



# Chouteau County 4-H Animal Project Guidelines



January 13, 2021 Revision

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AS ADOPTED BY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS  
AMERICAN LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO MANAGERS ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL YOUTH LIVESTOCK PROGRAM ETHICS SYMPOSIUM

Exhibitors of animals at Livestock shows shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in the competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agriculture education. This code applies to junior as well as open class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show. In addition to the "IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics," fairs and livestock shows have rules and regulations which they impose on the local, county, state, provincial and national levels.

All youth leaders working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and absolutely responsible persons who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from competition at all livestock shows in the United States and Canada.

The following is a list of guidelines for all exhibitors and all livestock in competitive events:

1. All exhibitors must present, upon request of fair and livestock show officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of ownership, age or any facts relating thereto is prohibited.

2. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by fair or livestock show officials.

3. **All exhibitors are** expected to care for and groom their animals while at fairs or livestock shows.

4. Animals shall be presented to show events where they will enter the food chain free of violative drug residues. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitors, fitters, trainer and/or absolutely responsible person for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. Animals not entered in an event which culminates with the animal entering the food chain shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event.

If the laboratory report on the analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample taken from livestock indicates the presence of forbidden drugs or medications, this shall be prima facie evidence such substance had been administered to the animal either internally or externally. It is presumed that the sample of urine, saliva, blood, or other substance tested by the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with the burden on the owner, exhibitor, fitter, or absolutely responsible person to prove otherwise.

At any time after an animal arrives on the fair or livestock show premises, all treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian.

5. Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counterirritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, confirmation, or appearance, except external application of substances to the hoofs or horns or animals which effect appearance only and except for surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.

6. The use of showing and/or **handling** practices or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited.

7. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect, and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.

8. No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this code of ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this code of ethics.

9. The application of this code of ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or participant whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this code of ethics.

10. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, or absolutely responsible person to have disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show without recourse against the fair or livestock show. The act of entering an animal is giving of consent that any proceedings or disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show may be published with the name of the violator or violators in any publication of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, including Fairs and Expositions and any special notices to members.

11. The act of entering of an animal in a fair or livestock show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or she has read the "IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics" and understands the consequences of and penalties provided for actions prohibited by the code. It is further consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state or provincial statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.

## ANIMAL TREATMENT

1. The Montana 4-H program requires that animals be handled in a proper and ethical manner in accordance with accepted modern animal husbandry and scientific practices. In addition, adequate care, including watering, feeding and comfort should be appropriately provided for all animals. Any individual treating an animal in any other manner may be asked to leave the grounds. See National Code of Show Ring Ethics on page 3.
2. Exhibitors, their parents, leaders and instructors have a serious responsibility to follow animal health practices that are approved by the industry and the US Department of Agriculture to assure that meat customers are receiving wholesome food. Health aids and other approved products should be used with care, according to prescribed practices, only when needed, and in the correct amounts.
3. The Montana 4-H program recommends that market animals meet the Food and Drug Administration regulations governing management and safety practices. Approved withdrawal times from health aids and growth stimulants must be followed. Animals that have not met these standards will not be allowed to participate in the fair. The 4-H Livestock Council strongly discourages the use of growth enhancing drugs, (such as Optaflexx and Paylean).

## PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

### 4-H Market Animal

- Attend 50% of the meetings which include work meetings, and/or club meetings.
- Must give a talk or demonstration during the 4-H year.
- Must have your market animal by required possession date.
- Submit Livestock Contract into the Extension Office by required date.
- Keep all required 4-H records.
- Submit fair registration online by date set by Extension office.
- Hang completed poster of your market animal in the barn on required date.
- Compete in required showmanship contest.
- Work at least one shift in the Chuckwagon.
- Clean the livestock barns after the market sale.
- All market animals must compete in the carcass contest.
- Market sale is terminal.
- 4-H members must provide evidence that he/she completed the required minimum 7 activities and 3-5 additional learning experiences for the level in which he/she is enrolled
- Applicable project books and record sheets for each species are presented during interview judging. In addition, 1/3 of each market animal species projects will be randomly selected for audit between September 1 and October 1 by the Extension office. All livestock records must be finalized by October 1.
- Failure to complete all the required items of the livestock contract will result in the member being placed on probation for the following year. Probation will involve an action plan for the member to ensure project success. This action plan will be developed with the member at the start of the 4-H Year in a meeting including a minimum of one parent/guardian, one Extension staff, one livestock council member and his or her club leader.

