



2016

Polk County 4-H Policy Handbook



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF A POLICY IN QUESTION IS NOT IN THIS HANDBOOK IT DOES NOT EXIST. IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE.

ANIMAL TREATMENT

1. The Polk 4-H Program recommends 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.
2. Exhibitors, their parents, leaders and instructors have a serious responsibility to follow animal health practices that are approved by the industry and the United States 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 Polk County 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 show or sell during any authorized, fair related, purple ribbon sale.

DRESS REQUIREMENTS FOR SHOWING LIVESTOCK

Beef, Goat, Sheep and Swine – Short Sleeved official Polk County 4-H Show Shirt; blue jeans; hard shoes or western boots (tennis shoes are not allowed) – **NO HATS**. Clothes should be neat and clean.

Horse – Dress shall be according to standards in "*Nebraska 4-H Horse Show and Judging Guide.*" 4-H armbands are *required* at all shows.

Dress requirements apply to conformation and showmanship classes.

ENTRIES

1. Open to 4-H members in Polk County.
2. All entries must be made in the member's own name and be approved by the Polk County Extension Staff.
3. Members are required to be enrolled in the project in which they are entering.
4. Members must have ownership/possession of project animal from I.D. date until the time of entry and have completed a Polk County ownership affidavit form.
5. Members must be responsible for care of project animals from I.D. date to ending date of project.
6. All animals must have the tags placed in their ears by State Deadline. Dates are posted in the county 4-H newsletter. The ear tag must be in the animal's ear by State ID Deadline. All animals must have the appropriate tag/tattoo in ear by Identification Deadline. The Polk County Extension office has the official State and County 4-H tags for purchase.

SAFETY HAS PRIORITY OVER ALL RULES CONCERNING 4-H MEMBERS AND THEIR ANIMALS.

GENERAL LIVESTOCK GUIDELINES

1. No substitutions and no switching of animals and/or ear tags once the animals have arrived at the fairgrounds and/or **go over the scale and animals may only go over the scale one time, no reweighs**. Market Heifers/Breeding Heifers for county fair must be designated by June 15th. Once Market Heifer is designated for State Fair, EID may NOT be removed by law.
2. Daily washing and rinsing of livestock must be done on a basis according to animal's need, this includes before and after shows. Requirements include: Beef daily, Goats, Sheep and Swine as needed.
3. Stall Safety barriers must be provided for the safety of the general public in the beef barn. Example: a simple row of hay bales on two sides and directly behind the cattle provides safety and helps keep bedding in place.
4. If the weather is hot, fans need to be provided to all animals.
5. Animals need to be removed from the building and walked on a daily basis excluding swine.
6. Each member will be responsible for cleanliness of the area occupied by his or her animal.
7. Tack boxes and equipment are to be kept only in designated areas.
8. Exhibitors must show their own project animal in showmanship; no substitutions or exceptions.
9. All 4-H members' age groups are considered as of January 1 of each year.
10. Exhibitor numbers must be worn.
11. The 4-H Livestock Committee must approve exceptions due to special circumstances regarding the showing and selling of 4-H project animals in advance of the show or sale.
12. All members carrying a livestock project (excluding Horse) must complete quality assurance training before they are eligible to show their animal at the fair. Members must take the training every year to remain certified.
13. Absolutely NO Breeding/Company/Advertising signs allowed in any barn. The only signs allowed are official Chartered 4-H Club Signs, individual exhibitor name signs and official stall card signs. (Please note that individual name signs are allowed, ex. sheep shaped sign with 4-Hers name on it. But it CANNOT have any Breeding/Company/Advertising on it). This rule is consistent with State Fair rules.

WEIGHTS

Market Beef Heifers minimum	950 pounds
Market Beef Steers minimum	1000 pounds
Market Lambs minimum	95 pounds
Market Swine minimum	220 pounds
Meat Goat minimum	50 pounds

Market animals will be weighed in on scales located at the fairgrounds one time only. Animals not meeting these weight requirements will be allowed to show in a special pre-market class but will not be eligible for championship consideration.

4-H members and their families must provide adequate care for and show their own animals. Other 4-H members and their families may be of assistance to members. Abuse of rules will be dealt with in the following manner.

- **1st offense:** Warning (warnings will be reported to and recorded by the Extension Agent in the 4-H Livestock office on the fairgrounds. Warnings will be issued by the Extension Staff and/or Livestock Superintendents.
- **2nd offense:** Violator will be asked to leave the barn. (Violator is the person doing the work for the member).
- **3rd offense:** Mandatory dismissal for the 4-H member from further showing and forfeiture of awards for the current fair.

