

OBJECTIVES OF THE 4-H LIVESTOCK PROJECT

The raising of livestock can be an educationally rewarding experience for youth. It is the intent of the Mecosta County 4-H/FFA Junior Livestock Association to develop a 4-H livestock program that will provide 4-H youth in the county a continuing opportunity to:

1. To acquire information and an understanding of scientific livestock production and management practices through the experiences of keeping records and owning and caring for livestock. To also acquire skill in executing these practices, and make informed decisions.
2. To provide a business experience and an insight into values and principles of purchasing, marketing, record keeping, and securing credit which will provide an income sufficient to permit savings.
3. To encourage ethics, integrity, sportsmanship, cooperation and an ability to speak in public through participation in related activities, such as demonstrations, talks, judging events, tours and exhibits.
4. To learn and employ efficient procedures and methods in the marketing of livestock and their products.
5. To develop a clear understanding and appreciation of the livestock-meat industry and its role in the agricultural and commercial economy of the country.
6. To explore the livestock industry, or a livestock related field as a career.
7. To learn how to judge and select livestock.
8. To develop leadership skills, cooperation, self-reliance and sportsmanship through club activities.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR MECOSTA COUNTY 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK EXHIBITS AT FAIR

1. Entry forms for the Mecosta County Agricultural Free Fair will be available at the MSU Mecosta County Extension Office, or are available in the current fair book. The age of any exhibitor who exhibits in 4-H Classes is determined by his or her age on January 1st of the current calendar year. Entry forms are due by date set by the Mecosta County Agricultural Free Fair Association.
2. 4-H Members who are 5 through 8 years old are Cloverbud members. All 4-H Cloverbud projects are non-competitive. Cloverbuds should register for classes outlined in the Fairbook under Department 62. Cloverbuds may enter 10 projects, 4 of which can be live animals. If you are in the Little Buddy program, then you cannot show the same animal as your Cloverbud project. Cloverbuds must be accompanied in the show ring and to the show table with any animal and/or poultry exhibit by an adult or older 4-H teen.
3. The first initial of the exhibitor's first name and the first initial of the exhibitor's last name along with the last 3 digits of the exhibitor's Social Security Number will be used for his/her exhibitor number. No premium will be paid by the Fairboard without this information on records per federal guidelines. (MCFB 2006)
4. Exhibit tags, barn/stall cards, etc. will be available at the fair office in the Exhibit Building on exhibit placement day at the beginning of fair week.
5. Ribbons and or rosettes are to be awarded as outlined in the Fair Rules and class descriptions. Ribbons and rosettes will not be replaced if lost, stolen, damaged or eaten.
6. All premiums (trophies, plaques, ribbons/rosettes, premium awards, etc.) shall be forfeited if any exhibitor is involved in improper conduct in any exhibit or activity area during the Fair. If deemed necessary, the person or persons will be sent home. Improper conduct includes, *but is not limited to*:
 - A. Drug, alcohol and narcotics use, or possession of.
 - B. Verbal and, or physical abuse.
 - C. Abuse or mistreatment of animals.

All Mecosta County 4-H youth members have a signed code of conduct form on file at the MSU Extension Office. Violations in the Code of Conduct could result in expulsion from the 4-H Program.
7. The 4-H Superintendents and 4-H Program Coordinator will handle any conflicts in the 4-H Youth Division. If unresolved, it will be taken to the Fair Board.

9. Those camping on the fairgrounds must follow the general rules listed with their application to camp, and all members of the camping party and visitors must be in their campers and quiet by midnight with the exception of the barn watch crews.
10. NO ALCOHOL BEVERAGES PERMITTED ON THE SHOW GROUNDS OR IN THE BARN.
11. No smoking in or around the barns or Exhibit Building. Mandated by the State Fire Marshall.
12. Ownership of an animal or poultry project is not required for an exhibitor to show in any animal class other than market classes.
13. 4-H Club Leaders will be asked to complete a stall and/or pen request for their club's participation in terms of animals and pens needed for exhibit space at the fair by the date determined each year, and to turn that information in to the Mecosta County MSU Extension Office.
14. Removal of any live or still exhibit prior to release time stated must have written approval from that department Superintendent, 4-H Program Coordinator and the Fair Board. Failure to comply will result in the forfeiting of all awards earned, awards include all placings (trophies, plaques, ribbons and premiums) and individual and/or entire family will not be able to show at the Mecosta County Fair the following year. Exceptions of early removal: death, sickness, or emergency.
15. All record books and still exhibits must be removed according to the time listed in the fair schedule to receive premiums. All Poultry, Rabbit, Goat, and Sheep breed stock shall remain in their stalls or pens until 9:00 p.m. Saturday, and may only be removed with the permission of the species superintendent. Terminal market animals and those market animals being sent for processing or for St. Louis resale must remain until Sunday at 6:00 a.m., and all market animals must remain until at least 9:00 p.m. Saturday and can **only be removed by approved and designated stock haulers**. No livestock may be removed from the fairgrounds without the notification of and consent of the livestock superintendent.
16. Exhibitor must walk their market project animal through sale ring. Any exceptions have to be approved by superintendent and 4-H Program Coordinator in advance of sale day.

