

# Alaska 4-H State Livestock Project Guidelines



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It is the goal and purpose of the Alaska 4-H State Livestock Panel to maintain a statewide set of guidelines, incorporating each district's policies, University requirements, and other needed/helpful information for Alaska 4-H youth members and

The purpose of the Alaska State 4-H Livestock Project Guidelines is to provide a standard for all Alaska 4-H youth members and families raising livestock as an Alaska 4-H project and a set of expectations for the objectives and outcomes of each 4-H livestock project across Alaska.

These guidelines are to enhance and accompany each district's established set of policies and not serve as a replacement. Districts may opt for stricter guidelines and procedures as they suit each district but may not implement lesser guidelines than the Alaska 4-H State Guidelines.

1. Exhibitors are responsible for knowledge of and adherence to all district and state rules.
2. Youth must be at least 8 years old to participate in a competitivusandvs:

1. The 4-H Code of Conduct will be expected of all who participate in 4-H events. Good sportsmanship and ethical behavior are required. Exhibitors, parents, and observers will act respectfully at all times. Exhibitors, parents, and observers considered being verbally or physically abusive and/or exhibiting objectionable behavior will be excused from the 4-H livestock event at the discretion of the 4-H coordinator.
2. The Extension office and livestock committees will make all possible efforts to secure the best available judges. The judges' decisions are final. Any interference with the judges, exhibitors, or officials, or any discourteousness or unsportsmanlike display toward them, will be cause for disqualification of the exhibitor. Exhibitors will follow the judge's directions at all times and, on request, will answer questions or demonstrate as indicated by the judge.
3. Parents and adults are encouraged to instruct members on the proper care and fitting of their animals, assisting only when absolutely necessary. 4-H exhibitions are youth shows and the 4-H member should do the actual care and fitting of the animals. The livestock superintendent has the authority to censor adults abusing the members' right to do their own work.
4. Youth livestock shows are provided so youth may learn by doing. Parents and other adults should instruct, advise, and encourage youth exhibitors in the proper care and fitting of their animals prior to entering the show ring. Coaching AFTER the member enters the ring may result in the member's removal from the ring.

1. Drug Abuse. No illegal drug, off-label use of drugs (uses other than allowed explicitly on the drug label), or use of unethical means to alter the physical composition, appearance, or disposition of a project animal is permitted. Violators will be disqualified immediately from the 4-H Livestock Program and barred from all future participation. Suspicion of drug use may result in a veterinarian's review and/or blood test. The Livestock Committee, Species Superintendent, or 4-H Program Coordinator may request testing or review.
2. The Superintendent or 4-H Program Coordinator reserves the right to have any animal removed from the exhibition facility for one of the following reasons: unruly animal or animals that present a hazard to the exhibitor.

3. All animals entered into a 4-H exhibition will reflect the appropriate weights, ages, and level of care as

1. Per 4-H national policy, Cloverbud 4-H exhibits will receive participation ribbons only. Their exhibits will be evaluated so that they will learn what they did well and where they might improve.
2. Junior through Senior 4-H exhibits will be judged by the Danish system and awarded blue (excellent), red (good), or white (worthy) ribbons according to the quality, workmanship, and skill exhibited in comparison to an established standard based in part on the exhibitor's grade and experience.
3. Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons will be awarded in selected classes if meritorious exhibits exist.
4. Single entries in classes will not necessarily mean first place. Judges will award placings based on the type and quality of entries. Champions and reserve champions will be selected in each class only when the judge deems there are entries of championship quality.
5. An award will only be given where merit exists. Only blue-ribbon projects will be considered for class trophy or top award.

1. In case of emergency, accident, or injury, an appropriate call to the pertinent authorities will be made, and the 4-H Program Coordinator must be notified.



will first be given for a district to provide a successful project and auction for those youth currently enrolled within their district prior to determining whether that district's program is able to absorb the for



offered on an individual basis for families to purchase (\$12) and complete at home online. As representatives within Alaska are trained in the YOCA program delivery, it will also be offered via in-person instruction. YOCA will be utilized in Alaska 4-H to ensure all Alaska 4-H youth completing market livestock projects have received unified and standardized information on Quality Assurance Program (QAP) and Quality Assurance Program (QAP) components.

