

DEPARTMENT I – LIVESTOCK

Livestock Resources: <https://shop4-h.org/collections/animal-agricultural-science-curriculum>

IAFE (INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS) NATIONAL CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show. All adults and mentors working with 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. Animals exhibiting symptoms of contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, including visible ringworm (club lamb fungus in sheep) warts and/or abscesses may be asked to be removed from the exhibition grounds. Under no circumstances may animals under quarantine be exhibited.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

JUNE 15

- **Enroll in 4-H** at v2.4honline.com
- **Youth Quality Assurance (YQCA) Training must be completed**, and a copy of the certificate provided to the Extension Office. No YQCA certificates dated after June 15 will be accepted. YQCA TRAINING is required for all LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY EXHIBITORS, and MEAT RABBIT for county and state fair. The online course is at yqcaprogram.org.

JULY 1

- **FAIR ENTRIES DUE.** 4-Her is limited to two entries per class. Any entries submitted July 2-5 will pay a \$10 late entry fee per animal, and no entries will be accepted after 12 pm. Entry forms are available at <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/centralsandhills/2025-fair-book-for-central-sandhills-area/>
- **Livestock ID's DUE.** Any ID's submitted between July 2-5 will pay a \$10 late fee per animal, and no Livestock ID's will be accepted after 12 pm.

LIVESTOCK SHOWMANSHIP DIVISIONS (4-H AGE):

Junior: 8-10 years

Intermediates: 11-13 years

Seniors: 14-18 years

GENERAL LIVESTOCK RULES

- STATE FAIR DNA:** All market animals (beef, sheep, swine & meat goats) must have a hair sample for DNA testing on file at Ak-sar-ben by the appropriate dates (April 15 for beef, June 15 for all other species) to exhibit at the State Fair.
- Exhibitors in the livestock project cannot exhibit the same project animals in BOTH FFA AND 4-H.
- For the safety of exhibitors and spectators: An animal that becomes wild and uncontrollable during the show may be declared ineligible by the Superintendent, Extension Staff, and Livestock Judge. No muzzles or similar devices will be allowed on 4-H animals.

- D. **ANIMAL TESTING AND EXAMINATION** - Any animal entered in 4-H classes is subject to both urine and blood testing. If the results of testing indicate the possible use of compounds or drugs not approved for use in that species by FDA or compounds or drugs used outside the specified withdrawal requirements of FDA, these animals will be declared ineligible for competition and awards. In the case of market animals, show management will determine the appropriate disposal of the animals. An animal that is tampered with by unusual means to change appearance or weight may be declared ineligible.
- E. **ONLY PURPLES CAN BE CHAMPIONS** - Any beef, dairy, goat, sheep, swine, dog, poultry or rabbit entry must be awarded a first or second purple ribbon in a class for some counties to be eligible to compete for champion or reserve champion.
- F. **GROOMING OF LIVESTOCK** - Preparation and grooming of animal should be the primary responsibility of the Fair exhibitor, however, assistance may be provided by immediate family members including brothers, sisters, and/or parents/legal guardian of the exhibitor and 4-H members. Clipping & grooming of Bucket Calves is NOT required. Washing and combing IS allowed.
- G. **BLOW AND GO** - Livestock will be Blow and Go; animals are clipped, blown, and brushed or combed to enhance their appearance for COUNTY fair (the STATE FAIR book has a more complete list of the rules for beef showmanship).
- 4-H beef animals will be shown free of any compounds that are applied by aerosol propellants.
 - Alcohol, water, or any water- or alcohol-based products with no adhesive qualities are permitted.
 - Any compounds that have adhesive qualities or alter the color of the animal are forbidden.
- H. **SUBSTITUTE SHOWMAN** - An animal must be shown by the 4-H owner who entered it unless the exhibitor is excused because of serious illness, disability due to an injury (e.g., broken arm or leg), or conflict with other livestock classes in a 4-H show. An exhibitor who has more than one animal in a class may use a substitute showman. Substitute showman must be a 4-H member exhibiting at the current County Fair.
- I. **DRESS CODE** - Exhibitors showing livestock are required to wear the official County Fair 4-H T-shirt. If there is no official County Fair 4-H T-shirt, exhibitors are required to wear a plain white shirt (or blouse) with the official 4-H armband or chevron attached. Dark blue jeans and hard soled shoes or boots are required for livestock exhibitors. Dairy exhibitors may wear dark blue jeans or white pants. No hats, caps or other types of headgear are to be worn in the show ring. Exhibitors shall not display local, county, commercial or other identification while showing their animals-except official 4-H.
- J. **LIVESTOCK SALE-GRANT COUNTY ONLY AUCTION RULES**
- Exhibitors will be able to sell 1 market beef, 1 market swine, 1 market goat, 1 market lamb, 1 lot (3) market broilers.
 - Market livestock must meet the following MINIMUM weight requirements to be eligible for sale. No maximum weight requirements.
 - Market Steer: 1,000 lbs.
 - Market Heifer: 900 lbs.
 - Market Swine: 210 lbs.
 - Market Goat: 50 lbs.
 - Market Lamb: 100 lbs.
 - Market Broiler Lot: 4 lbs. each

