

# ***Guadalupe County 4-H Livestock Handbook***

The source for your livestock project questions. This handbook contains information on all common livestock species and the details associated with them.

Special Thanks to the Wichita County 4-H Program for Originally Creating this Document.

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# Introduction to Handbook

This handbook is an effort to help the 4-Hers of Guadalupe County involved in livestock projects. The majority of our 4-Hers raise some form of livestock for the Youth Show or other Major Show; however many first time participants don't know enough to be very competitive their first couple of years.

In speaking with various 4-Hers, adult leaders and parents, we have decided to put together this publication to give all of our 4-Hers a better chance to succeed in their projects and learn about the animal they are raising! While this book is tailored specifically to first-time participants and feeders, we hope that it can be helpful to all 4-Hers raising livestock for the show.

There is a lot of information and study that goes into raising a quality livestock project. Many 4-Hers don't know the first place to look for information on feeding, watering and weight of their animal. Antibiotics, feed supplements and rules on various aspects of the program are also issues that first time participants have. Much of that information is listed in this handbook. In addition, this manual contains information on validation and tag times, clipping, cleaning and more for your livestock project.



The way this book will be most effective it to keep it with you at all times when you are feeding and caring for your livestock project. Using the charts and tables inside will help us as county agents make suggestions for your project and help you keep track of the animal's progress on the way to market and beyond.

Furthermore, we want to give credit where it is due. The format and much of the information in this handbook was compiled and created by Maranda Revell and Fred Hall, County Extension Agents from Wichita County, Texas. Their research has gathered a library of information that we have been trying to combine for a long time. We thank them for their permission to create this publication in Guadalupe County!

As always, if you have any questions, you can call the County Extension Office and have one of the agents come make a trip to visit with you and your project!

See y'all around the county!

Travis Franke  
County Extension Agent  
Ag and Natural Resources  
Guadalupe County

Jeff Hanselka  
County Extension Agent  
Agriculture  
Guadalupe County

Matthew J. Miranda  
County Extension Agent  
4-H & Youth Development  
Guadalupe County

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### Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Guadalupe County Staff

210 East Live Oak, Seguin, Texas 78155

Phone: 830-379-1972, 379-2153, 303-3889 (metro), Fax: 830-372-3940

Extension website: <http://guadalupe.agrilife.org>, Facebook: <http://facebook.com/guadalupecounty4h>

E-mail: [guadalupe-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:guadalupe-tx@tamu.edu) Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am-12 noon and 1:00-5:00 pm

***Travis Franke***

County Extension Agent:  
Agriculture/Natural Resources  
[t-franke@tamu.edu](mailto:t-franke@tamu.edu)

***Jeff Hanselka***

County Extension Agent:  
Agriculture  
[j-hanselka@tamu.edu](mailto:j-hanselka@tamu.edu)

***Dr. Charla Bading***

County Extension Agent:  
Family and Consumer Science  
[C-bading@tamu.edu](mailto:C-bading@tamu.edu)

***Matthew J. Miranda***

County Extension Agent:  
4-H and Youth Development  
[mjmiranda@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:mjmiranda@ag.tamu.edu)

***Lisa Whittlemore***

Better Living for Texans Assistant  
[lwhittlemore@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:lwhittlemore@ag.tamu.edu)

***Kim Luensmann***

Office Manager  
[luensmann@co.guadalupe.tx.us](mailto:luensmann@co.guadalupe.tx.us)

***Carol Calentine***

Administrative Assistant  
[carolc@co.guadalupe.tx.us](mailto:carolc@co.guadalupe.tx.us)

## ***Livestock Project Information***

To enter in the Guadalupe County Youth Show and other major shows, you will need to remember several dates and events. The following information relates mostly to those of you with livestock projects, but some of it applies to any aspect of the Youth Show or other show related events. Please contact the Extension office if you have questions.

**4-H Membership** - To participate in the county Youth Show, you MUST enroll in a 4-H club by logging onto 4-H Connect <https://texas.4honline.com> and register. You must also participate in meetings and be an active member of the 4-H program!

**Animal Tags** - you'll need to order tags that will be used to validate your animal on or before these deadlines (*All Dates are Approximate and are not set until appearing in the County Newsletter*)

Steers - 2nd Week in Apr.

Sheep & Goats - 3rd Week in Aug.

Swine - 2nd Week in Sept.

