

# STARR COUNTY 4-H

READ ALL ABOUT IT....

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## MAKE IT YOURS!

Starr County 4H Members, 4H Leaders and Parents:

I want to thank you for participating in the largest youth organization in Starr County. This year we hit an all-time high in our enrollment and want each of you to continue your participation in the program.

Please take the time to re-enroll at the beginning of September and contact your 4H club managers about upcoming meetings and activities. Discounted 4H membership will be available through the end of October so take advantage.

### **Tractor Supply Spring Clover Campaign**

I want to take the time to thank everyone who participated in this year's Tractor Supply 4H Clover Campaign. The results of the campaign are still pending but I do know that our local Tractor Supply goes above and beyond to support our local 4H & Youth Development Program. "Thank You" to each of you who donated baked goods and to those who showed up to help represent our youth organization.

### **Validation Dates**

The county livestock validation committee met this month and set this year's validation dates.

	<u>Paperwork Livestock Due</u>	<u>Validation</u>
Steers	6/14/19	6/19/19
Heifers	10/4/19	10/9/19
Lambs & Goats	10/11/19	10/16/19
Swine	11/15/19	11/20/19
Rabbit	1/17/20	1/25/20

Steer and heifer validations will be taking place at the Jorge Falcon Livestock Barn located on FM 3167 by the airport. All other validations will be held at the Starr County Fairgrounds. Validations will be held between 4-6 p.m., except for rabbits which will be held 9 am-12 noon.

### **Heifer Validation**

Please plan accordingly this year. The breeding registration paperwork needs to be under the exhibitor's name by October 1<sup>st</sup>. An original copy of the registration paperwork needs to be furnished at the time the paper work is due (10/4/19). All original paperwork will be returned to the owner at the end of October. Failure to provide original paperwork at the time the paperwork is due, will constitute an incomplete application and will assess a late penalty. Also, identification marks (firebrands and tattoos) corresponding to the animal need to be visible at the time of validation. If the ID marks are not on the animal, they will **not** be validated. Please plan accordingly as there will be no exceptions.

### **Late Fees and Lost Tags**

Late validation paperwork deadline fees will be assessed at the rate of \$25/ day per animal project (this includes weekends) up until the day of validation. If the paperwork is still not complete at the time of validation, the animal will not be validated and will become ineligible to show. Lost tags will be replaced at the rate of \$40. Please contact us as soon as tags are lost. If a state committee spot checks your animal and the animal is found without a tag. It may become ineligible.

### **Previously Validated Heifers**

If you validated a heifer in 2018 and want to show the same heifer in 2020, you can. The animal needs to be under the same exhibitor's name. If the animal has changed ownership, it needs to be re-validated under the new owner (In October 2019) and all heifer validation rules will apply. If nothing has changed, and the animal is not re-validated in 2019, and entry application needs to be submitted by January 17, 2020. Please call the Extension Office if you need clarification on this. Not knowing the rules is not an excuse for complying with deadlines.

### **Commercial Heifers**

Commercial heifers must be validated at the time the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show validates their commercial heifers. The RGVLS has been validating heifers on the first Saturday of November for last couple of years but has not yet set a date. Please find out what that date is if you will be validating a commercial heifer. What happens after I validate a commercial heifer? The RGVLS provides a receipt that needs to be produced at the time the entry is submitted for the Starr County Youth Fair. The entry deadline for commercial heifers will be January 17, 2020.

### **Importance of January 31<sup>st</sup> Deadline**

Absolutely no entries will be accepted after this date. This is especially important for previously validated heifers, bulls and commercial heifers. A late entry fee assessment will still be applied after the January 17, deadline but absolutely no entry will be accepted after January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Bull Entries**

Bull entries will be due for the Starr County Youth Fair on January 17, 2020. Bulls are not validated. Please pay close attention to the time when the bull registration paperwork needs to be under the exhibitor's name. As of this writing that date has not changed.

