

4-H LIVESTOCK PROJECTS: A MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Take care of your animal
 - Feed, house, and handle it properly
 - Treat it humanely. Be conscious of it's comfort and needs
 - Observe it carefully and be able to tell when it is ill or in distress
2. Carry out your project responsibilities
 - Feed and care for your animal yourself, regularly (don't expect Mom, Dad or your little brother to do all the work)
 - Plan to pay all your project expenses. If you borrowed money to buy your animal, arrange to pay it back after you sell it (even to your parents)
 - Keep your 4-H records up to date to keep track of your progress and your animal's progress
3. Be a good neighbor
 - Keep manure and wet straw cleaned up. Practice good fly control.
 - Keep corrals and pens clean and neat
 - Keep the dust and noise down
 - If you have neighbors who might object to your keeping an animal, visit them to introduce yourself and tell them about your 4-H project.
4. Learn something from your project, don't just pour feed and water into it and hope that it will make weight.
 - Read and study about breeds and management
 - Attend project meetings
 - Plan, prepare, and present a demonstration
 - Use your animal as the subject for a science project at school
 - Talk to older members, breeders, leaders, judges, etc.
5. Have fun with your animal.
 - Get to know your animal; give it a name
 - Talk to other members; share experiences
 - Take pictures
 - Exhibit at a fair
6. Your responsibilities at the fair.
 - You and your animal should be clean and well-groomed
 - Keep pens, alleys and equipment clean
 - Be courteous to everyone, especially the visiting public. Help your fellow members
 - Do your own work
 - If you plan to sell a market animal, invite people to come and watch the Junior Livestock Auction or Rate of Gain Sale
 - Show your own animal in the sales ring
 - Be neat and clean and groom your animal
 - Care for your animal after the sale
 - Thank your buyer in person and by letter
7. If you take a market animal project and like it, plan to feed more than one animal next year, or get started in a breeding project
8. Take other 4-H projects that will compliment your livestock project such as: animal science or veterinary science, electricity or woodworking, entomology, marketing, photography, field crops, self-determined study, or junior leadership.