

LEAVENWORTH COUNTY FAIR 2026 4-H / FFA GENERAL RULES

1. Interpretations of all 4-H General Rules and Project Rules will be made by the Extension Agents.
2. All 4-Hers must follow the 4-H Code of Conduct. Violation of this conduct may result in removal of his/her exhibits from the fairgrounds, forfeit all premiums, and be prohibited from fairgrounds for the remainder of the fair. Final decision will be made by a Leavenworth County Extension Agent and Extension Executive Board.
3. All exhibitors in 4-H and FFA departments must be at least 7 years of age as of January 1 of the current year. They must not have passed their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current year. Exhibitors must have met the enrollment deadline of the current year and meet project requirements to exhibit at the county fair. Classes will be determined by age as of January 1 of the current year.
4. Cloverbuds will only be allowed to participate in the 4-H Cloverbud department. Only participation ribbons will be given to all, NO awards or premiums.
5. Exhibitors who are members of both 4-H and FFA must choose how they will exhibit in each department. Exhibitors may NOT exhibit as both 4-H and FFA in any one department. Exhibitors may choose to exhibit as 4-H in one department and FFA in a different department (i.e., 4-H beef, FFA swine, 4-H rabbits, etc.).
6. All LVCO Fair 4-H Classes will be entered through the online FairEntry System starting June 1. **There will be no paper entries available.** FairEntry System will close at 11:59pm on June 30th. No entries will be accepted after June 30th.
7. Exhibits must be products of the current 4-H or FFA year.
8. All entries are exhibited at the sole risk of the owner.
9. Copyrighted and/or trademarked materials used without written permission in banners, displays, demonstrations, posters or other activities will be disqualified and will not be displayed or receive ribbons or premiums.
10. The Danish evaluation system will be used to place exhibits in one of the following classifications:
 - a. PURPLE - given to a few outstanding exhibits.
 - b. BLUE - specifies excellent quality work, far above average.
 - c. RED - designates average exhibits.
 - d. WHITE - indicates exhibits meet requirements for fair, but below average quality.
11. Judges may award as many ribbons of any color as they feel is justified in any class. Judges' decisions are FINAL. Purple awards receive same premium as blue awards. Judges are not required to select Champion, Reserve Champion, Grand Champion, or Reserve Grand Champion if no entry qualifies for the award.
12. Kansas State Fair exhibitors must be at least 9 years of age as of January 1 of the current year. Members with qualifying entries may pick up the State Fair rules in the Extension Office. **State Fair Entries are due by end of county fair. (Sunday by 10am)**
13. If Cash premiums are available for that 4-H year, they will be pro-rated in all exhibit classes except where noted.
14. All 4-H/FFA exhibitors in all departments are also subject to general open class rules and regulations. Destruction of property is strictly prohibited. If 4-H member is found guilty - he/she will be asked to remove their exhibits from the fairgrounds, forfeit all premiums, and be prohibited from fairgrounds for remainder of fair. Final decision will be

- made by a Leavenworth County Extension Agent and Extension Executive Board.
15. All exhibitors must follow the 4-H Dress Code Guidelines when participating in 4-H events during the LVCO Fair. This includes but not limited to showing, auction, consultation classes and food stand/ building watch duties.
 16. **Only those 4-H and FFA members exhibiting 4-H/FFA livestock projects are allowed to stay overnight at the fairgrounds. LVCO Fair Board overnight rules apply to everyone. All 4-H members and certified volunteers are bound by the Code of Conduct they signed when enrolling. Any 4-H member and certified volunteers found breaking the rules will be asked to leave the fairgrounds immediately. They will forfeit any premiums or awards received at the fair and could be subject to further restrictions in participation or future awards according to the 4-H Code of Conduct. An adult must stay with the members.**

Static Exhibits (Building Exhibit)

1. Where judging is by consultation evaluation, the leader and parent may not sit at the table with the exhibitor. They may stand behind as an observer, **AND they may not have conversations with judges.** All others are to remain away to ensure a private conference.
2. Building exhibits will be released according to the Fair Schedule on the last Sunday of fair week.