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Exposition) in Louisville, Kentucky, (November) or at Eastern Nationals, held at National Western Roundup in Denver, Colorado (January). Youth may compete in each segment of the competition just once throughout their 4-H career so as not to repeat any one segment. Example: Over their 4-H career, should members qualify, they would be able to compete in each segment once: Quiz Bowl, Skill-a-Thon, Livestock Judging, and Public Speaking.

Qualifying youth work with their district program coordinator and state 4-H program leader to complete the registration requirements for these events. Information on these competitions may be found on the Alaska 4-H Livestock website, on the competition's home pages, or by contacting the district program coordinator or the Alaska 4-H Livestock point of contact, Cassandra Rankin.

1. Record-keeping is essential to successful agricultural projects and production and is emphasized in all Alaska 4-H livestock projects.
2. All Alaska 4-H youth completing livestock projects will be required to maintain and submit appropriate records for their livestock project.
3. Alaska 4-H General Record Book: The Alaska 4-H General Record Book serves as a cover letter for all Alaska 4-H youth members and their 4-H projects. It includes the events a 4-H member took part in over the course of the year and provides an overview of the member's participation in the current 4-H year. This book is to be included in all 4-H Record Bookbinders, and project-specific inserts are completed (one for each project) and inserted in the binder behind the General Record Book.
4. Alaska 4-H Livestock Project Insert: The Alaska 4-H Livestock Project insert is a record all on its own and is required for all youth exhibiting or marketing a livestock project in Alaska 4-H. This project insert requires youth to record the time spent on their project, the tasks they participated in as part of their project, the medical and financial information as it pertains to their project, and the rate of gain associated with their market project. Instructions on how to complete this project insert can be found at: [A Closer Look at Alaska 4-H Livestock Project Insert \(uaf.edu\)](http://uaf.edu)
5. Each district handles its district record-keeping requirements.
6. In addition, Senior division 4-H youth are encouraged to participate in the state record book contest each year should their record book qualify. District 4-H employees will work with youth to prepare their record book for this contest for those who qualify.



The goal of any market project is to raise an animal to the industry standard of that animal. Familiarize yourself with your district's procedures for raising livestock, which reflect the industry standard. Learn about the possession dates, the born-by dates, the minimum weight requirements, and industry standards on the species you wish to raise. Enroll in a local club that raises livestock and speak with other members for tips and information as you set your project goals.

There are breeders across Alaska who breed specifically for 4-H possession dates. Ask 4-H members within your district where they get their animals and how to get on a breeder's list.

By talking to members and families within your club and district, you will learn what breeds are best for the market. Study industry }

This list is not all-inclusive, and many resources can be found online by searching for 4-H projects in your chosen species. Your superintendents, fellow 4-H families, and district staff and faculty are all excellent resources with a wealth of knowledge on available local resources to help you grow in your project area.

Alaska 4-H State Livestock Page: [Alaska State 4-H Livestock | Alaska 4-H \(uaf.edu\)](#)

Alaska State 4-H Livestock Facebook page: [Alaska State 4-H Livestock](#)

Ohio State University Extension offers various resources for youth who raise livestock. The site to order these resources is [OSU Extension Publishing](#). These handbooks are a wealth of information and are official resources for state and national livestock competitions. OSU Extension also has hands-on learning kits for all species of livestock.

YQCA learning modules are found at [www.YQCAProgram.org](#)

[Swine Resource Handbook for Market and Breeding Projects - OSU Extension Publishing](#)

[Beef Resource Handbook - OSU Extension Publishing](#)

[Goat Resource Handbook - OSU Extension Publishing](#)

[Sheep Resource Handbook for Market and Breeding Projects - OSU Extension Publishing](#)

[Dairy Resource Handbook - OSU Extension Publishing](#)

Llama and Alpaca Resource Handbook - OSU Extension

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