

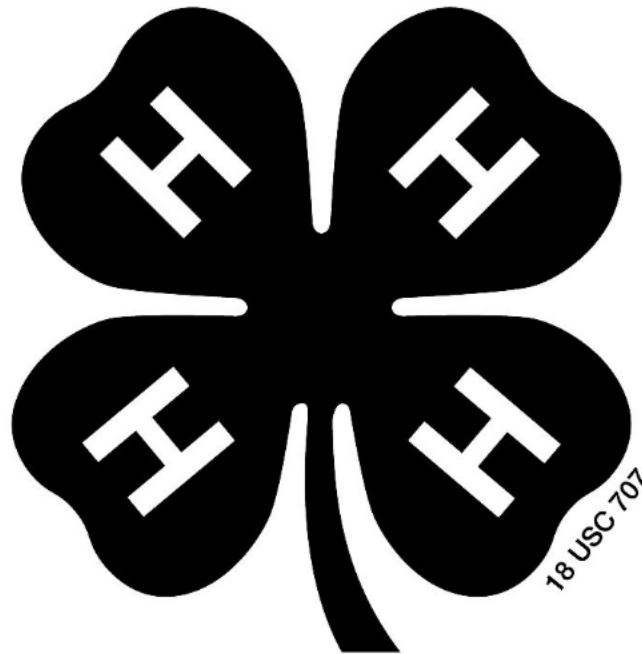
CARTER COUNTY

4-H Policy & Procedures

Handbook

Revised 2025

This handbook expresses the polices for the organization and administration of the Carter County 4-H Program. In Addition to these polices, Carter County 4-H Program will also abide by the Montana 4-H Program Policy and Procedures outline in the MSU Extension Montana 4-H Program Policies and Procedures Publication. County Policies may be more restrictive than the state polices, but not less restrictive than the state polices.



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FAIR

1. 4-H members from the bordering counties, including Fallon, will be allowed to exhibit at the Carter County Fair.
2. Premiums are not to be paid if articles on exhibit were removed before the deadline set by the fair, exceptions to be approved by the fair board.
3. Kits will be allowed for fair exhibits in specified categories, but they need to be labeled as such.
4. AWARDS PROGRAM: The 4-H/FFA Fair Awards Program will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday of the Fair. Fair awards will be prize money. FFA will be responsible to donate to the fair trophies for Market Beef, Sheep and Swine.
5. CAKE AUCTION: A 4-H Cake Auction will be held during the Carter County Fair. The cake auction will only be offered to those who do not have an animal to sell and have completed their 4-H Record Book the previous year. The member is required to fill out the Cake Auction record sheet and submit it in their record book. The cakes will be decorated according to the current year's fair theme. Those planning to sell a cake must notify the Extension Office by the Add/Drop due date (June 1). *(January 2025)*

LIVESTOCK RULES

Market Livestock Possession

Animal	Possession Date	Minimum Fair Weight
Market Beef (Steer/Spayed Heifer)	January 1	1000 pounds (2020)
Miniature Beef	January 1	500 pounds
Market Lamb	June 1	90 pounds
Market Hog	June 1 (photo to Extension Office)	200 pounds
Market Goat	June 1	50 pounds, must be under 1 year
Poultry	June 1; breed to Extension Office, must be meat or dual breed (2025)	Over 4 pounds, between 8 weeks & 1 year
Rabbits	June 1; breed to Extension Office, must be meat or dual breed (2025)	Over 4 pounds.; Under 6 months
Horse, Dog & Cat	June 1; ID to Extension Office	No minimum weight

- The livestock exhibitor must be properly enrolled in the livestock project that he/she exhibits. *(2003)*
- All 4-H members must have completed the 4-H Record Book to be eligible for an award in all livestock projects.
- If a project animal dies or is judged unsound, the council will decide what or when it should be replaced. *(October 1986)*
- JOINT COMMITTEE: A joint committee of FFA and 4-H will consist of 3 adults and 3 members from each organization. *(April 2022)* The committee will be appointed each year and has authority to make decisions without general council approval. *(January 2018)*
- ANIMAL HEALTH: If animals have health problems, the Joint Committee should request a veterinarian to give the animal a clean bill of health prior to it being entered in the fair, exhibited or sold. *(January 2018)*
- ANIMAL QUALITY ASSURANCE: All 4-H and FFA members taking market and breeding animal projects are required to attend an Animal Quality Assurance Program every year. This includes members with beef, sheep, goats, swine, rabbits and poultry. *(September 2023)*
- Livestock exhibitors are not permitted to use tranquilizers for livestock within 30 days prior to the fair. Any drug used at the fair must be administered by or under the direct supervision of a veterinarian. *(2003)*
- BEEF:
 - o January 1st is the Possession for Market Beef projects. The council can make exceptions when necessary. *(January 2018)* A county Market Beef weigh-in will be held every year December/January. *(January 2021)*
 - o Calves shown in the cow/calf pair class must be born on or after Jan. 1 of the current calendar year. *(May 1993)*
 - o Junior Feeder project is for steers born in the current calendar year. Heifers born in the current calendar year may be shown in the breeding project and there is no limit on the age of the exhibitor.
- SHEEP:

