County fair is a time for youth to demonstrate what they have learned that year in their projects they have completed. Project manuals (curriculum) are available free of charge for all Pawnee County 4-H members. Projects provide the basis of the 4-H program by offering various educational experiences. Carrying out a project will help the member "learn by doing" as well as learn "why" things happen the way they do. During county fair, youth may choose to show animal exhibits (poultry, sheep, horse, etc.) or enter completed static exhibits (art, photography, woodworking, etc.).

**WHERE TO START??**

* Review the “General Rules”
* Take a closer look at “General Livestock Rules and Regulations” and/or “General Static Rules and Regulations”
* Locate specific classes which align with the curriculum or project manuals the 4-H-er wishes to work on. The fairbook is organized with DEPARTMENTS, AREAS, DIVISIONS, & CLASSES.

**READING THE FAIRBOOK**

Department Name

Project Area

****

Class # and Description

SF = State Fair eligible

C = County only projects

Ribbon Premium

Specific Rules for Division

Division Name

Specific Rules for Area

Curriculum & Level

Class # and Description

SF = State Fair eligible

C = County Only projects

**GENERAL RULES**

*The following rules apply to all departments. Rules which apply specifically to a particular department will be listed under rules for that department.*

1. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXHIBITORS
	1. An exhibitor must be a 4-H member enrolled in the project he/she is exhibiting. Exhibitors must be enrolled by June 14 in the project in which they wish to exhibit. There will be no discrimination because of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin, religion, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.
	2. Accommodations for exhibitors with special needs will be granted and the superintendent, 4-H Foundation and/or Extension Educator will be made aware of the exhibitor’s special needs.
	3. A 4-H member must be 8 to 18 years of age inclusive on January 1 of the current year. The last year of eligibility is the calendar year the member becomes 19.
2. EXHIBIT ENTRIES
	1. General
		1. Youth may exhibit one entry per class unless otherwise noted. No entry can compete in more than one class.
		2. Youth may not show the same animal or static exhibit in two separate counties. In addition, 4-H members are not allowed to show multiple Large and Small Animal exhibits under the same project in more than one county.
	2. Exhibits Released
		1. The release times for the County Fair will be listed on the County Fair Schedule. No exhibitor is allowed to remove any article or animal on exhibition until the scheduled time without the permission of the area superintendent.
		2. To remove animal(s) before the scheduled time the Animal Dismissal Form must be completed for each animal that is removed.  **See Appendix A for “Animal Dismissal Form”.**
3. FFA MEMBER ELIGIBILITY
	1. FFA members are considered 4-H members and will adhere to all 4-H rules and regulations.
4. DISCLAIMER OF RESPONSIBILITY AT COUNTY FAIR
	1. Exhibits – 4-H exhibits at County Fair are entered and displayed at the risk of the 4-H member. The University of Nebraska Extension 4-H Youth Development, in cooperation with the County Ag Society accepts exhibits and will exercise due care to protect them. However, 4-H and the County Ag Society cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage that may occur to exhibits or exhibitors. 4-H members who have exhibits of great sentimental and/or monetary value should carefully consider whether such exhibits should be exposed to the hazards of the fair.
	2. Patrons/Participants – While the greatest possible care will be exercised by the County Ag Society to protect patrons/participants of the County Fair, each individual will be held personally responsible for any injury, accident and/or loss.
	3. Substance Abuse – Use of possession of tobacco, alcoholic beverages or drugs (except for medical purposes) by any exhibitor who is participating in 4-H at the County Fair will result in immediate disqualification of that exhibitor’s entry.
	4. Insurance – Accident insurance (medical) is carried on 4-H members in the Pawnee 4-H program. A report of all accidents must be made to the 4-H Office on the Fairgrounds or the Extension Office at the Courthouse within 24 hours after the accident. Your claim must be filed with the Extension Office within 10 days after the accident.  **See Appendix B for “Accident Report Form”.**
5.  **PROTEST OR APPLEALS COMMITTEE**
	1. The superintendents of each division at the County Fair have the authority to make the appropriate decisions based on the rules and regulations of the County Fair.
