

2025 SANDERS COUNTY 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK POLICIES

Revised November 2024

1. Dress code for livestock shows and photographs are as follows: dark blue or black pants, white, long sleeved, collared, button up shirt, recommend leather shoes or boots (required for large animal shows and round robin for safety purposes). Cowboy hat, tie, suitable vest, and FFA jackets/attire are optional. Sale: colored jeans and shirt permissible. Horse show attire according to current horse show standards. Dog show attire according to current dog show standards. Dairy cattle & goat show white pants and shirt. Dress code violations will result in loss of one ribbon color.
2. Animal Possession
 - a. 4-H/FFA members may tag two market animals on the respective tagging day (first weekend in January - Beef and first Sunday in June - Sheep/Goat/Swine).
 - b. To replace an animal, prior to fair due to sickness or death, the member must make written request or appear before the livestock committee for approval. A single B animal may serve as a replacement among siblings. Any change other than individual A's and B's must come before the livestock committee.
 - c. Market Livestock birthdates. No earlier than: Beef: January 1 (previous year to tagging); Goats: October 1 (previous year to tagging); Lambs: January 1 (current year); Swine: February 1 (current year)
 - d. Horse, Breeding & Llama projects must be enrolled and animals in possession by June 1 of the 4-H/FFA year. All market animals must be in your possession by weigh-in tagging date.
 - e. All horse and livestock projects must submit a housing form and horse ID card describing where their horses/livestock are being kept by June 1st. Forms are available from the extension office or online at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/sanders/sanderscountyfairpage.html>
3. Animal Care
 - a. All 4-H/FFA members exhibiting stock must furnish feed and water containers for all stock. Feed containers are limited to show size (24" diameter) and are to be removed each time after feeding.
 - b. All members are responsible for feeding and caring for their own animals at the fair and keeping the stalls and pens clean and in good condition. After any market animal is sold on Sunday, the member-seller is still responsible for the care and feeding of the animal for the remainder of the fair, **including stall cleaning**. Sufficient feed and water must be left for a 12-hour period, beginning Sunday evening - until shipping Monday morning.
4. A 4-H/FFA member may enter as many animals as he/she desires, but not more than one entry in any one lot. **Horse and non-market animals pay a stall fee upon registration in FairEntry. Horse \$10, beef \$10, swine \$6, sheep/goat \$6, poultry/rabbit \$2.**
5. Once a 4-H/FFA member brings an animal exhibit onto the fairgrounds, the care of that animal is the sole responsibility and obligation of the member-owner.
6. Only the member-owner is permitted to fit his or her animal for show ring. No assistance will be given to the member by leader, or parent, except to assist in restraining an animal if necessary. Verbal assistance shall not be allowed while the animal is being shown. Disregard for this rule can result in the disqualification of an animal.
7. Only the member-owner is allowed to show and/or sell an animal, except for special cases where the livestock committee advises.
8. Member Requirements
 - a. The Livestock Committee requires that all animal exhibitors must take part in showmanship and participate in interviews for their specie(s).

- b. All market project members must additionally be enrolled in and exhibit a non-market animal project (with interview) and “meet expectations” according to Sanders County 4-H policy.
 - c. Any animals entered in showmanship must be entered in another lot of the same species.
9. Animals may be brought to the Fairgrounds any time after 1:00 p.m. Wednesday and no later than 7:00 p.m. Wednesday night.
10. Dogs and cats shown by the 4-H member will not be housed at the fairgrounds. Pockets pets may be exhibited at the discretion of the rabbit & poultry barn superintendent.
11. All animals and poultry must pass the health inspection by the Fair Veterinarian on entry day. Following the Sanders County 4-H/FFA Animal Health Schedule is required. Any animal or poultry not passing health inspection must be removed immediately from the fairgrounds.
- 12. All sheep and goats must have an individual USDA official scrapie identification tag.**
13. In the interest of safety, if stock cannot be handled by the member alone as determined by the Livestock Committee, it must be taken home.
14. Members shall turn 12 years old (minimum) during the 4-H year to take the Colt to Maturity project and meet level requirements (for horse projects).
15. Market Animal
- a. Members exhibiting more than one species of market animal must notify the livestock committee which species they intend to sell within one hour of completion of the (Saturday) beef show. If a sale heifer is taken and sold it counts as a market animal **and must be spayed with veterinarian documentation**. Animals shown in the market classes must be sold in the market sale.
 - b. Market animal projects cannot be exhibited as a breeding project
 - c. Only one 4-H/FFA market animal per member may be sold in western Montana in one year. Sale order for beef, sheep, and goats to be determined by live animal judge. Sale order for swine determined by drawing within blue & red ribbon color.
 - d. All market livestock will be weighed electronically upon arrival during Wednesday check in. A certified counter balance scale is available for those requesting. This becomes the official weight for the Fair & sale. Only one market animal will be weighed on fair weigh-in day.
 - e. Market Weights: Minimum weight classes are 1100 pounds for steers, 210 pounds for hogs, 55 pounds for goats, and 100 pounds for sheep. Decidedly under finished animals, regardless of weight, can be moved into a feeder class at the judge’s discretion. Market steers weighing in excess of 1500 lbs. will be sold at a listed live weight of 1500 lbs. Market swine weighing in excess of 300 lbs. will be sold at a listed live sale weight of 300 pounds.
 - f. White ribbon lambs, goats, steers and hogs or feeder class animals cannot be advertised for sale on the fairgrounds. Slaughter arrangements and transportation are the responsibility of the owner.
 - g. Market Stock Sale Withholding. \$30/lamb, \$30 goat, \$40/swine, \$50/steer, \$10/poultry, \$5/rabbit, \$15/private treaty (feeder) sales. These fees support costs associated with premium stock sale administration (ear tags, destination sheets, Thank You ads), fairgrounds improvements and death loss (following sale).
 - h. Uncleaned pens, stalls, cages as of 10:00 am Labor Day Monday, will be assessed a \$30 cleaning fee, unless prior arrangements have been made with the respective barn superintendent.
 - i. Sanders County 4-H Council invoices all buyers not paying at the time of sale. Once all animals have been paid for, checks will be issued. All records, including buy-back support dollars for beef/swine & sheep must balance with sale records prior to release of funds. Due to billing cycles,

