

# 4-H Animal/ Livestock Resource Guide

Tanana District

Beef

Dairy

Ducks / Geese

Goats

Horse

Lamb

Poultry

Rabbits

Sheep

Swine

Young Beef



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This publication is for 4-H Livestock / Animal / Horse club members, parents, and leaders to use as a tool in working more effectively with these projects. The Livestock and Horse projects serve the purpose of helping boys and girls develop better understanding of and appreciation for animals. This guide serves as a resource for families in order to understand better the expectations and commitments involved in a 4-H Animal / Livestock and Horse project.

This guide is a gathering of ideas and information from other Extension 4-H programs. Oregon State University, Perdue University, University of Tennessee and Colorado State University all have been used as resources in the development of this document.

It is a reflection of the Tanana District 4-H Livestock and Horse Programs and is not intended for statewide 4-H. It was prepared by the district Extension Agent with input from the Tanana District 4-H Livestock and Horse Committees.



# Goals of 4-H

The goals of 4-H include helping boys and girls develop leadership, character, and effective citizenship. The livestock program is designed to help 4-H members:

1. Develop leadership, initiative, self-reliance, sportsmanship, and other character traits which are valuable.
2. Experience the pride and responsibility of owning an animal and receive training in its care, feeding, management, and related costs.
3. Gain an appreciation of the care for, purpose of, and role of livestock in the everyday life of individuals.
4. Increase skill, patience, and understanding in handling, raising, and training animals.
5. Increase the knowledge of safety precautions to prevent injuries to the animals and people.
6. Promote a greater love for animals and a humane attitude towards them.
7. Prepare for citizenship responsibilities by working together in groups and supporting community projects and activities.

4-H is “Learning By Doing”. By caring for and training an animal the member learns patience, responsibility, initiative, and dependability. Members will learn to set goals and develop standards for themselves.

The key to the success of a 4-H project is you, the parent/guardian, and the leader. A team effort if you will.

## Your 4-H Leader

The responsibility of the 4-H Leader can be a very large responsibility. The leader’s job has many sides. They are hopefully an organizer, an advisor, and a teacher. They are not however the only adult responsible for your youth’s project. YOU as parents and guardians have a very large responsibility in the success or failure of your youth’s 4-H experiences.

## Parent Cooperation

Parent cooperation provides a foundation of support in the activities of the 4-H club. Parents should expect the 4-H leaders to discuss with them their involvement of the family early in the club year. This helps develop parent understanding of 4-H and the project.

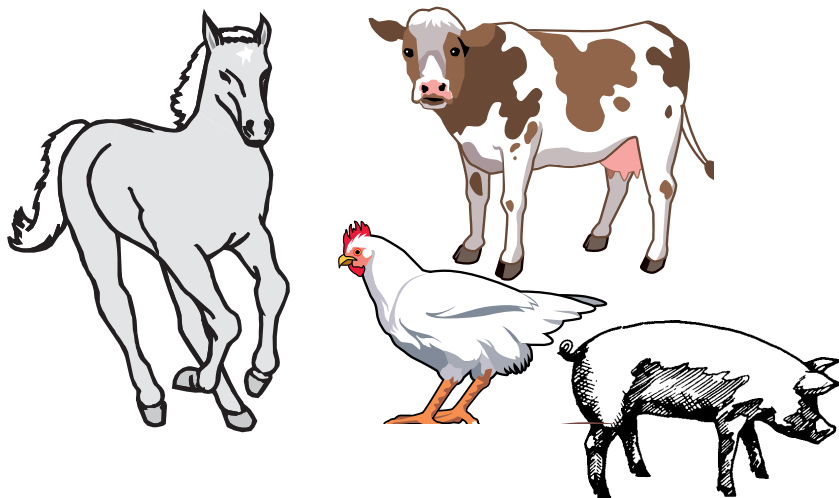
Parents should expect to:

- attend orientation meetings / trainings held by the 4-H Agent and 4-H Leader
- have contact with the leader and other parents throughout the club year
- possibly be asked to host a meeting in their home
- assist with club activities
- assist the members with trainings or preparations of reports that are required
- have an expectation of cost that will involve their youth’s chosen project



# The Project

The mission of today's 4-H is to help youth and volunteers in their development through Experiential Educational programs. This is accomplished through direct involvement of youth, their parents, other adults, and the community. 4-H educational programs are designed to empower young people to become independent and participating members in their family and community by experiencing the building of self-confidence, developing inquiring minds, encouraging interpersonal cooperation, developing concern for the community, and learning decision-making through real life participation.



