

Livestock & Animals

There is a Cherry County 4-H Livestock Facebook group where you can stay up-to-date. Contact the Extension Office if you need help joining!

General Rules

A. Eligibility of Exhibitors – See Cherry County 4-H Fair Rules and General Class Rules, page 3.

B. Ownership of Animals – All animals must be owned by the exhibitor. Ownership of beef, sheep, swine, dairy, and goats must be certified where required on the appropriate 4-H ID forms and filed with the Extension Office. Some lease arrangements are acceptable for dairy animals but must be certified on the appropriate forms and filed with the Extension Office.

C. ID Guidelines – Livestock ID forms must be submitted to the Extension Office for County Contests as follows:

<u>ID Deadline</u>	<u>Animal</u>
May 28, 2025	Horse
June 1, 2025	STATE Horse Show entry deadline.
June 2nd, 2025	Market Beef
	Feeder Calves
	Market Lambs
	Market Goats
	Market Hogs
	All Other Livestock (Breeding, ETC. except for Poultry & Rabbits)
June 15th, 2025	STATE Fair Livestock Nominations. The website can be found at State Fair Livestock Identification, Nomination & Entry Nebraska 4-H (unl.edu) . Please inform the Extension Office by June 2nd if you will be nominating animals for State Fair.

- All **market animal** forms must be accompanied by photographs of all animals with 4-H/FFA ear tags **in the ears**. Please submit to cherry-county@unl.edu
- Stocker feeder calves will not be required to have a photograph with the tag in the **ear until July 15, 2025**. Feeder calf options must be identified on the appropriate identification form by **June 2, 2025**. Please use ranch identification numbers for the calves on the initial form.
- Ranch tags are acceptable for breeding beef, sheep, and goats ONLY showing on the county level. Breeding swine follow the universal ear notch system. Bucket calves are not required to have a 4-H tag, but should still be ID'd with a ranch tag.
- If nominating for State Fair, beef & swine will need EID tags & DNA samples.

D. 4-H, FFA & Open Class Policy – Exhibitors entered in any livestock projects cannot exhibit the same project animal in both 4-H and FFA. Animals shown in 4-H may be shown in Open Class but are not eligible for Open Class ribbons or premiums.

E. Pre-Fair Update – Pre-Fair Entry forms are no longer required for livestock in mid-July. As in the past, exhibitors will only be allowed weigh in a maximum of 3 market animals per class and those animals should be listed on the appropriate ID form due June 2rd. **Families will complete an electronic survey to indicate any scratches, stall needs, etc. by July 15.**

F. Exhibitors are only allowed to show 2 animals per class.

G. Animal Housing –

1. Exhibitors are responsible for removing any remaining animals that will not be shown or sold from the fairgrounds no later than the evening of weigh-in.

2. All livestock being shown are to stay housed at the fairgrounds after check-in on Thursday. This policy excludes Feeder Calves, Breeding Heifer Calves, and FFA Bulls that check-in on Saturday morning. If there are concerns about keeping goats penned, please discuss it with the Extension staff.

***Due to space restrictions because of increased enrollment, more breeding and dairy animals may be asked to house at home until show day.**

3. No livestock or other animals are allowed to remain housed at the fairgrounds after the Livestock Sale is completed.

H. Dress Code Reminder – See General County Fair Rules, Item I.

I. Ethics Affidavit – Youth livestock producers understand they have an obligation to be responsible food producers. All market beef, sheep, swine, and goats will enter the food chain and become edible products for the consuming public. A 4-H/FFA Market Livestock Ethics Affidavit and Statement of Disclosure form must accompany each market animal at the time of County Fair weigh-in (forms will not be accepted prior to County Fair weigh-in). Each exhibitor will be asked to submit a signed 4-H/FFA Market Livestock Ethics Affidavit and Statement of Disclosure form certifying correct information about any market livestock project regarding withdrawal time from legal drugs, vaccines, or other substances, no use of unapproved drugs, and no feeding of "prohibited" mammalian derived protein (i.e., ruminant meat and bone meal) while under the care of the exhibitor.

J. Animal Testing & Health Examination – Any animal entered in 4-H classes are subject to any testing at the discretion of either the Livestock Committee or a licensed veterinarian. If the result of testing indicates the possible use of compounds or drugs not approved for use in that species by the FDA, or compounds or drugs used outside the specified withdrawal requirements of the FDA, the animal will be declared ineligible for exhibition and the exhibitor will be ineligible for awards. In the case of market livestock, the Livestock Committee or a licensed veterinarian will determine the appropriate disposal of the animal. Any tampering with livestock to change appearance or weight may be reasonable cause for the Livestock Committee to declare the animal ineligible for exhibition and/or the Livestock Sale. Animals with active ringworm, or visible warts, will not be allowed for exhibition at County Fair. The Livestock Committee may determine the ringworm to be inactive if the lesion area is not encrusted and hair has begun re-growth in the affected area(s). Animals with non-visible warts by means of visual and hands-off inspection will be allowed to remain on the premises and be exhibited. Hogs with exposed needle teeth may be ineligible to show by the discretion of the Livestock Committee. Under no circumstances may animals under quarantine be exhibited.

