



**Liberty Hill FFA Livestock
Projects Handbook
&
Liberty Hill FFA Show
Team Rules**

Top 5 Most Important Things You Need to Know if You are Showing a Livestock Animal

1. Read the rules for the show you are buying an animal for.
2. Select and purchase a quality animal.
3. Feed consistently.
4. Always offer free choice, clean, cool water.
5. Have fun, learn, and make as many friends as you can.

Selecting a Livestock Project

The agriculture teacher's role is advisory only. The selection and purchase of the project is a cooperative effort. The teacher will not dictate what to buy, how much to spend or from whom the purchase is to be made. The selection should however be coordinated with the teacher before the animal is purchased. The teacher wants to make sure you are purchasing the best animal for the price you are about to pay.

Expenses Incurred

The student and parent are responsible for the initial cost of the animal. Prices for all species vary widely. It is recommended that a parent be present when the actual selection and purchase is made. Any other expenses for the purchase of the animals must be paid by the parent. The parents will also be responsible for any expenses incurred by their child while feeding and caring for the animal during the school year.

Ownership

No animal may be owned by one person and fed by another. Each student must feed and care for his/her own respective animal. Animals may be validated and registered for stock shows under more than one child's name in the same family so that a sibling may show the animal in case of an injury or illness. The teacher should be notified of any special arrangements where students are taking turns in feeding and caring for their animals. Normally this type of arrangement will be discouraged.

Validation

Validation is the identification & registration ID of an animal that is to be shown in Texas. In order to show at any county or major shows, your animal must be validated and registered with the county extension office. Validation tags may need to be ordered in the summer months. Contact the ag science teachers for information on validation tags and dates. Students and parents or legal guardians must be present with their animals at validation for signature purposes. There is a charge for the tags and the tattoo ink. The charge is established by the county livestock validation committee and is subject to change each year. The cost will be per entry. Requirements and validation dates for each animal will be announced by the ag teachers. If an animal missed the validation deadline it will not be able to be shown under any circumstances!

Validation dates vary and are different for each species: steer validation in June, goats, lambs, and swine in October, poultry is banded before purchase. Rabbits have ear tattoos.

Validation costs are not entry fees to livestock shows.

Each stock show has its own information and guidelines printed or available on the internet. While we make every effort to inform our members of the requirements of stock shows, it is ultimately the exhibitor's and parents' responsibility to inform them and adhere to all requirements.

All major breeding stock shows require a health certificate that can be purchased from a veterinarian.

Recommendations for Feeding and Care of Animals

The feeding and care of animals is a very important aspect of the livestock project. Many believe it is responsible for at least fifty percent of the success or failure of the project. Below is a list of practices that, if done consistently, will lead to success in the show ring.

Daily Care

The daily routine of feeding and care is very important. All animals should be fed twice daily, as close to twelve hours apart as possible. Normally this will require approximately thirty minutes in the morning and thirty minutes in the evening.

Halter Breaking (Cattle, Lambs, & Goats)

One of the most important considerations which arise early in the feeding period is teaching the animal how to lead with a halter. The animal must be worked daily. This is no easy task and sometimes can be very time-consuming. Consistency is the key.

Disease Prevention

The pen should be cleaned daily for all types of livestock. This reduces fly problems. Regular worming for internal parasites and vaccinations are mandatory.

Approved Livestock Surgical Practices

Many times it will be necessary to perform surgical procedures on livestock. These procedures can consist of docking of tails, castration, dehorning, etc. These procedures should be done by a veterinarian. Regardless of who does the procedure, the parent must realize there is always the possibility for complications. The owner must accept all risk of illness or death of the animal.

Weighing on a Regular Basis

Knowing the animal's weight and weighing on a regular basis is very important. Weight gain or loss is the best indication of how well the animal is progressing. Animals should be weighed on a weekly basis. It is particularly important near showtime, as weight limits and classes are critical to placing the animal.

It is also very important to know the minimum and maximum weight limits for the category in which your animal will show. Weight limits may be found in the specific show catalogs or show rule summaries. Your advisor or someone on the contact list can give you valuable information on how to adjust your animal's weight near showtime.

