



## **Butte County 4-H Fair Requirements FAQ 2025-2026**

### **Background:**

There were significant changes to the 4-H fair requirements for the 2023 fair season. The 4-H staff and Council have worked together to create a new set of fair requirements that aligns with the State 4-H “[Steps to Success](#)” model. This new model is intended to create parity for fair and club requirements across California. Butte County 4-H had more requirements for fair eligibility than the State office now allows, which is why the new fair requirements form was created.

Feedback was solicited from our general membership, and overwhelmingly, our members valued retaining the presentation and event requirements. In order to keep those as part of Butte County’s 4-H Fair requirements, and comply with State 4-H guidelines, both presentations and events attended had to be “species specific” to enhance the youth’s knowledge as it pertains to their project animal at fair. This requirement changed the language of the requirement and doesn’t easily align with some of our historical presentation and County event opportunities.

The 2022-23 fair requirements document was approved by the general membership of the County Council and County CCLs in August 2022. To address some of the frequently asked questions that have come up since it was released to the Clubs and Members, we’ve created this FAQ document as a resource for CCL’s, Project Leaders and Members. We welcome additional questions and clarification requests and will update this document as those come in.

### **FAQ:**

#### **Q: Why were the fair requirements changed?**

As explained above, the State 4-H Office released its new “Steps to Success” model which restricts the types of requirements the County level 4-H can require of its youth members.

#### **Q: Who decided on this new set of requirements in Butte County?**

The County Executive Council, in conjunction with the Butte County 4-H staff, solicited feedback and ideas from the Butte County 4-H County Council (members include all registered 4-H adult leaders & youth). Multiple meetings were held to draft the current document. Drafts and revisions were circulated for approval before being passed by majority vote at the County Council meeting on August 30, 2022.

#### **Q: Do primary members (youth ages 5-8 years old) who are showing livestock at the fairs need to complete these Fair Requirements?**

Primary members are exempt from several Fair Requirements, except for the enrollment deadline and participation in project meetings. Primary members must still attend project meetings for the species which they plan to exhibit at the fair to ensure learning of proper handling and safety of the species.

### **If you still have questions**

Please contact your community club leader/the Butte County 4-H Office at 530-552-5812.

**Step by Step Explanations/Clarifications to the 2025-26 Fair Requirements Document**

**Butte County 4-H**  
**2025-2026 LIVESTOCK Fair Participation Agreement**

MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PROJECT: \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I INTEND TO SHOW AT THE FOLLOWING FAIR(S) ☐ SILVER DOLLAR ☐ BUTTE COUNTY

BUTTE COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK FAIR PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS ARE TO BE MET PRIOR TO **MAY 8, 2026** IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE, EXHIBIT, AND/OR SELL AT A FAIR IN BUTTE COUNTY. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

Agreement must include youth's name, project (species), and club name. Check off one or both fairs that the youth is intending to exhibit/sell.

All criteria below should be completed by May 8, 2026 (before Silver Dollar Fair) and turned into the Project Leader, who will turn these into the 4-H office. Due to fair registration dates, some Fair specific activities will have a completion date requirement ahead of the May 8<sup>th</sup> deadline.

If you are only exhibiting at the Butte County Fair, please follow the deadlines set forth by the fair board and your project leader.

**FAIR PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:**

		Member Initials	Parent Initials	Project Leader Initials	Club Leader Initials
1.	<b>Be 9 years old by December 31, 2025.</b> Youth must be 9 years old by December 31, 2025. No exceptions can be made.				
2.	<b>Be a member in good standing. Complete the enrollment process.</b> Complete enrollment process = enrollment is complete through 4-H Online OR hardcopy enrollment form <u>AND</u> enrollment fees are paid online by credit card OR in-person to your club leader. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Livestock Project Members:</b> Be enrolled in a Butte County 4-H Club and livestock project by October 23, 2025 (the fourth Thursday in October).</li> </ul>				