**Poultry orders** - broilers and turkeys for county and major shows are ordered from certified hatchery and orders must be made through the Extension office. (*All Dates are Approximate and are not set until appearing in the County Newsletter*)

Turkeys - 3rd or 4th Week of May

Broilers - 2nd or 3rd Week of Sept.

*The arrival of the birds will be announced in the newsletter.*

**Validation** - bring your project to be tagged (and/or other procedures) as follows (*All Dates and locations are tentative until posted in the newsletter*):

**Steers**  
1st week of  
June

**Breeding Goats**  
Late October

**Goats**  
3rd or 4th  
week of Oct.

**Sheep**  
3rd or 4th  
week of Oct.

**Swine**  
3rd week of  
November



**Rabbits**  
2nd or 3rd  
week of Dec.

**Quality Counts Verification-** Every 4-Her competing in a major Stock Show MUST complete the Quality Counts training online. This course is designed to teach 4-Hers and FFA members about quality assurance, good practices for raising livestock and how what we put in our livestock ends up in our food supply!.

You must have your verification number on your entry forms to be allowed to show. Verification is ***NOT required for the Guadalupe County Youth Show***, but it is suggested! To get verified, go to the website [qualitycounts.tamu.edu](http://qualitycounts.tamu.edu) and view the curricula, slide shows, and Texas Trail tabs to learn about quality assurance and more. Then you will need to take the verification exam. There are two versions

- ◆ The Junior Test- 10 questions for kids ages 8-13 (Test must be retaken when senior age is reached)
- ◆ The Senior Test- 20 questions for kids ages 14-19

Click on the *verification* tab to take the test. Click the link that takes you to the test. When it asks for which organization (4-H/ FFA) you are a member of, ***be sure to click the 4-H & FFA button***. This will make your number good for both organizations. If you lose your number or forget it from last year, contact Travis Franke CEA: Ag at the Extension Office to get your number back.

**Entry** - It is your responsibility to complete the necessary entry information, by Entry Night (usually the 3rd Thursday of November) for whatever shows you choose to exhibit your project (could be Youth Show, San Antonio, Star of Texas, etc.). Entry information could include the following: entry cards, summary sheets, and other required attachments.

**Resources**– Be sure to look for further supportive information in the County Yearbook, in the Youth Show rulebook, on the Extension web site <http://Guadalupe.agrilife.org>, in the Extension Library, in your monthly Extension newsletter and Facebook Page.

The following items are available for check-out from the Extension office:

- ◇ Sheep clippers (you provide blades)
- ◇ Pig clippers (you provide blades)
- ◇ Cattle clippers (you provide blades)
- ◇ 2 goat/sheep trimming tables
- ◇ 2 blowers

### ***Guadalupe County 4-H & Major Show Entry Night***

Entry night for the County Youth Show and major shows will be usually the **3rd Thursday in November each year in the evening at the Extension office.** All entries are due on or before that day. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!** Entries require signature of parents and 4-H members. A summary form will be included in the November newsletter which each 4-H'er will be required to complete and turn in with all entry cards on entry night. Review and follow rules/guidelines of the shows you plan to enter.

### ***Academic Eligibility Requirements***

To be eligible to participate in 4-H shows or competitions, 4-H members must meet the same academic standards that are required to be eligible for UIL activities in their school. In other words, if a student is eligible to compete in extra-curricular activities at his or her school on a particular date, according to UIL guidelines, that student is also eligible to compete in a 4-H show on that date. If the student is not eligible at school, he or she is not eligible for 4-H competitions.

The Extension staff will distribute letters to each campus (public, private, and homeschool) for each event, letting the schools know who from their school is participating. The school principal or designee must indicate students' academic eligibility, sign and return the letter to the Extension office prior to the event. Semester grades are NOT used in the factoring of the grades at the school district. Your grades based on the six-week grading schedule for Seguin, SCUCISD, Marion; and nine-week grading schedule for Navarro. Even if you are passing for the semester, your grades leading up to the majors or ANY 4-H show/event **MUST BE PASSING!**

I just want to remind y'all that while your 4-H projects are very important, your school is much more important and THAT needs to be your number one focus! You can raise the best animal in the world, write the perfect speech, sew the fanciest garment, but if you are not passing in school, it won't matter because you won't get to show. Things happen, I understand that...I was a student too, but try your hardest in school and study.



