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WELCOME TO 2024 MERRICK COUNTY FAIR JULY 27 - 31

4-H, FFA & OPEN CLASS EXHIBITS

Merrick County Fairboard-308-940-0884

Merrick County Extension Office-308-946-3843

YOUR MERRICK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND FAIR ASSOCIATION

Russ Kucera......President
Isaac Jefferson.....Vice President
Troy Wells......Secretary
Brad Wells......Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dale Nielson Jr. Aaron Huston Eric Frauen Josh Trumblee Jake Etherton Kelly Brandes Matt Myers Jess Brandes Ryan Grigsby Tim Williams Mikaela Stuart

MERRICK COUNTY EXTENSION STAFF

Emily Soll, Extension Educator Steve Melvin, Extension Educator Cindie Hostler, Office Manager Kara L. Wells, Extension Assistant Sherry Siwinski, Office Aide

FAIR SUPERINTENDENTS

Emily Soll– 4-H Division
Miriam Wells – Open Class Farm Produce
Theresa Lawrence and Eddra Ritta – Open Class Floral
Karen Knight-Kutschkau and Jean Waggoner – Open Class
Needlework, Fine Arts & Misc.
Marie Jensen - Open Class Foods and Preservation
Mollie Nielsen - Open Class Poultry and Rabbits

2024 MERRICK COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

Justin Ferris, President
Matt Mottl, Vice President
Shanien Schmierer, Secretary
Heath Reimers, Treasurer
Ryan Kucera, East Representative
Chase Samuelson, West Representative
Valerie Morrison, Central Representative
Jen Myers, At-Large Representative
Kayden Tyan, Jr. Leader East Representative
Lane Mottl, Jr. Leader West Representative
Londyn Fisher, Jr. Leader Central Representative
Brady Myers, Jr. Leader At-Large Representative

MERRICK COUNTY 4-H AMBASSADORS

Keir Albert 2023-2024 Shelby Hostler 2023-2024 Makenna Mottl 2024-2025 Chloe Jefferson 2024-2025

RULES AND REGULATIONS MERRICK COUNTY'S 73rd FREE FAIR

- 1) Exhibits will get their entry card at each department where they wish to enter articles.
- 2) Open Class entries should be made Sunday, July 28, 1:00 4:00 p.m.
- 3) 4-H static exhibits will be entered on Thursday, July 25, 1:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m., Friday July 26, 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m., and Saturday, July 27, 8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
- 4) Livestock exhibits will be entered Sunday, July 28
 - Youth poultry and rabbits must be in place by 4:00 p.m. on **Saturday**, **July 27**.
 - Youth hogs must be in place by 11:00 a.m.
 - Youth sheep and goats must be in place by 1:00 p.m.
 - Youth market beef must be in place by 2:30 p.m.
 - Youth breeding beef must be in place by 3:30 p.m.
 - Youth bucket calves must be in place by 4:00 p.m.
- 5) No ribbon will be given out until animals are properly checked-in with the superintendent of that area. Animals are judged according to merit.
- 6) All livestock owners will have their pens cleaned by 8:00 a.m. each day and put pen cleanings in the designated area.
- 7) Exhibit building will be open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. 9:00 p.m.
- 8) 4-H Static Exhibits may begin release at 8 p.m. on Wednesday. 4-H Livestock must not be removed until after midnight. Open Class exhibits will be released from 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. on Thursday. Premiums will be paid at that time for Open Class only.

4-H AND FFA DEPARTMENT

- It is the policy of the University of Nebraska Lincoln, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Merrick County 4-H
 Council not to discriminate based on sex, age, handicap, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran status, national or ethnic
 origin or sexual orientation.
- 2) All exhibits are at the exhibitor's risk. The Merrick County Ag Society and Merrick County 4-H Council are not responsible for any damage, loss or death to an exhibit or animal.
- 3) If a project item or animal is shown at another county's fair as a 4-H or FFA project, it is **NOT** eligible for competition in Merrick County. It will be disqualified.
- 4) Judges will place awards based on merit. They will be instructed to use the group method similar to the plan followed by the Nebraska State Fair, whereby exhibits of nearly equal merit will receive equal ribbons. The judge's decision will be final in all classes. Awards will be given according to the rules and regulations set forth in this premium list.

Purple - Superior Blue - Excellent Red - Good White - Needs Improvement Orange- Flops Lime Green- Afterschool Project

- 5) **4-H AGE REGULATIONS** The age regulations for Merrick County 4-H membership as determined by the Merrick County 4-H Executive Council shall be that a member must be 8 years of age on December 31st of the previous year (turn 9 during the current year) and the last year of eligibility is 4-H age 18 on December 31st (or the calendar year the member becomes 19).
- 6) FFA members may exhibit livestock until the age of 21. Enrollment must be confirmed with the FFA Advisor. Annual quality assurance training through Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) must be completed online at yqca.org by July 10.
- 7) 4-H and FFA members show together in livestock, crops, and plant science. The total number of animals shown is indicated at the beginning of each species area. 4-H and FFA will follow the rules according to this fairbook.

CLOVER KIDS GUIDELINES: Clover Kids classes can be found on page 66.

- a) The 4-H Clover Kid Program is for youth between the ages 5-7 years old by January 1 of the current calendar year. 4-H Clover Kid exhibitors must be enrolled as a 4-H member by June 15.
- b) Clover Kid animal exhibits are to be no more than six months of age and no more than 350 pounds at time of show, with the exception of small animals (dog, cat, etc.) Age, size, and temperament of animal projects must be appropriate for the exhibitor's age and size. Clover Kids will only show in showmanship classes, no market or breeding classes. The horse project is not available for Clover Kids.
- c) Clover Kids may exhibit at the county fair and participate in 4-H contests receiving special ribbons with a premium of \$1.00. However, they will not be eligible for participation in the Livestock Sale, and will not be considered for any incentive, championship, trophy, medal, or plaque competition on an individual basis. They will be considered as part of a club competition in such activities as herdsmanship, performing arts or club contest.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXHIBITORS: An exhibitor must be a 4-H member enrolled in the project they are exhibiting.

- 8) All 4-H exhibits that do not conform to the specs, rules and regulations set forth in this premium list will drop one ribbon placing.
- 9) Be sure to check the number of entries per project and entry number for each division. All projects other than livestock have only one entry per class number.
- 10) Premiums will be paid when the 4-H member submits a completed Achievement Application to the Ext. Office by October 1. Premium money will be available at the year-end 4-H Achievement Celebration. If premium money is not picked up by Dec 1, monies will be turned back to the Merrick County Ag Society.
- 11) An * indicates an exhibit is eligible for State Fair. All items eligible for State Fair must receive a purple ribbon. The last year of eligibility is the calendar year the member becomes 19 years of age.
- 12) All exhibitors showing any animals are required to wear the required 4-H/FFA T-Shirt, black/blue jeans, and closed toe shoes. Hats, caps or other headgear are prohibited. Exhibitors in the horse show will wear a long white sleeve shirt or blouse, dark blue jeans, boots, hat and a 4-H armband. The 4-H armband may be purchased for \$3.00.
- 13) An exhibit or exhibit or exhibitor must be at least purple ribbon quality before a rosette or award is awarded, and the judge must deem it worthy of the award.
- 14) Substance Abuse Use or possession of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, or drugs (except for medical purposes) by any exhibitor who is participating in 4-H/FFA at the Merrick County Fair will result in immediate disqualification of that exhibitor's entry.

15) PROTESTS

- a) The respective division superintendent has the authority to make appropriate decisions based on the Premium List, and these will be adhered to by all.
- b) A committee shall be appointed to serve as a protest group. They will meet daily if needed to act upon concerns. All protests must be submitted in writing and signed. Written protests must be submitted to the Extension Educator. He/She will then convene the committee for their deliberation.
- c) The written protest must include: 1)Names of persons involved. 2)Nature of concerns. 3)Situation and documentation.
 4)Recommendations for correction. 5)Specific action, rule, etc. in question. 6)Additional persons committee may contact for further clarification. (two Fairboard, two 4-H Council) 7)Procedures and/or steps carried out by person involved prior to submission to the Extension Educator.
- d) The committee will review the written protest. They may discuss the situation with affected persons and show officials to include county fair management if appropriate, to make a final decision. The committee will recommend appropriate action to management in writing. The recommendations will be followed and communicated both verbally and in writing to the group or individual affected.
- e) In case of protest the exhibitor may be allowed to show but results of showing will be subject to change based on the outcome of the protest process. This allows for smooth operation of the show and facilitates appropriate processing.
- f) The management reserves the right to withhold premium and/or award. The exhibitor may also be excluded from the show if action warrants.
- g) The appeals process is limited to the 4-H/FFA exhibitor, 4-H/FFA parent or registered 4-H volunteer leader.
- h) Protests will not be accepted after the exhibit is released from the 4-H Division.