GENERAL LIVESTOCK RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. 4-H members must be registered at the Extension/4-H Office by **JANUARY 1st** of the current project year.
2. All 4-H animal exhibitors must follow the rules and requirements of the youth livestock general rules, 4-H Livestock rules, MDA rules, fair policies and division rules.
3. All market animals need to be in place by designated weigh-in. Other animal exhibits (breed stock and showmanship) must be in place by noon on the Monday of fair week, with the exception of goat and sheep which must be in place at time of market project check-in.
4. Animal care and well being remains the responsibility of the youth member until animal is removed from fairgrounds. For each occurrence of neglect 10% will be taken from livestock sale check. Neglect will be determined by project area superintendents after discussion with youth member.
5. Animals that cannot be controlled by the 4-H **MEMBER** will be disqualified from the fair and sent home. Species superintendents and the Overall Superintendent will make observations, and will notify club leaders if there is a member in their club who will be required to prove control of his or her animal. Members have until Tuesday evening of fair week to prove control. A walk will take place in the livestock arena for members whose control of their animal is in question. If member cannot control the animal at that time, they will be disqualified and the animal will be sent home.
6. Adult un-neutered male animals of beef, sheep, swine and goats are not allowed for 4-H market showing. 4-H classes are not offered for this group. Castrated animals must be free of all testicular tissue and properly healed before coming to the fair.
7. Market animals will be given first priority for available stall space.
8. All bovine species will be haltered and neck tied when tied in stall.
9. Refer to 4-H project guideline publications for advice on showing livestock.
10. All members will be required to fit their own animal(s) with verbal guidance from other Mecosta County 4-H members, parents, and leaders and hands on help from other Mecosta County 4-H Youth and FFA members.
 - a. With the exception of Beginning Showmen (9 to 11 years old) and Special Needs Members who are allowed help from parents or leaders. Absolutely NO outside help will be allowed!
 - b. Any member in violation of the fitting rules **will automatically be placed in last in their showmanship class.** They will be allowed to show in

conformation class, but **may not be placed higher than 4th place.**

11. All 4-H livestock youth members are responsible to make sure all of their stalls are clean, or members will not receive premium checks from the Fairboard. Members will have until the last Sunday at NOON of Fair to get them cleaned. They will be checked the Sunday following the fair. All decorations, bedding and manure must be removed.
12. Exhibitor stall cards must remain in livestock stalls until all animals in that barn have been loaded and trucked out and stall and cages cannot be cleaned out until the animal is gone. **Early removal of bedding is considered neglect. See General Livestock Rules number four.**
13. Exhibitors are expected to be clean and neat in appearance in showing and selling their livestock project(s). Sale attire should be the same as show attire. Appropriate clothing and footwear must be worn in the show and sale rings.
14. Refer to MDA Health Requirements for all livestock exhibited at Michigan Fairs found in the Mecosta County Agricultural Fair Book. All Livestock must meet standards set forth in the MDA guidelines.
15. Every hog on the premises goes directly to slaughter via stock haulers. The Mecosta County 4-H Junior Livestock Sale is considered a terminal sale.
16. Final 4-H livestock weigh-in will be Sunday and/or Monday of fair week. Refer to the fair schedule for times. Any disputed animals weights must be re-weighed **BEFORE LEAVING SCALE** area.
17. The Mecosta County 4-H Junior Livestock Sale is open to Mecosta County 4-H/FFA members only who are properly registered in the Mecosta County Extension Office, are 4-H/FFA members in good standing, and who must follow livestock sale rules.
18. All livestock members planning to sell market animal(s) are required to meet one (1) educational requirement and quality assurance guidelines as set forth by the MSU Extension Office and the Mecosta County 4-H/FFA Junior Livestock Association. Members not meeting their educational requirements **by 5 p.m. on the first Friday of June** will not be allowed to show or sell their market animal at the Mecosta County 4-H/FFA Junior Livestock Sale, nor will they be allowed to show their animal under the 4-H classes at the Mecosta County Fair.

19. Market records must be completed/submitted by set deadline and have received a premium for members to be eligible to sell. The Club Project Leader of the species must also sign records. See project areas for specific requirements for each species record book and all livestock and breed stock project books.
20. Market animals cannot be shown in breed stock classes.
21. 4-H/FFA members may sell only one finished steer, a dairy market beef, or beef at the Mecosta County 4-H Jr. Livestock Sale.
22. Each youth may sell up to four (4) market animals or birds at the Mecosta County 4-H Junior Livestock Auction (above rules applies), one large animal and (3) small animals. **Large animals include: dairy steers and beef steers. Small animals include: swine, sheep, goats, dairy feeders, poultry, and rabbits. YOUTH MAY ENTER ONE ANIMAL/PEN PER CLASS.** Youth exhibitors will be allowed to enter more animals for showmanship classes only. (MCFB 2004)
23. A member may register two (2) animals by the livestock registration deadline for his/her market livestock project. **Family alternate (one per child) may also be tagged at that time.** See project guidelines for specific rules that pertain to project animals.
24. All tagging deadlines will be adhered to. No exceptions will be made for missed registration deadlines.

LIVESTOCK AND SMALL ANIMAL LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

(As they pertain to the 4-H livestock projects)

1. Guide the work of club members.
2. Involve members in planning and decisions.
3. Make learning fun and educational.
4. Attend 4-H leader trainings as provided by the county Extension Office or Michigan 4-H Youth Development Program and/or Michigan State University Animal Science Programs.
5. Register as a 4-H Leader with the Mecosta County MSU Extension Office annually and complete a Leader Agreement and sign a Code of Conduct.
6. Hold a minimum of 6 meetings per year for their club. (*Michigan 4-H Youth Development guidelines for clubs.*)
7. Turn in stall and pen requests - for the fair - per number needed before the deadline.
8. Ensure that their club meets and completes duties as assigned with pre-fair or fair week jobs.
9. Communicate with parents and members.
10. Make sure each 4-H family in their club has a copy of the 4-H/FFA Junior Livestock Handbook and understands its contents.
11. Make sure that club members send out buyer's letters and contact buyers before the fair.
12. Make sure that club members send thank you cards to buyers and trophy/award sponsors and sponsors for Showmanship Sweepstakes.
13. Make sure their club is represented at Junior Livestock Association meetings.
14. Assist club members as needed with their projects.
15. Report any changes in club membership to the Mecosta County MSU Extension Office.

