – or two – or three!
- Enter your basket(s) in the Cultural Arts contest
- Support local basket artists and basket guilds
- Visit the [Cultural Arts Chairperson webpage](#) for information

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Year TWO Focus (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027): FIBERS

Goal: Basic understanding of the processes for turning animal and plant fibers into yarns, textiles, and, ultimately, into consumer products; appreciate the history and cultural heritage of fibers

Objectives:

- Identify basic characteristics and properties of animal and plant fibers
- Describe methods to process fibers into yarns and textile products
- Encourage artistic creativity and original design with natural fibers

Activities:

- Participate in weaving, knitting, crochet, and other fiber arts classes
- Create works of art with fibers and textiles as the focus
- Attend workshops and fiber fairs on the Kentucky Fiber Trail
<https://www.kentuckysheepandfiber.com/kentuckyfibertrail>
- Support local fiber artists and fiber guilds (see list on Chairperson webpage)

Year THREE Focus (July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028): FELTING

Goal: Raise awareness of the FELTING category of our Cultural Arts Exhibit and provide inspiration so that entries in this category increase

Objectives:

- Define the materials and tools used in felting
- Explain the difference between needle felting and wet felting
- Encourage artistic creativity and original design of felted projects

Activities:

- Attend felting classes and workshops and experiment with felting processes
- Enter your Felted creation in the Cultural Arts contest
(13. FELTING a. Needle Method, b. Wet Method)
- Support local fiber artists and fiber guilds (see list on Chairperson webpage)