	2. The division superintendents and designated members of the Ag Society will serve as the Protest and Appeals Committee. They will meet when needed to act upon any protest or appeals.
		1. All protests or appeals must be submitted in writing and signed. Written protests or appeals must be submitted to the County Extension Staff. The staff person will convene the committee for their deliberation.
		2. Written protests or appeals must include the following:
			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
			7. Procedures and/or steps carried out by person involved prior to submission of the protest to the Extension Staff person
		3. The committee will review the written protest. They may discuss the situation with anyone they feel has knowledge of the situation. The committee’s recommendation or decision will be communicated both verbally and in writing to the group or individuals affected. The committee will recommend appropriate action to the Extension Staff in writing prior to communicating with the affected group or individual.
		4. In cases of protest the exhibitor may be allowed to show pending the results of the committee’s decision. Results of this showing may be subject to change based on the outcome of the protest process.
		5. The show management reserves the right to withhold premium and/or award. The exhibitor may be excluded from the show if action warrants.
		6. The appeals process is limited to the 4-H exhibitor, parent and/or volunteer leader.
		7. Protests will not be accepted after the exhibit is released from the County Fair. Protest related to judges’ integrity, decisions, placing and/or other evaluations will not be accepted.
		8.  **See Appendix C for “Protest and Appeals Committee Form”.**
6. RIBBONS AND PREMIUMS AWARDED
	1. Exhibits are judged according to research-based standards that indicate level of performance or quality of work. Purple will denote superior exhibits, blue will denote an excellent exhibit, red will denote a good exhibit, and white will denote an acceptable exhibit. Clover Kid ribbons denote participation and will receive a participation ribbon.
	2. Exhibits must be purple to be named champion or reserve champion and/or qualify for related special awards. Special awards include trophies, plaques, medals and medallions.
	3. All static exhibits must have received a purple at county fair to advance to the state fair.
7. SPECIAL AWARDS
	1. No special awards will be presented unless they have been approved by the 4-H Foundation.
8. FORFEIT OF PREMIUM
	1. Exhibitors will forfeit their premium money under the following situations if not previously approved by the 4-H Foundation.
		1. Late 4-H Enrollment and/or Project Enrollment
		2. Late Pre-Fair Entry Sheets and/or Late Animal Identification Forms
		3. Failure to Meet Dress Code Requirements
9. SECURITY & FAIRGROUND USE
	1. The 4-H Exhibit Building will be closed and locked at night. There are host and hostesses when the building is open to provide security.
	2. No livestock hauling trailers or any trailers used for hauling livestock are allowed to park south of the south road and east of the hog barn and small show arena.
	3. All persons crossing over the west side of the snow fence will be charged admission starting 6:00 p.m. on Friday night and 3:00 p.m. on Saturday night of given dates at fair time (includes all persons tending to 4-H livestock).
	4. Anybody found on the west side of the snow fence after 6:00 p.m. on Friday night or 3:00 p.m. on Saturday night without proper paid admission (wrist-band on their wrist), will be charged admission on the spot or will be escorted out.
	5. Trailer hook-ups available. Contact an Ag Society officer for more information.
10. VIOLATION OF RULES
	1. Exhibitor is subject to loss of premium monies, ribbons, other awards and/or elimination from the show.
		1. No person except the judges on duty, ring assistants, officers of the County Ag Society and exhibitors will be allowed inside the arena during the judging of entries.
		2. No person shall be allowed to interfere with a judge; any exhibitor who, by letter or otherwise, does so will be excluded from competition.
		3. If the County Ag Society is provided with satisfactory information that a premium has been obtained by fraud, then such premium shall be withheld for disobedience to the rules.
11. DISQUALIFICATIONS/JUDGING
	1. Area superintendents have the authority to determine eligibility/ineligibility of an exhibit entry in their division. All ineligible items will not be judged and will not be displayed.
12. ADVERTISING
	1. The distribution of advertising matter is strictly prohibited and tacking of advertising matter on buildings will not be permitted. Exhibitors may distribute advertising matter from their place of exhibit only.