K. Quality Assurance Training – Exhibitors entered in beef, dairy, goats, sheep, swine, poultry, and rabbits (except pet rabbits) must have received YQCA through a UNL Extension based program prior to the County Fair. Training may be done online or at a class held by Cherry County 4-H. **QA training must be completed by July 15, 2025.** A record of program attendance or satisfactory completion of a written exam is required and is to be kept on file at the Extension Office. Completion of Quality Assurance training by exhibitors must be certified by county Extension staff.

L. Fitting Rule – All 4-Hers are encouraged to fit their own animal(s). If someone other than a family member or another 4-H member is involved in fitting an animal, the animal is subject to disqualification by the discretion of the Livestock Committee.

M. Uncontrolled Animals – An animal that is or that becomes wild and uncontrollable during the County Fair may be declared ineligible by the Livestock Committee.

N. Substitute Showman – An animal must be shown by the 4-H owner who entered the animal unless the exhibitor is excused by the Livestock Committee. Exhibitors may be excused by serious illness or disability due to an injury. Exhibitors may also be excused if there is a conflict with class times within the 4-H show. The need for a substitute showman must be brought to the attention of the Livestock Committee as soon as possible. A substitute showman will be allowed in certain emergencies or if an exhibitor has two (2) animals in one (1) class. The substitute showman must be a 4-H or FFA member of Cherry County.

O. Livestock Weigh-ins – No re-weighs will be allowed on any livestock at the County Fair weigh-in. No allowance for shrink.

P. The Livestock Committee has the right to break classes if deemed necessary.

Q. State Fair & AK-SAR-BEN – It is the responsibility of State Fair and AK-SAR-BEN entrants to obtain current information regarding rules and policies for these events. Information may be obtained online or from the Extension Office. **Note: the age of eligibility for State Fair has now been lowered to 8 as of January 1 of the current year.**

R. Clover Kids may show livestock animals (not horses) that weigh no more than 350 pounds at the time of the show. They do not have to own the animal, but the animal must have the proper identification. They typically show before the 4-H show in each class.

S. Blocking Chutes - Blocking chutes will be in designated areas only. No blocking chutes or other grooming equipment will be allowed in the alleys. All equipment must be in the club's own stall area, or outside the barn.

T. Fans - Fans for cooling cattle must be mounted. Free-standing fans are not allowed.

Livestock Showmanship

Guidelines

1. Members are encouraged to participate in the showmanship class. Information on livestock showmanship (beef, sheep, and swine) contests is found in 4H357, "Guide for Livestock Showmanship Contest", and is available from the Extension Office. Showmanship judging is based on preparation of animals for show. Animals are evaluated on apparent training and appearance. Exhibitors are evaluated on behavior, knowledge, and showmanship abilities. Minor technical points are not to be over-emphasized, nor do minor infractions disqualify. In showmanship, primary evaluation is based on the skill of the showman in presenting the animal before the judge, not the individual excellence of the animal.

2. The Livestock judge or Livestock Committee may disqualify any 4-H or FFA exhibitor from showmanship for any violation of rules or unsportsmanlike conduct at the County Fair.

Livestock Sale

Guidelines

1. Sale Order - Champion and Reserve Champion animals will be sold first. The Livestock Committee will determine the order in which the species will sell. Animals will sell in the same species order as the champion animals. If an exhibitor has more than one species of an animal the second animal will not be sold until all other exhibitors have sold at least one animal.

2. Sale Eligibility - If a market animal is going to be shown after the Cherry County Fair, the animal is ineligible to be sold. The exhibitor must notify the Livestock Committee at weigh-in if their animal is going to be shown after the County Fair. If there are any other reasons an exhibitor does not want to sell their market animal, they must notify the Livestock Committee at check-in.

3. Weight Requirements - Animals must meet the following weight requirements to be eligible to sell in the 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale:

Market Steers	= 1100 – 1500 lbs.
Market Heifers	= 1050 – 1400 lbs.
Market Hogs	= 230 – 320 lbs.
Market Lambs	= 110 – 170 lbs.
Meat Goats	= 50 – 140 lbs.

See Animal Rules, Item F in reference to removing animals that do not meet weight requirements from the fairgrounds. Keep in mind there are progress classes for underweight livestock.

