

# 4-H & FFA RULES

**Parents and Leaders:** Youth should do their own project whenever safe and practical. The Mesa County Executive Fair Board (MCEFB) recognizes that adult leaders and parents are expected to TEACH the child skills of their project, and in some cases, demonstrations on the project as deemed necessary. Adults must ask themselves, "Am I showing the child, telling the child or doing the project work for the child?" Remember that each child who does not do his/her own work is the child that is cheated out of the experience.

## **GENERAL RULES—These rules apply to Livestock and Indoor Project Areas**

### A. **AGE**

#### **ELIGIBILITY AND AGE DIVISIONS:**

Mesa County 4-H and FFA members ages 8-18 (age prior to January 1 of the current year) are eligible to enter. Enrollment deadline for 4-H is May 1 of the current year. **YOU MUST BE ENROLLED BY THIS DATE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MESA COUNTY FAIR.** Ages of 4-H and FFA member exhibitors will be determined as of January 1 of the current year. *JUNIORS* are members 8 to 10 years of age. *INTERMEDIATES* are members 11 to 13 years of age. *SENIORS* are members 14 years of age and older.

Junior Market and Breeding Animal Classes: Exhibitors must be enrolled in 4-H or FFA, and who are 8 to 18 years of age for 4-H and 13 to 22 years of age for FFA as of January 1 of the current year. **4-H and FFA exhibitors must be enrolled in the project in which they are exhibiting.** It is your responsibility to ensure you are enrolled in the appropriate project. Entry forms must be signed by a Vocational Agriculture Instructor, OR a project leader (whichever applies), and a parent or guardian to certify the entry is a bona fide project of the exhibitor's 4-H or FFA program. **The project leader MUST be enrolled as a leader in that project to sign the form.**

- B. **CLOVERBUDS:** In accordance with the Colorado State 4-H policy, 4-H members between the ages of 5 and 7, as of January 1 of the current 4-H year, are known as primary 4-H members and may not exhibit or sell 4-H livestock projects. This includes, but is not limited to: cattle, goats, sheep, horses, llamas, rabbits and/or swine. All Cloverbud members are encouraged to participate in a display.
- C. **PRE-ENTRY:** Pre-entry of all projects must be in the CSU Extension office by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m. Entries not received by that date will be ineligible for the fair.
- D. **PREVIOUS YEAR RECORD BOOK:** Participants in both 4-H and FFA programs, in livestock, horse, dog, cat, small animal and Shooting Sports projects, must have completed record books from the previous year to be eligible for that same project this year. Failure to complete and turn in a 4-H Project Record Book disqualifies the exhibitor from entering 4-H/FFA and Open Mesa County Fair Divisions. A completed record book is defined as 70% complete.
- E. **JUDGING:** Only classes listed in the Exhibitor's Guide will be judged unless the judge and the superintendent divide or combine classes to facilitate judging. All exhibits will be placed according to their own merits, which is determined at the discretion of the official judge. Livestock will be judged on the American System. In all other categories, judging will be based on Danish and American Systems.
- F. **PREMIUM-AWARDS:** Entries awarded Champion and Reserve Champion will receive ribbons, while entries awarded Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion will receive Rosettes.
- G. **CHECK-OUT and CLEAN UP:** Check-out time for **all non-sale Swine** will be Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8:00 p.m. Check-out time for **all non-sale Market Animals** will be Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Check-out for 4-H and FFA Exhibit Hall is 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. Exhibitors with indoor projects must check their project out of the exhibit hall with the C Building or project superintendents. Any exhibitor removing exhibits prior to check-out will forfeit all premiums and awards. Horse exhibitors' stalls must be cleaned by 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. Clean up and take down of pens and exhibit areas will be at 9:00 a.m., Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. **ALL EXHIBITORS ARE REQUESTED TO BE PRESENT.** All stalls must be cleaned by 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.
- H. **DECISIONS:** The Mesa County Fair Show Management and Mesa County Executive Fair Board (MCEFB) reserve the final and absolute right to interpret the rules and regulations and to arbitrarily settle questions and differences.