Youth intending to exhibit/sell an animal at fair must be enrolled through the 4-H online portal (<https://4h.zsuite.org>) and paid their enrollment fees through the [credit card portal](#) or by cash/check to their club by October 23, 2025. Youth must also be 'enrolled' in the club project (known to species project leader as intending to participate) by October 23, 2025

3.	<b>Complete a minimum of six hours of 4-H project instruction, or more, as required by the project leader.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project leader will communicate the project meeting schedule and hours requirement to all members by the second project meeting.</li> </ul>				
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Youth must complete 6 hours of project instruction as indicated by the project leader. Project instruction may include group project meetings, individual/on site instruction, and individual learning opportunities as part of their instruction plan and hours requirement. Project leaders should outline the hours opportunities for youth by the second project meeting.

4.	<p><b>Participate in a minimum of one Butte County 4-H event*.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in one Butte County 4-H event must be linked to a livestock project being exhibited at the fair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examples: Beef project member = beef dish at Foods Fiesta. Sheep project member= wool garment at Fashion Review</li> </ul> </li> <li>Members may choose to participate in more than one Butte County 4-H event. Participation in second event and beyond does not need to be linked to project being exhibited at the fair.</li> </ul>					
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Youth must participate in one Butte County 4-H event, but to comply with the “Steps to Success” we can only make this a requirement if it is tied to the youth’s species to ‘enhance the youth’s knowledge as it pertains to their project animal at fair’. This adds a twist to the previous requirement which allowed youth to attend any type of Butte County 4-H event. Once the youth has met this requirement, youth are encouraged to attend any event regardless of its link to their project animal.

Examples:

- A beef project youth attending Food’s Fiesta and listening to beef dish presentation and/or tasting a beef dish
- A lamb project youth attending Fashion Revue and listening to a presentation on a wool garment
- A goat project youth attending Rainbow Craft Field Day and listening to a presentation involving goat leather

*The County Council overwhelmingly wanted to retain an event attended as a fair requirement. 4-H staff and County Executive Council, with feedback from our members and supporters, are working to add more species-specific information to our existing events to make it possible for youth to meet this requirement at most events. Specifically, we are working to incorporate this into Fun Night with informational livestock booths next to club booths. More information as it becomes available!*

5.	<p><b>Give a presentation, related to <u>one</u> livestock project being exhibited at the fair. TITLE OF PRESENTATION: _____</b></p> <p><b>LOCATION OF PRESENTATION: _____</b></p> <p><i>(County event name, “club level”, or “project level”)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> year 4-H members at the project, club, or county level</li> <li>3<sup>rd</sup> year 4-H members at the club or county level</li> <li>4<sup>th</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> year 4-H members at the county level</li> <li>6<sup>th</sup> + year 4-H members at any level; with project leader approval</li> </ul>					
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Please document the title of your presentation and where it was given. If given at a county event, please indicate which one (ex: Small Animal Field Day, Rainbow Craft Field Day, etc). If given at the club or project level, you may just write “Club” or “Project” level.

Similar to the events requirements above, the requirement to give a presentation must be tied to the youth’s project species for fair in order to comply with the “Steps to Success”.

If a youth gives their species-specific presentation at a County event (county level), they may count it as both their presentation and event attended. To clarify “related to one livestock project being exhibited at the fair” – if a youth is taking a market hog and a breeding Lamb to Silver Dollar Fair and/or Rabbits to Butte County, they may do their presentation on any of those species. Once the youth has met this

requirement, youth are encouraged to present at any other event regardless of its link to their project animal.

Examples: *(not an exhaustive list, just to give ideas)*

- Foods Fiesta - presentation involving the products from their species
  - Meat dish from a cut of the species – like pulled pork sandwiches
  - Ingredients related to your species – like gelatin or milk (explain where they came from)
  - An appropriate side dish – like turkey stuffing (explain how it relates to the species as an accompanying dish)
- Presentation Day – just about any type of presentation involving information of the species
- Rainbow Craft Field Day – presentation involving products from or for their species
  - Crafts using leather products, hair/fur, feathers, etc. related to the species
  - Crafts for the species – like a halter, brush, or blanket
  - Crafts of the species – like a clay model, drawing, or photograph
- Fashion Revue – presentation involving product from their species
  - Using or purchasing (for consumer division) related to leather, wool, dyes, hair/fur, etc.

