

Animal Science/ Livestock

Entry must be a purple ribbon to earn awards and rosettes. **Grand and Reserve Champion premiums for cattle, swine, sheep, goats, rabbits and poultry are \$12 and \$10 (total), respectively.** All exhibitors of beef, sheep, swine, goats, poultry and rabbits must be Quality Assurance certified by June 13th, 2026. Beef, sheep, swine and goats must have an animal ID filed in the Extension Office by June 13th, 2025. All rabbits MUST have an ear tattoo on their pre-fair entry forms turned in on July 10th, 2026.

Showmanship: Open to all 4-H'ers. Your participation is encouraged. Remember, promptness in the show ring is a part of the contest. The contest will start promptly at designated time. Personal grooming of the exhibitor, 4-H insignia, fitting and training of the animals, show ring courtesies, as well as skill of the showman will be considered in the Showmanship Contest judging.

Showmanship Age divisions: Junior (8-10), Intermediate (11-13), Senior (14-18) years of age by January 1 of the current year. Grand and Reserve Champion premiums for showmanship in cattle, swine, sheep, goats, rabbits and poultry are \$12 and \$10 (total), respectively.

Note: 1) Animals cannot be shown by more than one person in showmanship, and this includes FFA showmanship classes as well as other 4-H showmanship classes; 2) Animal must be stalled at the fair if that species is normally stalled at fair; 3) Animal must be on the 4-H member's ID sheet who is showing it.

A party making an entry of registered stock of any kind shall furnish the Extension Office with authentic certified copy of pedigree of such stock with Livestock ID's due June 13th, 2026. Failure to do so will render the exhibit ineligible for registered breeding classes. The Extension Office and Superintendent will move it to a commercial class if available.

Substitute Showman: An animal must be shown by the 4-H owner who entered it unless the exhibitor is excused by the Division Superintendent because of illness or disability due to an injury (e.g. broken arm or leg).

Uniform: 4-H exhibitors showing beef, sheep, swine, goats, dogs, rabbits, poultry, cats and companion animals are required to wear the official County Fair 4-H t-shirt, jeans and closed-toed, hard-soled shoes. Hair must be pulled back. No hats or caps.

Grooming: The preparation and grooming of an animal should be the primary responsibility of the exhibitor; however, assistance may be provided by other youth exhibitors and/or immediate family members.

Beef classes including Showmanship, Market Beef and Breeding Beef will be Blow and Go. *Guidelines for the Blow and Go show include:*

1. Beef animals will be shown free of any adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products.
2. Any compounds that have adhesive qualities that when applied cannot be combed or brushed through or alter the color of the animal are forbidden. These products include but are not limited to commonly used adhesives and colorants such as Prime Time, EZ Comb, Tail Adhesive, Ultra White Touch-Up, Black Touch-Up, Black Finisher and black show foam.
3. Alcohol, water, oil, foam or any water- or alcohol-based products with no adhesive or glue qualities or artificial colorings are permitted. These products include conditioners and commonly used sprays such as Kleen Sheen, Revive, Final Bloom and white show foam. Paint will be allowed on the hooves and dewclaws only.

Ultimately...

*Exhibitors can still clip, wash, and blow their animals

*Only oil or water-based products can be applied

*No adhesives or paints

Pigs must be shown without hairdressing compounds. This includes oil, powder or any other coat dressing compounds. Water is permitted.

Entry: Pre-entry is required by July 10th, 2026. Late entries will not have pen space. Club members are not eligible to show one entry in both 4-H and FFA. They may show separate entries in each.

Chutes: Please be considerate of the space allotment for chutes along barns. The RULE is one chute per family to ensure that all those wanting to set up chutes have an equal opportunity at space.

Herdsmanship

All livestock exhibitors are automatically entered into herdsmanship, as livestock exhibitors are expected to keep their pens and exhibit area clean, neat, and as attractive as possible. The entire area in the case of club exhibits must also be clean and presented in an attractive manner to the spectators and public at all times.