I. **GRIEVANCES AND PROTESTS**  
**LIVESTOCK**

Show Management is responsible for enforcing the rules and is not required to consult with any other person before rendering a decision on an issue.

1. All protests must first be filed in writing with the project superintendent within 8 hours of the alleged violation.
2. If the situation is not satisfactorily dealt with, a written appeal may be submitted to the Barn Superintendent who will present the appeal to the Rules Committee.
3. The Rules Committee will issue a written statement no later than 8 hours prior to the sale addressing the issue. It will be presented to the involved parties by one member who has been chosen as the spokesperson of the Rules Committee.
4. If there still is no satisfaction, the situation can then be appealed by filing a grievance. An individual must file to the President of the Mesa County Executive Fair Board (MCEFB) within 8 hours of the Rules Committee's decision, a written and signed protest stating their grievance.
  - a. The grievance must state plainly the cause of the complaint or protest.
  - b. The grievance must be accompanied by a \$100 deposit, cash or certified check, which will be forfeited if the grievance is not sustained. The full deposit will be refunded if the grievance is sustained.
  - c. Upon receipt of a properly presented grievance, the President will appoint a committee of three (3) disinterested persons to review the grievance and render a decision, within 8 hours, which will be final. The alleged disqualified animal may remain on the fairgrounds during the process time.

If it is decided there has been a violation, ALL awards earned in the project area in question will be forfeited and the animal/project will be removed from the fairgrounds immediately. The project member will be restricted from participating in that project and other related events during the current Mesa County Fair. Neither a member of the Rules Committee, Mesa County Executive Fair Board, or leader/member of the Mesa County 4-H/FFA programs, or the CSU Extension Agency will be held liable for any decision or penalty invoked as a result of the grievance. All decisions of the Grievance Committee are final and not appealable.

**INDOOR 4-H PROJECTS**

Grievances and protests concerning indoor 4-H projects should be referred to the Overall Indoor Superintendents who will follow the procedures as outlined above.

J. **CONDUCT:** Each division official will expect courteous and orderly conduct by the exhibitors and their attendants. The Mesa County Executive Fair Board (MCEFB) shall reserve the right to vacate, mark ineligible for competition and order the removal of any individual or party which violates these rules of conduct.

K. **DRESS CODE:** The Colorado State 4-H Dress Code will be enforced throughout the entire week of The Mesa County Fair. Fruita FFA Chapter members follow school dress code as listed in the student handbook for all activities. These are very similar to the Colorado 4-H Dress Code Rules.

**Colorado State 4-H Dress Code**

- \* Clothes are clean and in good repair, free of holes, tears, and slashes.
- \* Clothes are free from violent or drug related material, or anything that alludes to violations of the Code of Conduct.
- \* Cover-Ups are worn with swimsuits when not participating in water activities or sunbathing. Swimsuits will provide good coverage; no string bikinis or extremely revealing suits will be allowed.
- \* Shorts will be mid-thigh length. No cut off shorts.
- \* All items designated as underwear are kept under cover.
- \* No halter tops or tops that expose undergarments or the abdomen.
- \* No midriffs showing.
- \* No pants or shorts that expose undergarments or the abdomen.
- \* No spaghetti straps on shirts or dresses, with exception of formal attire.
- \* No see through garments or muscle shirts.
- \* Hats need to be removed for meetings, workshops, meals, and other times when asked to remove them.
- \* Shoes must be worn at all times.
- \* During all Horse, Livestock and Small Animal shows and sale, FFA members may wear their official dress, including jackets, if they so choose. However, if competing in Round Robin, they must follow Round Robin rules for dress. **Members competing in the horse project should be aware that wearing official dress may hinder their score in competition because of Colorado State 4-H show dress guidelines and judges preferences.**