## *General Information for Livestock Projects*

When raising a quality livestock project for show, there are several areas to take into account. Many people don't think of the math and science that goes into an animal project. When picking an animal to show, it is good to think about several things when choosing; rate of feed intake, cost of feed, amount of water intake, pounds gained per day, these are all important numbers to be aware of. You don't want to get six months into a project and realize it is too expensive or the animal isn't gaining weight fast enough to be ready for the show!

The following charts list some of the common questions raised when feeding a livestock project.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Average Lbs Per Day of Weight Gain</u>	<u>Average Amount of Feed Per Lb Gained</u>	<u>Pounds of Feed Per Day at Start of Project</u>	<u>Amount of Feed Per Day at End of Project</u>
Beef	3– 3.5 lbs/day	9 to 1	10	30
Sheep/ Lamb	.5-.8 lbs /day	8 to 1	3	4-5
Swine	1.5– 2 lbs/day	4 to 1	3-4	5-6
Goat	.4-.5 lbs/day	3.5 to 1	2	4.5
Broiler (Chicken)	.1 lbs/day	2.4 to 1	.2	.5
Turkey	.13– .15 lbs/day	5.2 to 1	.5	3-4
Rabbit	1.25-.1.5oz/day	2.8 to 1	2 oz.	5 oz.

**Table 1: Average weight gain by animal species and amount of average feed intake per day.**

This chart shows the approximate number of lbs (or oz.) per day that should be gained, the amount of feed needed for *one* pound of gain, as well as the amount of feed needed per day at the start AND finish of the project .

<u>Species</u>	<u>Buying Dates</u>	<u>Tag ,Purchase or Birth Dates</u>	<u>Validation or Delivery Dates</u>
Beef	March– June	April	Early June
Sheep/ Lamb	May– August	August	Late October
Swine	September– November	September	November
Goat	May– September	August	Late October
Broiler (Chicken)	—	Order in September	Delivery in December
Turkey	—	Order in May	Delivery in October
Rabbit	—	Born in November	Mid December

**Table 2: Important animal project dates to remember.**

It varies when you should buy your animal, when you must purchase tags and when they must be validated. Be sure to check the newsletter for exact dates, times and locations.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Average Feed Cost</u>
Beef	\$225.00/month
Sheep/ Lamb	\$25.00/month
Swine	\$60.00/month
Goat	\$30.00/month
Broiler (Chicken)	\$400/Entire Six Weeks
Turkey	\$500/ Entire Raising Period
Rabbit	\$15.00/month

**Table 3: Average cost of feed per month for each of the species.**

Feed cost is an important consideration to keep when choosing your animal project. You should be able to provide enough feed per month to keep up its average daily rate of weight gain.

Remember to purchase a quality feed that contains the proper ratios of nutrients needed to raise a healthy livestock project. Protein, starch, vitamins, minerals and carbohydrates are ALL important to keep in mind when choosing a feed. Be sure to review the ***Managing Beef Cattle for Show*** publication from the Extension office for more in depth nutrition information

### Daily Water Intake

This is another important thing to remember while raising your livestock project. Water is needed for good health, proper digestion of feed, muscle growth and more. A dehydrated animal project will not develop properly, could get sick and more.

Additionally, remember not to over water as well. Too much water can cause nutrients to pass through the body too quickly, give false weight readings and other issues. The best thing to do is maintain a steady level of watering and heed the advice of the county agents. Check and change the water for your animals routinely; clean, fresh water is key to a healthy animal.



<u>Species</u>	<u>Age at Show Date</u>
Beef	16– 20 Months Old
Sheep/ Lamb	Around 10 Months
Swine	Around 6 Months
Goat	Around 10 Months
Broiler (Chicken)	Around 6 Weeks of Age
Turkey	18-22 Weeks of Age
Rabbit	No More Than 69 Days

**Table 4: Ideal animal age at or on show dates.**

It is important to keep in mind when your animal was born depending on the show you are raising it for. Many stock shows have rules as to how old your animal project can be at the time of show. If it is too young, it may not have the proper finish wanted to show correctly, while if too old, it may not be allowed to show.

For instance, a rabbit at the Guadalupe Co. Youth Show can be NO OLDER than 69 days... so keep an eye on the rules of the show and on your project's birthday.

