

Grievance Policy:

- The Extension Educator and FFA Advisor, together with the local 4-H Council and the executive committee of the general 4-H Livestock Committee consisting of the chairman of each of the 4-H animal projects has the authority to make appropriate decisions on local 4-H disputes. If this does not apply to an animal project, the Extension Educator, together with the local 4-H Council and appropriate superintendent of the project will make up the grievance committee. These decisions will be formulated using county rules, state policy and national directives as formulated by this policy or as dictated by law.
- District and State 4-H Staff may provide resources to the situation when asked by the Extension Educator.
- All protests must be submitted in writing along with \$100 cash. If protester is right, he/she gets the \$100 back and the exhibitor forfeits the class placing/premium/award/special recognition. If the protester is wrong, the \$100 is forfeited to the 4-H Council. This policy applies to all 4-H/FFA exhibits. The written protest must include:
 - Names of persons involved
 - Cause of complaint or appeal
 - Situation and documentation
 - Recommendations for correction
 - Specific action, rule, etc., in question
 - Additional persons the committee may contact for further clarification
 - Procedures and/or steps carried out by the person involved prior to submission of the protest to the Protest Committee.
- All protests must be signed by the protester.
- Protests will not be accepted after the exhibit or event/activity is completed/released.
- The protest will be acknowledged after receiving the written protest and will be responded to in a timely manner.
- Protests related to judges' integrity, decision, placings or other evaluations will not be accepted.
- The committee will review the written protest. They may call for a face-to-face meeting with affected persons and event leadership to discuss the situation and the official ruling. Recommendations will be developed, followed, and communicated both verbally and in writing to the individual or group affected.
- Failure of the protester to attend the face-to-face meeting with the Protest Committee will result in no action and forfeiture of the deposit.
- In cases of protest, the 4-H member/parent/leader may continue to participate. Results of participation will be subject to change based on the outcome of the protest process.
- The Protest Committee and event leadership reserves the right to withhold any award. The 4-H member/parent/leader may be excluded from 4-H if action warrants.

Adopted May 2019