

# Marion County 4-H Animal Fever 2025

## County Level Contest

- **ANIMAL TO DECORATE: Hugo the Hippo**
- **CONTEST FEE:** Plaster animal: \$6.00 per piece; available at county extension office.
- Exhibitors will paint a bank and may make a habitat for it.
- Exhibitors should also complete the quiz at the link below and submit it with their entry. The quiz is to help you learn more about our featured animal.



## Informational Material to Learn About Animal:

1. The Marion County 4-H Showcase General Rules & Regulations apply to this contest.
2. ENTIRE DISPLAY MAY BE NO LARGER THAN 9" X 9" AND NO HIGHER THAN 9."  
Any displays that are larger will not be allowed.
3. Animal Fever Contest Classes:
  - 4-H Cloverbuds (Gr. K-2) Not judged for competition placings.  
[Cloverbuds receive Participation ribbons]
  - 4-H Members (Gr. 3–12) Judged for placings, based on skills displayed.  
[Skill levels judged in 3 age divisions, Beginner (Gr. 3-5); Intermediate (Gr. 6-8); Advanced (Gr. 9-12). Skill placing ribbons awarded (Blue/Red/White).]
  - 4-H Parents/Adults (age 18+) Not judged.  
[Adults receive Participation ribbons]
4. This is a contest for individuals only – no teams.
5. This is a fee-based contest. See above.
6. Exhibits must be returned for competition by project check in day. It may be decorated in any style that the exhibitor wishes, i.e. paint, cloth, paper, jewelry, feathers, etc. **The exhibitor's name must be clearly printed on the bottom of the exhibit and exhibit tag.**
7. **All exhibits must be completed by the exhibitor.** *Parents are encouraged to ASSIST in exhibitor's projects, but project should reflect EXHIBITOR'S work.*
8. *Only one (1) exhibit per exhibitor.*
9. No offensive or obscene material will be allowed.
10. Decisions of Judging Committee will be final.
11. Early pick-up of exhibits is not allowed. It is understood that the exhibits will remain on display for the entire 4-H Showcase.
12. The Marion County 4-H Showcase Committee will assume no responsibility or liability for the damage or loss of articles exhibited. Supervision will be provided during Showcase hours.
13. Exhibits and awards not picked up on the above day will be forfeited- and become the property of the Marion County 4-H.

COMMON NAME: **Hippopotamus or Hippo**

SCIENTIFIC NAME: **Hippopotamus amphibius**

TYPE: **Mammals**

DIET: **Herbivore**

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN: **Up to 40 years in the wild, 50+ years in captivity**



## **ABOUT HIPPOPOTAMUSES**

Their name comes from the Greek word for 'river horse', because they're often found in water, which helps them stay cool in the hot, tropical climate where they live. They come out of the water at dusk, walking as much as five miles to graze on grass.



Eyes, ears, and nostrils are high on their head, allowing them to remain mostly submerged. When completely submerged, their ears and nostrils close to prevent water from entering their body. Webbed feet help them maneuver on the bottom of a shallow body of water, although they are not good swimmers, nor can they float.

Hippopotami usually mate every other year. Gestation lasts nearly a year, and a single calf is born in the water. Calves nurse underwater, up to a year.

Hippos lack sweat glands, but have mucous glands which secrete a thick oily layer of fluid, for a sunscreen effect and prevents disease-causing bacteria. They can weigh 1,800 pounds or more, and may grow to 15 feet long. Despite their body shape and size, hippos can run faster than a human. They are one of the most dangerous animals in Africa. Hippos have been known to attack boats which come too close to their hippo children.

Males mark their territory by swinging their tail to spread dung and urine. Displays of yawning and tusk clashing warn other males to steer clear of the area. During the day, hippopotami herds sleep in groups of thirty or more.

About 125,000-150,000 hippos live in areas of Sub-Saharan Africa, now mainly along rivers, lakes and swamps. Loss of habitat are threatening their populations as well as being poached for meat.

**Marion County 2025 4-H Animal Fever Information Sheet From:**

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/hippopotamus>

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Hippopotamus>

[https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Hippopotamus\\_amphibius/](https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Hippopotamus_amphibius/)



## 2025 Marion County 4-H Animal Fever Quiz – Hugo the Hippo

4-H Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club/Twp \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Cloverbud (K-2)      ☐ Level 1 (Gr. 3-5)      ☐ Level 2 (Gr. 6-8)      ☐ Level 3 (Gr. 9-12)      ☐ Adult

### Please read information pages at:

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/hippopotamus> and

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Hippopotamus> or <https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Hippopotamus> amphibius/ ,  
then circle the correct answer.

### Submit this quiz with your 4-H Animal Fever exhibit.

1. Hippopotamuses spend most of their time in Africa
  - a. In grassy prairies
  - b. In the desert sands.
  - c. In the salty ocean
  - d. In freshwater rivers, lakes, and swamps
2. Male hippopotami mark their territory by
  - a. Loud yawning
  - b. Showering the area with dung and urine
  - c. Clicking their tusks
  - d. All the above
3. A hippo pregnancy may last:
  - a. Six months
  - b. Two years
  - c. Nearly a year
  - d. Three months
4. Hippos move around in water by
  - a. Swimming in deep water
  - b. Walking on the bottom
  - c. Floating on their back
  - d. Blowing air out of their gills
5. A hippopotamus diet is considered as a/an
  - a. Carnivore
  - b. Herbivore
  - c. Omnivore
  - d. Carrion eater



**Bonus question: When totally submerged under water, what parts of their body can close completely to prevent water from seeping in?**