### FFA Market Animal

- Attend required meeting and activities with the FFA Chapter.
- Contract into the Extension office by required date.

- Must have market animal by required possession date.
- Keep all FFA records.
- Submit fair registration online by date set by Extension office.
- Hang completed poster of your market animal in the barn on required date.
- Compete in required showmanship contest.
- Work at least one shift in the Chuckwagon.
- Set-up and clean the livestock barns before and after the market sale.
- Deductions as set by 4-H Livestock Council will be taken out of the members market sale check.
- All market animals must compete in the carcass contest.
- Market sale is terminal.
- All species and records will be presented during interview judging. In addition, 1/3 of each market animal species projects will be randomly selected for audit between September 1 and October 1 by the Extension office. All Livestock records must be finalized by October 1.
  - Failure to complete all the required items of the livestock contract will result in the member being placed on probation for the following year. Probation will involve an action plan for the member to ensure project success. This action plan will be developed with the member at the start of the 4-H year in a meeting including a minimum of one parent/guardian, one Extension staff, one livestock council member and his or her FFA Advisor.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING

All market livestock members and fair exhibitors are required to be certified in the Quality Assurance Program six weeks before the fair. Members must take the training every two years to remain certified. If you fail to certify, you are ineligible to exhibit or sell your market or breeding livestock at the Chouteau County Fair.

## PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

### BEEF

- Beef must be born after January 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year.
- Market beef minimum pay weight is 950 pounds and maximum pay weight is 1550 pounds.
- Non-conformed beef minimum pay weight is 700 lbs. Beef in this class need to be designated that they will be in the non-conformed weight class during tagging.
- Male animals must be completely neutered and healed prior to the fair. No stags will be allowed.
- A halter and neck rope are required at the fair.
- Brand inspection forms must be presented to county brand inspector during Chouteau County Fair weigh-in.
- Color altering products on animals are prohibited.
- If a bred sale heifer cannot be determined pregnant at time of livestock check-in at fair, they will be shown in a breeding class and not eligible for the market sale.
- A special record manual for Bred Sale Heifer project will be used. The manual can be obtained at the Chouteau County Extension office.

### SHEEP

- All market sheep will be shown with a slick-shorn coat.
- A Scrapies tag is recommended for sale animals.

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- Sheep minimum weight is set at 90 pounds.
- Market classes are open to wether and ewe lambs. Male animals must be completely neutered and healed prior to fair.
- Breeding sheep classes will be determined by age.

### DAIRY AND MEAT GOAT

- Goats will be shown according to industry standards.
- Market classes are open to wether and doe. Male animals must be completely neutered and healed prior to fair.
- Sale animals must be no more than 1 year old.
- Goat minimum weight is 70 pounds and maximum weight is 120 pounds.

### SWINE

- Market swine minimum pay weight is 210 pounds and maximum pay weight is 300 pounds. The member will not be paid for pounds above 300. Suggested weight range 240-280 lbs.
- Barrows and gilts are eligible for market classes; all male animals must be completely neutered and healed prior to fair.
- Allowed guiding tools will be determined by the judge. A show board will not be allowed for use by swine members. The show boards will be used by show-ring adults only.
- It is recommended that breeding swine not be brought to the fair. Videos to be shown during interview judging are encouraged.

### DAIRY CATTLE

- All dairy animals must be in the possession of the exhibitor as determined by Chouteau County Extension Office. The Exhibitor must be the primary caretaker and trainer. Lease agreements are allowed.
- All horns must be removed on dairy animals and healed over prior to check in. No horns allowed.
- All dairy cows must be milked out the night before show. Do not milk the morning of the show. The idea is to present the dairy animal with a full udder. If the cow has a large udder, it is reasonable to allow her to be milked down to relieve some pressure. Cows with a calf at side, the calf can be bottle fed from saved milk to maintain the fullness and shape of the udder.
- All dairy cattle must go to the tie-out area in the evening and return in the morning. Stalling area will be cleaned in the evening after taking cattle to the tie out area.