- o A member must be enrolled in the sheep-breeding project to show a ewe lamb. This same lamb cannot be shown as a fat or feeder lamb. *(October 1986)*
- o 4-H members will not have a bum lamb class. *(October 1986)*

CARTER COUNTY FAIR SHOW RULES

1. 4-H and FFA livestock is to be judged before the Open Class livestock. *(October 1955)*
2. Only in case of illness, emergency absence, or valid reason may a 4-H or FFA member NOT be at the fair to show their own project animals. *(June 1986)*
3. Fallon County and surrounding Counties youth will be allowed to exhibit in 4-H at the Carter County Fair. *(April 2022)*
4. The top 2 Market Beef from Carter County will be eligible to go to the Show of Champions in Miles City. *(October 1986)*
5. FFA and 4-H will show together in the same classes. Trophies will be given to overall champions and reserve champions. Sponsorship will be joint. (10-89)
6. The grand and reserve champion showman in each category will be allowed to compete in the Round Robin contest. Grand animals will be used, and reserve showmanship animals will be used as needed. There will be only one Round Robin Show for large animals and one for small animals. A senior and junior member will be paired together. Each participant will have a colored ribbon/sticker/marker to identify senior members from junior members. Members cannot show their own animal or a family member's animal, if possible. Round Robin rules will be for both small and large animal round robin. In the case of an odd number, a stand in showman will fill the vacancy. *(January 2025)*
7. Market Classes are open to Carter County 4-H & FFA members only. Please note that OPEN CLASS market classes are open to both non-Carter County 4-H & FFA members and Carter County 4-H & FFA members. The same animals may not be used in the open and 4-H & FFA market classes. (2006)
8. An appropriate award will be presented to Beef Breeding Project members after 4 years in the project with the same animal/s. An appropriate award will be presented to Horse Training members after 5 years in the project with the same animal. *(June 2006)*

4-H/ FFA Livestock Sale

1. Market animals will be weighed at a specified time, set by the livestock committee (10-86). Each member can sell only one of each kind of animal. BILL OF SALE: Market Beef are required to have a Bill of Sale and must be turned in at the time of weigh in. (2003)
2. Goats, poultry & rabbits will sell by the head at the livestock sale. (12-99). Beef, sheep and hogs will sell by the pound.
3. Blue and red ribbon market animals will only sell at the livestock sale. White ribbon market animals will not be allowed to sell. (*April 2025*)
4. All market livestock should be ear tagged in some way prior to the fair for identification purposes. (12-99)
5. SALE DAY: The Livestock Sale will be held Saturday at the fair, at a time specified by the fairboard. (5-02)
6. Market animal buyers will be notified of the established current market price and have the option to buy the animal at selling bid price to take possession. Or they may pay a premium price (the difference between the market price and the bid price) and allow the seller to retain ownership of the animal. (6-96)
7. BASE PRICE: Competitive prices will be sought out prior to the fair livestock sale. These floor prices will be set approximately one week in advance of the fair and be printed on the sale flyer. (12-99). The livestock barn getting the bid on livestock for the fair livestock sale, will have first option of providing the auctioneer (Oct 2012). The base price will be set on market beef, sheep, and swine.
8. PREMIUM SALE: Livestock Buyers will have two options at the Carter County Livestock Sale. They can buy the animal, or they can buy the animal on Premium.
 - Example:** Animal Weight: 250 Pounds
 - Base Price:** \$1.50/lbs. (Set by the Sale Barn before the Sale)
 - Market Value:** \$375.00 (Base Prices X Animal Weight)
 - Bid Price:** \$2.50/lbs. (The price the animal is sold for at the Sale)
 - Total Value:** \$625.00 (Bid Prices X Animal Weight)
 - Premium Value:** \$250.00 (Total Value – Market Value)

If a buyer buys the animal outright, they pay the **Total Value (\$625.00)** and own the animal. If they buy the animal on Premium, they pay the **Premium Value (\$250.00)**.