**Q: What is the reasoning behind the member year breakdown?**

Feedback from the Council members, CCLs and Project Leaders was to give more flexibility to beginning year members and 6+ year members. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year members could give their presentation at the project or club level, which may be less intimidating than at a large county event. 6+ year members have given a presentation at the county level many times, and their species-specific presentation may be more valuable at the project or club level to assist in instruction (at the project leader's discretion).

**Q: If a youth intends to take a hog to fair, does a presentation (or event attended) on hogs at Food's Fiesta, and because of the Fair lottery changes species (lamb, goat, rabbits, etc), will their presentation still count?**

Yes, the County Council and 4-H staff agreed that the event/presentation was made in good faith and will be accepted as fulfilling the requirement(s).

6.	Submit an Annual Project Report (APR) Form, for the livestock project being exhibited, by the September due date set by the club.					
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A minimal Record Book consisting of the following is sufficient to meet the Fair Requirement.

- Folder or Green Record Book Cover
- Title/Cover Page
- 1<sup>st</sup> Page of the PDR
- Animal project APR (the animal taken to fair)
- Expression Page

When turning in the minimum requirements, youth will not be able to receive any achievement awards or star ranking. They are simply submitting the required information to be eligible to show and sell a market animal at the Butte County Fair or Silver Dollar Fair.

**Q: Why are you requiring last year's Record Books to be turned for this year's Fair Requirements?**

Because the 4-H Program year ends after the Silver Dollar Fair and Butte County Fair, project leaders and the Fair let youth exhibit on the good faith that they will turn in their Record Book at the end of the program year. If a youth exhibits at Fair and does not turn in a Record Book at the end of their program year, they will be in non-compliance for not having met Fair requirements and will not be allowed to exhibit at THIS year's fair.

*Regardless of fair participation, 4-H staff, County Council and CCLs all endorse the completion of full Record Books, especially the PDR or Spark Achievement Report so youth may achieve stripes, pins and star ranks.*

### **Other Fair Requirements & Questions**

#### **Q: What is the YQCA Certificate and who requires it?**

YQCA stands for Youth for the Quality Care of Animals and can be found at [yqcaprogram.org](http://yqcaprogram.org). It is a national, multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 8-21 with a focus on Food Safety, Animal Well Being and Character Development. CDFA (California Department of Food and Agriculture, who oversees Fairs in California) mandates that all youth exhibiting and/or selling an animal at a fair must have completed this training course and provide the certificate to the fair(s) at which youth are exhibiting as proof. This is not a 4-H requirement, it is a CDFA Fairs and Expositions requirement.

#### **Q: Why was the Silver Dollar Fair Hog, Lamb and Goat exhibitor registration date moved up to December? (TBD for 2025 with new Livestock dates in June) [*Does not apply for the SDF 2025-2026 fair years*]**

~~The Silver Dollar Fair has become impacted with youth exhibitors and must hold a lottery for the number of animals it can accommodate. Youth who do not make it in the first round of the lottery are placed on a waiting list. The Fair moved up the registration date so that exhibitors would know if they had made it into the fair or were placed on the wait list before purchasing an animal (typically in January/February). If a youth is placed on the wait list for their primary species, they may change species (only 1 time). If there are open spots in another species, they may receive a spot. They may also be placed on a wait list for another species. You may only be on one wait list and you may only switch species one time (per year) due to wait listing.~~

#### **Q: Why must YQCA be completed before registering an exhibit animal for the Silver Dollar Fair?**

~~Because of the lottery, only exhibitors who have completed and uploaded their YQCA certificates will be eligible for the fair. For this reason, we highly recommend completing the course prior to December 1, 2024.~~ [*modified for 2025-2026 SDF fair – YQCA must be completed prior to 60 day ownership deadline and fair submission deadline in April*]

If you have further questions about the Fair Requirements, please contact the Butte County 4-H Office at 530-552-5812.