### RABBIT

1. Youth will not be allowed to enter the same rabbit in both 4-H and open classes.
2. Cages are to be kept clean during the fair. All exhibitors are expected to keep a clean, clear walkway, and appearance in their respective areas. ALL EXHIBITORS must clear pens and stalls of all waste materials prior to leaving the grounds at the conclusion of the Fair.
3. All rabbits must be free of any signs of an infection or contagious diseases, or mites.
4. Superintendents or judge will ask that any diseased rabbit be removed immediately.
5. Exhibitor must be present during the show.
6. Rabbits must be owned by the member by June 1 of the current 4-H year, except for Pre-Jr. rabbits. They must be produced by the member's rabbit.

7. No bunnies under 6 weeks of age will be shown or displayed. Pregnant does and does with bunnies under six weeks will not be shown or displayed.
8. All 4-H members enrolled in the rabbit project must enter in the showmanship contest.
9. All 4-H members enrolled in any rabbit project must submit to your organizational leader record books and manuals on or before September 1 of 4-H year, and provide evidence that he/she completed the required minimum 7 activities and 3-5 additional learning experiences for the level in which he/she is enrolled.

Rabbits are broken into four class or six class breeds. As a general rule, animals with a mature weight over 9 pounds are shown as a six class animal; while animals with a mature weight under 9 pounds are shown as a four class animal. In the six class animal designation juniors are up to 6 months of age; intermediates are 6 to 9 months of age; seniors are over 9 months of age. In the four class designation – a rabbit up to 6 months is considered a junior, while a rabbit over 6 months is a senior.

## POULTRY

1. Animals may only be removed from cages with permission of the Superintendent, or judge with the exception of pre-judging grooming. Animals will be checked periodically by the superintendent and 4-H leaders.
2. Exhibitors may enter and exhibit only 1 entry per class.
3. All birds must be free of lice, external parasites, and any signs of diseases. Poultry exhibiting signs of disease and/or illness will be disqualified at the discretion of the Superintendent and must be removed from the fairgrounds.
4. Cages will be provided for all entries in the 4-H Poultry Show.
5. A meat bird may not be shown in a breeding class and a breeder may not be shown in a meat class. Each bird may be entered in only 1 class. Showmanship exhibitors must be able to give the standards of the breed being exhibited and describe the good and bad points of the bird they are showing.
6. Exhibitors uncertain of the breed of their bird(s) or the standards of a given breed are encouraged to contact the Superintendent before pre-registration.
7. Trio Productions of 3 females and/or 2 female and 1 male of the same age. Must be laying breed. May be 3 different birds in one cage. May not be used for any other class.
8. All exhibitors are expected to keep a clean, clear walkway, and appearance in their respective areas. **ALL EXHIBITORS** must clear pens of all waste materials prior to leaving the grounds at the conclusion of the Fair.

## DOG

1. All dogs and handlers will be judged individually against a standard. Sits and downs will be done by group examination.
2. Female dogs in season will not be allowed to participate.
3. All dogs must be current on vaccinations.

## CAT

1. Females in heat, an obviously pregnant cat or cats with a litter cannot be exhibited.
2. All cats must be brought to the fair in approved cages and remain in cage at all times unless otherwise requested by the judge.
3. All cats must be current on vaccinations.

**CHOUTEAU COUNTY 4-H FAIR GUIDELINES**  
**SAFETY HAS PRIORITY OVER ALL RULES CONCERNING 4-H AND FFA MEMBERS AND THEIR ANIMALS.**