SHOWMANSHIP

- ELIGIBILITY-All 4-H livestock exhibitors must show their own animals to be considered as participants in the Showmanship Contest, as in compliance with Nebraska State Fair 4-H Policy. Substitute showman are not allowed in the Showmanship Contest. Showman will be allowed to compete in a division each year based on their age. Ownership is determined by Fair entry and appropriate ownership/ID affidavits from the Extension Office.
- AGE DIVISIONS – NEW THIS YEAR - Showmanship classes will be divided into three age divisions; Junior (8-10 by January 1) Intermediate (11-13 years old by January 1) and Senior (14 – 18 years old by January 1).**
- ASSIGNED CLASSES - In species where showmanship classes are assigned and posted prior to the show, exhibitors must show in the class assigned, or receive prior permission from the species superintendent, or they will be disqualified.
- BASIS FOR JUDGING-Showmanship judging is based on preparation of animals for show, their apparent training and the appearance and behavior of the showman. Minor technical points are not to be over-emphasized, nor do minor infractions disqualify the exhibitor. Primarily in showmanship, it is the skill of the showman in presenting the animal before the judge that counts, while individual excellence of the animal does not.
- EXHIBITOR DRESS CODE- Livestock/ Animal General Rules.
- LIVESTOCK GROOMING RULE- Livestock/Animal General Rules.
- EXHIBITOR NUMBERS-To allow for easy and rapid identification, all exhibitor numbers shall be pinned on the back of the exhibitor in the area of the shoulder blades.
- DISQUALIFICATION-The division superintendents may disqualify any 4-H'er from showmanship for any violation of rules or unsportsmanlike conduct at the Fair.

SUBSTITUTE SHOWMAN

An animal must be shown by the owner who entered it unless the exhibitor is excused by the Superintendent or Extension Staff because of serious illness, physical disability, or disability due to an injury (e.g. broken arm or leg). Substitute showman are only allowed when the animal is being judged in Market or Breeding Classes. An exhibitor who has more than one animal in a class needs to find a substitute exhibitor for that 4-H animal but they can only be another 4-H exhibitor from the Polk County 4-H program.

SPECIFIC SPECIES LIVESTOCK GUIDELINES

BEEF

1. No animal can be entered in both breeding and market classes.
2. All Beef Exhibitors must use the official tie-outs provided by the Polk County Fairboard. If Exhibitor or family chooses not to use these tie-outs they will given one warning and if the animals are not moved to the appropriate site then you will be asked to take your animal's home and not allowed to exhibit.
3. Beef will be shown as Blow & Go with foam and oil is allowed, but NO adhesives.
4. All exhibitors of beef cattle except bucket calves; are eligible to enter the showmanship contest and MUST USE THEIR OWN ANIMAL.
5. Over All Champions will be chosen from Market Steer, Market Heifers, Breeding Heifers, Feeder Male, Feeder Female, Cow/Calf Pair and Bucket Calves.
6. Any beef able to be shown in a registered breeding class must have an official copy of the breed papers attached to the required I.D. sheet on file in the Extension office by Fair time. All registered animals will be shown according to breed, no minimum number needed.
7. Need to designate animal as Market or Breeding prior to June 15 of the current year.
8. Preferably show animal with Leather Halter along with a show stick and scotch comb.
9. Limits - 3 market animals including pre-market, 3 breeding, 2 feeder calf, 1 bucket calf, 1 cow/calf pair. (To be eligible to show 3 Market animals they must be a combination of Market Steers and Heifers, 3 of one specific sex is not allowed. To be eligible to show 3 Breeding Beef they must be a combination under a year Breeding Heifers and older Breeding Heifers.)
10. Bucket Calf class is limited to youth 4-H age 10 and under.
11. Bedding must be wood mulch base, then may have shavings on top and wetted down if needed. Please contact the Extension Office if you have questions. This rule will be strictly enforced.
12. Refer to Rule 13 under GENERAL LIVESTOCK GUIDELINES about eligible signage in the beef barn.
13. Beef show will be Blow and Go; animals are clipped, blown and brushed or combed to enhance their appearance. Guidelines for the Blow and Go show:
 - a. 4-H beef animals will be shown **free of** any compounds that are applied by aerosol propellants.
 - b. Alcohol, water or any water- or alcohol-based products with no adhesive qualities are permitted.
 - c. Any compounds that have adhesive qualities or alter the color of the animal are forbidden.