- 16) **Member/Parent Code of Conduct-**Character Development is the cornerstone of the 4-H program, and therefore we expect all people involved with the 4-H program to exemplify the six pillars of character, which are Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. Please make yourself aware of these expectations.
 - Treat members, parents, Extension staff, judges and others with respect, courtesy and consideration. Avoid and prevent
 put-downs, insults, name-calling, yelling and other verbal and non-verbal conduct likely to offend, hurt or set a bad
 example.
 - Model kindness and compassion for others and be a team member, discouraging selfishness.
 - Practice fair-mindedness by being open to ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.
 - Obey laws and rules as an obligation of being a good citizen, and promote the responsible treatment of animals and stewardship of the environment.
 - Provide and maintain a safe environment, not carelessly or intentionally harming youth or adults in any way: verbally, mentally, or physically.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN ACCOMMODATIONS

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is committed to providing accommodations necessary to allow individuals with disabilities to function effectively and safely while participating in 4-H events. If you believe you may need accommodation, please contact Faculty/Staff Disability Services at acces@unl.edu or call 402-472-3417.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - EEO STATEMENT

Nebraska 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.

4-H PRE-FAIR ACTIVITIES AND 2024 MERRICK COUNTY FAIR

All dates, times, and contest/show formats are subject to change.

	All dates, times, and contest/show formats are subject to change.		
February 13 (Tues.) 18 (Sun.) 20 (Tues.)	6:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m4:30 6:00 p.m.	Junior Indoor Archery Contest - 4-H Building p.m. Market Beef Rate-of-Gain Weigh-Day - Central City Vet Clinic Intermediate & Senior Indoor Archery Contest - 4-H Building	
March 2 (Sat.)	2:00 p.m.	Air Rifle Contest - 4-H Building	
April 1 (Mon.) 27 (Sat.)	6:30 p.m. 1:00 p.m.	Communication Contest - 4-H Building Shotgun Contest - Sportsman's Club	
May 16 (Thurs.) 31 (Fri.)	5 p.m7 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Market Sheep & Goat Rate-of-Gain Contest Weigh-in - Indoor Arena State Horse ID's and Levels Testing DUE to the Ext. Office	
June 1 (Sat.) 14 (Thur.)	5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	State Horse Entry Forms DUE ONLINE ALL 4-H and FFA County Animal ID's DUE to the Extension Office ALL 4-H and FFA State Fair Livestock DNA Envelopes DUE to the Extension Office	
29 (Sat.)	9:00 a.m.	Outdoor Archery Contest - Fairgrounds	
<u>July</u> 10 (Mon.)	5:00 p.m.	ALL 4-H and FFA Static, Animal, Clothing Pre-entries DUE to the Extension Office ALL 4-H and FFA YQCA training complete Vaccination records DUE	

for cats, dogs and ferrets

Inly continu	a d	
July continue		Frie Classes Friedram In
20 (Sat.)	9:00 a.m.	Fair Cleanup - Fairgrounds
	9:00 a.m.	Bicycle Rodeo Contest - Fairgrounds
22 (F)	11:00 a.m.	Ice Cream Roll Contest - 4-H Building
23 (Tue.)	9:00 a.m.	Clothing Construction & Fashion Show Judging - 4-H Building
	7:30 p.m.	4-H Night and Performing Arts Contest - 4-H Building
25 (Thurs.)		4-H Static Check-in - 4-H Building
26 (Fri.)	-	4-H Static Check-in - 4-H Building
27 (Sat.)		m. 4-H Food Stand Open
		Horse Show Check-in - Indoor Arena
	7:00 a.m.	Horse Show - Indoor Arena
Schedule	-	. 4-H Static Check-in - 4-H Building
- Chars		Poultry & Rabbit Check-in - Annex Building
28 (Sun.)	-	4-H Food Stand Open, 4-H Building closed for Judging
	8 a.m11 a.m.	Hog Weigh-in & Check-in - Hog Barn
Schedule	8:00 a.m.	Rabbit Show - Indoor Arena
Charge	11:00 a.m.	Poultry Show or 30-minutes after Rabbit Show - Indoor Arena
	11 a.m1 p.m	. Goat & Sheep Weigh-in & Check-in - Southside Livestock Barn
	1 p.m4 p.m.	Open Class Exhibit Check-in - 4-H Building
	1 p.m2:30 p.	m. Market Beef Weigh-in & Check-in - Northside Livestock Barn
	2:30-3:30 p.m	. Breeding Beef Check-in - Northside Livestock Barn
	3:30-4 p.m.	Feeder & Bucket Calf Check-in, DUE Bucket Calf Project Record Book -
		Northside Livestock Barn
	4:30 p.m.	Livestock Judging Contest - Indoor Arena
29 (Mon.)	7 a.m9 p.m.	4-H Food Stand Open, 4-H Building Open
	1	2 - F - 7
Cahedule	7:00 a.m.	Hog Show - Indoor Arena
Schedule Charge	-	
Schedule Change	7:00 a.m.	Hog Show - Indoor Arena
Schedule Charge 30 (Tue.)	7:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Hog Show - Indoor Arena Meat Goat Show - Indoor Arena
30 (Tue.)	7:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Hog Show - Indoor Arena Meat Goat Show - Indoor Arena Sheep Show or 30-minutes after Meat Goat Show - Indoor Arena
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31 (Wed.) Schedule Charge	7:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 7 a.m9 p.m. 8:00 a.m. 7 a.m9 p.m. 7:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 4:45 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m.	Hog Show - Indoor Arena Meat Goat Show - Indoor Arena Sheep Show or 30-minutes after Meat Goat Show - Indoor Arena 4-H Food Stand Open, 4-H Building Open Beef Show - Indoor Arena 4-H Food Stand Open Dog Check-in - Vendor and Exhibitor Building Dog Show - Vendor and Exhibitor Building Dog Agility - Indoor Arena Cat & Companion Animal Check-in Indoor Arena Cat & Companion Animal Show or immediately following the Dog Agility Show - Indoor Arena 4-H Overall Livestock Showman Contest - Indoor Arena 4-H & FFA Member Group Picture - Indoor Arena Livestock Sale - Indoor Arena Release ALL Static Exhibits - 4-H Building
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31 (Wed.) Schedule Charge	7:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 7 a.m9 p.m. 8:00 a.m. 7 a.m9 p.m. 7:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 4:45 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 1 a.m10 a.m 6 a.m10 a.m 7 a.m8:30 a.m.	Hog Show - Indoor Arena Meat Goat Show - Indoor Arena Sheep Show or 30-minutes after Meat Goat Show - Indoor Arena 4-H Food Stand Open, 4-H Building Open Beef Show - Indoor Arena 4-H Food Stand Open Dog Check-in - Vendor and Exhibitor Building Dog Show - Vendor and Exhibitor Building Dog Agility - Indoor Arena Cat & Companion Animal Check-in Indoor Arena Cat & Companion Animal Show or immediately following the Dog Agility Show - Indoor Arena 4-H Overall Livestock Showman Contest - Indoor Arena 4-H & FFA Member Group Picture - Indoor Arena Livestock Sale - Indoor Arena Release ALL Static Exhibits - 4-H Building A. Release ALL Livestock Release ALL Poultry & Rabbit m. FREE EXHIBITOR & FAMILY BREAKFAST sponsored by Central City Area Chamber of Commerce Release ALL Static Exhibits
31 (Wed.) Schedule Charge	7:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 7 a.m9 p.m. 8:00 a.m. 7 a.m9 p.m. 7:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 p.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 4:45 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Hog Show - Indoor Arena Meat Goat Show - Indoor Arena Sheep Show or 30-minutes after Meat Goat Show - Indoor Arena 4-H Food Stand Open, 4-H Building Open Beef Show - Indoor Arena 4-H Food Stand Open Dog Check-in - Vendor and Exhibitor Building Dog Show - Vendor and Exhibitor Building Dog Agility - Indoor Arena Cat & Companion Animal Check-in Indoor Arena Cat & Companion Animal Show or immediately following the Dog Agility Show - Indoor Arena 4-H Overall Livestock Showman Contest - Indoor Arena 4-H & FFA Member Group Picture - Indoor Arena Livestock Sale - Indoor Arena Release ALL Static Exhibits - 4-H Building Release ALL Livestock Release ALL Poultry & Rabbit m. FREE EXHIBITOR & FAMILY BREAKFAST sponsored by Central City Area Chamber of Commerce

4-H AND FFA SUPERINTENDENTS

- Air Pistol, Small Bore, Hunting Skills *TBD*
- BB Gun & Rifle Matt Douglass, Phillip Johnson
- Beef Kane Brandes, Ryan Kucera
- Beyond the Needle, Fiber Arts, Quilt Quest Darcy Ray
- Bicycle Rodeo *Jen Myers*
- Cat & Companion Animal Mollie Nielsen
- Clover Kids *Jr. Leaders*
- Consumer & Family Science, Citizenship & Entrepreneurship, Safety, Photography – Nikki Ferraro
- Dog Kim & Travis Stuhmer
- Fashion Show Kendra Jefferson, Jamie Wright
- FFA Payden Woodruff, Jessica Brondel, Alex Stocker, Katie Hornung
- Food & Nutrition *Angela Blomstedt*

