**Animal Science**

**General Animal Rules**

All shows and events will be under the direction of the designated area superintendent(s). The superintendent(s) will make all on-the-spot decisions necessary for operation of the shows. In case of a complaint or a disagreement with the show, see the procedure listed under “General Rules.”

**Non-exhibit Animal Rule**

Due to animal health concerns and to best protect the safety of animals, exhibitors, family members and guests, socialization of animals not formally entered in the 4-H/FFA shows will not be allowed before, during and after shows. No non-exhibit animals are allowed in the show arena, barns or show vicinity. Animals must be exercised/walked in designated warm up area near that specie’s show area. Animals that are not stalled at the fair are considered non-exhibit animals at the conclusion of their show, and must leave the fairgrounds. All animals must be properly restrained. Special circumstances must be approved by 4-H Council executive committee before non-exhibit animal is brought to fairgrounds. Service animals are exempt from this non-exhibit animal rule.

**Executive committee for non-exhibit animal rule will include** 1 show superintendent**,** 2 4-H Council members, and 1 educator.

**STRIKE ONE**: Written warning by livestock committee and/or extension staff. **STRIKE TWO:** Ribbon premiums withheld. **STRIKE THREE:** Offending livestock/animal owner is asked to leave the fairgrounds with the species being shown at that particular show. **PROBATION**: After a third strike, animal owner is on “probation.” Probation status means that other offenses with different species will result in an immediate “second strike” for that species.

**Livestock Show Rules**

**1.YQCA TESTING: Exhibitor Responsibility** - 4-H youth ages 8-18 who are enrolled in a livestock project (beef, dairy cattle, dairy goat, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, and hog), are required to complete the YQCA testing EITHER as a Face to Face Training ($3 fee) OR the web based course available online ($12 fee) by June 15 of the current year in order to complete that year's YQCA requirements. All above fees must be paid online at time of registry.

There are test-out options online for Intermediate and Senior aged youth. Exhibitor must take and pass all tests available for their age division. Intermediates (4-H Ages 11-13) are required to take a series of tests at a fee of $36. Seniors (4-H Ages 14+) are required to take a series of tests at a fee of $48.

To register or take online tests, you will need your login and password from previous years or establish one for first year enrollees.

The online course, located at https://yqcaprogram.org/, has been divided into age levels specified on website. Upon completion of each module, youth will be able to print a certificate of completion. Youth will need to deliver this certificate of completion to their local Extension Office on or before published due dates to receive full credit for completion.  For more information call the Extension office.

2. **Herdsmanship -** Exhibitor will be responsible for feed & bedding unless sand or appropriate bedding is in the stall area. Livestock exhibitors must keep pens, stalls, and alleys clean to the satisfaction of the superintendent(s). Pens and stalls must be cleaned for Herdsmanship and after check-out at the end of the fair.

3. **Health Requirements-** All livestock must be in a healthy condition. They must be free of and not exposed to infectious and contagious diseases. All livestock may be inspected by a veterinarian upon arrival to the fairgrounds. Any livestock exhibiting signs or symptoms of contagious disease or illness must be removed at once. If any exhibitor wishes to remove an animal for health reasons without a signed early exhibit release form (ask office for form), they must present a signed statement from a veterinarian stating the reason for the release. Any animal entered in 4-H classes is subject to both urine and blood testing at the discretion of either the superintendent(s) or official show veterinarian. If the results of testing indicate the possible use of compounds or drugs not approved for use in that species by FDA or compounds or drugs used outside the specified withdrawal requirements of FDA, these animals will be declared ineligible for competition and awards. In this case, market animal show management will determine the appropriate disposal of the animals. An animal that is tampered with by unusual means to change appearance of weight maybe declared ineligible by the show superintendent(s).

 **Cattle-** All beef (breeding or market) and dairy animals may move to the County Fair without a health certificate or test for Brucellosis or Tuberculosis. These conditions prevail provided these animals, or the herd from which they are moving are not quarantined for either Brucellosis or Tuberculosis.

 **Hog-** Non-Terminal Shows. All hogs must be individually identified. See schedule for entry times. Hogs going to market at the fair should be designated at time of entry. However, if the health status of the state should change, we will abide by the decision of the State Veterinarian.

 **Sheep and Goats-** Animals may move to the County Fair from flocks that are not under quarantine for scrapie. Sheep that have active club lamb fungus or sore mouth, must be removed from the grounds and not be allowed to show. Scrapie Tags: All females and intact males exhibited will need to have the official USDA identification (scrapie tag). This applies to both market and breeding females, regardless of age. Wethers do not need the USDA identification. *Thayer County Only*: All sheep MUST be rough sheared within 10 days of the fair so vet can check for club lamb fungus.

