

Mecosta County 4-H Junior Livestock Association By-Laws

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization is the Mecosta County 4-H 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 Junior Livestock Handbook.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

All youth members who are registered in a livestock project area in the Mecosta County 4-H Youth Development Program and Mecosta County FFA members 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 by Ex-Officio members.

ARTICLE IV

VOTING

Eligibility: Registered 4-H 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.

Mecosta County FFA will also have 1 representative vote for any members independent of 4-H.

ARTICLE V

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

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

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.

Vacancies on the Board shall be filled by appointment from within the 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. Adult advisor will be appointed by the executive board and remain in position until removed by executive board or resigns.

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

ARTICLE VI

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

All Executive Board Members will attend all livestock association meetings and executive board meetings. The executive board will meet 1 hour prior to each meeting to review agenda, make additions, and finalize any details for meeting. The executive board has the authority to make decisions on high priority items that have deadlines before the next meeting.

President: Attend and chair all livestock association and executive board meetings. Vote only to make or break a tie. Assist on committees.

Vice-President: Be available to chair meetings in the case of unavailability of the President. Help plan and execute educational opportunities. Assist on committees.

Treasurer: Give an up-to-date financial report at all meetings. Work with the Extension staff each month to prepare financial reports.

Secretary: 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 VII

MEETINGS

A yearly schedule of meetings will on the third Monday of August, September, November, January, March, May, and June at 7 p.m. and will last no longer than 90 minutes. Future meeting dates will be announced at each Junior Livestock meeting. Meetings will cover upcoming events and deadlines, information related to livestock projects, and any decisions that need to be made regarding livestock species.

All individuals attending a Junior Livestock Association meetings will maintain self-control and demonstrate proper behavior at all times and abide by the 4-H youth and volunteer code of conduct. Those not complying with this rule will be asked to leave the meetings.

ARTICLE VIII

COMMITTEES

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

ARTICLE IX

DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of this organization, all remaining funds and property will be turned over to the county MSU Extension office. Any decision passed in conflict with the policies or practices of the county 4-H program or MSU Extension may be vetoed by the MSU Extension 4-H Staff.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS

These bylaws may be amended by proposal at a regular or Executive Committee Junior Livestock Association meeting and passed by a majority vote of the total membership. Such proposals must be read at the previous meeting.