SHEEP

1. Market lambs will be dry, have all covers removed, and have been slick shorn to no more than 1/8" within the previous 10 days.
2. Market classes are open to wether and ewe lambs. All male animals must be completely neutered prior to ID deadline.
3. Breeding sheep will be determined by age.
4. Over All Champions will be chosen from Market Lambs & Breeding Ewes.
5. Each member may show four market lambs and a pen of three market lambs along with two breeding ewes.
6. Market Lambs and breeding ewes have different tags and must be designated by June 15th. Once designated they can only be shown in there appropriate tagged classes.
7. Market lambs must be shown without halters. Breeding ewes can be shown on halter.
8. Bedding must be provided by the exhibitor and must bagged wood shavings.
9. SHOWING AND HANDLING PRACTICES-The use of showing and/or handling practices that may be considered objectionable or abusive, such as striking or slapping lambs and exhibiting the

lamb with its feet off the ground, are not acceptable. The use of such practices may result in the lowering of a ribbon placing.

10. Refer to Rule 13 under GENERAL LIVESTOCK GUIDELINES about eligible signage in the sheep barn.

GOAT

1. Market goats may be doe or wether kids. Short scrotum, cryptorchid and buck kids are not eligible. All market goats will be weighed and divided into classes based on total numbers and weight range. Market does and wethers will show together.
2. All Meat Goats (market and breeding) must be listed on official 4-H ownership affidavit to be eligible to show. All market goats must be listed on Market Goat affidavit and Breeding goats on separate Breeding goat affidavit.
 - A. Market goats must be uniformly slick shorn with 3/8 inch of hair or less from the knee and up. Breeding Goats will be allowed to be unshorn.
3. Market Goats are to have milk teeth and there shall be no evidence of breaking of the skin or eruption of the two permanent front teeth.
4. Market goats must have horns blunted. Dehorning is acceptable and preferred.
5. Market goats are to be shown with neck chains or smooth collars only. No leashes allowed.
6. SHOWING AND HANDLING PRACTICES-The use of showing and/or handling practices that may be considered objectionable or abusive, such as striking or slapping goats and exhibiting the goat with its feet off the ground, are not acceptable. The use of such practices may result in the lowering of a ribbon placing.
7. Over All Champions will be chosen from Meat Goat, and Breeding Meat Goat, Each member may show up to four meat goat and two breeding meat goats.
8. Market Goats & Breeding does have different tags and must be designated by June 15th.
9. Bedding is provided by the exhibitor and must be bagged wood shavings.

SWINE

1. Each member may show six individual market hogs or five market hogs and one breeding gilt.
2. Breeding gilt must be designated before animals cross the scale at the fair.
3. Pens for swine must be cleaned and shavings changed on a daily basis.
4. Minimum weight for Market Swine is 220. All light weight hogs will be shown in the Pre-Market Class (which is not eligible for Grand or Reserve or Purple Ribbon Livestock Auction).
5. Preferred age of Market Hog is 5-6 months old at fair time.
6. Show stick or riding crop and brush are needed for showmanship.
7. Bedding is provided by the exhibitor and must be bagged wood shavings.

POULTRY

1. All poultry exhibited must be grown in a 4-H member's project.
2. Exhibitors must water and feed their own animals during the Polk County Fair. The Superintendents are NOT responsible for daily care. This means that Exhibitors must furnish the feed, feed containers, water, and bedding while on the grounds for both open class and 4-H. Exhibitors who do not take care of their animals will be asked to remove their animals and all premiums and ribbons will be forfeited.
3. All birds must be on the grounds by 5 p.m. on Wednesday (entry day) of the Polk County Fair.
4. Exhibits must remain in place for the duration of the fair.
5. The total number of Poultry Exhibits that one exhibitor can enter is limited to Eight (Trio or Pen of three count as on exhibit, but this includes ducks, geese, turkey's etc.) This total includes open class exhibits.

6. All birds must be free of apparent illness, disease and parasites. Birds not complying must be removed from the premises immediately.
7. Breed classes will be judged by the American Standard of Perfection.
8. Trays underneath the pen's MUST be clean out on a daily basis.
9. Cocks and hens are defined as birds over 12 months of age.
10. Cockerels and pullets are defined as birds under 12 months old.
11. "Standard" means the regular large breed of poultry. "Bantam" means the small variety of the breed.