- Herdsmanship *TBD*
- Hog Brian Jefferson, Isaac Jefferson
- Home Environment Kelly & Doug McHargue
- Horse Russ & Carolyn Kucera
- Indoor Archery Sara Umstead, Brian Thomas
- Livestock Judging Contest Payden Woodruff, Darcy Ray, Alex Stocker
- Meat Goat & Sheep Craig Nelson, Jon Root
- Outdoor Archery AAron Blanchard
- Overall Livestock Showman *Alex Stocker, Chase Samuelson*
- Plant Science Bailey Jefferson
- Rabbits & Poultry Mollie Nielsen
- Sewing for Fun, STEAM Clothing 1, 2, 3, *Amy Greving, Nicole Greving*
- Shotgun Craig Nelson, Aaron Heins
- STEM & Conservation Beth Johnson

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & INDIVIDUALS FOR SPONSORING 2023 AWARDS & INCENTIVES

- AKRS Equipment
- Albert Acres Cattle Company
- Bank of Clarks
- Bill and Missy Hillmer Family
- Bill's Volume Sales
- Brandes Brothers, LLC
- Brian and Kendra Jefferson
- Central City FFA
- Central City Mall
- Central City Scale
- Central City Veterinary Clinic
- Central True Value Hardware
- Christensen Cattle Co.
- Citizens Bank & Trust Co.
- Cornerstone Bank
- Darrel Widman In Memory of Twila Widman
- Dennis & Vicki Valentine
- Dinsdale Bros. Inc.
- Dinsdale Express LLC
- Dr. Jerome and Doris Gacke
- Eagles Club
- Earl & Harriet Meyer Family Memorial
- Eye Care Associates
- Farm Bureau Insurance Shannon Hannappel
- Fontanelle
- Four Seasons Ag, Inc.
- Fowl Creek Farms
- Furred & Feather Rabbits & Poultry
- Gary Bader & Sons, LLC
- Green Plains Renewable Energy Central City LLC
- Greg & Karen Senkbile
- Grosshans Inc.
- H&L Buildings
- Heath & Jessica Reimers
- JAG Acres, Inc.

- Janovec Memorial
- Judi Samuelson
- Justin & Hillary Ferris Family
- Linda Gilson Memorial
- Marilvn Heins
- Matt & Becky Mottl
- Merrick Foundation, Inc.
- Merrick Medical Attn: Kendra Jefferson
- Mike & Tricia Schuller
- Miller Cattle Co.
- Mr. K Angus and T & E Angus
- Agricultural Institute of Nebraska Husker Harvest Days
- Nelson Brothers Fencing
- Palmer Local Market
- Platte River Riders 4-H Horse Club
- Nona Lechtenberg
- Root-Collins Club Lambs
- Runza Attn: Rex and Noah Luebbe
- Schank Memorial
- Silver Creek Mini Mart
- Simonson Show Goats
- State Farm Insurance
- Stoltenberg Irrigation, Inc.
- Sullivan Agency
- Supernaw Law Office
- The Dentist
- Tom & Eve Reimers
- Trav's U-Save Pharmacy
- Trico Heating and Air
- Vlcek Gardens, Inc.
- Walts Aerial Spraying
- Wegner Monument
- Wert Show Lambs
- You Are Worth It LLC

4-H DEPARTMENT

4-H Livestock & Animal Rules & Regulations

- 1) Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) -Nebraska 4-H and FFA requires all youth enrolled in livestock projects to complete annual quality assurance training through YQCA. Must be completed by **July 10** to the Extension Office or FFA Advisor.
- 2) All exhibitors will receive pens and stalls free. However, if pens or stalls are not cleaned by Saturday following the fair, then \$5 will be deducted per stall or pen from individual or club ribbon money from Ag Society.
- 3) Stall assignments will be made prior to entry day. Each livestock exhibitor must make advance entries by July 10. This includes hogs, sheep, goats, beef, poultry and rabbits. If advanced entries are not made you may not be allowed to show your livestock. All Cattle will remain stalled in the barns from 8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. so fair goers can enjoy the animals.
- 4) Each exhibitor must show his or her own animal. Substitute showmen are only allowed if exhibitor is injured or is seriously ill at the time of the show. Another exhibitor cannot show the animal just because they can handle the animal more appropriately. If an exhibitor has more than one animal in a class, a substitute showman, who is exhibiting livestock at the Merrick County Fair is allowed, and must wear the official attire of that show.
- 5) If an animal becomes unruly and cannot be controlled by the exhibitor, he/she may be asked by the show superintendent or judge to leave the show arena. For the safety of all 4-H and FFA members, parents or other non-members are not allowed in the show ring to help exhibit/show an animal. (For Clover Kids, one helper can help the Clover Kid member if room is available in the ring).
- 6) The following deadlines are in place for livestock information:
 - June 1: State Horse Show entries due online by 5 pm (https://4h.unl.edu/state-horse-expo-entry); Horse Level Testing due to the Extension Office for State competition; State Horse ID's due to the Extension Office.
 - June 15: All ID nomination forms, including horse, market & breeding beef, cow/calf pairs, feeder & bucket calves, market & breeding sheep, market & breeding meat goats, swine and rabbits, as well as Premises ID's, are due to the Extension Office by 5 pm; All online ID nominations for State Fair must be completed (go to showstockmgr.com); DNA envelopes for State Fair market animal nominations are due to the Extension Office by 5 pm
 - July 10: All County Fair Entries and Small Animal Vaccination Forms are due to the Extension Office by 11:59 pm
- 7) After livestock has been weighed in at entry time there will be <u>NO RE-WEIGHING</u>. All animals not reaching the regulation weight will be shown in a feeder or underweight class. Premium money will be paid for ribbons awarded. These weights will be used for the Livestock Sale.
- 8) Steers, wethers or barrows showing masculine coarseness or evidence of late castration will be discriminated against by the judge. Cryptoids or partially castrated animals will be eliminated and not allowed to show. Any animal may be subject to inspection for physical alteration. If any animal is found to be altered physically, they will be disqualified and forfeit all winnings and incentives. Inappropriate management practices as determined by superintendents and Extension Educators by either exhibitors, family members or others will result in disqualification of entry and/or exhibitor.
- 9) All livestock (sheep, goat, swine, beef) earning supreme, champion, or reserve champion are subject to drug residue tests.

PREMIUM LIVESTOCK SALE-All exhibitors must wear the appropriate 4-H/FFA Farm Bureau sponsored t-shirt for the Livestock Sale.

- 1) Sale Committee Livestock Superintendents -Kane Brandes, Craig Nelson, Brian Jefferson, Mollie Nielsen. Volunteers Kirk Bader, Ron Simonson, Payden Woodruff (Palmer FFA), Alex Stocker and Jessica Brondel (CC FFA), Russ Kucera (Fairboard), Matt Mottl (4-H Council), Kevin Ohlman (Auctioneer), Kara Wells and Emily Soll (Extension)
- 2) Once the animal goes through the sale ring, the premium is "sold". The number of animals sold per individual is limited to: 1 market beef, 1 market sheep, 1 market goat, 1 market hog, 1 meat rabbit and 1 pen of three market poultry. Sale entries must be in the Extension Office by 5 p.m. the day of their animal show. Each member is expected to lead or drive his or her animal through the sale ring. Help may be needed for fryers, roasters and/or broilers which may be caged or carried. There is no limit on the premium paid to champion and reserve champion animals, except the premium paid on the reserve animal may not exceed that paid on the champion animal. The other bid limits above the market base have been set on the remainder of the animals as follows: (SUBJECT TO CHANGE BEFORE THE SALE)

(\$/lb)	P	В	R	W
Cattle	.35	.30	.28	.25
Hogs	.75	.65	.60	.55
Sheep	1.25	1.10	1.00	.90
Goat	1.90	1.75	1.60	1.45
(\$/Exhibit)				
Pen of 3 Broilers	90.00	65.00	50.00	40.00
Meat Rabbit	65.00	50.00	35.00	25.00



Sale sign up

3) If an exhibitor has a second champion or reserve champion in the same species, then the exhibitor has the option of taking the animal through the sale with proceeds going to 4-H Foundation of Merrick County.

