



GENERAL LIVESTOCK TERMS & CONDITIONS

***Updated for 2026**

LIVESTOCK HEALTH

Emergency Medical/Death of Animal Clause

- After **May 15, 2026**, no animal may be substituted or replaced due to death or medical condition **unless it is the exhibitor's only animal in that species**.
- A signed veterinarian letter stating the condition of the original animal must be provided to the Extension Office for approval.
- Substituted animals:
 - Receive participation ribbons only (except in showmanship).
 - May be sold in the Clay County 4-H Auction.
- Questions/concerns: Contact the Extension Office.

Health Inspection and Entry Requirements

- Clay County follows Indiana state livestock health requirements.
- Animals will be inspected upon arrival by a veterinarian or designated representative.
- No livestock may be unloaded or enter barns until inspected by the barn superintendent and/or veterinarian.
- The superintendent or veterinarian may refuse entry to any animal showing signs of illness or communicable disease.

During the Fair

- Exhibitors must remove any animal showing infectious or contagious symptoms upon request from the superintendent or veterinarian.
- Failure to meet health requirements will result in removal of all animals exhibited by that exhibitor.

Fraud and Deception Policy

Fraud/deception **not allowed**, including:

- Tampering/misrepresentation of breeding, age, ownership, or preparation (e.g., coloring to alter breed traits, pumping, hair attachments, or filling).
- Unethical fitting, including use of natural/foreign substances (drugs, steroids, oils, blood, air, chemicals) or surgical alterations changing conformation or rendering tissues unfit for consumption.

Allowed Exceptions:

- Hoof trimming, dehorning, hair removal, normal hair manipulation, castration, branding, tattooing, ear notching, tail docking (sheep/swine), and coloring that does not misrepresent breed traits.

Drug and Substance Rules

Market animals must not contain substances exceeding USDA/FDA permissible limits on show day or shipment day.

No drug administration during the Clay County Fair unless:

- Approved by the project superintendent, and
- The superintendent witnesses the procedure.

OWNERSHIP & REGISTRATIONS

Ownership/Leasing:

- Each 4-H member must own or lease their exhibit animal.
- Ownership, possession, and regular care must begin by **May 15, 2026** and continue through the 4-H show.

Registration Requirements:

- All breeding animals must be registered with their official breed association and earmarked/tagged to match registration papers **and/or county/state project requirements**.
- Registration papers will be checked by the barn superintendent.
- Documentation must prove the 4-H member (alone or with family/legal guardian) owned the animal **by May 15, 2026** and continuously through show day.

**Acceptable Registration Formats:**

- In the 4-H member's name
- "John Smith & Sons"
- "John Smith, Sons & Daughters"
- "John Smith & Family" (family = sons, daughters, legal guardian youth only)
- "Mark Smith (brother) & Mary Smith (sister)"
- Family corporation – member's name must appear as stockholder (proof required by enrollment date)
- Family partnership – includes only immediate family/legal guardians; notarized document on file with Extension Office by ID deadline

Unacceptable Registrations:

- Registered only in father's name, farm name only, or with unrelated partners (e.g., "Smith View," "John Doe & William Smith").
- *Exception:* Dairy cattle may be registered in partnerships with unrelated persons or dairy operations.

Leased Animals:

- Dairy heifers, horses, and ponies may be leased with committee and Extension Educator approval.
- Lease form due to the Extension Office by **May 15, 2026**.

Sale/Eligibility Rules:

- Animals bought, sold, or offered for sale after May 15 and before the County Fair are not eligible for County or State Fair shows.
- After enrollment, animals should only be shown by the enrolled 4-H member, except by siblings or parents (does not affect eligibility).
- Violations result in disqualification from County and State Fair 4-H shows.

Sibling Co-Enrollment:

- For co-enrolled animals, a showing declaration must be made in Fair Entry by **July 1, 2026**.

GROOMING

Clay County 4-H encourages members and their immediate families to be the primary groomers of their animals. However, exhibitors may use outside groomers for show day assistance if needed. If you plan to have grooming help at the State Fair, please review their updated rule book to ensure all requirements are met. Contact the Extension Office with any questions.

4-H EXHIBITOR EXPECTATIONS**Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training**

To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training. This is an annual program that can be completed in-person by attending one of the classes on the following dates at the Fairgrounds:

- **March 18, 2026**
- **April 27, 2026**
- **May 21, 2026**
- **June 30, 2026**

An online option is available for \$12 through the YQCA program. Once you complete this [online course](#), you must email the Extension Office your final certificate emailed to you at completion showing your certification number.

Eligibility:

- Only current Clay County 4-H members may show livestock.

During Judging:

- No electronics (cell phones, Bluetooth, etc.) allowed between exhibitors and others.
- *Exception:* approved assistive devices for disabilities.

**Set Up & Clean Up:**

- All exhibitors must participate in barn setup and cleanup.
- Superintendents assign duties and oversee completion.

Animal Care:

- Exhibitors must provide their own feed, water, and equipment.
- Animals must be under daily care of the exhibitor.
- Pens/stalls must be clean and dry; aisles clear of debris/tack.
- Compliance determined by Council and superintendent.

Showmanship & Substitutes:

- Exhibitors are expected to show their own animals.
- Substitutes (another Clay County 4-H member) allowed only for:
 - Illness
 - Injury
 - Multiple animals in same class
 - Other unavoidable circumstances
- Request must be made to the Barn Superintendent or 4-H Council by fair check-in.