16. For further requirements of 4-H leaders contact the Mecosta County MSU Extension Office.
17. Direct youth members to livestock record books. Review and sign record books of each member before turning them in.
18. Assist club in meeting any club requirements set by the Mecosta County Fair Board.
19. Ask for help when you need it. From parents, livestock superintendents and from the Michigan State University Extension Office.
20. If leaders are in question of their responsibilities, they should check with the MSU Extension Office for an explanation of responsibilities and duties.

MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Select project(s) with the help of parents and leaders.
2. Do the project to the best of your ability.
3. Keep a personal record book up to date. To keep track of your 4-H activities and accomplishments.
4. Attend 4-H meetings. Members should call their leader when they are going to be absent from a meeting and find out what information they missed. Please note that many clubs have attendance requirements to participate with the club in the fair.
5. Take part in local, county; state national or international activities and events.
6. Inform parents of 4-H Club activities.
7. Learn the 4-H pledge and motto.
8. Complete project record books and follows guidelines.
9. **Understand and know the rules and regulations for showing and exhibiting their project.**
10. Make sure their paperwork is turned into the appropriate office before the deadlines.
11. Meet at least one (1) educational requirement each year.
12. Every youth, ages 9-19, planning to show livestock (any species covered in this handbook) must attend at least one (1) Junior Livestock Meeting per 4-H year in order to show and/or sell a livestock project (any species covered in this handbook) at the current year's Mecosta County Fair. The pre or post fair meeting does not count as an attended meeting. The only exceptions are custody and college travel of more than an hour.
12. To follow the 4-H motto: **TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER.**

4-H PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide transportation for your child, or arrange a carpool to 4-H meetings and activities.
2. Support financial costs as agreed by the club. This may include fund raising and club dues. Provide any materials/equipment your child may need.
3. **SHOW INTEREST AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CHILDREN'S PROJECTS!**
4. Assist with the club as needed and when asked. Plan to be involved. Help with the general club activities. Become involved, participate, volunteer – do not wait to be asked.
5. See to it that your child not only starts a project, but also completes it. Let your child do their own work; serve as a guide.
6. Encourage your 4-H'er. Not only when they succeed, but also when they fail. Help him/her see progress, not just the end result.
7. Help your child keep accurate records of his/her 4-H activities.
8. Attend club family functions.
9. Causing a disturbance will result in the expulsion of all family members from 4-H activities. This will be enforced by the Mecosta County MSU Extension Office. (Disturbances include, but are not limited to arguing, physical or verbal abuse, fighting, use of drugs and alcohol).
10. Remember the ultimate goal of any 4-H project should be the learning process of raising a quality livestock project, not whether the project was selected Grand Champion. The best 4-H project any member has is themselves.
11. The object of 4-H is to raise your child to be a responsible citizen. The way they do their work, conduct meetings and participate in events will help set work and character patterns and standards for the rest of their lives.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

PROJECT ANIMAL CERTIFICATION: All livestock shall not have received any substance not approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for slaughter/breeding, stock/exhibition animal(s). This includes, but is not limited to, diuretics, steroids, repartitioning agents, tranquilizers and analgesics. Furthermore, with respect to any drug, chemical or feed additive approved by the FDA and or the USDA for slaughter animal(s) that no illegal use of approved chemicals/compounds has taken place and that the applicable withdrawal period as recognized by the FDA has expired prior to shipping out of market livestock on any and all approved chemicals/compounds administered.

All animal(s) may be subject to blood, urine, milk and tissue tests, and that the Fair Board reserves the right to disqualify any animal(s). Either live or slaughtered found in violation of the use of drugs, chemicals or feed additives as described above. Disqualification will result in the placing of the animal(s) in question being voided; the forfeiture of any and all ribbons/trophies/special awards earned with the animal(s); the assessment of a fine against the total premiums due equal in the amount to the premiums earned with the animal(s); voiding of the sale of the animal(s) if the animal(s) has been sold at the 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale and the disbarment of the exhibitor for exhibiting at the Mecosta County Agricultural Free Fair for a period of three (3) years. Other animal(s) will not be moved up in placing.

A designated tester/veterinarian shall be allowed to draw any and all samples deemed appropriate from the animal(s).

All market swine exhibited must come from a Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) certified farm. All market swine exhibitors must have current PQA certification.

All market animals must have a quality assurance certificate on file with the Mecosta County MSU Extension Office annually.

Educational Requirements

Junior Livestock members, who are intending to show and sell a market animal project at the Mecosta County Agricultural Free Fair, are required to fulfill a minimum of one educational requirement each year.

Guidelines for educational requirements are as follows:

Junior Livestock members must complete one of the following (as offered).