## *More Livestock Basics*

### **Calculating Average Daily Weight Gain**

From the Wichita County 4-H Livestock Record Keeping Guide

Doing your own calculations of your project's Average Daily Weight Gain (ADWG) is a good way to better understand your animal and be involved with its development. To do this, there are several steps to follow to find this number:

1. Start with the beginning weight of the animal
2. Weigh the animal anytime during the feeding period.
3. Subtract the starting weight from the current weight
4. Take that number and divide by the number of days between the starting weight date and the current weight date.
5. The final number is the average daily gain of your project

### **Things to Remember**

- Health Papers- Some shows require you to have health papers at the show. It is needed to check the vaccinations and other issues to keep all the animals healthy. You need to check the requirements before you leave home.
- If you are going to need ANYTHING while you are at the show, be sure to bring it with you. Sometimes, shows will have items like feed or shavings for sale but when they do, they are usually expensive.
- Make sure you are allowed to bring different items like shavings. Its best to ask first before heading out!
- Make sure to get hotel reservations before heading to the show. You may not be able to find a room once you get there.
- Do not use any illegal substances with your projects. Anything you put into your project will end up back in the food supply! Finally, watch the medicines and antibiotics you use on your animals. They can stay in the animal long after the prescriptions are done.



Be aware that although the labeled withholding time on a drug is given, this is only the time needed to make the animal safe for human consumption. There still may be residual traces in the animal. These residues can be created by **water and feed additives, injections or external treatment, or by accident.**

**Major stock shows have a ZERO TOLERANCE policy on ALL DRUGS!**

The next couple of pages touch on drug usage, withdrawal times and more! Be sure to read them and call the county agents if you have questions!

## *Livestock Medical Treatment and Drug Usage*

Species	Required Vaccinations
Beef	Enterotoxemia Type C&D (7 Way) Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) Parainfluenza 3 Virus (PI3) Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (BRSV) Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) Anthelmintics (Stomach Worms)
Sheep/ Lamb	Enterotoxemia Type C&D Tetanus Soremouth Anthelmintics (Stomach Worms)
Swine	Pseudo Rabies Pleuro Guard (For Pleuropnumonia) Anthelmintics (Stomach Worms)
Goat	Enterotoxemia Type C&D Tetanus Soremouth Anthelmintics (Stomach Worms)
Broiler (Chicken)	Fowl Pox (When 8-10 Wks Old)
Turkey	Pullorum-Typhoid Disease Fowl Pox (When 8-10 Wks Old)
Rabbit	Pasteurellosis

**Table 5: Vaccinations Required in Each of the Species**

Before any animal can be shown in the County OR Major Shows (San Antonio, Houston, etc.), They MUST receive the following vaccinations. Consult your vet on when they should receive these treatments.

Some shows will require you have proof of vaccination so make sure you have them well documented

**Table 6: Common Antibiotics and Withdrawal Times**

This is very important to remember with your livestock projects. If traces are detected at the show, it will result in disqualification! Make sure to calculate the withdrawal time BEFORE the show date.

If you have a prescribed medication, be sure to carry a copy of the prescription with you when you go to the show. It is important to know how to read your prescription label so you know how to give your project the exact effective amount and where your withdrawal times are correct. Go to [qualitycounts.tamu.edu](http://qualitycounts.tamu.edu) for information on label reading and how to calculate the dosage for your animal!

Antibiotic	Beef	Sheep	Goat	Swine
Penicillin	10 Days	9 Days	9 Days	7 Days
Long Lasting Penicillin	30 Days	—	—	—
LA 200	28 Days	42 Days	42 Days	28 Days
Micotil	28 Days	—	—	—
Nuflow	28 Days	—	—	—
Baytril 100	28 Days	—	—	—
Spectinomycin	11 Days	—	—	—
Naxcel	0 Days	0 Days	0 Days	0 Days
Tylosin	0 Days	0 Days	0 Days	0 Days

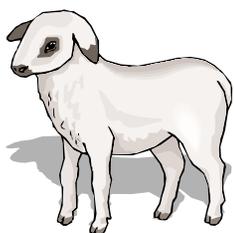
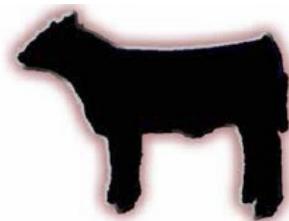
# Care and Treatment of Your Livestock Project

From the Wichita County 4-H Livestock Record Keeping Guide

## Livestock Pens & Shelter Requirements

**Steers:** Your steer should have enough room to walk and exercise daily. For one steer, you should have a pen no smaller than 40' x 40'. This should give the steer enough room to walk and be content.

