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## LIVESTOCK SHOW - SPECIAL 4-H RULES

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**Note:** The following rules pertain to 4-H livestock exhibited in the Swine, Sheep, Dairy, Goat, Beef, Poultry, Rabbit and Horse Shows on the Sandwich Fairgrounds, July 31, August 1-2. These livestock classes are for 4-H members ages 8-18 as of September 1 of the current year.

1. **ANIMAL HEALTH - STATE HEALTH RULES, pages 73-77.** A veterinarian must check health papers before the animals may be unloaded.
2. **ARRIVAL** - Livestock check in as follows: Friday, July 31, 2026: 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. for swine; Noon weigh-in for swine however **all swine must be penned before weigh-ins**; 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for sheep and goats; beef will be weighed and checked-in between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. On Saturday, August 1, 2026: 8-10 a.m. for dairy cattle; 9:15-9:45 a.m. for rabbits; 2:30-3:00 p.m. for poultry.
3. **LIVESTOCK TRAILORS** - should be parked north of the swine show ring.
4. **WEIGHING** - Each exhibitor is responsible for seeing that his/her market animals (steers, hogs, or market sheep & market goats) are weighed during check in or when specified by the superintendent. Exhibitors must furnish their animals bedding and feed. They are responsible for keeping their own animals fed and watered, and in clean stalls at all times.
5. **REGISTRATION PAPERS** - or a certificate of eligibility forms (Land of Lincoln) signed by the Secretary of the respective breed organization will be required to show in the purebred classes. Registration papers should be presented to the department supervisor during check-in and will be returned on Sunday. Members failing to present acceptable registration papers on the day of showing will show in grade classes.
6. **EFFECTIVE DATE OF OWNERSHIP** - must appear on all registration papers. Dates for required ownership of purebred as well as unregistered animals are:

Market Beef (steers & heifers): must be owned by February 1, present year.

Breeding Beef Heifers: owned since June 1, present year.

Beef/Dairy Calf and Bucket Calf: owned since May 1, present year.

Beef & Dairy cow: owned since January 1, present year.

Dairy Heifers: owned since May 1, present year.

Dairy Calf: owned since May 1, present year.

Market & Breeding Sheep: owned since May 1, present year.

Goats, Milking Does & Meat Does: owned since January 1, present year.

Goats, All other: owned since May 1, present year.

Horses: owned or leased by May 1, present year.

Swine: must be farrowed and in the exhibitor's possession by June 1 of the present year.

Rabbits: owned since June 1, present year.

Poultry: owned since June 1, present year.

7. 4-H members are limited to receive one premium per weight class exhibited in premium eligible projects. (In other words, if the 4-H'er has two animals that end up in the same class or weight class, the 4-H'er will only receive one premium even though 2 or more animals were exhibited.)

All classes of livestock must fall within the age limits listed in each department. Members are limited to the number of animals they may show as specified by species.

**Beef** - 3 breeding animals and 3 market animals

**Dairy** - 6 animals

**Goats** - 12 animals (10 breeding and 2 market)

**Sheep** - 4 market animals & 8 breeding animals

**Poultry** - 9 animals

**Rabbits** – 6 animals

**Swine** - 4 animals (animals for pairs class must be same sex)

**Appropriate attire is expected in the show ring and sale ring. Safety should be the issue for the attire.**

**Suggested attire: hard shoes, long pants and a collared shirt. (No shorts, open toed shoes, or hats.)**

8. All animals must be exhibited in the show ring by 4-H owners. In cases of sickness, two entries, or a judging conflict, another 4-H member may be secured to help.
9. **PARENTS CANNOT SHOW 4-H MEMBER'S ANIMAL(S).**
10. All classes will be placed on the basis of Blue, Red and White ratings. Ribbons and premiums will be offered in all 4-H show classes.
11. The 4-H member must be the owner of the animals exhibited at the fair. Professional fitters **will not be allowed** to assist in the 4-H Show. 4-H'ers may be assisted with the fitting of the animal by a family member (mother, father, siblings, grandparents or legal guardian) or by another 4-H member of DeKalb County when fitting the animal for show.

- A. 4-H members staying overnight must have an adult chaperon. Chaperons are responsible for youth under their care.
- B. **NO** alcohol, nonprescription drugs, cigarettes, or tobacco products will be consumed or used by the 4- H members.  
***No alcohol, marijuana, or illegal drugs should be consumed or used by the adults while at the fair. Smoking is not permitted in any of the barns.***
- C. Individuals' using/consuming alcohol, marijuana, or illegal products on the fairgrounds will be escorted off the grounds by a Sheriff's Deputy.
- D. The use of motorcycles/minibikes, utility vehicles, golf carts or any motorized vehicle by unlicensed drivers is strictly prohibited on the fairgrounds.
- E. **The Sandwich Fairgrounds is charging \$25 a night/camper to spend the night at the fairground. This can be paid ahead of time at the Extension office or at the fair on Friday. Checks should be made out to the Sandwich Fair.**

12. Gates close at 10:00 p.m. each night.
13. **ALL EXHIBITS MUST REMAIN ON THE GROUNDS UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE AUCTION SUNDAY, AUGUST 2.**
14. Violations of these listed rules will cause all monetary awards to be withheld and parents will be contacted immediately.
15. The 4-H Show sponsors and owners assume no liability in case of accident to exhibitors, persons, personal property, or any loss occasioned by fire or theft.

**16. First year members showing rabbits, dogs, poultry or horses are required to participate in the Quality Assurance & Ethics training in order to be eligible to participate in the 4-H Fair. The training is online at <https://4h.zsuite.org/> First year animal exhibitors failing to complete this training are ineligible to show.**

17. 4-H'ers should make note that those leaving the fairgrounds prior to the completion of the livestock auction will forfeit their auction premiums above the floor/market price as decided by the Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction Committee.
18. Judging for clean pens and stalls will take place on both Saturday and Sunday during undisclosed times. Departments involved with the clean pen & stall judging will be beef, sheep, swine, dairy & goats. Club awards will be announced prior to the auction.