Exercise

Proper exercise will allow the animal to develop muscle tone and reduce the bulkiness of the underline (belly). This is time-consuming but very important, especially near showtime. Animals must be walked or ran at least once daily. Exercising the animal is probably the area neglected most by young people first learning to care for show animals.

Equipment Use

Arrangements must be made with the ag teachers for the use of any equipment belonging to the FFA. Clippers, blowers, etc. must be cleaned and turned in to the supervisor at the end of each use. Any FFA equipment lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed while in the possession of a student will be replaced at the expense of the student and parent.

Grooming Livestock for Shows

Along with feeding your animal, time must also be devoted to grooming. Washing, combing, and clipping are daily activities for cattle, sheep, and goats. The animals must be trained to stand correctly and calmly. This is critical because in some cases the judge may want to handle the animal. Proper grooming is required for all major shows and the Williamson County Show. The ag advisors are available to help and educate students with their projects. They will also have handouts available on each species which will detail more about the care for your animal.

Livestock Insurance

Special livestock insurance is available for those who are interested. Cost and other information may be obtained from the Ag teachers.

Supervising Ag Teacher of Animal Species:

Mr. Prescott: turkeys, broilers, rabbits

Ms. McCullough: steers, heifers

Ms. Davis: swine

Ms. Flint: sheep, goats

All Ag Teachers are capable of answering questions on any livestock species.

Liberty Hill FFA Livestock Animal Projects

| Animal Species | Approximate Purchase Price | Approximate Feed Costs | Notes/Responsibilities |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Market Steers | Starting at \$1000 | \$1500 + | Clean pen, feed & exercise/handle daily |
| Breeding Heifers | Prices for breeding animals vary a great deal | \$1000 + | Clean pen, feed & exercise/handle daily |
| Market Hogs/Breedings Swine | Starting at \$400 | \$250 - \$400 | Clean pen, feed & exercise frequently |
| Market Goats | Starting at \$400 | \$150 - \$350 | Clean pen, feed & exercise frequently |
| Market Sheep | Starting at \$400 | \$150 - \$300 | Clean pen, feed & exercise frequently |
| Turkeys | \$5.50 to \$6.00 each | \$250 - \$350 | Clean pen, feed & water |
| Broilers | \$1.25 to \$1.50 each (minimum of 25 birds in most cases) | \$150 - \$250 (depends on how many pens are purchased) | Clean pen, feed & water |
| Rabbits | \$30 to \$50 per rabbit | \$50 to \$100 (depends on how many rabbits you are feeding) | Clean pen, feed & handling |

All cost information is approximate and for information purposes only!

Liberty Hill FFA Equipment Use Agreement

(to be completed by student and parent/guardian)

The Liberty Hill High School Agriculture Science Department has equipment available to the students and parents/guardians of the Liberty Hill FFA to groom and fit their show animals. However, this equipment is costly and relatively expensive to replace and repair. It is the responsibility of all parties to maintain and care for the equipment that our department has.

Therefore, the following rules apply in order to checkout and use the Ag Department's Equipment.

1. All equipment checked out is for 24 hr. period or the next day of class (i.e. weekend use). The designated Ag Teacher must check out equipment to the student or parent from the Ag Department. It is the student/parent/guardian's responsibility to return this equipment the following day in the same condition that it was checked out in. For example, equipment should be cleaned and free from sand, hair, and other contaminants.
2. If the equipment is damaged while in the student/ parent's possession, it is their responsibility to inform the Ag teacher of the damaged equipment. Abuse of the equipment leading to breakage will be the student's responsibility to repair the equipment. Lost or stolen items will be the student's responsibility to replace items with new equipment.
3. Equipment for use includes Clippers with blades, blowers, lamb/goat trim table, cattle trim chute, and truck cage.
4. Equipment should not be handed over to another student without going through the checkout process or approval of designated Ag Teacher. It is intended for the use of Liberty Hill FFA members only: This does not allow for the personal use of equipment. Equipment is intended for the care, and management of animals raised through the Liberty Hill FFA.
5. By signing the form below both student and parent/guardian agree to abide by the checkout policies and be completely responsible for the equipment in their possession. Failure to abide by the rules will result in loss of privileges for the future request of equipment.
6. An LH FFA Advisor / Ag teacher will determine if it is appropriate to check out equipment based on the good of the entire Ag Department.