Your steer should have enough shelter to get out of the rain, cold or sunlight in the summer. One steer should have at least a shelter of 10' x 10' with three solid sides (the three sides should face North, East and West) and be at least 6-7' tall.

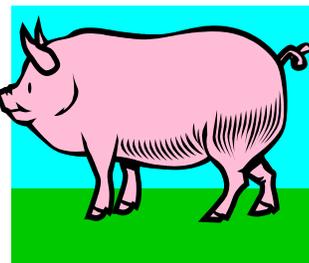


**Sheep:** Your lamb should have enough room to walk and exercise daily. For one lamb, you should have a pen no smaller than 10' x 20'. This should give the lamb enough room to walk and be content.

Your lamb should have enough shelter to get out of the rain, cold or sunlight in the summer. One lamb should have at least a shelter of 5' x 10' with three solid sides (the three sides should face North, East and West) and be at least 6-7' tall.

**Swine:** Your hog should have enough room to walk and exercise daily. For one hog, you should have a pen no smaller than 10' x 20'. This should give the hog enough room to walk and be content. Concrete is cleaner to keep, but dirt is softer on the animal's legs and feet, so plan accordingly.

Your hog should have enough shelter to get out of the rain, cold or sunlight in the summer and winter. White hogs will blister in the sun (summer or winter). One hog should have at least a shelter of 5' x 10' with three solid sides (the three sides should face North, East and West) and be at least 4-5' tall.

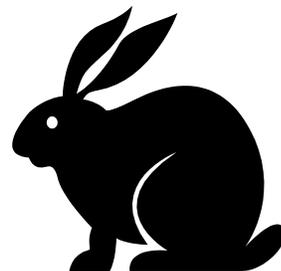


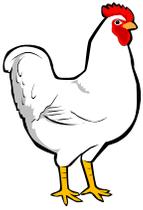
**Goat:** Your goat should have enough room to walk and exercise daily. For one goat, you should have a pen no smaller than 10' x 20'. This should give the animal enough room to walk and be content.

Your goat should have enough shelter to get out of the rain, cold or sunlight in the summer. One goat should have at least a shelter of 5' x 10' with three solid sides (the three sides should face North, East and West) and be at least 6-7' tall.

**Rabbits:** Rabbit hutches that are about 30 inches wide, 30 inches long and 18 inches high are about the right size for one to two rabbits. If you have more than 2 rabbits you can have to hutches or make a larger one. It is a good idea to have each rabbit separate from the others to monitor feeding.

Hutches can have a wood frame, but the sides and bottom should be chicken wire. Make sure you make a door so you can get the rabbit in and out of the hutch. Keep the hutches out of direct sunlight. The direct heat will hurt the rabbits, so keep them cool in the summer. Remember, rabbits can molt if they are over 85 degrees.





**Chickens and Turkeys:** Birds require 2 square feet of floor space through 4 weeks of age and 6 square feet from 4-8 weeks of age. By 12 weeks of age, hens must have at least 7 square feet, and toms at least 10 square feet. Chickens can have less space, but these guidelines will work for both.

About two weeks before your birds arrive, disinfect the house to kill any germs that may be around. Put down about 4 inches of fresh litter. Wood shavings (not cedar), cane fiber or rice hulls make the best litter. Hay, newspaper, etc. all make poor litter for new birds. Construct a cardboard brooder guard to keep birds near heat, water and feed. The brooder guard should be 10 to 18 inches high (depending on chickens or turkeys) and must be a minimum of 5 feet in diameter for 50 birds. When birds are 7 days old, remove the guard and allow them full freedom of the pen. Two 125 watt bulbs per 50 birds are also needed to keep the birds warm. Use the lamps until the birds are fully feathered (about 4 weeks).



### Daily Care Requirements

**Steers:** Your steer needs to be worked with each day. He should be broke to lead with a halter and lead each day so he gets used to you and following you around the pen. Practice setting his legs each day so it becomes automatic when you show him.

Your steer needs to be fed twice each day, and make sure he has plenty of fresh, cool water to drink. **If you would not drink it, your steer should not either.** Start feeding by following the general guideline of providing 2-3% of the animal's body weight in feed, plus, 1 pound of hay per 100 pounds of body weight.