**Entries**

1. Open to 4-H and FFA members in Chouteau County.
2. All animal projects must be enrolled and animals in possession by annual deadlines. Required species must be tagged and photographs submitted by dates determined by Extension Office. Ear tags must be clear and readable in the animal's ear in the photograph. The Chouteau County Extension office provides tags.
3. Members are required to be enrolled in the project in which they are entering.
4. Members must be responsible for care of project animals from possession date to project end date.
5. Exhibitors must show their own project animal in showmanship--no substitutions or exceptions
6. Members must exhibit their own livestock to qualify them eligible for the market sale. If a member is unable to show his/her animal, another member may be allowed to show the animal for the absent member, if approved. The member, parent or leader will contact livestock council and superintendent prior to show and determination will be made by majority vote.
7. Member will bring one animal to fair weigh in as his/her fair entry. If animal does not meet minimum weight requirements, it may not be replaced with another animal.
8. Non-sale animals are only allowed to hang a sign stating private treaty. No silent auctions are allowed during the fair.
9. Scale selection will be at the discretion of the Livestock Council.
10. Only members will be permitted to care for and show their animals. Other members may be of assistance to members. MINIMAL assistance will be allowed by parents and other adults. Questions and concerns should be brought to the attention of the Extension Agent and/or the Livestock Superintendent. Abuse of rules will be dealt with in the following manner.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offense: A warning will be issued and documented by the Livestock Superintendent and/or Extension Agent.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Violator will be asked to leave the barn by the Livestock Superintendent and/or Extension Agent. (Violator is the person doing the work for the member).
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Mandatory dismissal for the 4-H or FFA member from further showing and forfeiture of awards for the current fair as determined by Livestock Council.
11. In the event of a conflict, Extension office staff and barn superintendents have the final say.
12. Livestock entries from each club/chapter will be exhibited together as assigned by Livestock Superintendents.
13. Each member will be responsible for cleanliness of area occupied by his or her animal.
14. Tack boxes and equipment are to be kept only in designated areas.
15. Exhibitor numbers must be worn while exhibiting animals in any class.
16. All livestock exhibitors must attend the livestock exhibitors meeting at the fair. Parents are encouraged to attend.
17. Animal project informational posters are required for all animals that are displayed at fair. Standard posters are available from the council, or members can make their own that contain the same required information. Information for each species can be accessed online.



18. During the fair, livestock exhibitors will complete and hang stall posters in its respective place by the end of Thursday, compete in the appropriate showmanship contest, work at least one shift in the 4-H Chuckwagon and help set-up prior to the fair and clean the livestock barn after the livestock sale. (This includes removing wood chips and debris from the barn, taking down and putting away the panels and working with the superintendent). Livestock exhibitors will check in and check out with barn superintendents or make prior arrangements. If terms are not met, I will be assessed a \$200 fee, payable to the Livestock Council by September 30.
19. Buyer appreciation pictures must be taken of all market animals at the fair; to be provided by the Livestock Council.
20. A market animal must receive a blue or red ribbon to be eligible for the market sale.
21. Any project that does not meet the minimum market animal requirements may not be sold but will be allowed to participate in showmanship only.

## Interview Judging

- All species and records will be presented during interview judging. In addition, 1/3 of each market animal species projects will be randomly selected for audit between September 1 and October 1 by the Extension office. All Livestock records must be finalized by October 1.
  - Failure to complete all the required items of the livestock contract will result in the member being placed on probation for the following year. Probation will involve an action plan for the member to ensure project success. This action plan will be developed with the member at the start of the 4-H year in a meeting including a minimum of one parent/guardian, one Extension staff, one livestock council member and his or her FFA Advisor.
1. All animal exhibitors are required to participate in interview judging. Members can bring completed and up-to-date records and workbooks as a point of reference for the judge. The workbooks and record books will not be judged. Failure to complete the required items of the contract will result in being placed on probation for the following year. An action plan will be developed in a meeting including a minimum of, a parent, Extension staff, livestock council member and his or her FFA Advisor or club leader.
  2. Livestock extended study projects will be judged during interview judging. Project notebook cannot be entered in extended study projects.

## Dress Code for Showing Livestock

Beef, Sheep, Swine and Goat 4-H Project Members – Long sleeved, shirt with a collar, buttons or snaps; pants; hard shoes or boots (tennis shoes are not allowed; western hat is optional – **NO BASEBALL CAPS**). Clothes should be neat and clean.

Dairy Cattle and Dairy Goat 4-H Project Members – WHITE shirt and light colored pants. Neat and clean. No cowboy hats are allowed.

Poultry, Rabbit, Dog and Cat 4-H Project Members – Long sleeved, shirt with a collar, buttons or snaps; pants; hard shoes or boots (tennis shoes are not allowed; western hat is optional – **NO BASEBALL CAPS**). Clothes should be neat and clean.

