4-H FCS Skill-a-thon
Sewing and Clothing ID

Revised April 2010
**Aida Cloth** — Beautiful even-weave cloth, popular for cross stitch work, crewel embroidery, and other stitchery.

**Cotton** — Good material for first time sewers to use. Has a good hand and little elasticity. Considered a heavy weight material. Used for everyday clothing.

**Felt** — A fabric of matted, compressed animal fibers, such as wool or fur, sometimes mixed with vegetable or synthetic fibers.

**Fleece** — Fabric with a soft deep pile.

**Muslin** — Sturdy cotton fabric of plain weave, used especially for sheets.

**Silk** — Material with a smooth texture and high luster. A lightweight material with a somewhat poor cover. Used in blouses and under garments.
**Spandex** — A strong fiber with medium weight and good elasticity. Used for clothing and swimsuits.

**Wool** — A rough fiber with good crimp. Has a stiff drape and good cover. Use in carpets and some clothing.

---

**Trims & Fasteners**

**Batting** — Cotton, wool, or synthetic fiber wadded into rolls or sheets, used for stuffing furniture and mattresses and for lining quilts.

**Bias Tape** — Narrow strip of cloth that is cut on the bias (diagonal to the grain of the fabric) that can be used to finish or decorate clothing.

**Decorative Trim** — Trim that is used to decorate the edges of material

**Elastic** — A flexible stretchable fabric made with interwoven strands of rubber or an imitative synthetic fiber.
**Hook and Eyes** — Clothes fasteners consisting of a small hook and metal loop. Used as closures at the tops of shirts, dresses, skirts, or pants.

**Ribbed Elastic** — Provides maximum cross strength. Found in pants and shorts.

**Rick Rack** — Strips of material that can be different shapes and widths. Used to decorate material.

**Sew on Snaps** — Used as closures at the tops of garments.

**Dart** — A tapered tuck sewn to adjust the fit of a garment.

**Gather** — To draw into small folds or puckers, as by pulling a thread through cloth.
**Hem** — An edge or border on a piece of cloth, especially a finished edge, as for a garment or curtain, made by folding an edge under and stitching it down.

**Pleat** — A fold in cloth made by doubling the material upon itself and then pressing or stitching it into place.

**Zipper Application** - To apply a zipper—which is a fastening devise that is opened and closed by a zipper pull.

**Appliqué** – To attach a small piece of fabric to a larger piece of fabric, to create a desired design.

**Seam Allowance** – the area between the stitching and raw, cut edge of the fabric.

**Under-Stitching** – Under-stitching assists a facing or lining to stay to the inside and remain un-seen. It is a stitching that is sewn as close to the seam possible holding the graded seam allowance to the facing or lining.
Tools

**Acrylic Ruler** -- Ruler used in crafts and clothing showing different measurement. May come in different shapes and sizes.

**Bobbin** — cylinder on which thread is wound for sewing. Holds the bottom thread.

**Bobbin Case** — Holds the bobbin

**Crewels** — Needles with long eyes for easy threading.

**Cutting Mat** — Mat that is placed down to protect the table surface while cutting

**Dress Form** — Used to help form a garment to your specific measurements.
**Dressmaker’s Ham** — use on hard to reach areas.

**Emery Bag** — Used to sharpen and remove rust from needles.

**Iron** — A metal appliance with a handle and a weighted flat bottom, used when heated to press wrinkles from fabric.

**Ironing Board** — A long, narrow padded board, often with collapsible supporting legs, used as a working surface for ironing.

**Loop Turner** — Used for turning binding and inserting cord into tubing.

**Measuring Tape** — Used for measuring larger pieces of fabric and body measurements.
**Needle Threader** — Used to thread machine or hand needles.

**Patterns** — A plan, diagram, or model to be followed in making things: *a dress pattern*.

**Pin Cushion** — A small cushion used for holding pins for easy access.

**Pinking Shears** — used for finishing seams

**Pins** — Used for holding material together while sewing. Come in two forms: dressmaker or silk pins are fine and sharp and are the best to use.

**Press Cloth** — Used to help keep shine in fabric. Can be dampened to provide moisture for more steam. Unbleached muslin about 14” X 30” in size.
Presser Foot—The presser foot holds the fabric in place during sewing.

Pressing Machine—Used to press material.

Rotary Cutter—A Wheel with a sharp edge that is used to cut fabric, used on a cutting mat.

Safety Pins—A loop shaped pin that fastens into itself with its points under a protective cover to prevent accidental opening or injury.

Scissors—Used for cutting paper and clipping fabric. Scissors may have a straight handle.

Seam Ripper—Used to take out seams as well as making buttonholes.
**Sewing Gauge** — A short ruler that has a moveable slide for marking hems, seams, and other areas.

**Shears** — used for cutting fabric, not paper. Shears are 7-8 inches long, are sharp, and have bent handles making them easier to cut with.

**Thimble** — Used to protect your fingers when hand sewing

**Sharps** — Needles with small round eyes.

**Tailor’s Chalk** — Used for marking sewing details on fabric.

**Thread** — Fine cord of a fibrous material, such as cotton or flax, made of two or more filaments twisted together and used in needlework and the weaving of cloth
Thread Rack — A rack that is used for holding spools of thread

Throat Plate — The throat plate is a metal plate with openings for the needle

Tracing Paper — Paper used to mark sewing details on fabric and or the feed dogs.

Tracing Wheel — Wheel used along with tracing paper to transfer sewing details to fabric

Oklahoma State University, and New Mexico State University U.S. Department of Agriculture, State and Local governments cooperating. Oklahoma State University and New Mexico State University offers their programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability of status as a veteran, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.