Take time each day to look at him all over to see if he has any cuts or issues that will slow his performance. Also, check for mood swings. If he does not come up to eat at feeding time, he may be sick or starting to get sick. **Your steer is just like you, when he does not feel good, you can tell by his moods and behaviors.**

Even though most shows are slick sheer shows, I suggest that you work on training the hair on your steer each day. The best way is to wash him and use a rice brush to brush his hair forward. After his hair naturally stays forward you can start brushing it at a 45 degree angle. This will help with clipping and gentling.

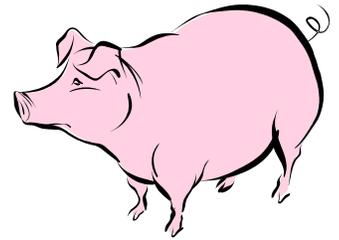


**Sheep:** Your lamb needs to be worked with each day. He should be broke to lead with a halter and lead each day so he gets used to you and following you around the pen. Practice setting his legs each day and make him brace. The best way to teach this is popping him on his rump where he lunges forward and flexes his muscles. This is very important in showing lambs.

Your lamb needs to be fed twice each day, and make sure he has plenty of fresh, cool water to drink. **If you would not drink it, your lamb should not either.** Take time each day to look at him all over to see if he has any cuts or issues that will slow his performance. Also, check for mood swings. If he does not come up to eat at feeding time, he may be sick or starting to get sick. **Your lamb is just like you, when he does not feel good, you can tell by his moods and behaviors.**

**Swine:** It is best if you can walk your hog each day for exercise. This will help a lot when you exhibit at a show. Practice using a show stick with him, so he understands which direction you want him to travel.

If you put your hog on a self-feeder, it is hard to gauge how much they are eating if they are being self fed. Hand feeding twice a day, every day gives you the opportunity to look at your hog to make sure he is healthy and begin the gentling process and begin the bonding process. It is easier to start walking them if they know and trust you. By placing the feed on one end of the pen and the water on the other end you can make your hog exercise himself.



It is always best to set up a self watering system also. They can be very simple to build by using a 20-50 gallon drum and affix a water nipple, and make sure he has plenty of fresh, cool water to drink. During the winter you can put a floating heater in the barrel to keep water from freezing. **If you would not drink it, your hog should not either.**

Take time each day to look at him all over to see if he has any cuts or issues that will slow his performance. Also, check for mood swings. If he does not come up to eat at feeding time, he may be sick or starting to get sick. The sooner you contact your veterinarian on this issues, the sooner your hog will be healthy again. **Your hog is just like you, when he does not feel good, you can tell by his moods and behaviors.**



**Goats:** Your goat needs to be worked with each day. He should be broke to lead with a collar and lead each day so he gets used to you and following you around the pen. Practice setting his legs each day is very important in showing goats.

Your goat needs to be fed twice each day, and make sure he has plenty of fresh, cool water to drink. **If you would not drink it, your goat should not either.** Take time each day to look at him all over to see if he has any cuts or issues that will slow his performance. Also, check for mood swings. If he does not come up to eat at feeding time, he may be sick or starting to get sick. **Your goat is just like you, when he does not feel good, you can tell by his moods and behaviors.**



**Chickens/Turkeys:** During the first three days, treat with a general antibiotic. Also, add electrolytes to the water supply.

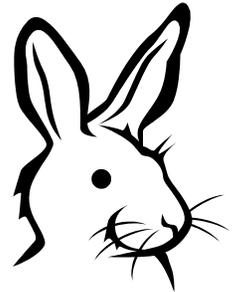
Check you birds multiple times each day. Even small changes can have a big impact! Since all the chickens and turkeys that will be shown are from the same hatch, feeding and watering on a daily basis is the most important factor for your birds. Make sure that you are feeding a complete feed that is made for chickens or turkeys.

Like a hog project, you keep feed out all day long like a self feeder. The birds will scratch and eat most all day, so this is very important. This is the **ONLY** way they will make show weight! Make sure they have plenty of fresh, cool water to drink. **If you would not drink it, your birds should not either.** Death loss can be high in some hatches so a daily check on the health of the flock is important. Isolate any sick birds so any sickness would not carry from one to another.