- ☐ Do a poster project to be entered at fair about your specific species.
- ☐ Attend a Mecosta County Livestock Educational Clinic.
- ☐ Attend any livestock event/workshop sponsored by Michigan State University, or Michigan State University Extension.
- ☐ Attend PQA Educational Class – members with swine project must successfully complete the class.
- ☐ Successfully complete/pass an Animal Science or Ag Science Class
- ☐ Attend a breed stock or breed association event
- ☐ County 4-H sponsored educational clinics and shows.
- ☐ Attend livestock or jackpot shows beyond the county level.

It is the responsibility of the livestock member to inform the Extension Office when they have completed and met their education requirement, by turning in an Educational Tracking sheet to the Extension Office that has been signed by the member, their parent and their livestock club leader.

Educational tracking sheets are available from the Extension Office. Or, are available on-line at: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/mecosta/4_h_programs

Educational Requirements must be completed and tracking sheets turned in to the Mecosta County MSU Extension Office **by 5 p.m. on the first Friday of June**

Educational Posters are by **5 p.m. on the first Friday of June** and will be viewed by a committee to determine they have met a quality standard. If poster has not met appropriate quality standard, youth will be notified and have 1 week to correct and return the poster. If poster is not corrected, the poster will not count toward an educational requirement.

All educational requirements must be met beyond attendance at regular club meetings.

*Horse events, workshop, clinics and activities do not count towards livestock educational requirements. Educational activities must be livestock centered.

*Failure to meet a livestock educational requirement will result in the 4-H youth member not showing or selling their 4-H livestock projects at the fair.

DAIRY PROJECTS

Dairy Cattle Breed Stock

1. Project members are to keep records for a full year. Records are turned in to their Project Leader.
2. No horns allowed on breed stock cattle.
3. Provide proof of age of cattle shown. Vaccination records, paper, or other legitimate document.
4. Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Advanced members will milk their own cows, during the fair.
5. Brucellosis vaccination for cows after 1 year is recommended.

TB Requirements:

Requirements for all cattle projects:

Animal Identification

All cattle must be identified with official identification (RFID tags) prior to leaving a premises within the Modified Accredited Advanced Zone.

Movement Testing Requirements

- a. Sexually intact cattle 18 months of age or older must meet one of the following:
 - (1) Originate directly from a bovine tuberculosis accredited free herd, OR
 - (2) Be included in a whole herd bovine tuberculosis test at the premises of origin within 6 months prior to movement, OR
 - (3) Receive a negative bovine tuberculosis test within 60 days prior to movement.
- b. Cattle less than 18 months of age, steers and spayed heifers, or cattle moving to slaughter do not need to meet tuberculosis test requirements.
- c. All cattle must be properly identified with an electronic RFID tag.
- d. Record book due July 1st, must do showmanship, record book, and dairy judging to compete to sell milk.

DAIRY FEEDERS

1. The 4-H dairy feeder project is open to all 4-H members ages 9 to 19.
2. Members are required to complete a project record book.
3. Dairy feeders must be castrated, and completely healed by ending weigh-in date. All animals must be free of all testicular tissue and properly healed before exhibition.
4. Dairy feeders must have been selected and officially registered and identified with ear tag by the registration deadline date.
5. The maximum beginning weight for all 4-H feeder calf project animals is 350 pounds. Feeders calves must be weighed in at the April weigh-in and weigh less than 350 pounds. Members will be allowed to show their animals in the appropriate showmanship class. Class weight cannot exceed 950 pounds.
6. All animals must be dehorned prior to entry date at fair. It is recommended at least 6 weeks before fair so that the animal is properly healed. If the animal is not properly healed, they will be sent home.
7. 4-H members intending to sell their dairy feeder project must exhibit animals for confirmation judging and participate in showmanship classes.
8. Dairy feeders will be shown in the same manner as beef steers – with a show stick.
9. All animals must be properly identified with RFID electronic tags.
10. Animals raised and shown as a dairy feeder market project must be of dairy breeding.

DAIRY MARKET STEERS

All beef Market Steer Rules apply, with the following exceptions:

1. **All steers MUST BE weighed in at the December weigh-in prior to fair.**
2. Minimum finished weight – 950 lbs.
3. Animals raised and shown as a dairy market cattle project, must be of dairy cattle breeding.
4. Dairy steers will be shown in the same manner as beef steers – with a show stick.
5. No horns.
6. To sell at the Junior Livestock Auction, all dairy market steer projects must be shown in dairy market showmanship and the appropriate conformation class.
7. 4-H members are limited to one (1) bovine species project to be sold at the Junior Livestock Auction.
8. Castrated animals must be free of all testicular tissue and properly healed before being used for exhibition.
9. All cattle must have electronic RFID tag identification properly secured in their ear.

BEEF CATTLE

Market Beef Steers

- 1. All steers must be weighed in and tagged at December weigh-in prior to Fair.**
2. Steers in this project area must be of a beef breed.
3. All animals must be dehorned prior to entry date at fair. It is recommended at least 6 weeks before fair so that the animal is properly healed.
4. 4-H members are limited to one finished steer project to be sold at the Junior Livestock Auction.
5. Final minimum weight is: 950 lbs.
6. 4-H members in this project are required to complete a project record book.
7. In order to sell their beef project at the Junior Livestock Sale, all market steer exhibitors must show in beef showmanship classes and the appropriate conformation class.
8. All animals must be properly identified with an RFID electronic ear tag.
9. Cattle must be free and clear of all testicular tissue before being exhibited.
10. All fitting chutes must be in a designated area.

Heifers designated and weighed in at the December weigh-in as market projects, can be shown with the steers in the market class. Any steer and heifer shown in the market class may not be used in a breed stock class.