SHOWMANSHIP

- 1) Exhibitors must show their own animal that has been entered, except Clover Kids. Showmanship judging is based on preparation of animals for show, their apparent training and the appearance and behavior of the showman. Primarily showmanship is the skill of the showman in presenting the animal before the judge that counts while individual excellence of the animal does not.
- 2) Clover Kid animal exhibits are to be no more than six months of age and no more than 350 pounds at time of show with the exception of small animals (dog, cat, etc.) Age, size, and temperament of animal projects must be appropriate for the exhibitor's age and size. All Clover Kids will be allowed to show ONE time in a Clover Kid only class. ALL CLOVER KID SHOWS ARE NON-COMPETITIVE. Clover Kid guidelines are on page 3. Clover Kids classes begin on page 66.
- 3) All beef, swine, sheep, and goats will be shown Blow and Go. 4-Hers are encouraged to clip all livestock at home. Animals may be clipped, blown, brushed, or combed to enhance their appearance. All animals will be shown free of any adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products.
- 4) The 4-H Showmanship Contest for each species will be divided into three divisions: Junior Division for 8-10 years old; Intermediate Division for 11-13 years old; and Senior Division for 14-18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. FFA will have a showmanship class for any

- FFA members who have paid their chapter dues. The Superintendent or judge may disqualify any exhibitor for violation of rules or unsportsmanlike conduct. Showmanship will be considered during the showing of all livestock classes
- 5) The 4-H Overall Showmanship Award consists of the champions of each 4-H age division (junior, intermediate, senior) who come back for finals. This award will be held immediately after each species showmanship class, Gold and Silver Overall Showman pins will be presented to each 4-H showmanship species. FFA Showman are not eligible for the 4-H Overall Showman Award or 4-H Overall Livestock Showman Contest (seniors only).
- 6) At the end of each show, an Outstanding Exhibitor will be awarded. Only one per species is awarded.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

HERDSMANSHIP-Superintendent TBD

- 1) Livestock exhibits may be judged for herdsmanship at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. A Herdsmanship Critique Sheet will be given out Sunday evening. Herdsmanship judging begins Monday morning.
- 2) Every 4-Her who exhibits an animal will be automatically entered into herdsmanship with their club. Club members are encouraged to work together. If not a part of a club they will be judged on an individual basis. Members are asked to provide their own cleaning tools.
- 3) Each species of livestock will be judged separately and will be judged on merit. Each exhibitor is expected to perform a good job of proper manure removal, keep alleys clean, store feed and trappings, keeping animals and exhibits neat and attractive. Money will be awarded to the clubs with three or more exhibitors per species with the best herdsmanship. Premium will be awarded to independent members or clubs with two or less exhibitors per species with the best herdsmanship.

PREMIUM: Purple \$10.00; Blue \$8.00; Red \$5.00; White \$3.00

Beef Goats Sheep Hogs Rabbit Poultry

HERDSMANSHIP SCORE SHEET-TOTAL POINTS 100

- 1) Animals must be clean at all times with proper grooming apparent.
- 2) Animals adequately cared for with proper feeding, clean and proper amount of bedding and adequate feeding equipment.
- 3) Cattle securely tied with 18-20" of lead.
- 4) Stalls and pens cleaned before 7:00 a.m.
- 5) All Cattle need to be in the barns by 8:00 a.m.
- 6) Feed equipment only in pen or stall at feeding time (should be removed by 8:00 a.m.).
- 7) Chapter and exhibitor signs identifying stalls and tack area clearly in place.
- 8) Tack and feed area clean and neatly arranged. Fork handles and similar equipment kept down.
- 9) Grooming areas kept clean
- 10) Proper courtesy and conduct shown by exhibitors at all times and at all places.
- 11) Exhibitors are expected to do the herdsmanship.
- 12) Exhibitors share of alley area, kept clean; kept free of equipment; loose dirt and dust kept under control by proper sweeping and/or sprinkling
- 13) Alleys swept and clean by 8:00 a.m.
- 14) Tie out areas must be clean at all times.
- 15) 4-Hers are responsible for cleaning out stalls at the close of fair.

RATE OF GAIN CONTEST FOR MARKET BEEF, MARKET SHEEP AND MARKET GOAT

- 1) To be eligible for rate-of-gain, animals must have been weighed in at the official weigh-in for each species.
- 2) Final weight will be the weight taken at Fair weigh-in on check in day.
- 3) Contestants will be scored on the daily rate-of-gain formula.
- 4) In the event of a tie in the Rate-of-Gain Contest, Champion will be awarded to the heavier animal recorded at spring weigh-in.
- 5) Only one entry per class. Animal with the highest daily rate-of gain will be used if multiple animals were entered.

PREMIUMS: Purple \$10.00; Blue \$8.00; Red \$5.00; White \$3.00

Market Steer Market Heifer Market Wether Lamb Market Ewe Market Wether Goat Market Doe

HARD LUCK

HL-900-01. This class is for exhibits or exhibitors that cannot be shown in the project area. Ex. show calf dies. Ex. dog breaks a leg, and the vet says it cannot compete in the dog show. Include the story of what you planned on doing with the project, what happened, what you learned from the experience, need to include pictures, etc. Orange ribbon will be awarded with a premium of \$10.00.

BEEF- Superintendents Kane Brandes & Ryan Kucera

- 1) Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Nebraska 4-H requires all youth enrolled in livestock projects to complete annual quality assurance training through Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA).
- 2) Breeding heifers cannot show as market heifers and market heifers cannot show as breeding heifers as pre-entered July10
- 3) An animal can only be entered in one class except Jr. Herd or Club Groups of Three.
- 4) Contact Kane Brandes for assigned space for your blocking chutes and tie-out pens.
- 5) All beef, swine, sheep, and goats will be shown Blow and Go. 4-Hers are encouraged to clip all livestock at home. Animals may be clipped, blown, brushed, or combed to enhance their appearance. All animals will be shown free of any adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products.

BEEF SHOWMANSHIP-See Showmanship area for rules, page 6.

PREMIUMS: Purple \$5.00; Blue \$4.00; Red \$3.00; White \$2.00

G-20-001. Junior 8-10 years old as of Jan. 1

G-20-002. Intermediate 11-13 years old as of Jan. 1

<u>G-20-003.</u> Senior 14-18 years old as of Jan.1

G-20-004. FFA Showmanship age 14-21 years old (not eligible for 4-H Overall Livestock Showman Award)





Beef Stalling

Beef ID

MARKET BEEF

- 1) Exhibitors are limited to showing three (3) market beef.
- 2) ALL county market beef needs to be ID'd with an EID tag and County ID Sheet with a picture turned into the Office on or before **June 15**.
- 3) State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben market beef needs to be ID'd with an EID ear tag, have DNA samples turned into the Office, and submit entry online on or before **June 15** to be eligible to show at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben..
- 4) Market steers must weigh a minimum of 1000 lbs and market heifers 900 lbs at check-in. Market beef less than these weights will be placed in an underweight class and will not be eligible for the final drive. They will be eligible to go through the sale.

PREMIUM: Purple \$10.00; Blue \$8.00; Red \$5.00; White \$3.00

*G-20-005. Market Steers

*G-20-006. Market Heifers

<u>G-20-007.</u> Home Raised Market Beef - Home raised animals are defined as those animals that were born on the farm or ranch operated by the immediate family of the exhibitor. Exhibitors should note on their pre-entry form if the animal is eligible for the class. Limit of one animal. This includes feeder calves.

FEEDER CALVES

- 1) Exhibitors are limited to showing four (4) feeder calves.
- 2) ALL county feeder calves need to be ID'd with an EID Tag and County ID Sheet with a picture turned into the Office on or before **June 15.**
- 3) Feeder calves may be heifers, bulls and/or steers born during the current year, but before **June 15**. To be eligible, a feeder calf must have a birthdate on the ID sheet.
- 4) All mother cows and calves must be halter broke and stall tied. Unweaned feeder calves are not required to stay.
- 5) State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben breeding beef needs to be ID'd with a tattoo or EID Tag, have DNA samples turned into the Extension Office, and submit entry online on or before **June 15** to be eligible to show at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben.

PREMIUM: Purple \$10.00; Blue \$8.00; Red \$5.00; White \$3.00

<u>G-20-008.</u> Heifers (born Jan. 1-March 15) <u>G-20-010.</u> Steers (born Jan. 1-March 15) <u>G-20-012.</u> Bulls (born Jan. 1-March 15) G-20-009. Heifers (born March 16-June 14) G-20-011. Steers (born March 16-June 14) G-20-013. Bulls (born March 16-June 14)

BREEDING BEEF

- 1) Exhibitors are limited to showing three (3) breeding beef.
- 2) ALL county breeding beef needs to be ID'd with either a tattoo (registered only) or EID Tag and County ID Sheet with a picture turned into the Extension Office on or before June 15. Calfhood vaccination tattoos are not acceptable for identification.
- To show in a registered class, a copy of the registration paperwork must be included with the County ID Sheet, BOTH DUE JUNE 15.
- 4) State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben breeding beef needs to be ID'd with a tattoo or EID Tag, have DNA samples turned into the Extension Office, and submit entry online on or before June 15 to be eligible to show at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben.

PREMIUM: Purple \$10.00; Blue \$8.00; Red \$5.00; White \$3.00 CLASSIFICATIONS:

Calf (born in 2024) Yearling (born in 2023) 2 Yr. Old
Registered G-20-014 *G-20-015 *G-20-01

*G-20-019

2 Yr. Old (born in 2022) 3-5 Yr. Old (born in 2019-2021) *G-20-016 G-20-017

Commercial <u>G-20-018</u> Bulls <u>G-20-022</u> *G-20-020

G-20-017 G-20-021 G-20-023. Cow/Calf Pair-The cow and the calf must be shown together, and they must both be halter broke.

<u>G-20-024.</u> Junior Herd- must consist of 3 **breeding** animals. One of the animals must have produced a calf. The exhibitor must have owned the cow when she was bred for this calf. All 3 animals must be owned by one individual.