**Rabbits:** During the winter months, it is a good idea to have a heat lamp of some sort above the hutch to keep the rabbits warm. In the summer months, the best way to keep the rabbits cool is to keep their water cool. Some have had good results with placing filling gallon milk jugs with water, freezing them, and then placing the jug in the hutch.

Make sure he has plenty of fresh, cool water to drink. **If you would not drink it, your rabbits should not either.** Unlike most animals, rabbits do not require many shots and most all problems can be taken care of with regular cleaning of the pens. Major diseases are listed below:

- Coccidiosis- If your rabbit has coccidiosis they will lose weight quickly and have bloody feces. You can treat your rabbits with an approved coccidiostat.
- Pasteurellosis- This disease is also call the Sniffles. It is a respiratory problem that is caused by poor ventilation in the place you keep your rabbits.
- Parasites- Ear and Skin Mange are the two biggest parasites. You can cure the problem by applying a few drops of a commercial oil solution to the affected areas.



You will need to work with your rabbits each day also so they become used to you. You will also need to practice showing your rabbits. Place them on a piece of carpet and make them stand still with their back legs under them and the front legs pointing forward. Pet your rabbit frequently so they are not afraid.

### **Weekly, Monthly and Periodic Care Requirements**

**Steers:** Each month your steer will need his hooves trimmed approximately every six weeks). If you don't have a hoof trimming table, you will need to contact a hoof trimmer and make appointments. Do not trim hooves within 2 weeks of a show. Accidents can happen and leave your animal limping .

Check your steers weight gain each month and calculate average daily gain. Make sure he is gaining at an acceptable level. If he is slower gaining, you will have to adjust his feeding. If he is gaining faster, you may need to decrease his feed each day.

Check your steer's feces for stomach worms. They are long, worm-looking and they can cause your steer not to gain weight as fast as he needs to. Also check you steers nose and membranes. If they look dull in color you can almost bet that he has stomach worms. Treat him with an anthelmintic, like Ivomec, etc.



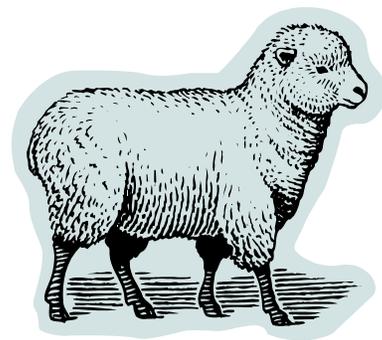
**Chickens/Turkeys:** There are several things to remember about flock health for your poultry projects. Respiratory infections are usually treated with a broad spectrum antibiotic labeled for birds. Coccidiosis outbreaks can be controlled with a poultry coccidiostat like Amprolium.

Water Glut is a condition that can cause birds to stagger and have convulsions. It is caused from birds drinking too much water too fast when the water is empty for a period of time. Keep your water levels filled at all times! Check for parasites on the birds frequently. Compounds like Sevin Dust can be used to kill the parasites.

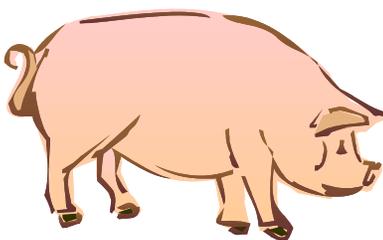
**Sheep:** Each month your lamb will need his hooves trimmed. You can buy a set of hoof nippers and cut the excess off the hoof. If you look at the bottom of the hoof, you will see the edges growing faster than the middle. You cut off the edges evenly, so when the hoof is on the ground, it lays flat. If you need help, call the county office or a project leader!

Check your lambs weight gain each month and calculate average daily gain. Make sure he is gaining at an acceptable level. If he is slower gaining, you will have to adjust his feeding. If he is gaining faster, you may need to decrease his feed each day.

Check your lambs feces for stomach worms. They are long worm-looking things and they can cause your lamb not to gain weight as fast as he needs to. Also check you lamb's nose and membranes. If they look dull in color you can almost bet that he has stomach worms. Treat him with an anthelmintic, like Ivomec, etc.



About once every 2 months your lamb will need to be sheared. This is more important in the summer months where he could overheat. This is also the best time to check your lamb's fat cover. You can feel his ribs and back bone to see how he is finishing. Be very careful as you shear the animal because cuts and scars could hurt the project's chances at the show.



