



# PennState Extension

## **JEFFERSON COUNTY 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK PROGRAM POLICIES**

**FOR 2025 THERE WILL BE NO POULTRY EXHIBITED AT THE JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR DUE TO HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA.**

### **PLANNING COMMITTEES**

4-H and FFA Livestock leaders, parents and youth members will meet at the beginning of the program year to evaluate the previous year's program and to provide suggestions for the coming year. Leaders will bring the suggestions to the 4-H Livestock Advisory Committee Meetings for county review and action. The Brockway FFA Advisors, as well as Jefferson County Fair Authority livestock committee members are also included in these discussions.

### **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

The Penn State Jefferson County Extension Program Account will be the fiscal manager of the funds generated by the 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale. Financial reports will be presented at the 4-H/FFA Livestock Advisory Committee Meetings. The account will be audited annually.

Individual clubs will maintain their own checking accounts for club operations. For more information regarding regulations pertaining to 4-H club accounts, contact the Penn State Extension Office.

A 4-H member of the Jefferson County 4-H Livestock Program must attend 60% of their club's business meetings according to the Jefferson County 4-H Membership Policy.

All those involved with the 4-H Program will follow the Pennsylvania Code of Conduct and the Jefferson County 4-H Operating Policies. Violations of these policies will be referred to the Jefferson County 4-H Program Advisory Committee for resolution. 4-H parents are also held to these standards, as they sign their affirmation of conduct policy upon enrollment in zSuite.

FFA members will follow their respective codes of conduct and attendance policies.

## **ENROLLMENT**

Returning 4-H members and leaders are to complete re-enrollment in zSuite by March 31<sup>st</sup>. New members and leaders will complete within 30 days of their date of joining. Failure to complete enrollment will result in member/leader being ineligible to participate in county/regional/state/national 4-H events and activities. 4-H members and leaders must keep their enrollment profile in zSuite up-to-date and accurate. Current Leaders must obtain clearances and complete reporting child abuse training as required by Penn State University. Potential new leaders must contact the Extension Office for application form. FFA members will complete and maintain enrollment records as required by their Chapter.

## **LIVESTOCK SHOW AND SALE RULES FOR FAIR**

### **DEADLINES FOR OWNERSHIP OF PROJECT ANIMALS**

ANIMALS MUST BE IN THE MEMBER'S POSSESSION AND ON THE PROPERTY WHERE THE MEMBER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FEEDING AND CARE OF THE ANIMAL BY THE DATE OF TAGGING/DESIGNATION DATE FOR THAT SPECIES. ALL ASSOCIATED PAPERWORK MUST BE COMPLETE AND TURNED IN AT THE TIME OF TAGGING/DESIGNATION. **ANIMALS REQUIRING AN RIFD 840 TAG OR SCRAPIE TAG MUST HAVE THAT TAG IN PLACE BY THE TIME OF TAGGING. ANIMALS MISSING THESE IDENTIFIERS WILL NOT BE TAGGED FOR FAIR.**

All Breeding and Dairy Projects – June 1<sup>st</sup>

Market Beef Designation/tagging - Saturday before  
Thanksgiving

Dairy Feeder Calves Designation/tagging - fourth Saturday of April

Dairy Beef (must have been tagged the year prior) Designation - fourth  
Saturday of April

Market Swine Designation/tagging - fourth Saturday of April

Market Sheep & Goat Designation/tagging - fourth Saturday  
of April

Market Chickens Designation - June 15<sup>th</sup>

Market Turkeys Designation - June 15<sup>th</sup>

Market Rabbit Pen Designation – June 15<sup>th</sup> (Doe must be owned by April 1<sup>st</sup>),  
tattooing must be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>

**Members must enter their project animals into the Jefferson County Fair by official means designated by the Fair Authority by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Member must notify Extension Educator which animal(s) are to be used for rate of gain and/or carcass by the date the animal is tagged for the fair. Members who fail to distinguish these animals by tagging forfeit their entry into those classes.**

***Cloverbud members (4-H age 5-7 years) are not permitted to sell any animals in the Jefferson County 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale.***