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Liberty Hill FFA Trailer Use Agreement

Anyone pulling a Liberty Hill ISD - Liberty FFA livestock trailer MUST possess a current driver's license. A current driver's license must be on record and the pulling vehicle must have a current license plate, approved through the vehicle inspection requirements of the State of Texas, and proof of liability insurance must be documented. The trailer is to be used for the purpose of pulling livestock (or FFA cargo) related to the Liberty Hill FFA Chapter and not used for commercial or personal purposes, unless authorized by the chapter Advisors. It is the parents/guardians responsibility to contact the FFA Advisors if there are any changes to the insurance information provided below.

The Liberty Hill FFA states that to the best of their knowledge and belief that the livestock trailer is in sound and safe condition and free of any known defects or faults which would affect its safe operation under normal use.

Please provide the information below. The parent and vehicle information MUST be on this form.

I do hereby agree to the following without exception: The trailer will be used for animals (or FFA cargo) relating to the Liberty Hill FFA program. My vehicle insurance is current and covers no less than the minimum coverage of General Liability vehicle insurance as required by the State of Texas. The vehicle in use for towing is current with the Texas vehicle inspection program. I hereby agree that I shall be held fully responsible for any and all loss of or damage to the stock trailer during the use of the stock trailer under this Agreement whether caused by collision, fire, flood, vandalism, theft or any other cause. I accept total responsibility for any and all repairs and/or replacement of the trailer in the event of any damage that occurs for reason by any party while the trailer is in my charge. I will make no claim against the Liberty Hill FFA Chapter for any damage that may occur as a result of the use of this trailer. I assume all liability associated with the use of the trailer during the time of possession. I will clean the trailer after each use, and will forfeit further use of the trailer if it was not signed out and used appropriately, or if not cleaned adequately after use. I understand that the Liberty Hill FFA Advisors have sole rights to take privileges from any party due to misuse or not following the agreement or school rules.

Student Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Driver's License #: _____

Vehicle Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____

License Plate #: _____

Insurance Provider: _____ Policy # _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Liberty Hill FFA Show Team Rules

Membership on the Liberty Hill ISD FFA Show Team is considered a privilege; therefore the following rules must be followed. Any Liberty Hill ISD FFA member is expected to follow the guidelines of this handbook, student code of conduct, and extracurricular guidelines. Any FFA event is considered an extension of Liberty Hill ISD and therefore all participating students must be actively enrolled in an LHISD school.

Any Ag Science Teacher supervising a species has sole discretion to adjust, amend or add additional expectations as deemed important for the success of his or her program and upon approval from LHISD administration.

Eligibility:

- Members must be actively enrolled at a Liberty Hill ISD school.
- All FFA or Jr FFA dues must be paid by the stated deadlines and the student must be in good standing with the Liberty Hill FFA chapter.
 - Members must comply with the National FFA and Texas FFA membership guidelines.
- High school and 8th-grade students must be enrolled in an approved Agriculture or related class to participate in the LHISD FFA chapter.
 - Any exception must have Ag Teacher approval.
- All UIL eligibility guidelines will be followed.
 - If a student is ineligible to show due to UIL ineligibility, the animal is also ineligible to show. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Members must be in compliance with LHISD compulsory attendance.
- Members must attend all mandatory livestock meetings for their specific projects. Members must pay entry fees at the time entries are done and also meet show requirements.
- Members are responsible for ALL expenses related to each show, including:
 - Lodging, food, animal feed, animal hay, and animal bedding including shavings and/or straw.

Expectations:

- All members are expected to follow the Liberty Hill ISD Student Code of Conduct and any extracurricular guidelines set forth by LHISD.
- All members showing with Liberty Hill FFA are expected to follow the rules and guidelines of the major stock shows. All shows provide a handbook specifically for their show. These handbooks are available on each show's website. Violation of rules will have consequences.
- All LHISD policies regarding travel, transportation, and student behavior will be enforced.
- All animals must be validated or all validation rules must be followed. It is the responsibility of the student and/or parents to check the accuracy of the validation.