- A. HERDSMANSHIP RESPONSIBILITY** - Herdsmanship duties are the responsibility of the 4-H members, not leaders, advisors, or parents. All exhibitors will be assigned stalls to their club's area prior to clean-up, which makes pre-entry for the fair a must! Exhibitors will need to help with pre and post fair cleanup.
- B. WHEN HERDSMANSHIP BEGINS AND STOPS** - Herdsmanship begins at the time a division of livestock is to be in place and ends when the exhibits are released at the end of the fair.
- C. CLUB RESPONSIBILITY** - It is the 4-H member's responsibility to assist his or her club members to maintain a clean and presentable space for the public. The 4-H members shall show proper courtesy and conduct at all times.
- D. RELEASE OF EXHIBITS** - The superintendent of each area, along with the 4-H Educator, reserves the right to release 4-H exhibits that are not properly cared for or have not followed herdsmanship rules.
- E. JUDGING DIVISIONS** - Each livestock division: beef, sheep, dairy, goats, swine, horse, rabbit and poultry will be judged separately. Awards will be given to Clubs and Independents (families). A committee will be assembled to judge each division.

Herdsmanship may be checked twice daily for the duration of the fair, except the day of the show, that species will only be judged once (ex: swine herdsmanhip will not be judged the morning of the swine show).

- F. **DISPLAY OF ANIMALS** - All animals should be in their stalls or pens between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. except for weighing in, washing, showing and exercise periods.
- G. **CLEANING STALLS AND PENS** - All stalls and pens should be thoroughly cleaned before 8:00 a.m. Manure and wet bedding should be collected on a need basis throughout the day.
- H. **RESULTS** - Ratings will be made on club or independent basis. Results will be announced in the newsletter.
- I. **BASIS OF RATING HERDSMANSHIP** - All pens need to be cleaned immediately after the livestock is removed on Sunday afternoon. Uncleaned stalls after exhibits have been removed will disqualify clubs/individuals from winning herdsmanhip premium or recognition. This will be determined by the respective superintendent. Herdsmanhip judges will use the following scoring guide in judging club exhibits for herdsmanhip.

Categories

- 1. Cleanliness of alleys and stalls or pens.....5 points

Criteria:

- A. Bedding adequate, reasonably clean and kept in place.
- B. Feed boxes/pans in front of animals only at feeding time.
- C. Manure hauled out/trays emptied and deposited in proper places.
- D. Alleys are to be free from obstructions and clutter, clean, debris free, inviting and accessible to all fair participants.

- 2. Arrangement of Exhibit.....4 points

Criteria:

- A. Exhibits lined up in an attractive manner.
- B. Tack and feed clean and neatly arranged (Show boxes, fans, etc.)
- C. Tie outs (beef) orderly, neatly maintained and cleaned.
- D. Clipping chutes/sheep stands properly positioned.
- E. Signs identifying stalls, exhibits and exhibitors clearly in place and readable from the alley (Club signs should be appropriate for the exhibit).
- F. Stall cards must be neatly arranged, clean, and complete.
- G. Championship signs are displayed in a timely manner.

- 3. Appearance of animals.....3 points

Criteria:

- A. Animals clean with grooming apparent.
- B. Animals in stalls or pens at all times, except for weighing, showing and washing.
- C. Animals securely tied or penned.

12 points possible

The highest scoring club/chapter for overall herdsmanhip for all species will receive \$50 for club champion, second highest scoring club \$25 for reserve champion, and the highest scoring independent 4-H exhibitor will receive \$10. Payments will be given to the club leader to be deposited into the club account. An average will be taken over all species to determine the scores by taking points each club has and dividing it by numbers of stalls/pens per species.

**Elite Showmanship Contest
Superintendent: Emily Soll**

Elite Showmanship

Elite Showmanship Contest Top senior showman from beef, sheep, swine and meat goat will compete against each other showing each animal and take a written test for knowledge. If a 4-H member qualifies in more than one species, they will choose which species they are going to represent, and the other species will be represented by the reserve senior showman. In the event of a tie, additional questions or an additional species may be added.

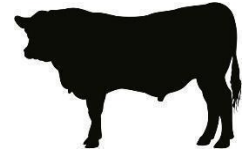
First place award will be given by the 4 Star Hamilton Heroes 4-H Club.