RABBIT

1. All rabbits exhibited must be grown in a 4-H member's project.
2. Exhibitors must water and feed their own animals during the Polk County Fair. The Superintendents are not responsible for daily care. This means that Exhibitors must furnish the feed, feed containers, water, and bedding while on the grounds for both open class and 4-H. Exhibitors who do not take care of their animals will be asked to remove their animals and all premiums and ribbons will be forfeited.
3. All rabbits must be on the grounds by 5 p.m. on Wednesday (entry day) of the Polk County Fair.
4. Exhibits must remain in place for the duration of the fair.
5. The total number of Rabbit Exhibits that one exhibitor can enter is limited to Five. This total includes open class exhibits.
6. No rabbit may be exhibited in more than one class. Animals shown in meat classes cannot be shown as breed animals.
7. The show will follow the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. Show Rules, and all classes will be judged according to ages and weights as established by the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. Standard of Perfection.
8. All entries in good health will be judged. Any rabbit found to be not in good health during the show will be removed from the 4-H Fairgrounds immediately and will not be shown.
9. 4-H'ers will bring their rabbits to the show table when their class is called. They will stay and watch the rabbits being judged, then return them to their cages. Only 4-H members may show rabbits at the judging table, no adults. If a rabbit is not on the table at the time the class is judged, the rabbit will not be judged.
10. Any entry having any eliminating or disqualifying features will be awarded a green ribbon placing.
11. A clean and neat appearance should be kept in aisle way and around cages and MUST be clean on a daily basis.
12. Only rabbits entered in the show are allowed in the Small Animal Barn.

DOG/SMALL ANIMAL/CAT

1. All Dog's and Cat's need to be vaccinated prior to Fair.
2. It is suggested but not required that Dogs attended the Polk County Dog Obedience Classes at least a few time in order for the dogs to get to know each other prior to fair. Please contact the Extension Office for more information about how to enroll.
3. Small Animal's should be brought to the fair in a carrier or pet home so that they can be restrained while not being shown.
4. Cats must be on a leash while being shown.
5. Small Animal and Cat show consists of showmanship of the animal. A short narrative of pet care and information will be expected. Contact the Extension Office for more information.

LLAMA

1. Rules as per ALSA 17th addition handbook
2. If you are borrowing a llama you are responsible for all care during the fair as if you were the owner of the animal. It is not the 4-H leader's responsibility to feed, water and care for your animal during the fair.
3. All Llamas are required to be in place by 8:00 a.m. on Thursday morning and must stay on the fairgrounds until release time on Sunday.

HORSE

1. Polk County 4-H follows the State 4-H Horse Rules and guidelines. Refer to 4-H Show and Judging Guide for 4-H Horse Rules available in the Polk County Extension Office.
2. When using the fairgrounds for practice, the fairboard requires you to remove any horse waste left behind if you are parking in the main area of the fairgrounds. This includes to the West of the covered arena and arena and in between the two areas. Please use your common sense. If you do not follow the fairboards rule, they may not allow 4-Hers to use the arena prior to fair.
3. Horse show day parking requirements must be followed according the fairboards policy. These will be given each year in the pre-enrollment for fair letter each year.

HERDSMANSHIP

All animal exhibit areas are expected to be under 4Her supervision throughout the fair and should be clean and neat. Herdsmanship judging begins when animals are entered on Thursday morning and ends when the animal is loaded out on Sunday. Judging will be done on a family basis NOT by club or barn. Ribbons will be given for Herdsmanship and guidelines for selecting a ribbon include:

1. Every 4-H member exhibiting livestock is automatically entered in Herdsmanship on an individual/family basis.
2. Animal clean at all times with grooming apparent.
3. Animals adequately cared for with proper feeding, clean and proper amount of bedding and adequate equipment and stalls.
4. Tack and feed area clean and neatly arranged. Fork handles and similar equipment hung, or kept in a secure and safe manner.
5. Proper courtesy and conduct shown by exhibitors at all times and at all places. All exhibitors are expected to participate in herdsmanSHIP.
6. Stall poster-completed and easy to read.
7. Courtesy and helpfulness to visitors
8. Exhibitor's share of alley area kept clean. Wheelbarrows and equipment kept from aisle.
9. The Polk County 4-H Council will serve as superintendent for Herdsmanship and will schedule volunteers to judge the barns. Each barn will be judged twice on Thursday, Friday and Saturday except for the day of the show of each species when there will be no judging. A score sheet will be provided to each of the volunteer judges.
10. A Pitchfork award will be awarded to a 4-H individual or family who goes above and beyond other livestock members showing. The award will be announced at the awards program on Sunday.