Animal Exhibits

1. Violations of any of the general rules and project rules may result in disqualification. All decisions will be made by a county agent and their decision is final.
2. All 4-H exhibitors must have a current "Youth for the Quality Care of Animals" (YQCA) certification to show at the LVCO Fair. YQCA training must be complete by June 30th.
3. Family Identification Worksheets are **NOT a LVCO Fair Entry.**
4. An exhibitor in 4-H/FFA and Open Class can have no more than 4 animals total within the same project. (i.e Beef, Dairy Cattle, Goat, Dairy Goat, Swine, Sheep) on the fairgrounds per Leavenworth County Fair Board. Poultry and rabbit are exempt from this rule.
5. Beef, goats, swine and sheep will be designated as market or breeding ~~on the Family Identification~~ **when the animal is entered into FairEntry.** An animal may not be moved from breeding to market or market to breeding after ~~the worksheet is turned in after June 30th.~~
6. If an ear tag is lost, notify the Extension Office as soon as possible to get it replaced.
7. Substitutions will be allowed up to fair weigh-in/check-in if the animal is listed on the Family Identification Worksheet for that species. Once the animal crosses the scale, all decisions are final and cannot be changed. **Rule 7 Clarification: "All decisions are final and cannot be changed includes weight. This means no re-weighing will be allowed.**

8. Animals used for showmanship must be owned by the exhibitor and entered in the market or breeding classes. In the final showmanship drive, all showmanship finalists must show the animal they were showing when selected. Showmanship classes will be limited to a maximum of 15 animals.
9. The Judge is not required to award a champion in each class.
10. Stall assignments are the responsibility of that species superintendent. No changes to stall assignments are allowed without approval of that species superintendent.
11. Each exhibitor is personally responsible for the care and showing of his/her animal.
12. Members may be assisted, if needed, only by a family member or available Leavenworth County 4-H/FFA member or leader. Ethical fitting practices will be observed.
13. Exhibitors are responsible for keeping their pens and tack areas clean and neat.
14. No fans will be allowed in aisles or alleyways in the barns. This is a safety violation and will be monitored by the Fair Board and superintendents of each project.
15. The superintendent has the authority to have any animal exhibit inspected by the Fair Board appointed veterinarian. If the fair veterinarian determines evidence of infection or disease the animal will be removed from the fairgrounds.
16. All livestock animals must be owned by the exhibitor. All animals must be entered and exhibited in a class. No exhibit space is available for display purposes.
17. Each exhibitor must furnish their own feed, equipment, and bedding. The use of hay and the use of straw will not be allowed in the barn **unless approved by the superintendent and fair board.**
18. If an exhibitor has more than one animal entered in one market class, one animal is to be shown by the exhibitor and the other by another Leavenworth County 4-H or FFA member enrolled in the same project.
19. Health and wellbeing of all animals brought to the fairgrounds is at the exhibitor's risk.
20. If exhibitor becomes unable to control the animal while in the ring, the attendant in the ring will help exhibitor get control of the animal. If exhibitor loses control a second time, the ring attendant will help control the animal and request will be made for other 4-H members, family member or project leader to assist exhibitor. If animal continues to be uncontrolled, exhibitor will be told to leave the arena.
21. All animals shown and housed shall receive care that is humane, healthful, and stress free. Cruelty, neglect, or indifference to animal comfort and welfare will not be tolerated and will constitute grounds for removal from the premises. Ample feed and clean water will be provided to all animals with sound husbandry practices and with rules and regulations set by the Leavenworth County Extension Board and Leavenworth County Fair Board.
22. Professional veterinary care will be provided by the appointed fair vet at the owner's expense. Exhibits shall reflect the care and concern that all Kansas breeders have for livestock.
23. Extension Agents reserve the right to disqualify any animal for unethical practices including but not limited to the following: A: The giving of an oral or injected diuretic, growth promotants or other medication not approved for any domestic animal. B: The injection of any gas, solid or liquid under the hide to alter the animal's confirmation. C: Any stomach pumping without authorization from a licensed veterinarian. D: Excessive use of steroids not authorized by a licensed veterinarian. E: Using artificial filling internally. F: Covering of white hair, artificial hair. Extension Agents reserve the right to have a blood and/or urine laboratory analysis made on any animal entered in competition. An exhibitor of an animal producing an analysis with unethical practices will forfeit all prizes and premiums, and may be barred from future competition at the fair.