<u>G-20-025.</u> Home Raised Breeding Beef - Home raised animals are defined as those animals that were born on the farm or ranch operated by the immediate family of the exhibitor. Exhibitors should note on their pre-entry form if the animal is eligible for the class. Limit of one animal.

BUCKET CALF-Based solely on showmanship

- 1) Each exhibitor will be limited to one (1) bucket calf entry.
- ALL county bucket calves need to be ID'd with an EID Tag and County ID Sheet with a picture turned into the Office on or before June 15.
- 3) A bucket calf is an orphan calf; fed on a bucket or bottle. Born during the current year, but before **June 15**. All calves must be halter broke and stall tied. **Bucket calves cannot be used for beef showmanship.**
- 4) Classes will be divided by age of 4-Her and calves will be judged on a showmanship type evaluation. Classes may be split (if numbers warrant) according to age of calf: 1) calves born Jan. 1 to March 15; 2) calves born March 16 to June 14.
- 5) Bucket Calf Project Record Books must be turned in on entry day and are required for a separate ribbon from showing the bucket calf in the ring.

EVALUATION GUIDE:

25% - Knowledge of subject (response to questions).

20% - Calf washed and groomed.

15% - Exhibitor's appearance and attitude.

10% - Response of calf to exhibitor.

10% - Response of exhibitor to judge or ringman's instructions.

10% - Courtesy toward other exhibitors.

10% - Speaking loud and clear to the judge when asked questions.



Bucket Calf Record Book

PREMIUM: Purple \$10.00; Blue \$8.00; Red \$5.00; White \$3.00 $\,$

G-20-026. Bucket Calf Project Record Book 8-9 years old

G-20-027. Bucket Calf Project Record Book 10-13 years old

G-20-028. 8-9 years old as of Jan. 1

G-20-029. 10-13 years old as of Jan. 1

CLUB GROUP OF THREE CALVES

1) A club group of three calves owned by at least two different exhibitors may be shown accompanied by a herdsman. A calf may be in one group only. Clubs may enter more than one group of calves per class.

PREMIUM: Purple \$10.00; Blue \$8.00; Red \$5.00; White \$3.00

G-20-030. Group of Three Market Calves

G-20-031. Group of Three Bucket

G-20-032. Group of Three Feeder Calves

MEAT GOAT- Superintendents Craig Nelson & Jon Root

- 1) Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Nebraska 4-H requires all youth enrolled in livestock projects to complete annual quality assurance training through Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA).
- 2) Breeding does cannot show as market does and market does cannot show as breeding does as pre-entered July 10th.
- 3) Goats are to be shown with smooth neck chains, smooth collars or show halters. Pronged collars are not acceptable and will result in the lowering of a ribbon placing.
- 4) All beef, swine, sheep, and goats will be shown Blow and Go. Animals may be clipped, blown, brushed, or combed to enhance their appearance. All animals will be shown free of any adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products.

MEAT GOAT SHOWMANSHIP- See Showmanship area for rules, page 6.

PREMIUMS: Purple \$5.00; Blue \$4.00; Red \$3.00; White \$2.00

G-40-001. Junior 8-10 years old as of Jan. 1

G-40-002. Intermediate 11-13 years old as of Jan. 1

G-40-003. Senior 14–18-years old as of Jan. 1

G-40-004. FFA Showmanship Age 14-21 years old (not eligible for 4-H Overall Livestock Showman Award)

MARKET GOAT

- 1) Exhibitors are limited to showing four (4) market goats.
- 2) ALL county market goats need to be ID'd with a SCRAPIE TAG and County ID Sheet with a picture turned into the Office on or before **June 15**.
- 3) State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben market goats need to be ID'd with a Scrapies Tag, have DNA samples turned into the Extension Office and submit entry online on or before **June 15** to be eligible to show at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben.

4) Market goats must weigh a minimum of 50 lbs at check-in. Market goats less than 50 lbs will be placed in an underweight class and will not be eligible for the final drive. They will be eligible to go through the sale.

PREMIUM: Purple \$7.00; Blue \$6.00; Red \$4.00; White \$3.00

*G-40-005. Market Doe - All market does will be weighed and divided into weight classes.

*G-40-005. Market Wether - All market wethers will be weighed and divided into weight classes.

G-40-006. Market Goat Pen of Three - To be owned and exhibited by one individual.

G-40-007. Home Raised Market Goat - Home raised animals are defined as those animals that were born on the farm or ranch operated by the immediate family of the exhibitor. Exhibitors should note on their pre-entry form if the animal is eligible for the class. Limit of one animal.

BREEDING MEAT GOAT

- 1) Exhibitors are limited to showing two (2) breeding does.
- ALL county breeding does need to be ID'd with a Scrapie Tag and County ID Sheet with a picture turned into the Office on or before June 15.
- 3) To show in a registered class, a copy of the registration paperwork must be included with the County ID Sheet, **BOTH DUE**JUNE 15
- 4) State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben breeding does need to be ID'd with a Scrapie, have DNA samples turned into the Extension Office, and submit entry online on or before **June 15** to be eligible to show at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben.

PREMIUM: Purple \$7.00; Blue \$6.00; Red \$4.00; White \$3.00

CLASSIFICATIONS:

Kid - born 9-1-2023 to 6-14-2024

Yearling - born 9-1-2022 to 8-31-2023

G-40-008. Registered Doe Kid G-40-010. Commercial Doe Kid

G-40-009. Registered Yearling Doe **G-40-011.** Commercial Yearling Doe

G-40-012. Home Raised Breeding Doe - Home raised animals are defined as those animals that were born on the farm or ranch operated by the immediate family of the exhibitor. Exhibitors should note on their pre-entry form if the animal is eligible for the class. Limit of one animal

SHEEP- Superintendents Craig Nelson & Jon Root

- 1) Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Nebraska 4-H requires all youth enrolled in livestock projects to complete annual quality assurance training through Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA).
- 2) Breeding ewes cannot show as market ewes and market ewes cannot show as breeding ewes as pre-entered July 10.
- 3) All beef, swine, sheep, and goats will be shown Blow and Go. Animals may be clipped, blown, brushed, or combed to enhance their appearance. All animals will be shown free of any adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products.

SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP- See Showmanship area for rules, page 6.

PREMIUM: Purple \$5.00; Blue \$4.00; Red \$3.00; White \$2.00

G-50-001. Junior 8-10 years old as of Jan. 1

G-50-002. Intermediate 11-13 years old as of Jan. 1

G-50-003. Senior 14-18 years old as of Jan. 1

G-50-004. FFA Showmanship Age 14-21 (not eligible for 4-H Overall Livestock Showman Award)

MARKET LAMBS

- 1) Exhibitors are limited to showing four (4) market lambs.
- 2) ALL county market lambs need to be ID'd with a SCRAPIE TAG and County ID Sheet with a picture turned into the Office on or before **June 15**.
- 3) State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben market lambs need to be ID'd with a Scrapie Tag, have DNA samples turned into the Extension Office, and submit entry online on or before **June 15** to be eligible to show at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben.
- 4) Market lambs must weigh a minimum of 95 lbs at check-in. Market lambs less than 95 lbs will be placed in an underweight class and will not be eligible for the final drive. They will be eligible to go through the sale.

PREMIUM: Purple \$7.00; Blue \$6.00; Red \$4.00; White \$3.00

*G-50-005. Market Ewe - All market ewe lambs will be weighed and divided into weight classes.

*G-50-005. Market Wether - All market wethers will be weighed and divided into weight classes.

G-50-006. Pen of Three Market Lambs - To be owned and exhibited by one individual.

<u>G-50-007.</u> Home Raised Market Lamb - Home raised animals are defined as those animals that were born on the farm or ranch operated by the immediate family of the exhibitor. Exhibitors should note on their pre-entry form if the animal is eligible for the class. Limit of one animal.



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BREEDING EWES

- 1) Exhibitors are limited to showing two (2) breeding sheep.
- 2) ALL county breeding ewes need to be ID'd with a Scrapie Tag and County ID Sheet with a picture turned into the Office on or before June 15
- To show in a registered class, a copy of the registration paperwork must be included with the County ID Sheet, BOTH DUE JUNE 15.
- 4) State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben breeding ewes need to be ID'd with a Scrapie Tag, have DNA samples turned into the Extension Office, and submit entry online on or before June 15 to be eligible to show at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben.

PREMIUM: Purple \$7.00; Blue \$6.00; Red \$4.00; White \$3.00

Lamb (born 9-1-23 to 6-1-24) Yrlg. (born 9-1-23 to 8-31-23) Aged (born before 9-1-22)

 Registered
 *G-50-008
 *G-50-009
 G-50-010

 Commercial
 *G-50-011
 *G-50-012
 G-50-013

<u>G-50-014.</u> Home Raised Breeding Ewe - Home raised animals are defined as those animals that were born on the farm or ranch operated by the immediate family of the exhibitor. Exhibitors should note on their pre-entry form if the animal is eligible for the class. Limit of one animal.