- c. Livestock failing to meet the weight requirement may show but *will be ineligible for championship awards and the livestock sale. **All livestock selling in the sale must have a butcher date booked by the exhibitor.*
- d. **The Extension office, by UNL mandate, cannot handle any monetary transactions. Sales must be managed by the county 4-H council or any outside group of their choosing.**
- K. **LIVESTOCK SALE, HOOKER COUNTY ONLY** - Exhibitors can sell one (1) head of Market beef, one head of Market Sheep, one head of Market Swine, and one head of Market Goat. **The Extension office, by UNL mandate, cannot handle any monetary transactions. Sales must be managed by the county 4-H council or any outside group of their choosing.**
- L. The same beef animal cannot be shown in both breeding and market classes in the same year.

GENERAL ANIMAL CLASSES: (All Counties – All Species)

- G090100 EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY.** 4-H'ers are invited to create a poster highlighting an educational aspect of their animal project. The poster could focus on a current livestock issue, animal industry career, animal care or health, economic impacts of the livestock industry, within the species of dairy, beef, sheep, swine, goat, poultry, and rabbit. Posters will be displayed in the entrance of the livestock buildings to increase the educational experiences of both the 4-H member and the public increasing agricultural literacy and promoting good will at the Nebraska State Fair. During the time when the corresponding animal is not stalled on the fairgrounds, the poster will be displayed in the 4-H Exhibit Building. To be eligible for the State Fair, posters must have been exhibited at the county fair and received a purple ribbon. Because posters may have been exhibited at the county fair in outside conditions, it is understood that they may be re-done prior to Nebraska State Fair but the content and design should be similar.
- G013900 ACCESSORY/ITEM** made for animal science project. Designed/created by 4-H'er. Any medium can be used. Ex. Braided halter, show stick, blanket, leatherwork, etc. *Item must be checked in on static item judging day for evaluation. **Must include a description of how item was made.

BEEF DIVISION

AWARDS	Purple	Blue	Red	White
	\$6.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00

CLASSES

- G026001L Junior Beef Showmanship** (8-10 yrs.)
- G026002L Intermediate Beef Showmanship** (11-13 yrs.)
- G026003L Senior Beef Showmanship** (14-18 yrs.)

MARKET BEEF

- G010020L Market Steer**
- G010030L Market Heifer**
- G010090L Progress Steer or Heifer.** Less than 1,000 lb. Not eligible for Grand or Reserve Grand Champion Market Beef.
- G021001L Beef RATE OF GAIN** – Local 4-H Councils will oversee all Rate of Gain policies and awards. Please contact your 4-H Council for your county requirements.

BREEDING BEEF

G020010L Heifer Calf- Born after January 1st of current year. Cannot also be shown in stocker feeder heifer. **NOT Eligible in GRANT CO**

G010040L Bred Heifer. 1-2 years of age but not calved prior to show.

G025003L Cow-Calf Pair

G020020L Prospect Bull Calf- Born after January 1st of current year. **NOT Eligible in GRANT CO**

STOCKER FEEDER

G010070L Steer calved after January 1 of the current year.

