

Country Ham Speech Topic for Seniors (Born 2010-2006)

Speech Day at the State Fair is on Thursday, August 14, 2025.

Speech Topic for Juniors- Design a country ham curing facility for your county's ham project.

More and more counties are building their own ham curing houses. You have an unlimited budget, design your county's dream country house and a curing facility.

Visual Aids are Optional, no digital/electronic, no 3D aids, limited to one poster board, you can use both sides.

Speech must be 3-5 minutes long.

You may use notecards. You can also use electronic devices, such as phones or iPads, instead of notecards.

No visual aids are allowed for this speech topic.

Designing your own Country
Ham House
Kentucky 4-H Country Ham-

Where to start!

- You do not need an elaborate set up!
- Ambient Curing (Mother Nature will help!)
- Start in January or early February
- What you need:
 - A building
 - A place to put it
 - Slight modifications
 - Help; we're here for that!

The Building and the Location

- Nothing spectacular
- Outdoor storage shed or barn
 - Home Depot, Lowe's, or any other lumberyard or home improvement store
- Location
 - Extension Office





Mercer County



Spencer County



Adair County

The Floor

- Plywood floor
 - No a long term item
 - Cover with plastic or a tarp
- Concrete
 - Sloped toward doorway
- Rock or Gravel
 - Make sure it gets packed tightly



Modifications

- Once the building is constructed
- Slight modifications are needed
- Floor
- Cross bars to hang the hams on
- Air flow
- Electricity
- Lock





Shelby County

Mercer County



Boone County



Cross-bars to hang the hams

- An upright 2 x 4 or 2x 6
- Spaced 2 to 2 ½ feet apart
- Nails or screws can be used to hang hams
- **HAMS CANNOT TOUCH!!**
- Most have made the cross bars removable





Improvements at Adair County







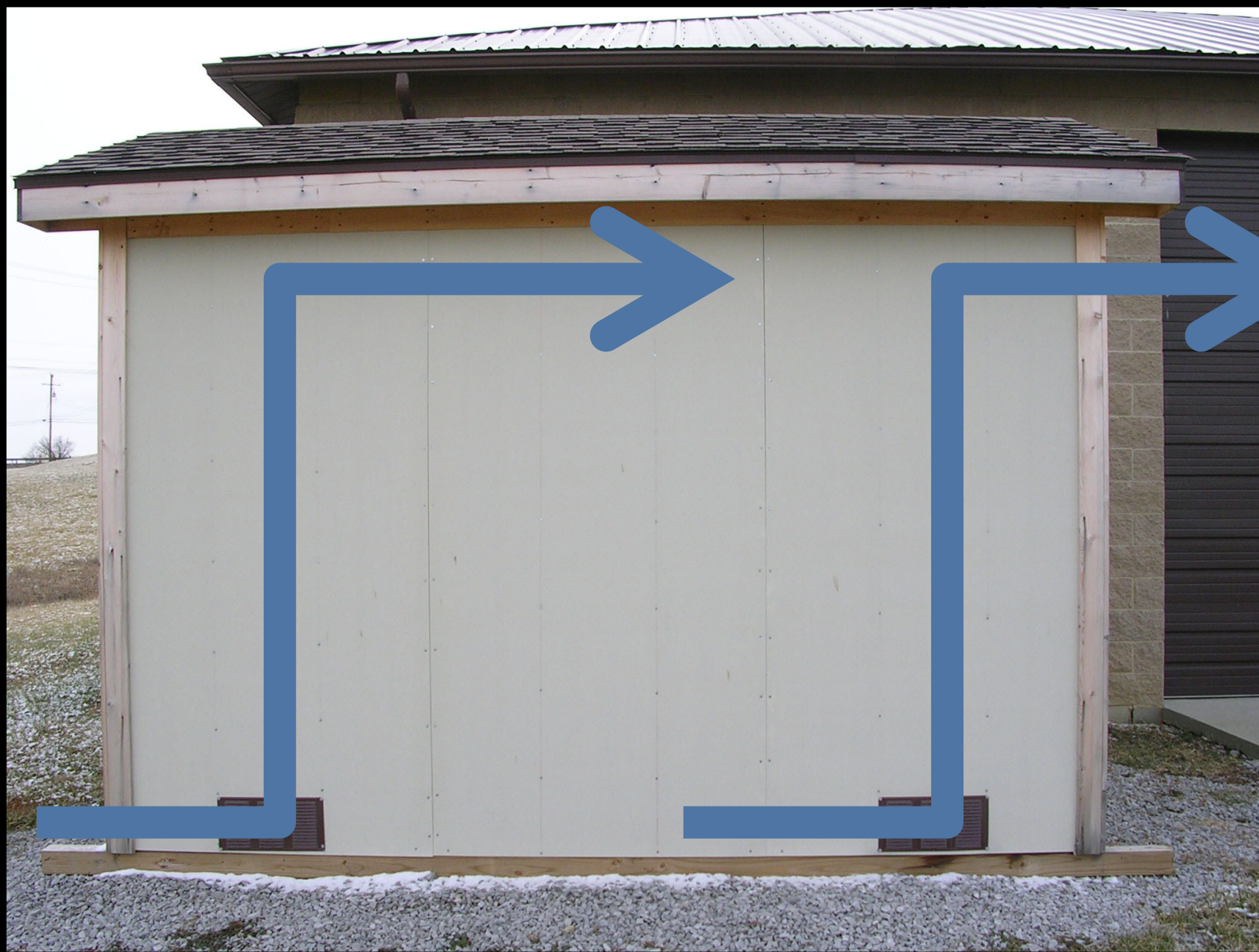
Boone County



Air Flow

- Air flow is key to the production of a quality country ham
- Air flow helps:
 - **Outside color**
 - **Drying**
 - **Mold growth**
- Spring, after the atmosphere has dried, off at night













Good Air Flow!!

Pest Control

- This is a drying food product, it will attract pests
- Cover all openings
- Caulk all seams
- “Tin Cats” or other traps around and inside the building
- Try to keep things clean!
- Check periodically!







Other things to think about

- Keep grass cut and trimmed about building
- Door Locks
- Limited Access
- Thermometer
 - **Wireless thermometer**
- Walkway
- Water Sealant
- Total Cost:
 - **\$1,200 to \$5,000**



THE END