**Livestock Judging Contest
Superintendent: Joel Miller**

- G500-901 Livestock Judging, Senior (4-H ages 14-18)
 - G500-902 Livestock Judging, Intermediate (4-H ages 11-13)
 - G500-903 Livestock Judging, Junior (4-H ages 8-10)
- Champion & Reserve Champion will be awarded in each Judging class.*

PREMIUM	Purple	Blue	Red	White
	\$4.00	\$3.75	\$3.00	\$2.25

BEEF DIVISION
Superintendent: Grant Johnson



4-H members can compete for premium in 5 classes plus showmanship. Other classes will be for ribbon and/or awards.

Beef Show will be "Blow & GO": Preparation and grooming of an animal should be the primary responsibility of the exhibitor; however, assistance may be provided by other youth exhibitors and/or immediate family members.

Beef Shows including Showmanship, Market Beef and Breeding Beef will be Blow and Go; animals may be clipped, blown and brushed or combed to enhance their appearance. Guidelines for the Blow and Go show:

1. Beef animals will be shown free of any adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products.
2. Any compounds that have adhesive qualities that when applied cannot be combed or brushed through or alter the color of the animal are forbidden. These products include but are not limited to commonly used adhesives and colorants such as Prime Time, EZ Comb, Tail Adhesive, Ultra White Touch-Up, Black Touch-Up, Black Finisher and black show foam.
3. Alcohol, water, oil, foam or any water- or alcohol-based products with no adhesive or glue qualities or artificial colorings are permitted. These products include conditioners and commonly used sprays such as Kleen Sheen, Revive, Final Bloom and white show foam. Paint will be allowed on the hooves and dewclaws only.

Ultimately...

*Exhibitors can still clip, wash, and blow their animals

*Only oil or water-based products can be applied

*No adhesives or paints

State Fair Ruling for Market Beef - "A market beef animal may have the two center temporary incisor teeth replaced by permanent incisors. The remaining six temporary incisors must be in place and there may be no evidence of eruption of any permanent incisors other than the centers."

PREMIUMS	Purple	Blue	Red	White
	\$9.00	\$7.50	\$4.50	\$3.00

BEEF SHOWMANSHIP

G610-001 Showmanship Junior (4-H ages 8-10)

G610-002 Showmanship Intermediate (4-H ages 11-13)

G610-003 Showmanship Senior (4-H ages 14-18)

Champion & Reserve Champion Showman will be awarded in G610-1, 2, & 3

MARKET BEEF

Any Market Beef animal weighing in UNDER 900 pounds will be put into a Pre-Market class, will not be eligible for a purple ribbon, and will not be eligible for Grand or Reserve Market Beef.

G611-010 Market Beef Steer*

G611-020 Hamilton County Raised Steer* (must have weighed in on March 8, 2026)

G611-050 Market Beef Heifer

***The same animal cannot be entered in both classes**

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded in G611-010, 020 & 050.

G611-901 Rate of Gain Steer (must have weighed in on March 8, 2026, and be shown for a 4-H market class at the county fair)

G611-902 Rate of Gain Heifer (must have weighed in on March 8th, 2026, and be shown for a 4-H market class at the county fair)

1st and 2nd place will be awarded in both G611-901 & 902.

G611-006 Pen of Three

Individual excellence of animals will be considered. Uniformity of the group will also be considered. Grooming of the animals for competition is permitted but not required. The 3 animals can be any 3 from one family's I.D. sheet.

Champion & Reserve Champion will be awarded in G611-006

G611-007 Club Pen of 3 Beef Animals

Limited to three entries per club. Three animals from one club owned by not less than two club members. Individual excellence of animals will be considered. Uniformity of the group will also be considered. Exhibitors may consist of three club members. Club Pen of 3 cannot be the same 3 animals that were entered for Individual Club Pen of 3.