### **GUIDELINES FOR BIRTHDATE OF ANIMALS**

**These are guidelines that account for the average rate of growth for each animal species. You should work with your breeder or other knowledgeable person to determine the best age of animal to show at our Fair.**

Swine – December/early January – **MUST HAVE AN RFID 840 TAG**

Lambs – January/February

Goats – late November/December

Steers – January-May of previous year – **MUST HAVE AN RFID 840 TAG**

Turkeys – 14-16 weeks prior to fair

Chickens – 5-7 weeks prior to fair

Rabbits – mid-May

Dairy Feeders – November 1 – December 31 – **MUST HAVE AN RFID 840 TAG**

Dairy Steers – See above, finished animal from showing previous year –  
**MUST HAVE AN RFID 840 TAG**

### **MARKET ANIMALS**

THIS 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK SALE IS A SALE OF MARKET ANIMALS – THESE ARE MARKET ANIMALS AND AS SUCH ARE NOT TO BE USED BEYOND THE SHOW AND SALE. BEFORE A MEMBER PURCHASES A MARKET PROJECT THEY MUST REALIZE AND ACCEPT THAT AT THE END OF THE PROJECT, THE ANIMAL'S INTENDED PURPOSE IS TO PRODUCE MEAT FOR PEOPLE TO EAT. A MARKET ANIMAL MAY BE EITHER A CASTRATED MALE OR A FEMALE.

### **Horns/Castration**

**Beef Cattle:** No horns and castrated by the date the animal is weighed in and/or tagged

**Hogs:** Castrated by the date the animal is weighed in and/or tagged

**Lambs:** Castrated and dehorned/blunted by the date the animal is weighed in and/or tagged

**Goats:** Castrated by the date the animal is weighed in and/or tagged

There will be a 10 day grace period for animals not castrated at weigh-in/tagging. Members bringing non-castrated animals to weigh-in/tagging will have 10 days to have the animal castrated by a veterinarian or qualified person. Member must show proof of castration from their veterinarian or qualified person to an extension educator within 10 days of weigh-in/tagging.

## **CHECKING ANIMALS**

All animals are to be tagged and/or tattooed with official Jefferson County tags or tattoo. If the tag is lost, the member must notify the Extension Office immediately. A member may have up to four (4) animals tagged. The fourth animal is allowed to be tagged as a spare.

It is the 4-H member's responsibility to restrain or confine the animal during tagging. The tagging date will be held the same week each year as listed above. Tagging will be done at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. Members wishing to enter the rate of gain contest will have their animals weighed at the tagging. Dairy beef rate of gain will be calculated from the date the animal was first designated the prior year.

If a 4-H member fails to have their animal(s) tagged on the set date, that individual is ineligible to participate in the Jefferson County 4-H/FFA Livestock Show and Sale.

## **QUANTITY OF ANIMALS (Animal units)**

A 4-H/FFA livestock member is permitted to have up to 3 animals for the 4-H/FFA livestock shows. This is 3 live market animals for the species and carcass shows. A member may additionally tag one "backup" animal.

A 4-H/FFA member can have an unlimited number of breeding stock as 4-H/FFA projects. **All carcass animals exhibited will be sold. A member may choose any combination of carcass and show animals to exhibit and sell for a total of three.**

Market chickens – a pen of two birds equals 1 animal unit.

Market turkeys – one turkey equals 1 animal unit.

Meat Pen of Rabbits - a pen of three rabbits equals 1 animal unit.

Cheese Baskets – one designated cow equals one basket of cheese (equivalent to animal's annual production)

Only the animals to be shown and sold at the Fair will be tagged.

## **DEATH OF AN ANIMAL**

If a 4-H/FFA Livestock animal dies, the member may choose a different species before the tagging/designation date of the animal chosen. If a tagged animal dies no additional animals may be tagged.