POULTRY

Chicken, Duck, and Turkey Breed Stock and Market Birds.

1. All poultry (except waterfowl) exhibited must have documentation of pullorum typhoid testing.
2. Poultry will be judged by the American Standard of Perfection.
3. Poultry vaccinated for Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) are not allowed at the fair.
4. 4-H members must participate in appropriate poultry showmanship and fitting class in order to sell at the Junior Livestock Auction. **This means an exhibitor must participate in showmanship (in appropriate age division) of the same species as the market project. Market chicken project exhibitors must provide or arrange a standard or Bantam chicken for showmanship with approval from superintendent: market chickens may not be used for showmanship.**
5. **Exhibitors entering any goose for breed stock must compete in duck showmanship.**
6. **Breed stock exhibitors must enter showmanship.**
7. **Exhibitors entering in only the showmanship class must enter a poultry project book in order to place in showmanship. (Exhibitors entering showmanship for a market animal project only need to complete a market record book).**
8. 4-H members intending to sell a **market poultry** project at the Junior Livestock Auction are required to complete a **market** project record book for each project.
9. **Poultry (turkeys, ducks and chickens) must receive an “A” or “B” premium during project judging to sell at the Junior Livestock Auction.**
10. Market Chicken Pen = 3 birds
11. Turkey pen = 1 bird
12. Duck Pen = 2 birds
13. **4-H members are responsible for selecting and obtaining their own market birds. They will not be ordered through the Extension Office. Market Projects should follow these guidelines: Turkeys < 16 weeks old; Ducks < 14**

weeks old: Chickens < 12 weeks old. Proof of hatch date will be required in the market poultry record book

14. Market Poultry not meeting finished weight requirements at weigh-in will be sent home. Minimum weights are as follows:
 - a. **Chickens:** minimum weight of 5lbs per bird.
 - b. **Duck:** minimum weight of 5lbs per bird.
 - c. **Turkey:** minimum weight of 8lbs (Hen), minimum of 10lbs (Tom).

Sheep

Breed Stock

1. All sheep must be in the exhibitor's possession by April registration date of the current program year. If breed stock lambs are born after the weigh-in date, member must register as soon as possible up until May 15th. Projects less than six (6) weeks old are not accepted as fair projects.
2. Sheep are expected to be groomed according to their own breed association standards and guidelines.
3. Exhibitors are expected to maintain and complete project record books.
4. Breed stock must do a project record book.

Market Lamb Project

1. Minimum finished weight – 100 lbs.
2. Market lambs must be officially registered and tagged and weighed in by the April date, as set by the Junior Livestock Association.
3. All lambs must be clean, dry, and **slick sheared** for final weigh in. Animals not meeting these requirements will not be weighed in or shown.
4. Market lambs will be ewes or wethers only.
5. Ewes shown in a market class may not be shown in a breed stock class.
6. All exhibitors must complete a project record book.
7. Lambs will be slick sheared to show. Wet Lambs will be disqualified. Any other tampering will also be disqualified. Exhibitors are expected to treat their lambs in a manner consistent with good animal husbandry and display proper sportsmanship at all times.
8. Four on the floor is expected after set up in the show ring.
9. Any liquid substance that alters the confirmation or enhances the natural appearance of the animal is not permitted. All lambs must be subject to random drug testing and/or veterinarian examination.
10. The direct application of ice, ice water, alcohol, Freon, or any other refrigerant to the hide of a lamb is strictly prohibited. The deceptive fraudulent practice will cause the exhibitor and their animals to be disqualified immediately.

11. Exhibitors must participate in showmanship and market lambs must be shown in the appropriate market conformation class to sell at the Junior Livestock Auction.
12. **All Lambs and goats shown must meet scrapie requirements. ALL TAGS AND TATTOOS MUST BE VISIBLE AT ALL TIMES.**
 - a) All sheep moved within Michigan shall be identified with official USDA scrapie program identification tags prior to movement off the farm.
 - b) Do not remove tags prior to weigh-in or showing. It is illegal to remove official USDA individual animal identification.

For exhibition at the Mecosta County Area Fair:

1. No muzzles are allowed on sheep.
2. Sheep must be kept on some form of bedding. No carpets allowed.
3. Lambs are to be shown with all four feet on the ground or ring surface.
4. Water must be available in pens and present at all times.
5. Humane handling practices of sheep at all times.
6. No liquid feeding of lambs is allowed.
7. No electric clipping or shearing on fairgrounds for breed stock or market will be allowed with the exception of minor leg and head trimming. All trimming must be done in an area designated by sheep superintendent.