FEEDER CALVES

The purpose of this division is to provide 4-H members enrolled in the 4-H beef breeding project producing feeder calves an opportunity to exhibit the product of their project. (Not eligible for auction)

1. To qualify in this division each calf (heifer or steer) entered must have a certified birth date. The sire and dam need not be registered.
2. Calves to be exhibited in this division must be identified and recorded with the local County Extension office on or before June 13.

3. Calves to be exhibited in this division do not need to be weaned from the cow, but if you are planning to bring the cow along to the fair, please let the local County Extension office know on or before June 13 due to space.

G607-901 Steers – born Oct.1-Dec. 31, 2025 (Not eligible for State Fair)¹
G607-902 Bulls – born Oct 1-Dec 31, 2025 (Not eligible for State Fair)
G607-002 Steers – January 1, 2026, through April 2026
G607-003 Bulls – January 1, 2026, through April 2026 (Not eligible for State Fair)
Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion chosen between G607-901 & G608-902.

G607-903 Heifers – born Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 2025 (Not eligible for State Fair)
G607-004 Heifers –January 1, 2026, through April 2026
Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion chosen between G607-903 & G607-904.

BUCKET CALF

Any newborn or orphan calf (steer, bull, or heifer) must be born between January 1, 2026, and April 30, 2026.

G609-901 Bucket Calves - feeder calves not raised on a cow. Includes interview judging (in the show ring), showing, and record book.

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion chosen from G609-901.

G609-911 2nd Year Bucket Calves – Calf was tagged and on the 4-H member’s Beef ID sheet the previous year as a bucket calf. Must be a steer or heifer and will be shown together. Judging based on the quality of the animal, body condition score, record book, and if the animal is being raised/fed for its intended purpose (breeding vs. market).

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion chosen from G609-911.

BREEDING HEIFER

G606-010 Registered Female Commercial Female

G606-020 Commercial Female Yearling Heifers - Calved Jan. and Feb. of previous year

G606-021 Commercial Female Yearling Heifers - Calved March and Apr. of previous year

G606-022 Commercial Female Yearling Heifers - Calved May and June of previous year

G606-023 Commercial Female Yearling Heifers - Calved July and Aug. of previous year

G606-024 Commercial Female Heifer Calves - Calved Sept. and Oct. of previous year

G606-025 Commercial Female Heifer Calves - Calved Nov. and Dec. of previous year

Any female raised for breeding purposes and not shown in market heifer classes, and properly recorded on 4-H records, may be shown in this division. Classes will be rearranged for the breeds and age groups as the show warrants.

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion are chosen between G606-010 & G606-020.

COW/CALE

Judging is on the cow and calf as a pair and must be shown in the ring as the pair. The calf MUST be shown as a Feeder Calf in order to be entered as a Cow/Calf pair (See Feeder Calf section on birth dates of calves). Cow and calf must be biologically related.

Must be clean and groomed, clipping not required. Bull calves are allowed in this class.

G608-030 Cow/Calf

Champion & Reserve chosen in G608-30.



GOAT DIVISION
Superintendents: Jared Sullivan

PREMIUMS	Purple	Blue	Red	White
	\$9.00	\$7.50	\$4.50	\$3.00

GOAT SHOWMANSHIP

G650-001 Showmanship Junior (4-H ages 8-10)

G650-002 Showmanship Intermediate (4-H ages 11-13)

G650-003 Showmanship Senior (4-H ages 14-18)

Champion & Reserve Champion Showman will be awarded in G650-1, 2, & 3

MEAT GOATS

General information: The objective of the 4-H meat goat project is to provide youth with life skills of being responsible, making decisions, planning, organizing and working with others. Most of all, the project member will learn about raising and feeding meat goats. The meat goat project is designed for animals showing meat qualities such as the goats with the Boer influence.

NO hair, dairy or miniature goats will be included in the project.

¹

Meat goat exhibitors must follow all the other County Fair livestock project rules.

- Goats will be weighed on entry day and should be a minimum of 45 lbs. will be put into a Pre-Market class, will not be eligible for a purple ribbon, and will not be eligible for Grand or Reserve Market Goat.
- After weighing, goats will be divided into weight classes depending on the number of entries and at the superintendent's discretion.
- Exhibitors may enter a maximum of 5 head, with maximum 3 market or 3 breeding.
- All goats must be carrying all milk teeth at the time of check-in.
- All goats must be dehorned or have horns tipped.
- Other wether and female kids may be shown – no billies.