## **PROJECT BOOK COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS**

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ETHICS COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS**

Because project record books are considered to be legal documents pertaining to the sale of livestock animals, to be eligible to exhibit 4-H project animals at the Jefferson County 4-H Livestock Show, 4-H members must submit their project record books to their leader(s) or the Extension Office for review. Books

must be up-to-date as of June 1<sup>st</sup> (feed/vaccination records, animal inventory, etc.). A list of unchecked and/or unsatisfactory books from each club is due to the Extension Office by June 15<sup>th</sup> (if all members have completed their book(s) to the satisfaction of club leaders, a note stating such will be due by June 15<sup>th</sup>). Members with unchecked/unsatisfactory books will be given until June 30<sup>th</sup> to complete the book and have it checked at the Extension Office, or that member will forfeit the right to show and sell their animal at the Jefferson County Fair. Books will be returned to members immediately following checking so that records can be completed for end-of-year review. Leaders will then re-check that books are completed and submit a final list of unchecked/unsatisfactory books to the Extension Office by the Tuesday following Labor Day. Incomplete and/or inaccurate project books will result in a member losing their privilege to show their animal(s) at the Jefferson County Fair the following year.

Project and record books will be brought to every meeting – leaders should schedule time to work on the books.

FFA Advisors will work with the FFA members to monitor their records to assure they are keeping accurate and up-to-date records. FFA Advisors may prohibit FFA members from showing/selling at the Jefferson County Fair due to incomplete records at their own discretion.

All animals must be shown to be entered in the sale.

All members (4-H and FFA) must attend the Quality Animal Management (QAM) training session each year or attend a paid YQCA training. Failure to attend one of these trainings will result in the member not being permitted to show and sell their animal(s).

**Project Books** Use approved 4-H curriculum obtained from your county 4-H Extension Educator or SAE (Supervised Agriculture Experience) approved FFA educational materials.

**Ethics & Quality Assurance** 4-H members must meet current PA State 4-H Animal Science Requirements. All 4-H animal science youth are required to participate in training regarding three specific “Quality Animal Management” annually. All youth will then be required to complete a survey (online or on-site) regarding these practices as identified annually by the Youth Quality Management for Animal Science Team of Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Failure to participate in a certified training opportunity (annually) by July 1, of the current 4-H year will result in the youth’s inability to show project animal(s) at a county roundup or state and national 4-H sanctioned shows and sale programs. Participation in these programs is a privilege not a right. 4-H members must have a current record of training completion on file with the county cooperative extension office.

4-H members exhibiting a 4-H animal at the PA State Farm Show must meet current PA State Farm Show training requirements.

**\*\*\* When youth, parents, guardians, 4-H leaders, or representatives acting in behalf of youth** are found to be doing unethical practices to an animal, Extension Staff and/or FFA Educators may disqualify the youth from shows, sales, and future exhibition. In addition, youth may be required to forfeit any ribbons or awards won and may not receive premium money.

Adults associated with practicing unethical procedures on 4-H or FFA animals may be prohibited from participating in 4-H or FFA youth livestock activities as deemed appropriate by Extension and FFA Educators.

**Multi-County 4-H Membership** Pennsylvania 4-H State Policy states that a 4-H member cannot carry the same project in more than one county. For example: a member could not enroll in a beef project in X County and also enroll in a beef project in Y County. Members may sell livestock projects in only one county. For example: If a member sells a steer in X County, he/she cannot sell another livestock 4-H project in another county

### **CHECK-IN AND WEIGH-IN AT THE FAIR**

All animals must be halter broke. Animals deemed unmanageable by the 4-H/FFA Livestock Advisory Committee will be sent home. ***Steer exhibitors are encouraged to bring their steers to the fairgrounds on Saturday. Evaluation of the manageability of steers will be conducted on Sunday morning after the arrival cutoff time and before weigh-in begins.***

All animals shall be in pens or tied in stalls one hour prior to weigh-in at the fair. Weigh-in times will be announced when Fair Schedule is set. Animals will not be weighed from a truck – animals will be weighed from pens only.

Exceptions for these times will only be allowed for valid reasons.

There will be NO reweighs.

Animals must be clean, clipped as required for their species, and dry.

### **OVER WEIGHT AND UNDER WEIGHT**

No overweight or underweight animals will be permitted in the Junior Livestock Shows and Sale. Animals that are under or overweight may be shown in the showmanship class and/or entered in an open class at the discretion of the Jefferson County Fair Livestock Superintendent.

Lambs must have been shorn and bathed once prior to coming to the fair. Wool regrowth may not be greater than ¼ inch.