SHOW PROCEDURES**Arrival & Check-In:**

- Livestock must arrive as scheduled in the fair program.
- No unloading until checked by the species superintendent and/or veterinarian — *no exceptions*.

Pen Assignments:

- Superintendent assigns all livestock pen spaces.

Class Placings & Ribbons:

- Ribbons awarded to the top five placings in each class.

Registration Papers:

- Exhibitors without required registration papers will show in the Crossbred Class.

Ownership Eligibility:

- Animals shown elsewhere under different ownership after enrollment are not eligible for the Clay County 4-H Show.
- *Exception:* animals shown by siblings or parents.

Post-Judging Verification:

- Placings become official only after all verification (e.g., retinal scan, RFID tag reading) is complete.

Animal Handling:

- If a judge or superintendent determines an exhibitor cannot safely handle an animal, the member will still receive project completion credit.

Fairgrounds Policy:

- Only exhibited animals are allowed on fairgrounds.
- Animals not staying overnight may remain only during their show.

Champion Selection:

- After a Champion is chosen, the second-place animal moves up to compete for Reserve.
- After a Grand Champion is chosen, the Reserve Champion competes for Reserve Grand Champion.



CLAY COUNTY LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Animal Health & Eligibility:

- Only sound, healthy animals may be sold.
- Superintendents, auction committee, and 4-H Council make final decisions on eligibility.

Training Requirement:

- All exhibitors must complete the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care Training to participate in the auction.

Premise ID:

- Required for Beef, Boer Goats, Dairy, Dairy Goats, Meat Goat Wethers, Pygmy Goats, Sheep, and Swine.

Weight Requirements:

- Beef/Dairy Steers: under 850 lbs — exhibitor must sign a release form; animal not eligible for sale unless buyer secured.
- Swine: under 200 lbs — may be shown but not sold in auction; exhibitor must sign release form if shown. *No exceptions.*

Post-Auction Rule:

- Once an animal goes through the auction, it cannot be shown at the Indiana State Fair or any other 4-H show.

Sale Order:

1. Grand Champion
 2. Reserve Grand Champion
 3. Grand Champion Born & Bred
 4. Reserve Grand Champion Born & Bred
- All others draw for sale order.
 - If a champion animal is not sold, the exhibitor must draw for sale order with another entry.

Market & Sale Process:

- If market available, animals will be pegged, sold, and shipped or retained as designated by the buyer.
- Eligible species: cattle, swine, poultry, goats, sheep, and rabbits.

Poultry:

- May sell one meat pen of:
 - Cornish chickens (≥5 lbs each), or
 - Ducks (≥5 lbs each), or
 - One turkey.

Rabbits:

- May sell one meat-type entry from Meat Rabbit Classes:
 - Meat Pen (3 rabbits), Single Fryer, Roaster, or Stewer.

SHOWMANSHIP CONTESTS

4-H Showmanship Rules for Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy, & Goats

- There will be four showmanship divisions with a Champion and Reserve Champion in each division.
 - **Junior Showmanship** – for 4-H members who are grades 3, 4, 5 on January 1st of the current year.
 - **Intermediate Showmanship** – for 4-H members who are grades 6, 7, 8 on January 1st of the current year.
 - **Senior Showmanship** – for 4-H members who are grades 9, 10, 11, & 12 on January 1st of the current year.
 - **Champion of Champion Showman** – includes all senior showmanship winners and Champion of Champion winners of previous years.
- A member may win the junior, intermediate, and senior divisions only once and will show in the next level the following year.
- A winning senior may compete in the Champion of Champions division in the year he/she wins the senior division.
- 4-H members may win the Champion of Champions division any number of times.
- Division(s) may be added/deleted at the discretion of the superintendent.
- An alternate out of the Champion of Champions will be selected.



ROUND ROBIN SHOWMANSHIP

Species Shown:

- Sheep, Horses, Meat Goats, Dairy Goats, Dairy Cattle, Swine, and Beef.

Eligibility:

- Champion of Champions from each species competes.
- Exhibitors winning multiple species must choose one; alternates fill openings.

Animals & Equipment:

- Animals shown naturally – no advance grooming.
- Superintendents ensure animals are clean, uniform, and supply all equipment.
- Contestant or same-premise animals cannot be used in contest.

Contest Process:

- Contestants draw numbers (1–6) to determine which animal they'll show across all species.
- Species winners enter first for their class.
- Jeans and boots/hard shoes required for safety.
- Contestants must remain in the ring (one authorized break allowed).
- No communication with spectators; violation = disqualification.
- 15-minute time limit per class.

Judges:

- Names due to the Extension Office by June 1, 2026 with brief bios.
- Judges hired by Committee Chair, Educator, and Superintendents.
- Judges' decisions are final and confidential.

Scoring:

- Points per round: 1st = 1 pt, 2nd = 2 pts, etc.
- Lowest total score wins.
- Past winners may not compete again.
1st & 2nd place receive awards.

Tie Breaker:

- Written test (12 questions, two per species) given at Thursday meeting.
- No outside help or electronics.
- Absent contestants not eligible for tie-breaker.

Final Decisions:

- All issues decided by the Round Robin Committee.
- Rabbit & Poultry Champions recognized and may give demonstrations.