4. Exhibitors are allowed to sell a total of 2 units, with no more than two of any species of livestock.

Species	Units
Market Beef	1
Market Swine	½
Market Sheep	½
Meat Goat	½

SPECIAL COMPETITIONS

1. Cherry County Premier Livestock Exhibitor Award

The Premier Livestock Exhibitor Award is designed to recognize and honor 4-H members that show a dedication to the agricultural industry. Winners of this award will have demonstrated their passion, hard work, and integrity through participation in events related to their livestock projects. 4-H exhibitors must meet the minimum requirements, have the highest score from the point system, and show at least one of the species of beef, sheep, swine, goat, and/or dairy to qualify. Points will be accumulated starting after the end of the Cherry County Fair of the previous year until/including County Fair livestock shows of the current year. The winner will be awarded their choice of a belt buckle, or an equivalent monetary award donated by the Dale and Karen Bowlin family.

Guidelines

1. Minimum requirements:

- a. Exhibit in Cherry County Fair livestock show(s)
 - Points: Champion – 5; Reserve Champion – 4; Purple – 3; Blue – 2; Red – 1

- b. Participation in Cherry County Fair Showmanship contest(s)
 - Points: Champion – 5; Reserve Champion – 4; Purple – 3; Blue – 2; Red -- 1
- c. Application is an essay addressing the life skills gained by 4-H members while raising livestock.
 - Worth a total of 20 points. Must be submitted with County Fair entries or emailed to cherry-county@unl.edu by July 15, 2025.
 - Prefer the essay to be typed. A suggestion of a minimum of 100 words for Juniors, 200 words for Intermediates, and 300 words for Seniors. Quality is stressed over quantity.
 - May address a specific or multiple species.

2. Additional points:

- a. Participate in the 4-H Livestock Judging contest - 5 points
- b. Participation in 4-H Team Fitting/Salesmanship contest - 5 points
- c. Participation in local other livestock judging contests or clinics - 5 points
 - 1. Participation at local or other fitting clinics or contests - 5 points
 - 2. Exhibiting at other livestock shows - 5 points
 - 3. Participation at local or other livestock showmanship clinics - 5 points
 - 4. Participation at PASE - 5 points
 - 5. Volunteer service at county livestock-related events & activities - 5 points

Documentation from club leaders will be required. Proof of county shows clinics and contests will be required. Documentation of county events and shows need to be submitted with the Quality Assurance essay.

2. Round Robin Showmanship

An exhibition of beef, swine, sheep, HORSES (returning in 2025), and goats will be performed in Round Robin Showmanship. The Champion and Reserve Champion Senior Showman for beef, sheep, swine, horse, and goat will compete in this event. Once a 4-H'er is named Champion Round Robin Showman, they are ineligible to participate in the competition for two years. (No longer a rule as of 2025!) If a Champion or Reserve Champion showman is ineligible, the purple ribbon winner following the Reserve Champion showman will then be eligible for Round Robin Showmanship.

3. Sandhills Production

Sandhills Production is available for ALL Livestock Classes. Sandhills Production is completely developed for beef. See page 101. More details are available at the Extension Office for youth interested in starting Sandhills Production for another species. Sandhills Production can also be utilized in FFA.

4. Livestock Herdsmanship

Premiums	Purple	Blue	Red	White
Organized Clubs:	\$7.00	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$1.00
Independent:	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00

Class

1001L – Herdsmanship, Independent Family

1002L – Herdsmanship, Organized Club

Rules

- A. All Independent(s) and Organized Clubs will be automatically entered in Herdsmanship.

B. Judging may occur at any time the barns are open to the public. Consideration will be given to those involved in shows if Herdsmanship judging should occur during show times.

C. Livestock exhibitors are expected to keep their quarters orderly, neat, and as attractive as possible. Areas incorporated into the Herdsmanship judging include the wash areas, assigned blocking chute areas, and tie-out pens.

D. Stall cards need to be on display at indoor stalls at all times.

E. Herdsmanship duties are the responsibility of the exhibitors, not of leaders and parents.

F. Criteria for Judging:

1. Animals should be comfortable and secured with proper restraints. Halters, neck ties, muzzles, lamb tubes, etc. should not pose harm upon any animal.
2. Stalls are to be kept clean and neat; bedding clean and fresh; feed and feed pans clean and in place or in tack area; water buckets/tubs clean and fresh; tack should not be stored in the stall areas where animals are secured.
3. Tack and feed storage area is to be kept clean and neatly arranged.
4. Exhibitors' alley area kept clean. Loose dirt and dust kept under control by sprinkling. Wheelbarrows kept outside. Allys must be swept and clean by 9:00 AM and cleaned after tie-outs at 8:00 PM.
5. Exhibitors are allowed to enhance their stall area. Enhancements are not allowed to be offensive, nor should the enhancements damage the fairground facilities. Enhancements include decorations, stall panels, etc.
6. Proper courtesy and conduct are to be demonstrated by exhibitors at all times and in all places during any 4-H sponsored event.

G. Exhibitors are responsible for cleaning tie-out pens, barn stalls, and wash areas at the end of the County Fair.

6. Beef Team Fitting

See page 97 for details (in Beef Division).