G650-004 Market Meat Goats, Wethers & Nannies Any Market Goat animal weighing in UNDER 45 pounds will be put into a Pre-Market class, will not be eligible for a purple ribbon, and will not be eligible for Grand or Reserve Market Goat.

G650-005 Breeding Meat Spring Born Nannies

G650-006 Breeding Meat Fall Born Nannies

G650-007 Breeding Meat Yearling Nannies

G650-008 Exhibitor group of two Market goats

G650-009 Hamilton County Raised Meat Goat (must be weighed in on May 21, 2026)

G650-010 Rate of Gain Meat Goat (Goats must be weighed in on May 21, 2026, and be shown in a market class at fair)

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded for Market Meat Goat in G650-004 & G650-009

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded for Breeding Meat Goat G650-005 to 007

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded for Rate of Gain from G650-010

DAIRY GOATS

Milk Out - Goats to be milked within 16 hours of the show

4-H'ers can compete for a premium in 5 classes plus showmanship. Other classes will be for ribbons and/or Awards.

G650-011 Goat (under 5 months)

G650-012 Goat (5 to 8 months)

G650-013 Goat (8 months to 1 year)

G650-004 Goat (1 to 2 years -non-Milking Doe)

G650-015 Goat (under 2 years -Milking Doe)

G650-016 2 and 3 years (Milking Doe)

G650-017 4 years and over (Milking Doe)

G650-018 Mother-Daughter

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion Overall Dairy Goat will be awarded in G650-011 to 017



SHEEP DIVISION Superintendents: Jarod Sullivan

Sheep shown must be owned by the club member & be part of the 4-H Sheep project. No cash awards will be made for sheep not fitted for the show ring. A 4-H'er can enter up to 5 sheep with a maximum of 3 market or 3 breeding.

4-H'ers can compete for premiums in 5 classes plus showmanship. Other classes will be for ribbons and/or Awards. Exhibitors may show 3 individual market sheep and a pen-of-three.

PREMIUMS

Purple	Blue	Red	White
\$9.00	\$7.50	\$4.50	\$3.00

SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP

G630-001 Showmanship Junior (4-H ages 8-10)

G630-002 Showmanship Intermediate (4-H ages 11-13)

G630-003 Showmanship Senior (4-H ages 14-18)

Champion & Reserve Champion Showman will be awarded in G630-1, 2, & 3

(Lambs Shown in Breeding Classes Not Eligible in Market Lamb Classes)

MARKET LAMB

Any Market Lamb weighing in UNDER 100 pounds will be put into a Feeder lamb class, will not be eligible for a purple ribbon, and will not be eligible for overall Market Sheep.

G631-010 Market Lamb (classed by weight)

G631-903 Hamilton County Raised Market Lamb (must be weighed in on May 21, 2026)

G631-901 Rate of Gain Market Wether (Lambs must be weighed in on May 21, 2026, and be shown in a market class at fair)

G631-902 Rate of Gain Market Ewe (Lambs must be weighed in on May 21, 2026, and be shown in a market class at fair)

G631-003 Pen-of-Three Market Sheep Only 1 Pen per member.

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded in G631-010 and G631-903.
 1st Place and 2nd Place will be awarded in classes G631-901 to G631-902.
 Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded in G631-903.

BREEDING LAMB

(Submit papers to the Extension Office by June 15, 2026)

Purebreds

Breeding lambs under 1 year of age that are eligible for registration are eligible to show in these classes providing registration papers are made available to the superintendent for the Sire and Dam.

G632-001 Ewe

Ewes dropped January 1 of current year or after are classed as lambs. For the Dorset breed, this date is September 1 of previous year. All other ewes dropped during previous year are classed as yearling ewes.

G632-002 Ewe (over 1 year)

Grades – commercial – no papers

G632-003 Ewe (over 1 year)

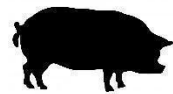
G632-030 Ewe Lamb (under 1 year)

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded in G632-001, 2, 3 & 30.