this process may take 6-8 weeks. Any members who need sale monies to pay bills should contact the Extension Office or Sanders Co. 4-H Treasurer to arrange advance payment.

- j. The Sanders County 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale is strictly a fat market sale. Only terminal market livestock animals may be sold. No breeding projects of any kind may be sold. Market steers, hogs, lambs, and goats will be sent to slaughter for carcass evaluation.
 - k. Purple, blue, and red ribbon meat rabbit and meat poultry projects can be sold at the market sale.
16. Round Robin Large Animal Showmanship class shall consist of the respective Junior/Senior Showmanship Champion in Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy, Meat Goat, Llama & Horse. Round Robin Small Animal Showmanship class shall consist of Rabbit, **Chicken, Turkey**, Dog, Dairy Goat and Cat. The Livestock Committee can adjust a designation for safety reasons if the executive committee feels it is necessary.
 17. All 4-H/FFA entries desiring to compete in open class must pre-register according to open class guidelines.
 18. Quality Assurance Training: In order to be eligible to show a livestock project at the Sanders County Fair, livestock project members must attend a Quality Assurance session. (4-H members once as a first-year junior and once as a first-year senior member. FFA members must attend their first year as an FFA member in high school.)
 19. FFA Exhibitor Requirements: Hot Springs Vo-Ag Instructor, 4-H Council Representatives and County Extension Agent have agreed to the following: All FFA Exhibitors showing and selling a market animal at the Fair will be required to complete a "Secondary Program." The purpose of this program is to equalize the regulations between FFA and 4-H Exhibitors. The Secondary program will consist of several options. These include, but are not limited to: Proficiency Award Applications, State Degree Applications, Range Plant Mounts, Agri-science Posters, Classroom Activities or some Classroom or Laboratory Projects. These will be shown at the Fair. Member must be active in his/her FFA Chapter throughout the year. A Secondary Program Verification Form must be obtained from his/her FFA Instructor and attached to the Fair Entry.
 20. Beef Project Requirement: In order to be eligible to show a market steer at the Sanders County Fair, market steer project members must attend at least one beef clinic or hoof trimming with their steer.
 21. Horse Project Requirement: In order to be eligible to show a horse project at the Sanders County Fair, horse project members must attend an initial horse project orientation session and five of the summer riding sessions.
 22. Horse Helmet Policy: A certified equestrian helmet with safety harness fastened is required in over fence classes and gymkhana events, activities and practice sessions. Gymkhana refers to horseback speed events (timed or untimed) that do not use livestock. Events in this category include, but are not limited to: barrel racing, pole bending, keyhole, stake, rescue races, pony express race, etc. Events not included in this policy are calf roping, team roping, goat tying, and team penning that may be timed, but use livestock. Participants in the 4-H Horse Project are required to attend a helmet education workshop and/or view the video "Every Time, Every Ride" once as a junior 4-H member (8-13) and once as a senior 4-H member (14 and up).
 23. All complaints must be given in writing to the Livestock Executive Committee outlining what actions have been taken to resolve the issue in partnership with the barn superintendent.
 24. Barn superintendents, in collaboration with the Extension Agent or Ag Teacher have the authority to make medical decisions regarding the health of a 4-H/FFA project animal, especially if the animal's owner is absent and/or unable to be contacted. This includes the authority to contact a veterinarian (at the owner's expense) or send the animal home. A family member, the superintendent, or livestock committee member must physically transport the animal. In addition, they have the authority to determine the exhibitor's eligibility for awards in such cases.

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I have read and understood the above policy guidelines:

4-H Member

4-H Parent