24. Livestock exhibitors must follow the 4-H dress code guidelines for showing their specific species. All livestock exhibitors are expected to wear closed toed shoes, long pants (clean and no holes), neat shirt/blouse/top (NO spaghetti straps, very low-cut necklines, shirts with inappropriate pictures/wording, undershirts or altered clothing) and no hats. Those exhibiting dairy animals should wear all white but at minimum a white shirt.
25. Animal stalls are to be thoroughly cleaned when animals are released. Animal exhibits will be released according to the Fair Schedule on the last Sunday of fair week unless arrangements have been made with locker plants by the fair board auction committee.
26. **GROOMING RULE UPDATE: FULL FIT SHOW Leavenworth County Livestock Show**
Grooming: The purpose of grooming rules for exhibitors is to promote the youth program as a learning experience for the youth. All exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals throughout the show. Grooming at the Leavenworth County Fair for the breeding and market animal shows may include the use of adhesives, paints, and powders and shall not include the use of hair not from the animal being groomed or twine/artificial material.
27. **NO AEROSOLS IN THE MAKE UP / HOLDING AREAS** Immediate family members (to include parents, legal guardians, siblings, and grandparents) and current Kansas 4-H or FFA members that are exhibitors at the Leavenworth County Fair may provide grooming and/or care to livestock projects, regardless of if the exhibitor is present while such grooming and/or care is being provided. Any person who is not an immediate family member or current Kansas 4-H or FFA members exhibiting at the Leavenworth County Fair shall be deemed a "livestock helper." Livestock helpers may only assist in grooming and/or care of animals if the exhibitor is both present and participating in the care and/or grooming of their animal. *Except that, a livestock helper may provide grooming and/or care to an animal with the exhibitor not present if the exhibitor is not present because they are showing one of their other animals.* Exhibitors and livestock helpers in violation of this rule will be warned once by the Extension Agent. Upon the second violation, an entry that has been deemed by the Extension Agent to have been groomed or cared for by a livestock helper without the exhibitor being present and participating in the grooming and/or care without meeting the exceptions described above, may be disqualified. Violations of this rule are subject to all penalties afforded by all applicable Leavenworth County Fair rules."

**NATIONAL CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS IAFE
(INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS)**

Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to junior as well as open class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show. In addition to the "IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics," fairs and livestock shows may have rules and regulations which they impose on the local, county, state, provincial and national levels.

All youth leaders working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and

positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and absolutely responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit premiums, awards and auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the respective fairs and livestock shows. Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from competition at all livestock shows in the United States and Canada. The following is a list of guidelines for all exhibitors and all livestock in competitive events:

1. All exhibitors must present, upon request of fair and livestock show officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited.
2. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by fair or livestock show officials.
3. Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at fairs or livestock shows.
4. Animals shall be presented to show events where they will enter the food chain free of drugs. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer and/or absolutely responsible person for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. Animals not entered in an event, which culminates with the animal entering the food chain, shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event. If the laboratory report on the chemical analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample taken from livestock indicates the presence of forbidden drugs or medication, this shall be prima facie evidence such substance has been administered to the animal either internally or externally. It is presumed that the sample of urine, saliva, blood, or other substance tested (by the approved laboratory to which it is sent) is the one taken from the animal in question. Its integrity is preserved and all procedures of said collection and preservation transfer to the laboratory and analysis of the sample are correct and accurate and the report received from the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with the burden on the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to prove otherwise at any hearing in regard to the matter conducted by the fair or livestock show. At any time after an animal arrives on the fair or livestock show premises, all treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian.
5. Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counterirritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, conformation, or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only and except for surgical procedures performed by duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
6. The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited.
7. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair, or livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during, or after the

competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.

8. No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this code of ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this code of ethics. Violation of this rule shall subject such individual to disciplinary action.
9. The application of this code of ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or participant whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this code of ethics.
10. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to have any disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show against such individuals published in any publication of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, including Fairs and Expositions and any special notices to members.
11. The act of entering an animal in a fair or livestock show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or she has read the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences of and penalties provided for actions prohibited by the code. It is further a consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state, or provincial statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.