 **Horses and Ponies-** All 4-H horses and ponies exhibited will be required to have been vaccinated for sleeping sickness. The 4-H Council strongly recommends all 4-H horses and ponies exhibited also be vaccinated for bronchial pneumonia (high fever and coughing), a disease contracted by some horses exhibited in previous years. This is for the protection of horse project animals. 4-Her’s animals are encouraged to be current on all shots and vaccinations. Each horse exhibitor is allowed ONE stall at the fair. *Nuckolls Only***-** A veterinarian will be on the grounds at check in time to perform health checks.

 **Cats/Dogs-** Current shots records must be turned into office prior to the fair by pre-entry deadline.

4. **Grooming, Clipping, and/or Blocking**- of livestock may only be done by immediate family member (parents, grandparents, siblings, any “step” of the prior, and in-laws.) First violation will be a verbal warning, second violation will result in losing support money, and third violation will result in disqualification. Use of other individuals at the fair is NOT permitted.

Exhibitors shall not add materials, natural or synthetic, which extend body shapes beyond normal limits.

**SPECIES GROOMING GUIDELINES:**

All animal shows are considered “blow & go” shows. Animals may be clipped, blown, brushed or combed to enhance their appearance. Guidelines for the “Blow & Go” Show:

1. All animals will be shown free of any adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products.

2. Any compounds that have adhesive qualities that when applied cannot be combed or brushed through, or alter the color of the animal are forbidden. These products, include, but are not limited to commonly used adhesives and colorants such as Prime Time, EZ Comb, Tail Adhesive, Natural Hold, Ultra White Touch-Up, Black Touch Up, Black Finisher, black show foam, and baby powder.

3. Alcohol, water, oil, foam or any water or alcohol-based products with no adhesives or glue qualities, or artificial coloring are permitted. These products include conditioners and commonly used sprays such as Kleen Sheen, Revive, Final Bloom, Pink Oil, white show foam, Freshen Up, Silk, and Sudden Impact.

4. Any animal found to have prohibited products applied (adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products) will be disqualified from competition. Any premiums (physical or monetary) will be forfeited and no refunds will be made.

5. We reserve the right for a visual inspection and toweling (before and/or after entering the show ring) using disposable blue shop towels for the presence of adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products. Toweling of the animal may include, but is not limited to, the topline, legs, chest, belly, flank, and cod/udder areas. If, after inspection, the animal is found to have adhesive, glue, paint, or powder products applied it will be disqualified from competition. Any premiums (physical or monetary) will be forfeited.

**A. BEEF-** Shows including Showmanship, Bucket Calf, Feeder Calf, Market Beef, and Breeding Beef will be “Blow and Go.”

**B. GOATS-** Grooming or fitting with foreign material that included (but not limited to) painting, powdering, oiling, artificial coloring, or adhesives is prohibited. Market Goats must be uniformly slick shorn with 3/8” of hair or less from the knee and up.

**C**. **HOGS-** Grooming or fitting with foreign material that included (but not limited to) painting, powdering, oiling, artificial coloring, or adhesives is prohibited. Only unaltered water is permitted. Pigs found in violation will be disqualified from the live show and the ultrasound contest.

**D. SHEEP-** Grooming or fitting with foreign material that included (but not limited to) painting, powdering, oiling, artificial coloring, or adhesives is prohibited.

5. **Entry Limits-** Homebred & Fed animals count as a market

entry. Exhibitors are limited to exhibiting:

*Beef***-** A maximum of **six beef animals.** No more than two feeder calves or three breeding beef animals or two market animals. No single animal may be shown in both breeding and market classes. A cow/calf pair counts as 2 head of animals if calf is shown in separate class also. If calf is not shown in another class, the cow/calf pair is considered as one beef exhibit.

*Sheep*- Maximum of **six sheep**. A limit of four market lambs or four breeding sheep can be exhibited, but not exceeding 6 head total. Each exhibitor is limited to two individuals in any breeding class. No animal maybe be shown in both breeding and market classes.

*Hogs-* A maximum of **six hogs**, not to exceed three market or three breeding. No animal may be shown in both breeding and market classes. Breeding Gilts are not eligible for Ultrasound Contest.

*Meat Goats-* A maximum of **six meat goats** with not more than three market or three breeding.

*Poultry -* Exhibitors may pre-enter (nominate) a maximum of 10 exhibits; and will be **allowed to show 5 exhibits**.