## You Need to Know

Prior to acquiring an animal parents/members should be prepared to understand what type of project the member is best suited for. Choosing the right project will add greatly to the satisfaction and pleasure of the boy or girl and reduce the chance for disappointment. Young boys and girls should not select animals or projects that are too large for them to handle. Younger and smaller animals with good dispositions are safer for beginner such as poultry, rabbits, guinea pigs and goats. Members who have gained experience may want to start with lambs, goats, young beef or weaner pigs and train their own animal.

If pasture and feed are available, the member may want to own a beef, pig, goat, sheep, or young beef. This kind of project has the advantage of providing an opportunity for gaining experience in showing and selling. If selection of an animal is for breeding, it is advisable to choose a breed in demand locally.

Points which should be considered in selecting the kind of animal include: age, weight, degree of experience and skill of the boy or girl, facilities available for keeping the animal, price the purchaser can afford, individual preference regarding type and quality, and plans for using the animal.

Members choosing a horse for their project should consider the age, size, temperament, training and soundness of the horse. Careful consideration needs to be given to the cost of future care of a horse.

It is not necessary to buy a purebred animal to benefit from a 4-H Livestock / Horse project. A sound, healthy animal of good confirmation is all that is needed regardless of breeding.

Remember, the 4-H Animal / Livestock / Horse Project is for the purpose of developing youth and volunteers through "Learning by Doing" projects. 4-H Livestock and Horse projects teach life skills such as acquiring knowledge, making decisions, and applying leadership skills. It isn't necessary to have a purebred animal to accomplish these goals!



# You Need to Know - Horse continued...



## Rules for optional Horse Advancement Level Program in the Tanana District

Advancement testing is a tool for leaders to use to plan their horse program and a way to judge how their members are progressing in their project. There is no set pace at which a member should progress and achievement of level 3 & 4 will be difficult for most members. Our local rules include:

1. Leaders may pass the completion of levels 1 & 2 riding skills and administer these written tests as they desire. Preferably the leader will have training in the advancement program or take advantage of other leaders in the district willing to do testing.
2. Riding tests do not have to be given all at one time. For instance, a member may pass one section of level 1 one day and another section two weeks later and complete the test by the end of summer. However, incomplete elements may not be left "open" for more than three months, or from one riding season to the next. The finished test should be turned into the 4-H office once the member has passed all portions. These tests will be returned to the member.
3. Level 3 & 4 written tests must be administered in the 4-H office with prior arrangements. These tests will be scored by an Agent designee and no tests shall be passed out to leaders.
4. Level 3 & 4 riding tests will be given by arrangement of qualified individuals approved by the Tanana District Horse Leaders Council.
5. Levels 1 & 2 written tests should be turned into the 4-H office. These tests will not be returned. For further information refer to the Alaska State 4-H Horse Advancement Level Program booklet.

## Achievement Recognition

4-H leaders and parents will find that the wise use of recognition will inspire boys and girls. It will help them receive a satisfying experience in 4-H work. The spirit of competition is natural for young people. It is a stimulus which can be used effectively in development of character and skills. It can also defeat its purpose if permitted to get out of hand.

Aware 4-H leaders and parents will help members focus their attention on their project work, club activities, and sharing experiences with and helping other members instead of looking at recognition as their chief goal. The greatest rewards come from service to others and personal achievement rather than "outdoing" someone else.

- Activities should emphasize the development of desirable character traits.
- Standards should be within the reach of the members and yet high enough to challenge them to do their best.
- Rules of procedure should be fair and clearly stated.
- Judging must be fair and impartial.
- It is better to distribute awards among a number of worthy contestants than to concentrate on one or two top winners.



# Animal / Livestock Showmanship

Showing an animal from a 4-H project is usually one of the high points of the project. Showmanship is the art of fitting, grooming, training, and showing an animal to emphasize the best points and make such an animal and its owner more acceptable to the judges, buyers and observing public.

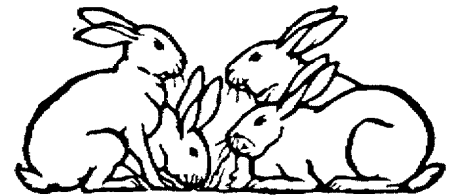
In showing covies, rabbits, guineas and poultry 4-H exhibitors are expected and required to bring their animals to the judging table. This component of showing is part of the 4-H Project.