HOG-Superintendents Brian Jefferson & Isaac Jefferson

- 1) Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Nebraska 4-H requires all youth enrolled in livestock projects to complete annual quality assurance training through Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA).
- 2) Breeding gilts cannot show as market gilts and market gilts cannot show as breeding gilts as pre-entered July 10.
- 3) ALL county hogs need to be ID'd with an EID Tag and County ID Sheet with a picture turned into the Extension Office on or before **June 15**. To show in a registered breeding class, a copy of the registration paperwork must be included with the County ID Sheet, **BOTH DUE JUNE 15**.
- 4) State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben market and breeding hogs need to be ID'd with an EID ear tag, have DNA samples turned into the Extension Office and submit entry online on or before **June 15** to be eligible to show at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben.
- 5) All beef, swine, sheep, and goats will be shown Blow and Go. Animals may be clipped, blown, brushed, or combed to enhance their appearance. All animals will be shown free of any adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products..
- 6) An exhibitor is limited to showing six (6) total hogs.

HOG SHOWMANSHIP- See Showmanship area for rules, page 6.

PREMIUM: Purple \$5.00; Blue \$4.00; Red \$3.00; White \$2.00

G-60-001. Junior 8-10 years old as of Jan. 1

G-60-002. Intermediate 11-13 years old as of Jan. 1

G-60-003. Senior 14-18 years old as of Jan. 1

G-60-004. FFA Showmanship Age 14-21(not eligible for 4-H Overall Livestock Showman Award)



Hog ID's

MARKET HOGS

Market hogs must weigh a minimum of 225 lbs at check-in. Market hogs less than 225 lbs will be placed in an underweight class. Market hogs weighing over 325 lbs at check-in will be placed in an overweight class. Both underweight and overweight market hogs will not be eligible for the final drive. They will both be eligible to go through the sale.

PREMIUM: Purple \$7.00; Blue \$6.00; Red \$4.00; White \$3.00

*G-60-005. Market Gilts - All market gilts will be weighed and divided into weight classes.

*G-60-005. Market Barrows - All market barrows will be weighed and divided into weight classes.

G-60-006. Home Raised Market Hog - Home raised animals are defined as those animals that were born on the farm or ranch operated by the immediate family of the exhibitor. Exhibitors should note on their pre-entry form if the animal is eligible for the class. Limit of one animal.

G-60-007. Pen of Three Market Hogs - To be owned and exhibited by one individual. Only one (1) pen of three may be entered.

BREEDING HOGS

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

PREMIUM: Purple \$7.00; Blue \$6.00; Red \$4.00; White \$3.00

*G-60-008. Commercial Gilt

<u>G-60-009.</u> Registered Gilt - To be eligible to show, must submit copy of registration papers with the County ID Sheet. Classes will be broken down into breeds if at least three of the same breed are available to have a class of a specific breed.

<u>G-60-010.</u> Home Raised Breeding Gilt - Home raised animals are defined as those animals that were born on the farm or ranch operated by the immediate family of the exhibitor. Exhibitors should note on their pre-entry form if the animal is eligible for the class. Limit of one animal.

HORSE- Superintendents Russ & Carolyn Kucera

- 1) 4-Hers must be at least age 8 by December 31, 2023 to show in the 4-H Horse Show.
- 2) All horses to be shown at the State Horse Show must be identified on the 4-H Horse ID Sheet and be turned into the Extension Office by **June 1**. Horses being shown ONLY at the Merrick County Fair will need to be ID'd by **June 15**. Horses not identified will not be permitted to show.
- 3) For procedure refer to 4H 373, "Nebraska 4-H Horse Show & Judging Guide". A single horse may not be entered or ridden in a class or event by more than one person even though the horse is jointly owned by two members of the same family. An individual and/or horse may enter 1 Western Pleasure, 1 Western Horsemanship, 1 Hunter Under Saddle, 1 Hunt Seat Equitation, 1 Reining, 1 Pole Bending and 1 Barrel Racing. In addition, an individual and/or horse may enter 1 Ranch Riding, 1 Advanced Western Pleasure, 1 Advanced Hunter Under Saddle, 1 Advanced Western Pleasure, and 1 Advanced Hunt Seat Equitation 1 Showmanship, 1 Breakaway, 1 Tie Down, 1 Heading, 1 Heeling, 1 Trail class. Only one horse per entry number and one horse per Halter class.
- 4) Entries must be made by **July 10**. NO ADDED ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED THE DAY OF THE SHOW. Check-in time will begin at 6:00 a.m., **Saturday, July 29** with a 7:00 a.m. show time.
- 5) 4-Hers are reminded to WALK their horses no trotting and/or cantering near other livestock, people and buildings.

HORSE SHOWMANSHIP

PREMIUM: Purple \$5.00; Blue \$4.00; Red \$3.00; White \$2.00

G-70-001. Junior 8-10 years old as of Jan. 1

G-70-002. Intermediate 11-13 years old as of Jan. 1

G-70-003. Senior 14-18 years old as of Jan. 1

LIGHT HORSE HALTER CLASSES

- 1) Stallions may show only in the year foaled.
- 2) Horses become one year older on January 1, for show purposes.

PREMIUM: Purple \$7.00; Blue \$6.00; Red \$4.00; White \$3.00

	Fillies & Mares	Colts & Geldin
Weanling	G-70-004	G-70-005
Yearling	<u>G-70-006</u>	G-70-007
2 Yr. Old	G-70-008	G-70-009
3-5 Yr. Old	<u>G-70-010</u>	G-70-011
Aged	G-70-012	G-70-013

LIGHT HORSE PERFORMANCE CLASSES

- 1) Guidelines for these classes are found in "Nebraska 4-H Horse Show & Judging Guide" 4-H 373 available at the Ext Office
- 2) Walk-Trot classes are open to 4-Hers 8-11 years of age and are beginning riders not ready for a lope.

PREMIUM: Purple \$7.00; Blue \$6.00; Red \$4.00; White \$3.00

G-70-014. Hunter Under Saddle (all ages)

G-70-015. Hunter Seat Equitation (all ages)

G-70-016. Hunter Hack (all ages)

	Walk-Trot (8-11 yrs)	Jr. (8-11 yrs.)	Sr. (12-18 yrs.)
Pleasure	G-70-017	G-70-018	G-70-019
Horsemanship	<u>G-70-020</u>	<u>G-70-021</u>	G-70-022
Trail	<u>G-70-023</u>	<u>G-70-024</u>	G-70-025
Ranch Riding		<u>G-70-026</u>	G-70-027
Barrel Racing		G-70-028	G-70-029
Pole Bending		<u>G-70-030</u>	G-70-031
Reining		<u>G-70-032</u>	G-70-033

4-H 373 lists the six (6) reining patterns. Patterns 1, 2 & 3 will be used for riders 8-11 yrs. and patterns 4, 5 & 6 will be used for riders 12-18 yrs.

ROPING

PREMIUM: Purple \$7.00; Blue \$6.00; Red \$4.00; White \$3.00

	Jr. (8-11 yrs.)	Sr. (12-18 yrs.)
Calf Roping - Breakaway	G-70-034	G-70-035
Calf Roping - Tie Down	<u>G-70-036</u>	G-70-037
Dally Steer - Heading	<u>G-70-038</u>	G-70-039
Dally Steer - Heeling	G-70-040	G-70-041
Ground Roping (8-11 years)	G-70-042	

- 1) NO barrier in roping classes
- 2) Ground Roping is designed for 4-Hers (8-11 yrs.) just beginning to rope. If this event is entered, you may NOT enter the regular steer or calf roping or vice versa. Five (5) throws will be made to a dummy steer head in a bale of hay from at least eight (8) feet

away with the individual standing on the ground. Individuals will be awarded ribbons on the best out of five. 4-H horse dress code applies to this class.

ADAPTIVE CLASSES - The following classes are open to any 4-H member (8-18 yrs) who require an adaptation to participate in the horse show. Youth eligible for these classes can only participate in these classes 1-3. The youth can be recruited for these classes due to their abilities (ex. participation in the Special Olympics equestrian events, have a type of modified learning plan for their schoolwork, use devices through occupational therapy). The youth still need to follow all the rules of 4-H enrollment and horse ID's. Horses shown in these classes can be shown by another 4-H member in other classes, and on another 4-H member's ID sheet.

PREMIUM: Purple \$5.00; Blue \$4.00; Red \$3.00; White \$2.00

G-70-043. Walk-Trot Pleasure

G-70-044. Walk-Trot Horsemanship

G-70-045. Walk-Trot Trail

4-H OVERALL LIVESTOCK SHOWMAN- Superintendents Alex Stocker, Chase Samuelson

PREMIUM: Purple \$7.00; Blue \$6.00; Red \$4.00; White \$3.00

G-80-001. General Information: The contest will consist of the two top Senior 4-H showman from the areas of: beef, sheep, hogs, meat goat and horse. Contest will default to top Intermediate 4-H showman if there are no Senior 4-H showman. The contest gives 4-H exhibitors a chance to learn about other species of livestock and develop camaraderie and dialogue between exhibitors of different livestock species. The hope is that the showmen will take the time to learn about the other species they will show in the Overall Livestock Showman Contest. Judging will be based on ring etiquette, awareness of the judge, answering judge's questions, ability to follow instruction and appearance in the ring.