SWINE DIVISION

Superintendent: Duane Danielson

A 4-H'er will be allowed up to four market swine and four breeding swine at the county fair.



PREMIUMS	Purple	Blue	Red	White
	\$9.00	\$7.50	\$4.50	\$3.00

SWINE SHOWMANSHIP

G635-001 Showmanship Junior (4-H ages 8-10)

G635-002 Showmanship Intermediate (4-H ages 11-13)

G635-003 Showmanship Senior (4-H ages 14-18)

Champion & Reserve Champion Showman will be awarded in G635-1, 2, & 3

MARKET SWINE

Hogs should weigh between 210 and 300 pounds. There will be no re-weighs. Any Market Swine animal weighing in UNDER 210 pounds will be put into a Pre-Market class, will not be eligible for a purple ribbon, and will not be eligible for Grand or Reserve Market Hog.

G635-010 Market Gilt

G635-020 Market Barrow

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded in both G635-010 & 020.

G635-030 Pen-of-Four Market Swine – One entry only, per member

Champion and Reserve awarded in G635-030.

BREEDING SWINE

All breeding gilts have to be farrowed from December 1 of the previous year to May 31 of the current year.

G635-040 Commercial Gilt

G635-050 Registered Gilt To be eligible to show a purebred have a copy of registration papers due by pre-fair entry on July 10.

Classes will be broken down into breeds if at least three of the same breed are available to have a specific breed.

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded between G635-040 and 050.

POULTRY DIVISION

Superintendent: Marcia Traudt

Assistant Superintendent: Troy Holloway

PREMIUMS	Purple	Blue	Red	White
	\$9.00	\$7.50	\$4.50	\$3.00

Limit of 5 entries (pen of 3 counts as 1 entry) plus showmanship.

Poultry

G670-001 Showmanship Junior (4-H ages 8-10)

G670-002 Showmanship Intermediate (4-H ages 11-13)



G670-003 Showmanship Senior (4-H ages 14-18)
Champion & Reserve Champion Showman will be awarded in G670-1, 2, & 3

Standard

G670-004 Cockerel
G670-005 Pullet
G670-006 Cock
G670-007 Hen
G670-008 Hen & Rooster Pair

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded between G670-004 to G670-008.

Bantams

G670-009 Cockerel
G670-010 Pullet
G670-011 Cock
G670-012 Hen
G670-013 Hen & Rooster Pair

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded between G670-009 to G670-013.

Broilers

G670-014 Pen of Three Broilers (limit 1 pen)
(must be purchased from the Extension Office)

Champion & Reserve Champion will be awarded in G670-014.

Other

G670-015 Pen of Three Egg Production (same breed)
Champion & Reserve Champion will be awarded in G670-015.

Waterfowl

G670-016 Duck
G670-017 Goose
G670-018 Turkey

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded between G670-016 to G670-018

RABBIT DIVISION
Superintendent: Marcia Traudt
Assistant Superintendent: Troy Holloway



PREMIUMS

Purple	Blue	Red	White
\$9.00	\$7.50	\$4.50	\$3.00

All rabbits MUST have an ear tattoo and said tattoo needs to be on the youths pre-fair entry forms turned in on July 10th, 2026. Limit of 5 rabbits per member.

RABBITS

Refer to Nebraska Extension showmanship videos for the correct way to show rabbits.

Showmanship (maximum length of showmanship is 4 minutes.)

G680-001 Showmanship Junior (4-H ages 8-10)
G680-002 Showmanship Intermediate (4-H ages 11-13)
G680-003 Showmanship Senior (4-H ages 14-18)

Champion & Reserve Champion Showman will be awarded in Class G680-1, 2, & 3

G680-004 Junior Buck (under 8 months)
G680-005 Junior Doe (under 8 months)
G680-006 Senior Buck (over 8 months)
G680-007 Senior Doe (over 8 months)

Grand Champion & Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded for the top bucks (Class G680-004 & G680-006) & the top does (Class G680-005 & G680-007).