

## UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO 4-H MARKET ANIMAL PROJECT POLICY

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### 4-H Market Livestock Program Mission Statement.

The mission of 4-H is to help youth acquire knowledge, develop life skills, and form attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society through the real life experience of market animal production.

### The Objectives of 4-H Market Animal Projects are to:

- Practice citizenship and leadership skills.
- Develop integrity and sportsmanship, goal setting, decision-making, and public speaking skills.
- Demonstrate a knowledge of and ability to practice sound husbandry in selection, feeding, marketing, and management of livestock as employed in the industry.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the consumer aspects of the industry.
- Explore career, job, and leisure opportunities.

### 4-H Code of Conduct for Program Participants, Including Leaders and Parents.

- Participants will conduct themselves in a courteous, respectful manner, exhibit good sportsmanship, and provide positive role models for other youth.
- Participants will respect, adhere to, and enforce the Idaho 4-H rules, policies, and guidelines.
- Participants will sign and follow the “*Idaho Youth Livestock Program Commitment to Excellence.*”

### 4-H Market Animal Project Policy.

- (1) University of Idaho 4-H Market Animal Projects terminate when all of the following conditions have been met:
- (1) The animal project has been exhibited/evaluated at a county approved show/exhibition.
  - (2) The project record book has been submitted for evaluation and approved as completed during such time as prescribed by the local County Extension Office.
  - (3) All other State, District, or County project requirements have been met.
  - (4) A formal change of animal ownership occurs, such as selling the animal in a youth market project sale. For example, a 4-H project animal sold through a county market animal project sale (or other sale) cannot be returned to the 4-H member (seller) and continue as a 4-H project animal in the current 4-H year.
- (2) 4-H members participating in the 4-H market animal projects must have proof of ownership (Brand inspection for beef, bill of sale on sheep and swine). Ownership of the project

animal includes personal possession and responsibility as primary caretaker of the animal. The minimum period of time for recommended ownership and length of feeding periods for animal fed and exhibited at a 4-H sanctioned event:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Ownership</u>	<u>Feed Period</u>
4-H Market Lamb	70 days	60+/-5 days
4-H Market Hog	100 days	90+/-10 days
4-H Market Beef	150 days	140+/-10 days

- (3) To maintain and enhance the integrity of the 4-H Market Animal Project(s), the Meat Animal Curriculum Committee, 4-H State Advisory Committee, and the Idaho State 4-H Office regard all 4-H sanctioned Market Animal Sales using the 4-H name and emblem as terminal. Only members in “good standing”, (meeting all state, district, and county meat animal project requirements) are eligible to sell an animal in a 4-H sanctioned sale.
- (4) Evaluation of youth development skills particular to the 4-H Meat Animal Project (for example; showmanship contests, demonstrations, and project record book evaluation) should be accomplished by *ability of age or grade group*, as indicated by standard 4-H policy. In addition, competitive classes should be sized to provide every child the opportunity to compete effectively and adequately demonstrate his/her skills without threat to the well-being of the individual or the project animal.
- (5) Policy regarding exhibiting and evaluation of 4-H Meat Animal Project animals at 4-H sanctioned shows/exhibitions:

**Quality Assurance and Animal Welfare**

- Drug Abuse.** No illegal drug, off label use of drugs (uses other than specifically allowed on the drug label), or other use of artificial means to alter the physical composition, appearance, or disposition of a project animal is permitted. Violators will be disqualified immediately from the 4-H Meat Animal Program, will be barred from all future participation, and will be subject to any and all relevant criminal prosecution.
- Physical Abuse.** No physical abuse of project animals is permitted in any public or private setting. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to, surgical or other physical alteration of animal appearance or practices resulting in bruising or injury. It also includes practices resulting in inordinate levels of *shrink, fill, or animal stress* other than routine management in accordance with acceptable industry animal husbandry practices, such as including appropriate amounts and methods of exercise and training. Violators will be disqualified immediately from the 4-H Meat Animal Program, will be barred from all future participation, and will be subject to any/all relevant criminal prosecution.
- Animal Health.** Animals exhibiting symptoms of disease or other medical conditions or abnormal conditions including significant unthriftiness or neglect, are not eligible for entry or exhibition in a 4-H sanctioned Meat Animal Program event.

### **Housing and Showring Protocol For County Sanctioned 4-H Meat Animal Projects.**

- ☑ Project animals should be exhibited and housed in facilities and under specific guidelines that do not endanger the showman or the animal.
- ☑ Showring facilities must be provided that are consistent with industry standards for animal care and welfare with safe and sufficient space to afford members an opportunity to properly display their animals for evaluation.
- ☑ Classes for showmanship and quality evaluation should be grouped by age/ability of exhibitor for showmanship and by animal weight for quality classes.

### **Preparing 4-H Meat Animal Projects for Exhibition.**

- ☑ Preparation of 4-H Meat Animals for exhibition or show (fitting) should be conducted in a manner to enhance the general appearance of the project animal, but not to purposely teach or create deception.
- ☑ Youth in the 4-H Meat Animal Project are responsible for preparing his/her own animal for exhibition, but may receive necessary limited assistance from other youth, leaders, or parents representing the County 4-H Youth Organization.

Discretion should be applied to the observance of these policies in order to avoid hardship on individual members while maintaining the intent to properly reward individual effort and achievement and to avoid unfair advantage or a perception of an unfair advantage.

### **Project Evaluation.**

Market animal project achievement evaluations should reflect each member's goal achievement as well as knowledge of and ability to apply selection, feeding, and standard management practices employed in the industry. This can best be accomplished through use of production information (e.g. growth rate), ultrasound technology, and/or objective individual animal evaluation. Records should be utilized as appropriate to evaluate previously established goals.

### **Breeding Projects.**

Breeding animal projects should be conducted in a manner that is supportive of and complimentary to the market livestock program policy.

The University of Idaho 4-H Market Animal Project Policy Statement is approved and recommended by the Meat Animal Curriculum Committee and approved by the State 4-H Office. Clarification or assistance is available from the Meat Animal Curriculum Committee. All grievance procedures related to the 4-H Market Animal Projects will follow procedures outlined in the Idaho 4-H Policies and Procedures (91605).

## IDAHO YOUTH LIVESTOCK PROGRAM COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

- I believe that participation in the Idaho Youth Livestock Program should demonstrate my own knowledge, ability, and skill as a feeder and exhibitor of livestock.*
  
- I will do my own work to the full extent of which I am capable and otherwise will only accept advice and support from others.*
  
- I will not use abusive, fraudulent, illegal, deceptive, or questionable practices in the feeding, fitting, and showing of my animal(s), nor will I allow my parents, my supervisor, or any other individual to employ such practices with my animal(s).*
  
- I will read, understand, and follow the rules, without exception, of all livestock shows in which I am a participant and ask that my parents and the supervisor of my project do the same,*
  
- I wish for my livestock project to be an example of how to accept what life has to offer, both good and bad, and how to live with the outcome.*
  
- I realize that I am responsible for:  
    the proper care and safe humane treatment of my animals,  
    the production of a high quality, safe, and wholesome food,  
    demonstrating strong moral character as an example to others.*
  
- I consent to having my animal(s) subjected to drug testing.*

\_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitor

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Project Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

Completed signatures certify that the exhibitor is eligible to participate fully in the youth livestock program in \_\_\_\_\_ County.