- 1) The Judge may or may not ask questions in each specie class.
- 2) A test covering all livestock species may be given at the discretion of the judge and/or superintendent.
- 3) FFA Showman are not eligible for the 4-H Overall Livestock Showman.
- 4) If an exhibitor chooses not to participate, we will not be accepting another exhibitor, same goes for if an exhibitor wins in more than one species. The maximum number of exhibitors is at least ten (10). If an exhibitor wins or receives a reserve place in more than one species showmanship class, they will choose the species they would like to represent.
- 5) Participants are required to wear the required 4-H/FFA T-Shirt, black/blue jeans, and closed toe shoes.

POULTRY- Superintendent Mollie Nielsen

- 1) Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Nebraska 4-H requires all youth enrolled in livestock projects to complete annual quality assurance training through Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA).
- 2) Exhibitors are limited to showing two (2) entries per class, ten (10) total poultry, plus two (2) pens).
- 3) PENS or TRIOS -A pen or trio shall be exhibited by one youth. A pen of broilers shall consist of three male or female birds 6-9 weeks of age. A trio of hybrid, crossbred or purebred egg production birds shall consist of three (3) sexually mature females. Pens of broilers or egg production females will be judged for production qualities and need not necessarily conform to breed standards. Look for uniformity in size and type.
- 4) The rules for standard size chickens apply equally to bantams and waterfowl where applicable.
- 5) All poultry shall be free of lice and mites when brought to the fair. Those not free of external parasites will be sent home.
- 6) Members need to provide their own cleaning tools, bedding, feeders, and waterers. 4-Hers are responsible for cleaning under the cages at the close of fair.

PREMIUM: Purple \$1.50; Blue \$1.25; Red \$1.00; White \$.50

POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP- See Showmanship area for rules, page 6.

1) Basis for judging showmanship is based on grooming and training the bird and the appearance and behavior of the exhibitor. The exhibitor must vocally explain the steps in their routine and the merit of the bird, primarily showmanship is the skill of the exhibitor in presenting and explaining the bird before the judge, the excellence of the bird is not considered in scoring. The judge may or may not ask questions of the exhibitor at the close of the routine. Check your 4-H Poultry Project Manual for more info.

G-90-001. Junior 8-10 years old as of Jan. 1

G-90-002. Intermediate 11-13 years old as of Jan. 1

G-90-003. Senior 14-18 years old as of Jan. 1

POULTRY

	STANDARD	BANTAMS
Cockerels- hatched during 2024	*G-90-004	*G-90-005
Cocks- hatched during 2024	*G-90-006	<u>*G-90-007</u>
Pullets- hatched prior to 2024	*G-90-008	<u>*G-90-009</u>
Hens- hatched prior to 2024	*G-90-010	*G-90-011
Breeding Pair- One pair per class	G-90-012	G-90-013

<u>G-90-014.</u> Pen of 3 Broilers *G-90-018. Ducks

*G-90-015. Egg Production Trios G-90-019. Pigeons

*G-90-016. Turkey G-90-020. Other

*G-90-017. Geese G-90-021. Other Breeding Pair EGGS- Eggs will be judged on shape, color and weight uniformity. Please do not refrigerate eggs prior to checking in the eggs. 4-Hers are limited to exhibiting one entry per class.

*G-90-022. One (1) dozen white eggs

*G-90-023. One (1) dozen brown eggs

*G-90-024. One (1) dozen other colored eggs

MARKET BROILER PROJECT

- 1. All of the birds for this specific project will come from the same hatch and must be purchased through the Merrick County Extension Office. Price and delivery date will be advertised on social media platforms, and via email through 4honline.
- 2. Minimum order is 5 birds (limited to 20 birds) per exhibitor. Family members may share birds.

G-90-025 Pen of 3 Market Broiler Project

RABBITS- Superintendent Mollie Nielsen

- 1) Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Nebraska 4-H requires all youth enrolled in livestock projects to complete annual quality assurance training through Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA).
- 2) Exhibitors are limited to showing three (3) entries per class, twelve (12) total rabbits.
- 3) All rabbits need to be ID with a tattoo and County ID Sheet with a picture turned into the Extension Office on or before June 15
- 4) Rabbit age will be the age of the rabbit on show day. Division breakdown will be by age of rabbit and not by weight of rabbit.
- 5) Members need to provide their own cleaning tools, bedding, feeders and waterers. 4-Hers are responsible for cleaning under the cages at the close of fair.

PREMIUM: Purple \$1.50; Blue \$1.25; Red \$1.00; White \$.50

RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP- See Showmanship area for rules, page 6.

1) Basis for judging showmanship is based on grooming and training of the rabbit and the appearance and behavior of the exhibitor. The exhibitor must vocally explain the steps in their routine and the merit of the rabbit, primarily showmanship is the skill of the exhibitor in presenting and explaining the rabbit before the judge, the excellence of the rabbit is not considered in scoring. The judge may or may not ask questions of the exhibitor at the close of the routine. Check your 4-H Rabbit Project Manual for more information.

G-100-001. Junior 8-10 years old as of Jan. 1

G-100-002. Intermediate 11-13 years old as of Jan. 1

G-100-003. Senior 14-18 years old as of Jan.

Kabbit ID

COMMERCIAL BREED RABBIT- Includes: American, American Chinchilla, Argente Brun, Beveren, Blanc d Hotot, Californian, Champagne D'Argent, Checkered Giant, Cinnamon, Creme D'Argent, English Lop, Flemish Giant, French Lop, Giant Angora, Giant Chinchilla, New Zealand, Palomino, Satin, Silver Fox.

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*G-100-004. Junior Doe (under 6 mo.)

*G-100-005. Intermediate Doe (6-8 mo.)

*G-100-006. Senior Doe (over 8 mo.)

*G-100-007. Junior Buck (under 6 mo.)

*G-100-008. Intermediate Buck (6-8 mo.)

*G-100-009. Senior Buck (over 8 mo.)

*G-100-010. Commercial Pair- An intermediate or older male and female shown as a pair. Only one pair may be shown per exhibitor.
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FANCY BREED RABBIT- Includes: American Fuzzy Lop, American Sable, Belgian Hare, Britannia Petite, Dutch, Dwarf Hotot, Dwarf Papillion, English Angora, English Spot, Florida White, French Angora, Harlequin, Havana, Himalayan, Jersey Woolie, Lilac, Holland Lop, Mini Lop, Mini Rex, Mini Satin, Netherland Dwarf, Polish, Rex, Rhinelander, Satin Angora, Silver, Silver Marten, Standard Chinchilla, Tan, Thrianta, Lionhead.

*G-100-011. Junior Doe (under 6 mo.)

*G-100-012. Senior Doe (over 6 mo.)

*G-100-013. Junior Buck (under 6 mo.)

*G-100-014. Senior Buck (over 6 mo.)

*G-100-015. Fancy Pair- A senior male and female shown as a pair. Only one pair may be shown per exhibitor.

MARKET RABBIT - Market Rabbits will be judged for production qualities only and need not necessarily conform to breed standards.

*G-100-016. Single Fryer- Not over 10 weeks of age. Minimum weight of 3½ pounds. Maximum weight 5½ pounds.

*G-100-017. Meat Pen- Age limit 10 weeks. Minimum weight 3½ pounds each. Maximum weight 5½ pounds each. Meat pens shall consist of three rabbits, all of the same breed and variety. Broken group meat pens must also be of the same variety. A meat pen does not necessarily have to come from the same litter.

*G-100-018. Roaster- Must be under 6 months of age. Minimum weight of 5½ pounds. Maximum weight 9 pounds.

*G-100-019. Stewers- Must be 6 months of age and over. Minimum weight is over 8 pounds

COMPANION ANIMAL- Superintendent Mollie Nielsen

- 1) A 4-H member is limited to exhibiting one (1) companion animal per class, four (4) total companion animals.
- 2) Animals shall be free of fleas, ticks, mites, lice or other parasites. Animals shall be free of contagious diseases. Any animal showing signs of parasites or disease will not be judged.
- 3) **DUE July 10:** Ferrets must be vaccinated for rabies. The rabies vaccination is federally mandated to be given ONLY by a veterinarian. The vaccination must be current and include a veterinarian signature on the Vaccination Record. **Participants must have their veterinarian fill out and sign the "Nebraska 4-H Certification of Vaccination for Cats and Ferrets" and turn in by July 10.**

- 4) Animals eligible for the show This lot cannot duplicate animals that are exhibited in other lots. Therefore, no dogs, cats, rabbits or poultry will be permitted in this show.
- 5) Score is based on presentation, handling of animal and exhibitor knowledge.

COMPANION ANIMAL SHOWMANSHIP- Exhibitor will choose one companion animal for their age division of showmanship. See Showmanship area for rules, page 6.