**GENERAL LIVESTOCK RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. ENTRY REQUIRMENTS
	1. All Large and Small Animal Project exhibits for the County Fair need to be pre-entered on the appropriate Pre-Fair Entry Sheet and an Animal Identification Form completed.
	2. Companion Animals (Cat, Dog, Small Animals) exhibits for pre-fair shows need to be pre-entered (requirements vary based on multi-county host location) and an Animal Identification Form completed.
2. GENERAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION
	1. All animals need to be identified with an identification number and ownership certified on Identification/Ownership Affidavits due in the Extension Office by the identification deadline.  **See Appendix D for “Animal Identification Guidelines”.**
	2. Multiple siblings may be listed on a single animal identification as long as it does not exceed maximum entries per animal species.
	3. All identification sheets need to be filled out completely.
	4. Only those identified on the Identification/Ownership Affidavit will be allowed to exhibit at the County Fair, Nebraska State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben.
3. OWNERSHIP OF ANIMALS
	1. Beef, sheep, dairy cattle, goat, horse, swine, rabbit, poultry, dog, cat or other small animal project animals may be owned or leased.
		1. An owned animal is defined as one solely owned by the 4-H exhibitor or immediate family member.
		2. A leased animal is defined as an animal owned by someone outside their immediate family, but will be shown only by the 4-H leasing member during the duration of the lease. Leased animals may not be shown by any other person in another 4-H show, open show, FFA show, jackpot show, or expo.
			1. The 4-H member must participate in learning about the care, training, feeding, and other management practices associated with the animal there are lease by performing an agreed upon amount of work identified by the owner and youth.
			2.  **See Appendix E for recommended “Animal Lease Agreement Form”.**
4. GENERAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL ANIMALS
	1. Only animals not showing signs of infectious or contagious diseases will be allowed to show. Under no circumstances may animals under quarantine be exhibited.
	2. Any animal found to be infected with an infectious, contagious or otherwise transmissible disease or is suspected of being so affected or exposed shall be removed immediately to a place of quarantine as ordered and directed by an official veterinarian or his authorized agent.
	3. Animals that have active ringworm, visible warts or abscesses, will not be allowed to remain on the premises and be exhibited.
5. ELIGIBILITY, CONTROL AND REMOVAL OF ANIMALS
	1. Unruly or questionable animals may be declared ineligible to show and dismissed from the premises by appropriate authority. An animal that becomes wild and uncontrollable or sick during the show may be declared ineligible and dismissed by the appropriate authority.
6. ANIMAL TESTING AND EXAMINATION
	1. Any animal entered in 4-H classes is subject to any type of testing at the discretion of either the superintendent of official show veterinarian.
	2. 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.
	3. An animal that is tampered with to change appearance or weight may be declared ineligible by the division superintendent.
7. QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING
	1.  **All exhibitors in beef (breeding, bucket, feeder calf, and market), dairy cattle, goats (dairy, meat, pygmy), sheep (breeding, market), swine, poultry and rabbits must have received Quality Assurance training prior to the June 14 pre-entry deadline date.**
8. FAMILY LIVESTOCK PROJECTS
	1.  **At weigh-in on entry day, each 4-H member of a family holding their animals in joint ownership must designate who is going to show each animal.**
9. SUBSTITUTE SHOWMAN
	1. An animal must be shown before the judge by the 4-H member who entered it unless the exhibitor is excused by the division superintendent 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.
	2. An exhibitor who has more than one animal in a class needs to secure a substitute showman who is eligible to exhibit livestock to show the additional animal(s) in the class.
	3. Substitute showman must be a 4-H member who is capable of assisting with showing a specific animal species. The substitute does not have to be enrolled in that specific project but should be knowledgeable of it. The substitute is required to check in with the show superintendent and adhere to all dress code and other showmanship rules.
10. ANIMAL SUBSTITUTIONS