Animals that do not make weight will be allowed to be sold privately, with the exception of swine. If space permits, the members are encouraged to leave their animal on exhibit during fair week as a means of marketing their animal and displaying completion of their livestock project. \*NOTE – swine that are not removed from the fairgrounds by 8 p.m. on the date of weigh-in must be moved directly to slaughter at the end of the fair regardless of whether they were privately sold or not. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to arrange shipment to a slaughter facility by a registered slaughter transportation method (no private transporting of swine is allowed) and notifying the Extension Educator prior to removal of the animal. The Extension Educator, Jefferson County Fair Authority or Jefferson County 4-H/FFA Livestock Advisory Committee

members are not responsible for arranging transportation of animals that are privately sold.

## **MARKET ANIMAL HOMEBRED PROJECTS**

### General Guidelines

1. Homebred classes for Market Animals will be recognized by the Jefferson County 4-H/FFA Livestock Program for those whose project animals were born and raised on their family farm.
2. The female, of said breed, must be present, and must have been bred on the farm of the exhibitor.
3. The parents or the exhibitor of the animal must own the female at the time the animal was bred.
4. Exhibitor must have information about parents of the project animal at the time the project animal is tagged. All associated information and signatures must be present on paperwork at the time of tagging or Homebred designation will not be accepted.
5. Animals that are entered in the Market Show, and are Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion, will not be eligible to enter in the Homebred Show.
6. Homebred classes must have at least two (2) animals in the class, or it will be combined into the next weight class.
7. Homebred classes will have the same weight requirements as the 4-H and Vocational Market Animals.
8. There is no premium at the Jefferson County Fair for Homebred market project animals.

## **MARKET ANIMAL COUNTYBRED PROJECTS**

### General Guidelines

1. All animals must be bred and born in Jefferson County. Appropriate verification paperwork must be completed by the breeder and the exhibitor.
2. Completed paperwork, including all signatures, must be turned in on the day of tagging for the species. Failure to turn in completed paperwork at tagging will result in forfeiture of County Bred designation.
3. Weight classes will be as listed for these county bred entries.
4. Grand Champion and Reserve Champion animals from the Market and Homebred Classes will not be eligible to compete in the County Bred Class.
5. The County Bred Classes will show after the Market and Homebred classes.
6. County Bred Classes will NOT be broken down by breed.

7. There is no premium at the Jefferson County Fair for County Bred market project animals.

**ANIMAL WEIGHTS (weights and classes must meet with approval of the Fair Authority, thus some changes may be made.)**

**Steers** - There will be four classes: light, medium, medium heavy and heavy with 1000 pounds as the bottom weight.

**Swine** - There will be six classes: light, medium light, light medium, heavy medium, medium heavy and heavy, the range of weights will be from a minimum of 200 pounds to a maximum of 300 pounds.

**Lambs** - There will be six classes: light, heavy lightweight, middle, heavy middle, light heavy, and large heavy. The range will be from a minimum of 80 pounds to a maximum of 150 pounds.

**Goats** - There will be four classes: light, light middle, middle, and heavy. The range will be from a minimum of 60 pounds to a maximum of 120 pounds.

**Dairy Feeders** - There will be four classes: light, light middle, middle, and heavy. The range will be 400 to 700 pounds. *Refer to specific rules concerning Dairy Feeders.*

**Dairy Beef** - There will be four classes: light, medium, medium heavy and heavy with 1,000 as the bottom weight. Dairy beef animals must have been tagged and exhibited as a dairy feeder at the Jefferson County Fair the previous year.

**Market Chickens** - There will be one class with no division by breeds. The weight range will be 4 to 8 pounds per bird. Exhibitor will be required to blood test animals.

**Market Turkeys** - There will be one class with no division by breeds. Weights for toms will be 20-40 pounds and hens 15-30 pounds. Exhibitor will be required to blood test animals.