Parent Responsibility and Expectations

Liberty Hill ISD reserves the right for discretionary interpretation of the contents of this guide. Any disciplinary action or violation of this document will be at the sole discretion of Liberty Hill ISD and campus administration.

Parent Responsibilities: To help promote teamwork, good showmanship, and success, your assistance as a parent of the livestock show team is very important and valued.

Please help us:

- Review the show team guidelines, show rules, and Liberty Hill ISD Code of Conduct and Student Handbook.
- Ensure your child accurately completes and turns in all registration paperwork and other required forms on time.
- Support the decisions and instructions given by Ag Teachers, show judges, and other officials at all FFA and livestock events.
- Provide positive support of your child and the entire FFA livestock team.
- Ensure that your child is on time to all required meetings and that they follow all show team contract guidelines.
- Arrange transportation and accommodations for your child at all stock shows. Child safety is of utmost importance. Please communicate with your Ag Teacher if you need assistance.
- Refrain from the use of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal substances at all FFA livestock events. The use of alcoholic beverages is forbidden on school property, including the Liberty Hill ISD Ag Farm Facilities. In addition, please remember that livestock shows and other FFA events are family experiences and also an extension of the school grounds when attending as a Liberty Hill FFA member.
- Parents may be asked to leave any Liberty Hill FFA sponsored event for inappropriate misconduct, aggressive or disrespectful behavior towards advisors, other parents, students, or any behavior that brings discredit to our organization.
- Any decisions or instructions made by the Ag Teacher at a school-sponsored show are final.
- Any concerns should be addressed through the chain of command after we have returned home, not during the livestock show.

Terms, Conditions, and Consequences

Any terms, and conditions are subject to change with Campus and District Administrative approval. All contents of this manual are at the sole discretion of Liberty Hill ISD. This document will be kept updated and located on the Liberty Hill FFA website. It will be the responsibility of students and parents to utilize the website to obtain and/or refer to the most current version of this document.

The Liberty Hill Ag Program and Ag Teachers reserve the right to remove any animal from a livestock show if any one of the following conditions exists:

- Animal abuse or neglect in any form
- Diseased or infected animals
- Animals that are unsafe to handle
- Students and/or parents failing to observe rules
- Student no longer involved in the Liberty Hill Ag Program
- Student expelled or withdrawn from Liberty Hill ISD
- Student is placed in ISS or DAEP
- Student is academically ineligible

Students/Parents violating rules of the program will be subject to the following disciplinary actions.

FFA Show Team Members:

- 1st Offense: Verbal Warning
- 2nd Offense: Written Warning
- 3rd Offense: Meeting with Show team member, Parent and Ag Teacher
- 4th Offense: Meeting with Show team member, Parent, Ag Teacher, and Administration
- 5th Offense: Removal from Liberty Hill FFA Show Team

FFA Show Team Parents:

- 1st Offense: Verbal Warning
- 2nd Offense: Written Warning
- 3rd Offense: Meeting with Parent and Ag Teacher
- 4th Offense: Meeting with Parent, Ag Teacher and Administration
- 5th Offense: Removal from Liberty Hill FFA Show Team

Receipt of Liberty Hill FFA Livestock Show Rules & Guidelines

My student and I accept responsibility for accessing, reading, and following the guidelines in the Liberty Hill FFA Livestock Projects Handbook and Liberty Hill FFA Livestock Show Team Rules.

I understand that the Liberty Hill FFA Membership Handbook, Liberty Hill FFA Livestock Projects Handbook, Liberty Hill FFA Livestock Show Team Rules, and the LHISD Student Code of Conduct and the LHISD Student Handbook contain information that my student and I may need during the school year. If I should have any questions about Liberty Hill FFA documents, I will direct those to a Liberty Hill Agricultural Science Teacher.

All students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in all documents. If I have questions regarding Liberty Hill ISD documents, I should direct those to the principal at my student's school.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Campus: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent.Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____