L. **SPECIAL NOTE:** Absolutely **NO** ATVs allowed on fairgrounds.

**LIVESTOCK RULES**

A. **ANIMAL HEALTH AND SAFETY:** All livestock must meet Colorado import requirements and Federal Interstate

requirements. Any animal found showing evidence of infectious, contagious or communicable disease or any animal deemed to present a danger to the health, safety or welfare of the participants or spectators by the Project Superintendent will be immediately withdrawn from the show and the owner will take the animal home. Animals which are aesthetically displeasing to the general public will be sent home. Any livestock deemed un-controllable by show management (superintendents, leader, Extension Agent/FFA Advisor, & Judge) shall be withdrawn and taken home. Animals that are febrile will be evaluated for heat stress. Animals are to be castrated, with the castration site clearly healed prior to tagging. All animals with retained testicles will be sent home. Male beef, sheep, goats and swine having one or both testicles retained in or outside of the body cavity are not eligible for showing in market classes. All pro-lapses will be sent home.

All market heifers must be accompanied by a health certificate, issued by a licensed veterinarian, verifying a pregnancy test was **OPEN**, within 30 days of fair.

- B. **HERDSMAN:** A Herdsman Award will be given in the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Divisions of each animal category. Individuals will be chosen for animal care, care of pens and alleyways, feed, supplies, and tack placements when not in use and assistance to leaders and superintendents in pen assignments, set-ups, and clean-ups.
- C. **BARN LIGHTS:** Livestock barn lights will be turned off at 11:00 p.m.
- D. **BARN RULES:** All stall users must check in with the Barn Superintendent for assignment of stalls **PRIOR TO UNLOADING OF ANIMALS**. A **\$50.00 per stall refundable cleaning deposit is mandatory at time of pre-entry for Beef and Horse**. A **\$5.00 per member non-refundable pen fee is mandatory at time of pre-entry for Sheep, Swine, and Goats**.

#### **INDOOR EXHIBIT RULES (Also see special Clothing Construction and Creative Clothing rules on page 54)**

- A. **INTERVIEW JUDGING:** All 4-H General and Home Economic projects will be interview judged. Interviews are not mandatory but are highly encouraged. If a member is unable to attend the interview judging day, they must notify the Extension Office when they pre-enter their projects on June 30, 2009.
- B. **CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:** Judging of the divisions will be closed to the public.
- C. **RECORD BOOKS:** Record Books must accompany all projects. It is recommended that record books be displayed in a folder or clear plastic portfolio. Members are allowed to decorate their record books within reason. However, the record book will be judged on content and merit only. 4-H e-records may be completed by pencil, ink or computer. The choice will not affect judging. Visit [www.4h.colostate.edu](http://www.4h.colostate.edu).
- D. **MULTIPLE PROJECTS:** Members who are enrolled in different years of work in the same project are permitted to exhibit in only the most advanced year's work. The exceptions to the rule are Foods (Core Specialty), Garden, Wildlife, Decorate Your Duds and Leathercraft. If a unit is being repeated, skill progress must be demonstrated in the project story.  
Two exhibits are allowed in the following areas: Electric, Electronics, Model Rocketry, and Woodworking.
- F. **STATE FAIR:** The first place exhibit in each class is eligible to exhibit at the State Fair, unless otherwise stated. All State Fair 4-H Indoor Exhibits must be entered in the 4-H office either during the County Fair or immediately following the County Fair. It is the exhibitors' responsibility to meet any deadlines. Assistance may be needed from the exhibitor to transport large exhibits to the State Fair.
- G. **MERIT:** When there is no competition, the exhibit shall be judged on its own merit at the discretion of the official judge. The exhibits must merit the award.  
Projects must fit into a project area and be judged accordingly; if not, project will be judged where superintendent deems appropriate.
- H. **OTHER:** Perishable exhibits (in bad shape) should be replaced by the exhibitor during the fair. If they are not replaced, they will be discarded and the ribbon will be left on display.  
All exhibits will be judged according to rules and guidelines listed in the 2009 Colorado State 4-H Syllabus.  
All judges' decisions are final.