Swine

Market Swine

1. All hogs exhibited at the Mecosta County Area Fair will be sent to slaughter, following the Junior Livestock Auction. The Mecosta County Junior Livestock Auction is a terminal sale for ALL swine. Pigs are sold for butchering purposes only. Absolutely no hog can be taken home to a private/commercial farm for breeding or other purposes.
2. Minimum finished weight for market hogs: 220 lbs.
3. Maximum finished weight for market hogs: 320 lbs.
4. Market hogs not meeting the minimum weight or are the maximum weight requirement are allowed to be shown in showmanship classes, not in a conformation class, and they will not be sold at the Junior Livestock Auction. Exhibitors of underweight and overweight hogs, must find a private buyer for their pig, assign trucking information (by one of the designated haulers of their choice) for their pig and provide the Extension Office with that information before Friday of fair week.
5. All market swine exhibitors must complete a project record book.
6. **Market swine exhibitors must show in swine showmanship and in the appropriate conformation class for their hog to sell at the Junior Livestock Auction.**
7. Each 4-H member will register a primary pig. **Each family can have shared alternate animals, not to exceed the 4-H members in that immediate family. Alternate pigs can only be shared by immediate family members.** Pigs must be housed together at the same premises. (Example: 2- 4-H members in a family. Each youth indicates which pig weighed in is his or her primary project animal. They then may have two (2) alternate pigs to use as needed. (MCJL 2004)
8. Clipped or shaved hogs must have a minimum hair length of ½ inch from the ears to the base of the tail. All hogs will be checked for hair length when they leave the scales on Monday of fair week. Once hogs have been weighed in, no further clipping is allowed during fair week. Clipping of market hogs following weigh-in is not allowed. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification of the hog in both showmanship and market classes. Any hog that is found to have its hair clipped shorter than ½ inch will be immediately disqualified from the fair and will be sent on a pre-designated truck to a livestock sale facility following weigh-in.(MCJL 2004)

9. Market hogs must be registered and tagged with Junior Livestock tag and State Mandated tag by spring registration deadline set by the Mecosta County 4-H/FFA Junior Livestock Association. Minimum of one (1) photo with both tags visible are required at registration time.
10. All market hog project members are required to have current PQA – Pork Quality Assurance certification. Members are required to provide a copy of their certification (that includes their certification number) to the Extension Office.
 - a. PQA – youth ages 8 –11 years old are BEGINNERS. They must re-certify annually by attending an approved Youth PQA Education Program. Youth ages 12 –14 years old are INTERMEDIATE, and youth ages 15- 18 years old are ADVANCED. They can certify annually by attending an approved Youth PQA Education Program, or can certify by testing at the appropriate skill level for their age bracket. Once certified by test, the youth is not required to re-certify in Youth PQA until the next age bracket and skill level is reached. Certification by test without taking the PQA Education Class is valid for one year. Youth members 19 years and older, must complete a Producers Level 111 class/certification.

GOATS

Market Goats

All market goats must be in the exhibitor's possession by the April registration date of the current program year.

1. 4-H member must own all wethers or does show in market goat class. No leases valid.
2. Market goats must be selected, tagged, weighed-in and registered before the official deadline set by the Mecosta County 4-H/FFA Junior Livestock Association.
3. A weight of 30lbs or greater is recommended at **Spring weigh-in in April** in order to ensure meeting minimum weight requirements at fair weigh in. Animals do not qualify if they have cut their yearling teeth by the spring registration date.
4. The minimum weight to sell a market goat project at the Mecosta County Junior Livestock Auction is 50lbs. The suggested weight for a finished market goat project is 80 to 90lbs.
5. Any wether or doe shown in the market conformation class may not be shown in breed stock classes.
6. Wethers and/or does shown as a market goat must be a standard/recognized meat goat breed or at 50% of a standard/ recognized meat goat breed.
7. Wethers/does will not be de-wormed any later than 30 days prior to fair and exhibitors are not allowed to feed weight-producing chemicals to their projects at any time.
8. All exhibitors in the market goat class are required to complete a market goat project record book. All exhibitors in goat breedstock classes are required to complete a goat breed stock record book.
9. Exhibitors must participate in appropriate goat showmanship class and conformation classes, complete and turn in appropriate record book to be eligible to sell their market goat project at the Mecosta County Junior Livestock Auction.
10. Market goats must be dehorned/disbudded prior to Spring weigh-in and registration in April. Horns must be under 1 inch and males must be castrated at time of fair check in. The Superintendent will address scurs on a case by case basis.

11. Exhibitors are expected to wear a clean western or collared shirt, tucked in, with a belt, clean jeans, and appropriate foot wear.
12. Market Goats must be body shaved/clipped prior to fair check-in. Three to seven days prior is preferred.
13. All goats shown must meet scrapie requirements.
14. Animals must be checked-in by species superintendent PRIOR to being placed in stalls. All goats must have visible scrapies identification and free from lumps, disease or parasites before loading and being penned at fair.

Breed Stock Goats:

1. All exhibitors in goat breed stock classes are required to complete a goat breed stock record book. Record books are required to be turned in by the deadline.
2. Exhibitors are expected to wear a clean western or collared shirt, tucked in, with a belt, clean jeans, and appropriate foot wear. Dairy goat breed stock exhibitors may also wear the tradition white shirt, black pants, belt, and appropriate foot wear if they choose.
3. No animal may be entered in more than one department, section, class or division.
4. Any whether or doe shown in the market confirmation classes may not be shown in breed stock classes.
5. Exhibitors are expected to groom animals according to their breed standards.
6. Animals must be checked-in by species superintendent PRIOR to being places in stalls. All goats must have visible scrapies identification and free from lumps, diseases, or parasites before unloading and being penned at fair.
7. All goats shown must meet scrapie requirements.

Scrapie

All lambs and goats shown must meet scrapie requirements. All tags and tattoos must be visible at all times!

- a. All goats moved within Michigan shall be identified with official USDA scrapie program identification tags/tattoos prior to movement off the farm.
- b. Do not remove tags or tattoos prior to weigh-in or showing. It is illegal to remove official USDA individual animal identification.

Rabbits/Cavy

For complete rules and guidelines refer to the Mecosta County Rabbit/Cavy Project Handbook.

