Dawson County 4-H Livestock Policy

**2019-2020**

**Please read, share with parents, and keep for future reference**.

**May 1st** - deadline to add or drop all 4-H projects.

Record books are expected to be turned in by the first Monday of October (2016). If they are not turned in, you cannot go on any out of county trips, or enroll in the project the following year. If a member sells any species of animal at the fair, the member must complete the market animal record books by the deadline set by the Council, in order to sell any species of animal in the following year’s 4-H sale.

All 4-H members enrolled in a market or breeding animal project must complete an option or fulfill the requirements of the series book each year. Members must turn in their option or series book at the designated fair clean-up day or they will not be allowed to sell their market animal that year at the fair or enter that project or a related one the following year.

January 1st - deadline to own and have in your care market and breeding beef animals. June 1st is deadline to own and have in your care hogs, lambs and goats. June 1 is deadline for bum or orphan animal projects and all small animals. (Cat, dog, rabbit, poultry, etc). April 1st is the deadline for having in your possession or care all horse projects.

**Weigh-In:** It is mandatory that all market animals (all species) be weighed in on the designated weigh in date in order to sell at the Dawson County Livestock sale. It is mandatory for all market animals to be weighed-in in order to sell at fair. Beef weigh-in will be the first Sunday after the New Year and Pig, Sheep and Goat weigh-in will be the first Thursday in June. Animals must be tagged before they can be weighed. An alternate date will be given in the case of unexpected circumstances, notice must be given to the office. Approval for an alternate date must be given by the agent and the livestock committee. It is encouraged that members unable to make it to weigh-in find another family member to take their animal or contact the agent & livestock committee before requesting an alternate date. The alternate date must take place within 7 days of the initial date. If a member wishes to have a “spare” animal, this animal must be weighed in. (2019)

**Tags:** All animals, including spares, must be tagged prior to the initial weigh-in. Tags will be made available prior to and at weigh-in for members to tag their animals. All market animals must be tagged with a Dawson County Fair tag before getting on the scale at the initial weigh-in. Should an animal lose its tag prior to fair, the member should contact the Extension Office for a replacement tag. All sheep must be scrapie tagged before the fair. (2019)

**Rate of Gain contests:** ~~-~~ The rate of gain contest would be calculated according to the date each animal was weighed in. (2019)

**Minimum weights of animals to be able to sell must be:** Beef 1100 lbs. Sheep – 100 lbs. Swine – 220 lbs. Market Goats – 70 lbs & the animal must be under one year of age. (2019)

Rate of gain and show animals will be the same animal from time of weigh in. If an animal should die during the year, please report it to the County Extension Office as soon as possible.

If a 4-H’er is not able to attend the fair, the animal should be left home. The fair is for the benefit of the 4-H’er and not the animal. If the 4-H’er cannot handle the animal, or it is out of control the Livestock Committee has the right to send the animal home.

Market Lambs will be slick sheared between July 25th and before weigh in at the fair. There is a clipper available at the Extension office. (A deposit is required.)

**4-H DRESS CODE -** 4-H dress code going forward will be close-toed shoes, non-distressed jeans, and a shirt without lettering on it. This dress code applies to all 4-H judging, interviews, including indoor, small animals, large animals, and horse. (2023).

**LIVESTOCK CLIPPER POLICY -** The Extension Office has electric clippers. Both a shearing head and a clipping head are available. The policy to use the clippers is that you need to leave a $100 deposit (a check would be fine) which will be returned to you when you bring the clippers back in acceptable condition. You may keep the clippers for three days at which time you will either need to bring them back to the office or call in to make sure no one else needs them. If no one has reserved them, you may keep them for another 3 days. The person checking out the clippers will need to sign for them and is responsible for any damages resulting from negligence. Person using Shear head clippers must watch the operating video before using. (2017) If you have any questions, call the Extension Office.

A pen of 2 animals must be owned by an individual, not a family. A pen of 2 market lambs can be sold at the livestock sale. (2008). A pen of 2 market hogs can be sold at the livestock sale also. (‘10). Second animal of a pen of 2 will sell after everyone has sold their first in that species. They will sell after all first animals of the species have been sold. Notify office if you are taking 2 animals. A 4-H member may only have at total of 3 animals in the livestock sale. (2010)

Participants with white ribbon animals, underweight animals, or any more than the 3 animal sale limit can post signs announcing that their animals are for sale by private treaty. Signs cannot be posted until after the 4-H livestock sale has been completed.

**Sale Charges to 4-Hers will include** a 2.5% commission fee per species in addition to brand inspection and current check-off fees for beef, lamb, hog and goat.

Members will hand a hand-written, stamped thank you card to Extension Office representative before they will be given their animal sales check. (2016)

**4-H age, Junior or Senior Division**: 4-H age is the member’s age on October 1 of each 4-H year. Members 13 years and younger on October 1 of current 4-H year are considered junior division. Members 14 years and older on October 1 are considered senior division.

**Round Robin Showmanship** will be on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. These rules will apply to both senior and junior division: Only grand and reserve from each species will go to round robin. Grand champions will have the choice to show their own animal in the species they won. All other animals will be chosen by the livestock committee based on how the animal behaves in the show ring. All juniors will show a species at the same time and all seniors will show a species at the same time, till all species have been shown. By all juniors showing together and all seniors showing together, there is only need for 2 judges. One judge will judge juniors in all species and the other judge will judge seniors in all species. Scores will be based on how each class is ranked.

**Stall Deposit** - There is a $25.00 deposit for each stall used by the exhibitor. If the stalls are cleaned and all staples removed after the fair, this deposit will be returned to the exhibitor. Every day when you clean your stall, please take this material to the compost pile, north of the race horse barn.

**Series Books**

If 4-Hers choose to not do series books, there is a set of county options is available to 4-Hers (2000). Some state and district awards require that the series books be completed and turned in so members will have to check if they are required for certain awards. If so, they may have to complete the state books. Separate project sheets will be required for all projects.

The requirements on all activity books are three activities per year (or completion of required options.)

This livestock policy was last updated, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2023.

**4-H Code of Ethics**

All 4-H members and their families are expected to conduct themselves in a positive, honest, sportsmanlike manner during all 4-H shows and activities. Losing gracefully is just as important as winning humbly. The following practices are prohibited:

1.) Unsportsmanlike conduct such as abusive language to show officials, other exhibitors or spectators is prohibited.

2.) Criticizing or interfering with judges, show officials, other exhibitors or spectators while at the fair or any 4-H activity may result in an individual or group being asked to leave and/or being prohibited from further participation in the 4-H activity or fair.

**VIOLATIONS:**

Any violation of 4-H rules and regulations may result in forfeiture of participation in county 4-H activities up to and including expulsion from or probation from Dawson County 4-H Activities. Probation, disqualification, expulsion or other disciplinary action will require application for readmission under such terms as the 4-H Council may prescribe before the individual is allowed to participate in future 4-H activities. The Dawson County 4-H Council reserves the right to interpret rules and regulations and arbitrarily settle all differences and questions.