

University of California 4-H (UC 4-H) Policy

Summary

Chapter 7 - Experiential Learning, Section IV - Fairs, Expositions and Other Sponsored Shows

Purpose of Fair:

- *Provide opportunities for members to exhibit the best of their project work from the past year and see how their skills have grown.*
- *Also share with the community what 4-H YDP activities are taking place in their area.*
- ***Each fair is governed by a set of rules that should be carefully reviewed.***



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Agriculture and Natural Resources

4-H Youth Development Program

University of California 4-H (UC 4-H) Policy

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Value of Participation in a Fair:

- *The 4-H YDP recognizes the value of participation at fairs as a means to showcase, exhibit, and otherwise demonstrate an individual member's accomplishments and skill development.*
- ***Fair participation, however, is not a requirement for 4-H involvement, nor should fairs be considered as a validation of the learning experience.***



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4-H Youth Development Program

4-H Projects in Animal Science

- Animal science projects provide 4-H youth an opportunity for **experiential learning** while preserving the **core value of respect** for the **health and well-being** of both **themselves** and **their project animals**.
- 4-H youth **learn the fundamental husbandry practices necessary to raise animals for their defined purpose while maintaining optimum animal welfare**.
- Focus on **positive outcomes** and the **educational value of the project**.
- Essential for 4-H leaders to support 4-H youth and families to **develop project expectations** that align with **individual educational needs**.
- In the 4-H animal science program, this **can be achieved with both market and non-market animal projects**.



How to prepare BEFORE the fair

Recommendations for preparing 4-H youth in livestock projects for the fair with a focus on first-year livestock project members.

BEFORE THE FAIR

- **Review your local fair's exhibitor handbook (fair book)**
 - Each fair will define their rules which can be more restrictive than state rules.
 - Confirm requirements specific to the auction (*i.e., terminal vs. non-terminal sale, rules for declaring intent to sell, requirement for presence of exhibitor, etc.*)
 - Explain the fair rules and terminology for market animals to 4-H youth and their parent(s)/guardian(s)



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How to prepare BEFORE the fair

For additional information refer to [2023 State Rules for California Fairs](#).

Information related specifically to market animals is summarized below

State Rules for California Fairs - Official Definitions:

- Market Animal:** Any beef, sheep, swine, goat (for large animals) and poultry, quail meat pen, rabbit meat pen, single fryer rabbit and turkeys (for small animals), or as categorized by the fair, that are raised for the purpose of becoming food products for consumers.
- Market Ready:** A term that defines the amount of fat cover a market animal has and determines if an animal is ready to be harvested.
- Terminal Sale:** A sale in which the market ready animals exhibited at the Fair are to be sent to a processing facility and harvested following the conclusion of the auction/fair. Transportation to the processing facility is organized by the Fair.
- Non-Terminal Sale:** A sale in which the market ready and/or breeding animals may be picked up alive by the buyer following the conclusion of the auction



How to prepare BEFORE the fair

For additional information refer to *2023 State Rules for California Fairs*.

Information related specifically to market animals is summarized below

State Rules for California Fairs - auction guidelines and recommendations:

- *“Market animals intended to be sold through the Fair’s Junior Livestock Auction must be entered into a market judging class and be market ready at the time of judging to sell.*
- *It is recommended that an official “Intent to Sell” list be available in the Livestock Office for each exhibitor and/or parent to sign a declaration of their intent to sell after the market animals have been judged, especially if the Junior Livestock Auction is a terminal sale.*
- *If the Fair’s Junior Livestock Auction is terminal, the market animals will be sold for resale or custom processing only.*
- *Once the market animal has been sold through the Junior Livestock Auction, ownership is then transferred to the buyer with the highest bid.*
- *If the Fair’s Junior Livestock Auction is terminal, no live animal pick up is allowed, except by the transportation provided by the Fair to the processing facility.”*



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How to prepare BEFORE the fair

Recommendations for preparing 4-H youth in livestock projects for the fair with a focus on first-year livestock project members.

BEFORE THE FAIR

- **Project leaders should plan a pre-fair meeting.**
 - Explain the fair exhibition process for market animals
(i.e., entry to fair, official weight of animal, preparation for the show, showing the animal, declaration of intent to sell, auction, load out)
 - Review terms like market animal, market-ready, terminal sale, etc.



How to prepare BEFORE the fair

Recommendations for preparing 4-H youth in livestock projects for the fair with a focus on first-year livestock project members.

BEFORE THE FAIR

- **Project leaders should plan a pre-fair meeting.**
 - During the meeting encourage project members to **discuss**
 - *Purpose of raising livestock animals and their importance in production agriculture.*
 - *Quality of care the youth members have provided to their project animals.*
 - *What they have learned while preparing their animals for fair.*
 - *Differences in public opinion about raising market animals for fair.*



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Recommendations for preparing 4-H youth in livestock projects for the fair with a focus on first-year livestock project members.

BEFORE THE FAIR

- **Project leaders should plan a pre-fair meeting.**
 - Plan activities to help them **practice explaining about their project to someone outside of 4-H.**
 - Make sure **first-year members** understand the process for a market animal that will be sold in a terminal sale.
 - Encourage 4-H youth to consider **preparing educational displays to showcase the quality of care of project animal.**



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BEFORE THE FAIR

- **To ensure the program aligns with 4-H core values we recommend:**
 - 4-H Staff and adult volunteers are responsible for preparing 4-H youth for the fair.
 - Ensure all youth understand the fair rules and know all options for their market animals.
 - Explain that livestock project members have the choice to not sell their market animal.
 - Make clear how they would choose the option of not selling their market animal with a focus on understanding the fair rules for exhibition.



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Guidelines for DURING the fair

During the fair is an important time to interact with the public and demonstrate the quality of care that has been provided to the project animal.

Therefore, we recommend the following guidelines:

DURING THE FAIR

- **Have a meeting at the fair to remind youth members to:**
 - Clean their animal's pen each morning so bedding is fresh.
 - Make sure clean water is always available for their animals.
 - Check on their animals throughout the day to ensure they have water, can move around pen freely (if not in tie-out barn) and is not experiencing any distress (e.g., blanket caught on leg, water bucket tipped over, etc.)
 - Secure animal pens with gate latches during day and overnight



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Guidelines for DURING the fair

During the fair is an important time to interact with the public and demonstrate the quality of care that has been provided to the project animal.

Therefore, we recommend the following guidelines:

DURING THE FAIR

- **Fairs provide an excellent opportunity to educate about 4-H and animal agriculture.**
 - Display or provide [educational material\(s\)](#) about [quality animal care and husbandry practices used during the 4-H project](#).
 - [Encourage youth to engage](#) with fairgoers asking respectful, curious, and genuine questions about their project.



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Therefore, we recommend the following guidelines:

DURING THE FAIR

- Clubs should always plan **adult supervision of youth and animals in pen area**.
- **Advise youth to report any person(s) that are making them uncomfortable to an adult or fair management** especially if they are doing the following: asking very direct or aggressive questions, taking video or excessive pictures of them without permission, etc.
- **Do not confront or engage with any person(s) that demonstrate activist behavior**. Report any observed efforts to interfere with management of market animals to fair management.



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