	1. Within the same class or division, substituting a different animal for a pre-entered AND identified animal is allowed at during check in. Substitutions between divisions, except within Breeding Beef, Dairy and Goats are not allowed (i.e. a market lamb cannot be substituted for a breeding sheep entry.) For Breeding Beef, Dairy and Goats, where each breed is listed as a separate division, substitutions between divisions is allowed (i.e. an Angus heifer can substitute for a Charolais heifer).
11. GROOMING OF LIVESTOCK
	1. Caring for and grooming the animals are primarily the responsibility of the 4-H member; however, immediate family members, 4-H club leaders and other 4-H members can help. FFA chapter advisor and FFA members can also assist. Professional help will not be allowed. The 4-H member must be present for all grooming unless he or she is in the show ring.
	2.  **Swine must be shown without hairdressing compounds.** This includes oil, powder or any other coat dressing compound considered objectionable by the packer. Only unadulterated water is permitted.
	3. Exhibitors shall not add materials, natural or synthetic, which extend body shapes beyond normal limits.
	4. Upon violation of above rules, the exhibitor’s animal involved may be lowered one or two ribbon placing(s) or may be disqualified from the show.
12. HAY, GRAIN OR BEDDING
	1. Feed must be furnished by exhibitors at their own expense. Bedding is provided by Ag Society. All stalls must use approved bedding.
13.  **DRESS CODE**
	1. Livestock exhibitors are required to wear a white shirt 4-H T-shirt (purchased from Extension Office) and dark blue jeans. Dairy and dairy goat exhibitors may wear jeans or white pants.
	2. Horse exhibitors are required to wear or long sleeve white blouse with a 4-H armband for horse events.
	3. Shoes or boots providing adequate protection and comfort for the exhibitor are preferred. Hard soled shoes or boots are required in the beef division.
	4. No hats, caps or other types of headgear are to be worn in the show ring, with the exception of horse exhibitors.
	5. Exhibitors must where their exhibitor numbers when in the ring.
14. PURPLE RIBBON CHAMPIONS
	1. Any animal entry must be awarded a first or second purple ribbon in a class to be eligible to compete for champion or reserve champion.
15. LIVESTOCK PREMIUM SALE
	1. The 4-H Livestock Premium Sale is a promotional activity for the Pawnee County 4-H Program. One of the goals of the sale is for 4-H member to show the county his/her achievements in the livestock project. This premium sale is for market livestock only. Exhibitors will sell their animals for a premium only, meaning 4-H’ers will retain ownership of the animal in addition to receiving the winning bids premium.
	2. Rules
		1. All market animals to be in the sale must be signed up to the sale by the Friday of fair at 5 pm on the sheet outside the show office.
		2. 4-H’ers may only sign up an animal which they showed during the fair, not just an animal which they are ID’ed on.
		3. Youth must be present at the sale or their animal will not be shown. All 4-H members must wear official 4-H shirts when taking their animals through the 4-H premium sale.
		4. Each exhibitor is allowed to sell two (2) market animals. Livestock shown as a pen of three count as “one market animal” as they are shown as one single entry.
		5. Sale weight will be the weigh-in weights. No re-weighs allowed.
		6. To qualify for the sale, animals must be entered into the market class and meet the weight requirements:
			1. Beef, Div. 11 Class 910 & 920, n/a
			2. Broilers, Div. 78 Class 910 & 920, n/a
			3. Meat Goats, Div. 58 Class 902, 50 lbs. & Over
			4. Rabbit, Div. 184 Class 910 & 920, 3-5 lbs.; Class 930 & 940, 8 lbs. & Over
			5. Sheep, Div. 131 Class 920, 80 lbs. & Over
			6. Swine, Div. 36 Class 960, 200 lbs. & Over
		7. Following the sale, youth are expected to thank their buyer in person and send them an additional thank you letter.
16. DAILY AND AT CLOSE OF FAIR CLEAN UP
	1. Exhibitors failing to clean their stalls, alleys and assigned area each day of the fair and at the close of the fair will forfeit all of their premium money.
17. AUTHORITY
	1. Each division superintendent with the approval of the Overall Livestock Superintendent shall have the authority to make all decisions within their respective area of responsibility in accordance with rules and regulations set forth in this Fair Book. Livestock superintendents have the authority to dictate where blocking chutes, generators, etc. are to be located.
18. STATE FIRE MARSHAL
	1. The use of flammable and combustible grooming sprays inside the barns is strictly forbidden. These types of materials must be used outside the building only.
19. ETHICS
	1. Pawnee County follows the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics.