PREMIUM: Purple \$1.50; Blue \$1.25; Red \$1.00; White \$.50

G-110-001. Junior 8-10 years old as of Jan. 1

G-110-002. Intermediate 10-13 years old as of Jan. 1

G-110-003. Senior 14-18 years old as of Jan. 1



Cat/Ferret Vaccination Form

COMPANION ANIMALS- one (1) entry per class number.

PREMIUM: Purple \$1.50; Blue \$1.25; Red \$1.00; White \$.50

G-110-004. Guinea Pig, Rat
G-110-005. Chinchilla, Rabbit
G-110-007. Amphibians, Fish, Reptile
G-110-010. Other Small Animal
G-110-008. Birds, Parakeets
G-110-009. Ferret, Hedgehog

CAT- Superintendent Mollie Nielsen

- 1) A 4-H member is limited to exhibiting one (1) cat per class, two (2) total cats. ALL CATS MUST BE SHOWN ON A LEASH and must be on a leash any time they are removed from the carrier/cage. Refer to 4-H Cat/Small Animal Show Guidelines.
- 2) If a cat is not declawed, the claws must be clipped. Cats shall be free of fleas, lice, ticks, ear mites, ringworm, any internal or external parasite or infectious disease. If any signs of external parasites or other contagious health conditions are present, exhibitor will be asked to leave without being allowed into the show area.
- 3) **DUE July 10:** Cats are required to be current on rabies, panleukopenia, viral rhinotracheitis and calicivirus vaccinations. Cats must have a current feline leukemia vaccination OR proof of a negative test within 180 days of the show. Participants must have their veterinarian fill out and sign the "Nebraska 4-H Certification of Vaccination for Cats and Ferrets". 4-Hers vaccinating their own cats must provide proof by including the vaccination labels on the form and have it signed. The rabies vaccination is federally mandated to be given ONLY by a veterinarian. **The vaccination must be current and include a veterinarian signature on the Vaccination Record and turned in by July 10.**
- 4) Exhibitors are required to be present during the judging of their exhibit. Score is based on showmanship.

CAT SHOWMANSHIP- Exhibitor will choose one cat for their age division of showmanship. See Showmanship area for rules, page 6.

PREMIUM: Purple \$1.50; Blue \$1.25; Red \$1.00; White \$.50

G-120-001. Junior 8-10 years old as of Jan. 1

G-120-002. Intermediate 11-13 years old as of Jan. 1

G-120-003. Senior 14-18 years old as of Jan. 1

Cat/Ferret Vaccination Form

CATS- one (1) entry per class number.

PREMIUM: Purple \$1.50; Blue \$1.25; Red \$1.00; White \$.50

<u>G-120-004</u>. Long Hair Cat <u>G-120-005</u>. Short Hair Cat

DOG- Superintendents Kim & Travis Stuhmer

- 1) Procedures described in Nebraska 4-H Dog Show Rules 4H421 will be followed.
- 2) **DUE July 10:** All dogs must be immunized for distemper, hepatitis, parvo and rabies. Bordetella vaccine is recommended but not required. The Nebraska State Fair Show Vaccination Record Form (SF 263) must document all vaccinations deadline given within 1 to 3 years of the show date based on label guidelines. All vaccinations must be in effect at the time of the Dog Show
- 3) Females in season will not be permitted to be shown. Overly aggressive dogs may be disqualified at the discretion of the judge or superintendent. Lame or crippled dogs will not be permitted to show if it is determined by a show superintendent that it is affecting the health of the dog. Procedures described in Nebraska 4-H Dog Show Rules 4H421 will be followed.

DOG SHOWMANSHIP- See Showmanship area for rules, page 6.

1) Each class will be judged on handler's appearance (10%), grooming and conditioning of dog (20%), coordination of the dog and handler (50%), and general knowledge (20%).

PREMIUM: Purple \$1.50; Blue \$1.25; Red \$1.00; White \$.50

G-700-001. Junior 8-10 years old as of Jan. 1

*G-700-020. Intermediate 10-13 years old as of Jan. 1

*G-700-021. Senior Showmanship 14-18 years old as of Jan. 1



Dog Vaccination Forn

DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES

PREMIUM: Purple \$4.00; Blue \$3.00; Red \$2.00; White \$1.00

*G701010. Beginning Novice Division A - exhibitor and dog are in first year of competition (started Dog Project after 10/1/2022).

Exhibitors incorrectly entered will be moved to Beginning Novice Division B or C

*G701020. Beginning Novice Division B - exhibitor or dog is beyond first year of competition.

*G701025. Beginning Novice Division C - exhibitor and dog are beyond first year of competition.

*G701030. Novice A - exhibitor and dog have received purple in Beginning Novice and are in first year of Novice competition (started after 10/1/22)

*G701035. Novice B - exhibitor and dog are beyond first year of Novice Class competition.

*G701040. Graduate Novice - exhibitor and dog have received a purple in Novice.

*G701045. Advanced Graduate Novice - exhibitor and dog have received a purple in Graduate Novice.

*G701050. Open - exhibitor and dog have received a purple in Adv. Graduate Novice

*G701055. Graduate Open - exhibitor and dog have received a purple in Open

*G701060. Utility - exhibitor and dog have received a purple in Graduate Open

DOG AGILITY CLASSES

- Procedure Agility will follow those procedures and classes described in Nebraska 4-H Dog Show Guidelines 4H421. Refer to Nebraska 4-H Dog Show Guidelines to determine class entry and obstacles for each level of competition. Course maps will be made available and posted at time of show registration in designated area(s).
- Agility Jump Heights measure dogs at withers to determine jump height:
 - o Dogs 11 inches or less 4 inches
 - o Dogs over 11 inches up to and including 14 inches 8 inches.
 - o Dogs over 14 inches up to and including 18 inches 12 inches.
 - o Dogs over 18 inches 16 inches

PREMIUM: Purple \$4.00; Blue \$3.00; Red \$2.00; White \$1.00

*G-702-010. Level 1: 6 Obstacles

*G-702-020. Level 2: 10 Obstacles

*G-702-030. Level 3: 10 Obstacles

*G-702-040. Level 4: 13 Obstacles

*G-702-050. Level 5: 15-20 Obstacles

VETERINARY & ANIMAL SCIENCE- Superintendent Beth Johnson

- 1) The purpose of the Vet Science display is to inform public about a common health problem of animals or a vet science principle
- 2) A Veterinary Science exhibit may consist of a poster, notebook or a display. The exhibit may represent material from any of the Veterinary Science projects including entry level exhibits from Unit I.
- 3) If photographs are to be part of the exhibit, remember that they will be viewed by the public. Make sure that the photographs are in good taste and will not be offensive to anyone. Graphic photographs of excessive bleeding, trauma or painful procedures are not appropriate. For exhibits related to veterinary surgical procedures, aseptic techniques need to be shown, for example, use of drapes, use of sterile procedures, wearing of gloves, and other appropriate veterinary medical practices.
- 4) First Aid Kits: Because of public safety concerns and risk of theft of first-aid kit contents (veterinary drugs/equipment) with perceived potential for drug abuse, animal first aid kits containing any drugs or medications will be immediately disqualified and not displayed. First Aid kits wishing to include medication information should instead utilize written descriptions, photographs, drawings, computer generated printouts or empty packaging of pharmaceuticals.
- 5) <u>Veterinary Science Posters</u> This exhibit presents the viewer with a design that is simple and direct, unlike a display that usually presents more information. A poster should not exceed 22x28" and may be either vertical or horizontal.
- 6) Veterinary Science Displays A display may include but is not limited to: a 3-dimensional exhibit, a scale model, the actual product (for example: skeleton; teeth; samples of leather, fur, or dried skin damaged by disease or parasites) or a notebook. A display is not a poster. A display may be mounted on poster board not to exceed 22x28" or on 1/4" plywood or equivalent that does not exceed 24" h or 32" w.
- 7) Appropriate Veterinary Science Topics: Maintaining health; Specific disease information; Photographic display of normal and abnormal characteristics of animals; Animal health or safety; Public health or safety; Proper animal management to ensure food safety & quality; Efficient and safe livestock working facilities; Or a topic of the exhibitors choosing related to veterinary medicine or veterinary science.
- 8) IMPORTANT, since these are science displays, all references and information need to be properly cited. Proper sources include but are not limited to: Professional journals and publications, professional AVMA accredited websites, interviews with Veterinarians and excerpts from Veterinary Educational Literature. Plagiarism will result in a disqualification. Please study your topic and present the information to your audience in your own words.

PREMIUM: Purple \$2.50; Blue \$2.00; Red \$1.50; White \$1.00

*H-840-001. 4-H Veterinary Science Large Animal Poster or Display

*H-840-002. 4-H Veterinary Science Small Animal/Pet Poster or Display

H-840-003. Rope Display - may include a large or small animal halter or a display of 5 or 10 knots, hitches, and splices. Items must be labeled. The ends of all ropes must be whipped. Judging consideration will be given to difficulty of items shown. Each rope exhibit must be mounted on a board that is 1/4" thick and appropriately sized for the number of knots.