Dress requirements apply to conformation and showmanship classes.

FFA Dress Requirements per current approved FFA regulations.

### Sale

1. All eligible market animals must sell in the sale.
2. An exhibitor may sell a maximum of two animal
3. White ribbon animals and any animals not meeting minimum weight will not be allowed sell.
4. The superintendents and Chouteau County Extension Office will determine sale order.
5. Livestock Council determines the amount of sale expenses deducted from member's checks from sale of livestock.
6. Members are responsible for making their own arrangements for harvesting of any market animal that does not go through the Livestock Market Sale.
7. The Livestock Council will be responsible for making arrangements for the harvesting of sale animals.

### Round Robin

1. Contestants will be required to show each of beef cattle, dairy cattle, goat, sheep, swine, and horse; providing these animals are being exhibited.
2. If there is no animal in a junior or senior division – alternate animals may be selected from animals present at fair by species superintendent.
3. If a contestant has won showmanship in more than one division, the contestant must pick their species immediately following the final show, unless they have the only entry in that division, then that animal must be the one shown.
4. The pigs will be shown first in the round robin.
5. Junior and senior members switch animals for the round robin show.
6. A tie in the round robin is determined by having the contestants answer one question from each animal species judge and one question from the Extension office.

### Carcass Contest

1. All market beef, market sheep, market swine and market goat sold through the Livestock Market Sale are required to participate in the carcass contest. The carcasses will be ranked using current state standards.
2. Carcass premium – \$25.00 for beef, \$20.00 for swine, and \$10.00 for sheep will be held out of the member's sale check, then paid back to those that place high in the carcass contest. 100% of the money held out will be paid out to the winners.
3. Carcass payout - 10% of the total money collected for each species will be awarded for those animals meeting the Steer of Merit Standard for Market Beef, Symbol of Excellence for Market Swine and Certified Lamb for Market Sheep.

The remaining money will be awarded to the top three animals, regardless of qualification for Steer of Merit, Symbol of Excellence or Certified Lamb. The money will be divided by a percentage system.

- First place will receive 50%
- Second Place will receive 30%
- Third Place will receive 20%

### Herdsmanship Competition

1. The 4-H club or FFA Chapter that maintains its area in the best herdsman's manner throughout the barns will receive the traveling herdsman's trophy for the following year. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony before the Market Sale. The purpose of this contest is to promote better care of livestock, pens, and equipment to keep animals' clean and attractive at all times.
2. Competition applies to all the following classes of animals: Sheep, Beef, Swine, Dairy, Goat and Horse.
3. Every 4-H club and FFA chapter exhibiting livestock is automatically entered in this contest, and is for clubs rather than individuals.
4. Judges will check the barns periodically throughout the fair; scoring the following:
  - a. Neatness of stalls and alley ways in all barns
  - b. Care and grooming of animals
  - c. Care and storage of equipment
  - d. Courtesy and helpfulness to visitors
  - e. Stall poster-completed and easy to read
  - f. Clear and easy to read club sign
  - g. Dress in proper attire when showing animals.
  - h. Show respect – consideration – proper attitude and cooperation toward ALL animals, members, equipment, supplies and facilities as well as judges and spectators.

### Pitchfork Award

1. The pitchfork award is awarded to an individual 4-H or FFA livestock member who goes above and beyond other livestock members in and outside of the barns. The award will be announced at the awards ceremony before the market sale.
2. Competition applies to all members in the following classes of animals: Sheep, Beef, Swine, Dairy, Goat and Horse.
3. Every 4-H or FFA member exhibiting livestock is automatically entered in the contest, and is for individual members.
4. Judges will check the barn periodically throughout the fair; scoring the following.
  - a. Neatness of stalls and alley ways in all barns
  - b. Care and grooming of animal
  - c. Care and storage of equipment
  - d. Courtesy and helpfulness to visitors
  - e. Stall poster-completed and easy to read.
  - f. Dress in proper attire when showing animals.

Please refer to Horse Project Guidelines located at [www.msuextension.org/chouteau/fair.html](http://www.msuextension.org/chouteau/fair.html) .