General Rules for Exhibiting:

1. The project must be in the 4-H member's care by April 1st of the project year.
2. Rabbits/Cavy and record books need to be checked in by 8:00 p.m. on Sunday of fair week.
3. A left ear tattoo is required for all rabbits. A left ear ID tag is required for all cavy. No tattoo/ID tag, no exhibit.
4. If requested a rabbit/cavy pedigree is to be presented for examination.
5. Control sheets are due two weeks prior to fair to the Extension Office.
6. Each exhibitor is responsible for feeding, watering & cleaning used pens daily.
7. No plastic or paper products may be used for feeding or watering.
8. Exhibitors will be limited to a total of 8 rabbits.
9. Exhibits may be shown in any class desired, but can only be shown once.
10. There will be no breeding of animals on fair grounds.
11. Project records must be kept as follows:
Repeat rabbits/cavy from fair to fair
New rabbits/cavy from date of acquisition to fair
12. Exhibitor must participate in Rabbit/Cavy Showmanship in order to show a rabbit/cavy in a breed class or market class.
13. Superintendent must be informed of the number of cages needed by June 1st.
14. All participants are expected to assist with the set up and cleaning of the Rabbit/Poultry Barn and the cleanup following fair – dates are announced annually by the Superintendents.
15. Superintendents are to check in all rabbits/cavy. All animals are to be healthy and disease free. Any animal showing signs of illness will be sent home and no replacement will be allowed.

Market Rabbit Project

It is the 4-H member's responsibility to get with the buyer to determine if and when rabbits are to be butchered. All butchering and processing is the responsibility of the 4-H members – **NOT THE BUYER** and should be done in a timely fashion.

Thank you letters are to be sent within two weeks of the fair.

"B" ratings will be given if:

- a. pictures are not in by deadline
- b. rabbits are over 5 ½ lbs. (ARBA minimum will not be followed)
- c. so deemed by judge day of show

To sell at the Junior Livestock Auction exhibitor must:

- a. Receive "A" or "B" rating
- b. Be present to sell
- c. Meet Junior Livestock Educational Requirement

Fryer Project (One rabbit)

1. Fryer projects must be registered in the Extension Office by designated date set by Rabbit Superintendent with a two week picture. Six week pictures are due by the two week prior to fair deadline. Both two and six week pictures are to include the exhibitor and litter.
2. Minimum of 3lbs and may not weigh over 5 ½ lbs. Rabbits cannot be over 70 days (10 weeks) old. Mixed breeds are allowed but may be penalized per judge's discretion. Record books must be kept on all litters, and are due by 8p.m. in the beginning Sunday on Fair week. To sell at the Junior Livestock Auction the meat pen must receive an "A" or "B" rating, and exhibitors must meet Junior Livestock Educational Requirements.

Market Meat Pen Project

1. Meat pen rabbits must be registered in the MSU Extension Office by deadline set by Rabbit Superintendent with a 2-week picture. Six weeks pictures are due by two weeks prior to fair deadline. Both 2 and 6 week pictures are to include the exhibitor and litter.
2. A meat pen, consists of 3 rabbits of the same breed and variety. Rabbits may not weigh over 5 ½ lbs and cannot be over 70 days (10 weeks) old. Mixed breeds are not allowed but may be penalized per judge's discretion. Record books must be kept on all litters, and are due by 8:00 p.m. on the beginning Sunday of fair week. To sell at the Junior Livestock Auction, the meat pen must receive an "A" or "B" rating, and exhibitors must meet Junior Livestock Educational requirements.
3. You may show both the single and the meat pen rabbit projects, but may only sell one market rabbit project at the Junior Livestock Sale.
4. Market pen will be sold by combined weight of all three (3) rabbits, not the average weight.

Showmanship Sweepstakes

The Mecosta County 4-H/FFA Junior Livestock Association and Chippewa Hills FFA Chapter sponsor the Showmanship Sweepstakes Award.

1. The Showmanship Sweepstakes Competition takes places on Friday evening of fair week.
2. The top two (2) showmanship winners from each species area are eligible to compete.
3. Participants may show an animal from each of the showmanship species projects:

Ducks, Dairy Breedstock, Dairy Market, Dairy Feeders, Beef, Sheep, Swine, Poultry, Horses, Rabbits, Cavy, Llamas, Turkeys and Goats.

4. If one of the top two showmen decline the invitation to participate, or is not available, the honorable mention will be invited to participate. **If the honorable mention declines, that spot will not be filled.**
5. Participants will be allowed a “by” in the species that they won showmanship in. If a youth has won in more than one species, then they must notify their superintendent of their participation in showmanship sweepstakes and what their “by” will be no later than 6 p.m. on the day of the members last show they have won in.
6. A person is no longer eligible for Showmanship Sweepstakes once they have won Grand Champion Sweepstakes Showman.
7. The Grand Champion Sweepstakes Showman will receive a carhartt jacket/or jacket of their choice. It is the responsibility of the winner to purchase their jacket of their choice and turn in the receipt to Junior Livestock for reimbursement. They must also turn in their jacket to the 4-H Program Coordinator so that it can be sent out for the embroidery work to be completed. The maximum amount allowed for coat and embroidery is \$200.
8. The Reserve Champion Showmanship Sweepstakes winner will receive an embroidered sweatshirt.
9. The trophies received for winning sweepstakes are rotating trophies and must be returned to the MSU Extension Office by June 1st of the following year.