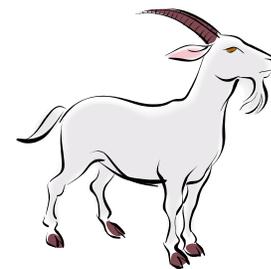
**Swine:** Check your hog's weight gain each week and calculate average daily gain. Make sure he is gaining at an acceptable level. If he is slower gaining, you will have to adjust his feeding. If he is gaining faster, you may need to decrease his feed each day. Know the weight limits and dates of your show prior to purchasing a hog. Generally your hog should be 5-6 months of age at show time. It is very important that your hog is not too heavy or light for the show.

Check your hog's feces for stomach worms. They are long & worm-looking and they can cause your hog not to gain weight as fast as he needs to. Also check your hog's nose and membranes. If they look dull in color you can almost bet that he has stomach worms. Treat him with an anthelmintic, like Ivomec, which can be poured in his water or a quality feed with wormer. With practice, you may prefer to inject a wormer under the skin. Check also for lice or mange and treat accordingly with veterinarians recommendations. Be careful of diarrhea in your hogs, the sooner you treat the faster they get over it.

It is a good idea to use a skin conditioner on your hog during the feeding program. As you get closer to the show, you might want to treat him each day to get his hair and skin shiny, use a "light oil" product. It also helps to have fresh bedding under his shelter to keep him clean Hogs can get cold easily, so a heat lamp would be a good investment during the winter months.

In the summer months keep the hogs out of direct sunlight (especially white hogs). Clipping your hog's hair at least a week prior to show will help keep you and your hog's stress levels lower. The current trend is to clip hair to a length of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1".

**Goats:** Each month your goat will need his hooves trimmed. You can buy a set of hoof nippers and cut the excess off the hoof. If you look at the bottom of the hoof, you will see the edges growing faster than the middle. You cut off the edges evenly, so when the hoof is on the ground, it lays flat. Make sure to cut the excess off the heel of the hoof and less off the toe. Goats will grow the heel more quickly and develop more problems if the heel is not properly trimmed.



Check your goat's weight gain each month and calculate average daily gain. Make sure he is gaining at an acceptable level. If he is slower gaining, you will have to adjust his feeding. If he is gaining faster, you may need to decrease his feed each day. Check your goat's feces for stomach worms. They are long worm-looking creatures and they can cause your goat not to gain weight as fast as he needs to. Also check you goat's nose and membranes. If they look dull in color you can almost bet that he has stomach worms. Treat him with an anthelmintic, like Ivomec, etc.

### *Useful Websites*

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| • Guadalupe County Youth Show:          | <a href="http://www.gcys.org">www.gcys.org</a>                     |
| • San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo: | <a href="http://www.sarodeo.com">www.sarodeo.com</a>               |
| • Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo:     | <a href="http://www.hlsr.com">www.hlsr.com</a>                     |
| • Star of Texas Rodeo (Austin):         | <a href="http://www.staroftexas.org">www.staroftexas.org</a>       |
| • San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo:      | <a href="http://www.sanangelorodeo.com">www.sanangelorodeo.com</a> |
| • Ft. Worth Stock Show and Rodeo:       | <a href="http://www.fwssr.com">www.fwssr.com</a>                   |
| • 4-H Connect (Registration for 4-H):   | <a href="http://www.texas.4honline.com">www.texas.4honline.com</a> |
| • Texas 4-H Website:                    | <a href="http://www.texas4-h.tamu.edu">www.texas4-h.tamu.edu</a>   |

### *Important Livestock Reminders*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enroll on 4-H Connect</li> <li>• Animal Health Practices (Deworming, medicine, etc)</li> <li>• Keep you Pens and facilities clean</li> <li>• Work with your animals every day</li> <li>• Keep up with hoof trimming and care</li> <li>• Read ALL the rules of each show</li> <li>• Thank your supporters and donors</li> <li>• Take care of your own projects, don't let others do the work for you</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be sure to write down the date for entry night</li> <li>• Keep your projects clean and healthy</li> <li>• Exercise your animals every day</li> <li>• Feed consistently and the correct amounts</li> <li>• Keep good records of feeding, weight gain and more</li> <li>• Take pictures of your project and of you caring for your project</li> <li>• Remember to give your projects good shelter</li> </ul> |
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Most of all, remember to have fun! While a livestock project is a lot of work, it can also be very fun and rewarding! You will be surprised one day at what you learned from showing! Good Luck and see YOU at the show!