 **Nuckolls County Only:** 5 cages allowed upon availability.

 **Thayer County Only:** Maximum of six cages allowed upon availability. 4 cages allowed for regular poultry and 2 cages for “other” poultry.

*Rabbits* **-** Exhibitors may pre-enter (nominate) a maximum of 10 exhibits; and **will be allowed to show 5 exhibits.**

**Nuckolls County Only:** 5 cages allowed upon availability.

 **Thayer County Only:** Maximum of four cages allowed upon availability.

6. **Livestock Entries-** must be made at the designated times. See Schedule. Animals may be ID’ed by only one 4-Her or 4-H family and shown by those 4-Hers listed on the identification sheet.

7. **Weigh-In-** all market beef, sheep and goats wishing to enter the rate of gain contest MUST be weighed at the beginning weigh day on a certified scale with Extension Staff present. The rate of gain contest is required for all market beef, sheep and goats who wish to be eligible for the supreme market contest.

8. **Age Divisions**- See general rules.

9. **Substitute Showman-** An animal must be shown by the 4-H owner who entered it unless the exhibitor is excused by the superintendent because of military service, serious illness/injury, or disability. An exhibitor who has more than one animal in a class needs to secure approval for another county 4-H member to show the additional animal in the class. Substitute showmen MUST be in official dress.

10. **Showmanship-** All 4-H members showing livestock may enter and be rated on showmanship. Each competitor must show his/her own animal. This animal must also be shown in a market or breeding class. Items that the judge may consider are the member’s skill in handling the animal, proper grooming, raising, and training of the animal and general knowledge of the animal. Individual excellence of the animal will not be judged. Members will also be rated on appropriate dress.

11. **Weight Group Change Options-** If an exhibitor has two animals in the same group, one animal maybe moved to the next heavier group. This change should be arranged with the superintendent as soon as possible so show order changes can be reflected on the officials’ programs and so the ring stewards are prepared. Only one move per exhibitor per species will be allowed.

12. **NUCKOLLS COUNTY ONLY:** If market animal male/female classes do not have a minimum of 3 animals per sex, the two market classes will be combined into one general market class. Final class(es) determination is at the Superintendent’s discretion.

13. **Ownership Requirements-** A beef, dairy, dairy goat, horse, sheep or hog project may be owned:

 A) solely by the 4-H exhibitor, or

 B) in partnership by the 4-H exhibitor and/or other members of his or her immediate family. Only the name of the showman can be on the show entry.

 C) Immediate family is defined as member of a household including parents, brother, sisters, and youth in the care of the head of the household.

 D) When 4-H exhibitor(s) and parent(s) sign an ownership affidavit, indicating the exhibitor(s) will feed and care for the animals, it is expected that the exhibitor(s) will have primary responsibility for the animals. In cases where the exhibitors may not have primary responsibility for the duration of the project (i.e. separation of parents and more than one residence), it is recommended the exhibitors request exception from the local 4-H Council. The time the exhibitors will be able to care for the animals should be clearly defined in the request.

14. An exhibitor in a 4-H show of a horse, a dairy animal, or dairy goat, may show an animal owned by someone outside of the immediate family provided:

A) He or she manages (cares for, feeds, trains, grooms, etc.) and has use of the animal as a 4-H project animal at least 75% of the time during the project year; and

B) Permission for use of the animal is certified by the owner on the 4-H member’s ID sheet (ownership affidavit)

15. **Entry Forms- See county schedule for pre-entry due date.** All animals MUST be pre-entered so that stall assignments can be made**.**

16. **Livestock Entries & Arrival-** see appropriate schedule for times and dates.

17. **Official Dress-** see general rules**.**

18. **Exhibit Release-** see general rules. Premium and support/booster payments will be forfeited for early removal of show animals with the exception of animals released for the animal’s welfare by written approval from a veterinarian or for legitimate reason with written approval from the specie’s superintendent and a representative of the 4-H council livestock committee. Ask office for early release request form.

19. **State Fair Rules Apply When County Fair Rules are Not Adequate.**

20. **Cloverkid Shows-** Cloverkids cannot house an animal, but may borrow one from a 4-Her or bring one from home on the show day. Weight requirement of animal is enforced.

21. **Unruly Animal-** An animal that becomes wild and uncontrollable during the show maybe declared ineligible by the superintendent and/or staff.

22. **Identification- All Animal ID’s** are due in the Extension Office by **June 15** with the exception of Horse, Market Beef, Market Goats, and Market Sheep. See pre-fair events calendar for dates.

23. Exhibitors are NOT allowed to change livestock classes post-check in.