Procedures for Rules and Regulations for the Mecosta County 4-H Junior Livestock Association

To maintain orderly meetings and establishment of rules and regulations that meet the educational and developmental needs of all the youth involved in livestock projects within Mecosta County the Mecosta County Michigan State University Extension Office **MANDATES** the following policy:

This committee will then make recommendations for rule and/or policy changes regarding livestock projects. These recommendations will be brought before the Mecosta County 4-H Junior Livestock Bylaws Committee at their **meeting in October** for discussion. The proposed changes will then be published and emailed out to the Mecosta County 4-H members, and available on the Mecosta County MSU Extension web-page under 4-H Livestock.

At the Mecosta County 4-H Junior Livestock meeting in **November**, the proposed changes will be put to a club vote. All changes will then stand in place and supersedes any other policies for the duration of the project year – unless a change is required to comply with MDA or Michigan State University 4-H Youth Development Program guidelines.

Mecosta County 4-H/FFA Junior Livestock Association By-Laws

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization is the Mecosta County 4-H/FFA Junior Livestock Association

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Junior Livestock Association is to advise and assist the MSU Extension 4-H Youth Staff in planning and conducting educational programs for 4-H youth in livestock projects.

To conduct business required to prepare 4-H members involved in 4-H livestock projects for participation in the Mecosta County Agricultural Free Fair.

Enforce the rules and regulations and teach responsibility and sportsmanship for the 4-H livestock program as stated in the Mecosta County 4-H Livestock handbook.

ARTICLE III

FUNDING

4-H participants in market livestock projects will contribute 4% of their gross sale towards the educational events and activities that are necessary to maintain the livestock program.

All market animals weighed in at the fair but not going through the sale arena FOR ANY REASON must still pay for their ear tag, photo and 4% of commission of posted market weight. You must pay a minimum of \$10, maximum of \$100. This needs to be paid to the Junior Livestock Association within 30 days after fair. If still outstanding by registration of the following 4-H deadline, you may not participate in that year's fair until the outstanding bill is paid. Ear tags will be purchased at designated beginning weigh ins.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Michigan State University Extension Programs are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status or family status.

All youth members who are registered in a livestock project area in the Mecosta County 4-H Youth Development Program, and are members in good standing are considered to be members of the Mecosta County Junior Livestock Association.

Ex-Officio Membership – (non-voting), Michigan State University Extension staff, parents, livestock superintendents, livestock leaders and others interested in the advancement of youth in agriculture related projects shall be Ex-Officio members.

Livestock members must be properly signed up and registered in 4-H by January 1st of the current program year to be eligible to participate in Mecosta County 4-H events and activities and to compete at fair in 4-H classes.

The minimum requirement for a 4-H club is five (5) youth members, from at least two (2) separate families. The clubs must hold at least six (6) meetings per years for a project to be considered complete. (*Michigan 4-H Youth Development*)

ARTCILE V

VOTING

Eligibility: Registered 4-H and FFA members who are members in good standing and who are actively participating in the Mecosta County 4-H livestock program.

Club Representative: One youth representative from each registered 4-H livestock club may serve on the livestock association board. It is the determination of each individual club to appoint or elect a club representative. Club representatives will act as a liaison officer to and from the clubs and the livestock association. Club representatives will cast/hold the voting privilege for their livestock club. Voting procedure is one (1) vote per club present. A minimum of one third the total number of livestock clubs registered in the county must be present to constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board of the Mecosta County 4-H/FFA Livestock Association shall consist of the following: Four elected officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the club representatives in August. Elected officers shall take office September 1st.

Vacancies on the Board shall be filled by appointment from within the membership.

Officers missing two or more consecutive meetings shall be removed from office, and the office will be filled from within the youth membership.

Only youth members may hold the position of any office.

Mecosta County MSU Extension 4-H Youth Staff and the FFA Teacher and one adult advisor will serve as the advisors of the Executive Board.

All officers and members at all meetings will use Parliamentary Procedure.

The Officers for the Junior Livestock Association will be elected yearly to the following offices: President, Vice President, and Secretary. The Treasurer's position is a two-year term. If an officer fails to attend two (2) meetings in a row without explanation, nominations for that office will be held and another person will be elected into that vacant office. (MCJL 2004)

ARTICLE VII

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Attend and chair all livestock association and executive board meetings. Vote only in the event of a tie vote on any issue. Assist on committees.

Vice-President: Attend all livestock association meetings and executive board meetings. Be available to chair meetings in the case of unavailability of the President. Assist on committees.

Treasurer: Attend all livestock association and executive board meetings. Give an up-to-date financial report at all meetings. Work with the Extension staff each month to prepare financial reports, pay bills. Be available following livestock sale to prepare market animal checks. This is a two-year position.

Secretary: Attend all livestock association meetings and executive board meetings. Take a roll call by 4-H club at each association meetings. Read past minutes if needed. Record meeting minutes from all meetings (scheduled livestock association meetings and executive board meetings). Type and prepare meeting minutes within two weeks following any meeting to be turned into the Extension Office. Prepare livestock correspondence as deemed necessary.

ARTICLE VIII

MEETINGS

Meetings will be held approximately every other month, or as needed. A yearly schedule of meetings will typically follow the schedule of August, September, November, January, March, May, and June. Future meeting dates will be announced at each Junior Livestock meeting. (MCJL 2004)

All people present at Junior Livestock Association meetings will maintain self control and demonstrate proper behavior at all times. Those not complying with this rule will be asked to leave the meetings.

ARTICLE IX

COMMITTEES

Committees will be formed as necessary to address planning and projects such as: Buyer's Banquet, Education, Awards, and Trophy Sponsors, Bylaws, Auction, etc