**Market Pen of Rabbits** - There will be one class with no division by breeds. Doe must be owned by member - member must notify their 4-H Educator, 4-H club leader or FFA advisor of their intent to enter a meat pen before the doe is bred; pen rabbits must be kindled on or after May 12<sup>th</sup> of the current year; must weigh a minimum of 3 1/2 lbs. and maximum of 5 1/2 lbs. individually; member must have rabbits tattooed at 4 weeks of age by 4-H educator or the educator's designated person; member must notify their 4-H educator, 4-H club leader or FFA advisor within three days of the doe's kindling.

**Cheese Baskets** - Members choosing to sell a cheese basket in the Jefferson County 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale in lieu of a live animal must designate this decision by completing the official designation form and submitting to the Extension Office by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Members are responsible for completing the Dairy Cow Project and Record Book, supplying the designated cow's individual production report, calculating the cheese production using the supplied formula and purchasing, assembling and labeling their cheese basket for sale.

Member will appear in the sale ring with the designated animal during auctioning of the basket.

Only leaders and parents/guardians, with member present, may be in the pen to help fit the animal before the show. **Professional fitters may be present in the barn and at the pen to help coach members in fitting and nutrition, but may not physically touch or feed any animal(s) that are not owned by their family. Members in violation of this rule will be subject to disqualification from their market and showmanship classes and/or selling in the Jefferson County 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale.**

**Members are required to wear their green 4-H livestock show shirt or FFA polo while in the show ring. Jeans, khakis or slacks may be worn, so long as they are free from rips, tears or holes. Closed-toed footwear must be worn by members and any youth under the age of 18 in the barns and show ring at all times.**

**On show nights, only barn helpers and one parent of first year members may be present in the barn to help guide animals to the show ring. This helps keep the flow of animals efficient and the show running smoothly. Barn helpers will be designated and announced at the beginning of fair week.**

All Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion live animals must be sold at the Jefferson County Junior Livestock Sale.

Members are required to supply a photo for use in the plaques given to buyers participating in the Jefferson County 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale. A photo for each animal sold must be provided to the 4-H Educator along with paperwork at weigh-in on Sunday of the fair (or prior). Exhibitors choosing to print photos from the market show for use in their plaques must declare this to the Extension Educator at weigh-in and turn in the printed photographs by noon on Wednesday of fair. Members may also choose to have a photo printed at the Extension Office for a cost of \$3/photo (family must email digital photo(s) for printing to Educator before Wednesday of fair week).

The Jefferson County Fair policies will be followed as listed in their premium catalog. **Members must use their own animal for showmanship classes.**

The Livestock Show and Sale is sponsored by the 4-H Youth Development Program of Penn State Extension. 4-H members participating in or attending club, county, regional, district, state and national programs; activities, events, shows and contests sponsored for youth by the 4-H Youth Development Program of Penn State Extension are required to conduct themselves according to the Pennsylvania 4-H Code of Conduct. Family members (including parents) are also expected to conduct themselves according to the 4-H Code of Conduct, as stated in the agreement signed at enrollment. FFA members are required to

follow the FFA Code of Ethics. These codes operate in conjunction with the rules and regulations of the Jefferson County Fair. All members, exhibitors, volunteers and their families are expected to conduct themselves according to all rules of their respective organization and the Jefferson County Fair.

Parents will be responsible for 4-H/FFA members while they are participating in 4-H/FFA activities at the fair. This includes youth who stay on the fairgrounds overnight and youth who are left unsupervised by parents at the fairgrounds.

The 4-H/FFA Member or a designated person must see that the animals are fed and watered, properly loaded on the correct hauler's truck following the fair, and that pens are cleaned and properly disassembled and stored. If the member does not fulfill this responsibility, there will be a fee assessed against his/her check from the sale of their animal(s) at the discretion of the 4-H Educator and FFA Advisors and/or premium money may be held by the fair. Incidents must be reported to the leader, barn superintendent, 4-H Educator and/or FFA Advisor immediately.

Members are responsible for cleaning their pens daily and at the end of the fair. Soap and water should be used on the pens (no chlorine as it can damage coating on pens). All pens need to be disassembled prior to leaving the fairgrounds. *If pen area is not properly cleaned the Fair Livestock Superintendent has the right to hold any and all premium checks until area is cleaned properly.*

**THESE RULES WILL BE DISCUSSED AND/OR AMENDED AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE LIVESTOCK PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

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