G010080L Heifer calved after January 1 of the current year.

BUCKET CALF

AWARDS	Purple	Blue	Red	White
	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$2.00

G024001L Bucket Calf Project (4-H age 8+ years). Born between February 1 and June 1 of current year. Washing and combing are allowed; no grooming or clipping. Judged on showmanship (50%) and knowledge gained (50%) in the project. No nurse cows or goats allowed. A bucket calf is a young calf who is no longer nursing from its mother or another cow. The bucket calf is being fed by the 4-H member. Stocker Feeders are under a different class and are calves not weaned and still nurse their mothers. For Clover Kid (ages 5-7) projects, go to Department Z.

SHEEP

AWARDS	Purple	Blue	Red	White
	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$2.00

Clover Kids (4-H age 5-7), see Department Z.

G021002L Sheep RATE OF GAIN – Local 4-H Councils will oversee all Rate of Gain policies and awards. Please contact your 4-H Council for your county requirements.

CLASSES

G033001L Junior Sheep Showmanship (8-10 yrs.)

G033002L Intermediate Sheep Showmanship (11-13 yrs.)

G033003L Senior Sheep Showmanship (14-18 yrs.)

MARKET SHEEP

G031010 Market Sheep (Wethers and Ewes show together)

BREEDING EWE: Meat breeds must be slick shorn within 7 days of the show. Wool breeds should be shown in fleece.

G032010 Breeding Ewe

G032020 Ewe Lambs

SHEEP PEN SHOW

G034001L Pen of Three (ewes and/or wethers)

		SWINE			
AWARDS		Purple	Blue	Red	White
		\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$2.00

G021003L Swine RATE OF GAIN – Local 4-H Councils will oversee all Rate of Gain policies and awards. Please contact your 4-H Council for your county requirements.

CLASSES

G037001L Junior Showmanship (8-10 yrs.)

G037002L Intermediate Showmanship (11-13 yrs.)

G037003L Senior Showmanship (14-18 yrs.)

MARKET SWINE Must weigh between 230 and 320 lbs.

G035010 Market Gilts

G035020 Market Barrows

BREEDING SWINE

G035030 Breeding Gilt

SWINE PEN SHOW

G038001L Pen of Three (gilts and/or barrows)

		GOAT			
AWARDS		Purple	Blue	Red	White
		\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$2.00

G021004L Goat RATE OF GAIN – Local 4-H Councils will oversee all Rate of Gain policies and awards. Please contact your 4-H Council for your county requirements.

CLASSES

G061001L Junior Goat Showmanship (8-10 yrs.)

G061002L Intermediate Goat Showmanship (11-13 yrs.)

G061003L Senior Goat Showmanship (14-18 yrs.)

BREEDING GOAT (Meat and Dairy)

G050010L 2 & Under Non-Milking Doe

G050020L 2 & Over Milking Doe

G050030L Mother-daughter

G050040L Kids less than 1 year

G059010 Breeding Meat Goat – Yearling Does

G059020 Breeding Meat Goats/Doe Kids

MEAT GOAT

G058010 Market Goats (Wethers and Does show together)

GOAT PEN SHOW

G0600010 Pen of Three (Wethers and/or Does)

BEST DRESSED GOAT

G050050L Best Dressed Goat – No premiums will be paid for this class in BLAINE COUNTY

DAIRY CATTLE

AWARDS	Purple	Blue	Red	White
	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$2.00

CLASSES

G048001L Junior Dairy Showmanship (8-10 yrs.)

G048002L Intermediate Dairy Showmanship (11-13 yrs.)

G048003L Senior Dairy Showmanship (14-18 yrs.)

G040008L Heifer Calf born in current year.

G040009L Yearling Heifer born previous year.

G040010L Dry Cow any age

G040011L Milking Cow any age.

OTHER LARGE ANIMAL PETS

AWARDS	Purple	Blue	Red	White
	\$2.00	\$1.50	\$1.00	\$0.50

CLASSES

G712001L Other Large Animal Pets – Non-livestock exhibits (Miniature Donkey, Llama, Pot Belly Pig, etc.)