9. SALE ORDER: The sale order will be established by a random draw conducted by representatives of the 4-H Council, FFA, Extension, Fairboard, and a youth representative from the Livestock Committee. The drawing will occur after entries have been turned in and before the fair begins. The first two items on the sale order will be the two Friends of 4-H sponsorships followed by the sale consignments. The sale order may be adjusted to accommodate consignors with multiple consignments to give them ample time to organize between consignments at the time of the draw. *(January 2025)*

10. SALE COMMISSION: Commission paid by the youth on market animals will be 2.5% (it may be less, based on need) for each sale. This commission will ensure all expenses accrued will be covered. Commissions are withheld from each check and will include the beef check-off amount. *(December 1999)*

11. RESALE ANIMALS: If an animal is up for resale, the first buyer must pay the full price. The animal is then owned by the organization or individual of the buyer's choice and is sold again. There is no premium option on the resale animals. All resale animals will be sold at the end of the sale. There will be no commission on resale.

12. Sellers will be required to fill out and display exhibitor cards near their market animals. These cards should contain the sale weight, the buyer, and the selling price. (6-96)

13. An ice cream social will follow the market livestock sale.

HORSE RULES

1. All 4-H members interested in the horse projects must be enrolled and complete Horsemanship Levels 1, 2, 3 before they can enroll in other horse projects with the exception of the Working Ranch Horse Project. Members may request an assessment of their horsemanship level for placement in project areas. If you require a placement assessment, contact the County 4-H Council by May 1st.
2. The member must own all animals shown in 4-H classes, be in partnership with immediate family, or the member has access to the horse through the county fair.
3. Horse assessments of members will be done before June 1st of the current 4-H year.
4. All horses carried as 4-H projects must be in the continual care of the 4-H member by June 1st. Project animals may not be trained by a professional trainer (excluding immediate family and 4-H leaders.) To be in the Horse Training Project a member must own or have possession of the horse from the yearling to five-year-old age. If a member feels that it is necessary to change horses, permission may be granted by the Carter County Horse Committee.
5. Stallions may not be shown in any class with the only exception being a yearling in the Horse Training Project.
6. WESTERN DRESS CODE: White or solid colored long sleeved blouse or shirt; dark blue, black or brown tie (any style); dark blue, brown or black pants of western type blue jean; western hat that is clean and in good condition (felt or straw) or a safety helmet; and western style boots that are clean and polished. No vests or sweaters.
7. One horse can be shown by two members if in different classes.
8. Members may repeat a Horsemanship Level if not completed to the county horse committee's satisfaction.
9. Members must compete in the most advanced level of the horse project they are taking.
10. Members may be entered in both Western and English with the same horse but only be one level lower or higher. If with different horses, the levels can have a greater spread.
11. Members winning a Horsemanship level at the county fair or State Horse Show must advance to the next level if using the same horse. Any variations of this must be approved by the County Horse Committee.

12. It is suggested that horses, three and over, shall be ridden using a bridle and bit. A flat curb chain may be used, but not a twisted chain curb strap.
13. Members must be 12 years old or older during the current 4-H year (October 1 through September 30) and have at least completed three levels of the Horsemanship Project to be able to enroll in the Yearling to Five-year-old Training Project and the Green Horse Project. The Carter County Horse Committee shall have the option of giving anyone under 12 years old permission to carry a Training Project. You must contact the Carter County Horse Committee before May 1st if you desire this permission. A member under 12 years old and taking the Training Project, would be allowed to exhibit the horse only in the Carter County Fair.
14. Colt to maturity project horses cannot be cross-entered in Horsemanship.
15. Showmanship, Bareback Equitation and Trail classes will be open to all horse project members at the Fair. Members must use one of their project horses in these classes. Members must show in their respective project area before being eligible to show in these classes.
16. Green Horse animals can show in the respective colt-to-maturity classes: i.e. two-year-old green horse shows with the two-year-old colt-to-maturity horses; three-year-olds with the three-year-olds, etc. A five-year-old horse would be the oldest age of horse taken as a green horse.