**SHOWMANSHIP RULES**

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
	1. All 4-H members, who are exhibiting their own animals, in dairy, goat, beef, sheep, swine, horse, dog, cat, rabbit, and poultry division are automatically considered as participants in the Showmanship Contest and are required to participate.  **Youth who do not participate will not be eligible to participate in the remainder of the show.**
2. ELIGIBILITY
	1. All exhibitors must show their own animals to be considered as participants in the Showmanship Contest. The same animal may not be used by more than one member of the same family.
3. BASIS FOR JUDGING
	1. Showmanship judging is based on preparation of animals for show, their apparent training and the appearance and behavior of the showman. Minor technical points are not to be over-emphasized, nor do minor infractions disqualify. Primarily in showmanship it is the skill of the showman in presenting the animal before the judge that counts, while individual excellence of the animal does not.
4. GUIDE BOOKS – Showmanship resource books are available at the Extension Office.
	1. Livestock –Guide for Evaluating Livestock Showmanship Contests (4-H 357)
	2. Horse –Nebraska 4-H Horse Show and Judging Guide (4-H 373)
	3. Dairy – Uniform Scorecard for Judging Junior Dairy Fitting & Showmanship Contest (4-H 466)
	4. Poultry – National Poultry Judging (4-H 460)
	5. Rabbit – Judging Rabbits and also in the Level 2 Rabbit manual (4-H 257)
5. DISQUALIFICATION
	1. The division superintendents may disqualify any 4-H’er from showmanship for any violations of rules or unsportsmanlike conduct of the County Fair.

**HERDSMANSHIP**

1. HERDSMANSHIP RESPONSIBILITY
	1. Herdsmanship duties are the responsibility of the 4-H members, not leaders and parents.
	2. It is the 4-H member’s responsibility to assist his or her club with feeding and general care of animals, cleaning of pens and walkways and presenting their 4-H exhibit to the public. The 4-H members shall show proper courtesy and conduct at all times. All poultry and rabbits require food and water at all times. The 4-H member or a member of his/her club is responsible for their care. If this rule is neglected, the superintendent has the right to release the 4-H member’s exhibit.
2. JUDGING
	1. Herdsmanship begins at the time a division of livestock is to be in place and ends when the exhibits are released at the close of the fair.
	2. Livestock exhibits may be judged for herdsmanship at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
	3. Each livestock division: beef, sheep, dairy, goats, swine, horse, rabbit and poultry will be judged separately. Awards will be given to each livestock division.
	4. Rating for herdsmanship judging will be posted. Ratings will be made on club basis in the division stated above.
3. ANIMALS
	1. All animals should be in their stalls or pens between 8:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m. except for weighing, washing, showing and designated exercise periods. All pens and stalls should be clearly identified with club and exhibitor’s name.
	2. All stalls and pens should be thoroughly cleaned before 8:00 a.m. Manure and wet bedding should be collected on the need basis throughout the day.
	3. The superintendent of each area reserves the right to release 4-H exhibits that are not properly cared for or have not followed hersdmanship rules.
4. CLUB SIGNS
	1. Uniform club signs will be permitted. No other signs will be permitted in the barns. No displays will be allowed, unless permission is granted from the Extension Office.
5. BASIS OF RATING HERDSMANSHIP – Herdsmanship judges will use the following scoring guide in judging club exhibits for herdsmanship.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Animals: clean at all times, with proper grooming, feeding, bedding and care apparent. | 15 |
| Stalls: clean and neat; bedding clean and fresh; feed and feed pans and buckets clean and in place. Exhibitors signs identifying stalls and tack area clearly in place. | 25 |
| Tack and Feed area: kept clean and neatly arranged. Grooming and tie out areas kept clean. | 10 |
| Alleys: exhibitors designated alleys and commons areas kept clean; free of equipment; loose dirt and dust kept under control with proper sweeping and/or sprinkling. Wheelbarrows kept outside. | 25 |
| Exhibitors: proper courtesy and conduct shown by exhibitors at all times and in all places including with the public and other exhibitors. Exhibitors are expected to do the herdsmanship. | 25 |
| Total | 100 |