It is fun to take an animal to Fair and show it. Members will learn much that will be valuable in later life. The lessons, however, may not all be pleasant ones. Whether they win or lose in the show ring, being gracious and exhibiting sportsmanlike conduct toward their fellow showmen is the important factor.

Fitting and training should start very shortly after obtaining the animals for the projects. One cannot wait until two weeks before the show and expect to have an animal ready for showing. Daily care and training, if started early, will insure that your member's entry will be ready at show time.

✱ In the Tanana District a mandatory Showmanship Clinics is required of any 4-H'er planning to show their animals excluding Horses. Focus on these showmanship clinics will be learning how to show the species being raised and then learning how to show another species not familiar to the member. Showmanship Clinics will be arranged in a local (i.e. club setting) capacity and then a district- wide setting.

Watch the District 4-H newsletter for the times and places of these clinics.



## Animal / Livestock Weigh-Ins (Not applicable for Horse Projects)

The Tanana District Livestock Committee has established a mandatory weigh-in for animals going to Market Auction in order to assist the 4-H member in their care and maintenance of weight for their animal. Anticipated times for weigh-ins will be the 1st Saturday of May for large animals and all poultry and rabbits will be the 1st or 2nd Saturday of July. All animals will be tagged, banded or tattooed at the appropriate weigh-in.

Resource Leaders familiar with the Livestock program will set a moveable scale weigh-in day in June to assist with your project. They will travel to Delta Junction and other sites in order to avoid as much as possible any stress to an animal.

For animal requirements, please obtain a copy of the Market Livestock Agreement - they are due to the 4-H office by April 1st.

**Note:** Due to the nature of the project, the 4-H Livestock Committee suggests that rabbits, chickens and ducks do not make good group projects.



# It's Fair Time!

Parents should know the responsibilities their youth are expected to carry out before, during, and after the Fair. Leaders and Barn / Stall Superintendents are not babysitters and should not be expected to oversee the member and/or their animal the entire time the Fair is going on. Leaders helped to educate the 4-H'er in the process of getting to Fair but did not sign on to be the chief caretakers of youth at the Fair. This is a responsibility of a parent/guardian.

The care of the animal is the first priority of a 4-H Animal / Livestock / Horse member. Please read ahead of time the Fair Premium Booklet and know what is expected in the way of daily feeding, watering, and stall cleaning. These are responsibilities of the 4-H'er NOT their parents or leaders. If the member is electing to participate in the Market Auction, they will have already attended mandatory meetings, weigh-ins, and showmanship clinics.

On site, in and around the barns the 4-H member will be responsible for knowing what their role is in barn upkeep and attention must be paid to being punctual and dependable. These skills are all part of the 4-H Animal / Livestock / Horse Project.



## Life Skills Learned Through 4-H

Competency	Coping	Contributory
Acquiring knowledge Using scientific methods Mastering technology Making career decisions Managing resources Communicating	Recognizing self-worth Relating to others Making decisions Solving problems Dealing with change	Applying leadership skills Taking community action Volunteering Conserving the environment



# Ten Commandments for Parents / Leaders of 4-H Members Showing Livestock / Horse

1. Thou shalt not feed, train and care for the animal for thou art trying to teach the child responsibility.
2. Thou shalt forgive the child for making mistakes in the show ring for thou hast made mistakes too.
3. Thou shalt not get mad when the child forgets items in the show box, for one day thou might forget the show box.
4. Thou shalt help the show management for they are doing a job that thou would not want to do.
5. Thou shalt see that thy child is on time for all show activities for thou would not want to wait on an other.
- 6 Thou shalt make sure thy child has animals entered and registration papers in order by the designated time.
7. Thou shalt teach thy child that winning a blue ribbon is a desirable goal but making friends along the way is a more worthy goal.
8. Thou shalt not complain about the judge for it is his/her opinion that has been sought.
9. Thou shalt remember that Animal / Livestock / Horse Projects are teaching projects, not necessarily money- making projects.
10. Thou shalt remember that the Animal / Livestock / Horse Project is a family project that should be enjoyed and supported by the entire family.

*Clyde D. Lane Jr.*  
*Extension, University of Tennessee*