### **4-H Recordbooks**

Completion of a 4H Recordbook symbolizes the completion of a 4H project. Without the completion of a 4-H Recordbook you cannot obtain any of the coveted recognition awards through the 4H program, like the 4H Goldstar Award.

Deadline for 4-H Recordbook submission is June 21, 2019. Please visit the following website for instructions and forms: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/recordbooks/>

### **4-H Leadership Lab**

If you are interested in participating at this year's District Leadership Lab please contact our office as soon as possible. The registration deadline is fast approaching.

### **Livestock Medication Withdraw Periods**

The Starr County Fair Association will again be asking exhibitors to declare any medication administered to livestock show animals. Please understand that any medication required to be administered by a veterinarian needs to be accompanied by signed script. Only medications labeled for that animal species should be administered because of known withdrawal times for that animal. Any off-label medication administered by a veterinarian needs to have an estimated withdrawal period. This is done to protect the consumers who may slaughter that animal immediately after the show. Only US licensed veterinarians should be practicing medicine in the United States.

### **Exhibitor Substitutions**

The same substitution policies for this year will again be in place for next year. One thing to consider is that exhibitors with multiple breeding livestock entries will be allowed to get a substitute exhibitor if more than one animal is exhibited in one class. This question was asked and caused a lot of confusion this year.

### **Some Upcoming Changes for Next Year**

The livestock committee met earlier in April and might be making the following changes for next year. It is up to you to find out if the changes do take place. I only mention them so that you can stay abreast of the situation if can potentially affect you. I will do my best to keep you informed.

- Exhibitors may now be restricted to how many breeding animals are shown at the Starr County Youth Fair. The discussion was brought up because of the space that is required to pen these animals during the fair.
- The top four placing animal from each class may be weighed back before the judge places the top four animals.
- There may be a weigh-back rule on commercial heifers
- If an animal is disqualified in any of the classes, exhibitors will not be able to move up in show placing and premium money placing.
- Livestock classes for each species may now have limits. To better understand this, the fair may set a limit of only four classes for goats. The previous statement is just stated as an example for you to better understand.

### **Rabbit Changes for Next Year**

Rabbits will again be weighed and placed in classes according to their weights. No Changes in how classes will be managed. Only Californian and New Zealand whites will be allowed to show. This rule change will affect those exhibitors wanting to show any colored New Zealand rabbits. Rabbits will also be tattooed with a symbol on one ear and a 3 digit number on the other ear. The three digit number will serve to identify each animal and correspond that animal to an exhibitor who validated that animal.

### **Disqualification of Animal at Starr County Fair**

If your animal is disqualified for any reason during the Starr County Youth Fair, you will not be allowed to participate in any other activities after the disqualification. This is especially true for showmanship.

### **Ag Product ID**

This year began working with a small group of 4H Club members to form a couple of teams to compete in various Ag ID competitions. The response was a huge success! We are now ready to begin expanding this to other 4H members and leaders who would like to participate in this event. Please contact the Extension Office if you are interested in participating.

### **4-H Opportunities Scholarship**

A couple of years ago I served on the State 4H scholarship Committee and was very encouraged to see many 4H members across the state be rewarded with college scholarships for their involvement in our youth program. I try to encourage as many 4H kids to apply for this scholarship. I want to assign a 4H volunteer to work with the kids in preparing the scholarship applications. I believe we have identified someone to take on this role. Please contact me with anyone that has experience in this area to also assist with this important task. If you will be a senior next year, please familiarize yourself with all that is needed to complete this scholarship now so that you can apply this coming Fall.

### **Information in this Newsletter**

A lot of the information in this newsletter comes to you as a result of me attending the livestock committee meetings. This information may not appear on the rules posted online by the Starr County Youth Fair. It is my sincere hope that the rules get updated on a timely manner but please refer to this newsletter or call the Extension Office for further information. I get very discouraged to hear that

members are not familiar with the rules governing their projects. Please remember that it is your responsibility to become informed about these rules. We have over 250 members in our program and we try our best to keep everyone informed. Earlier this year I heard Mr. Carlos Guerra (La Muneca Cattle Company) talk to a few 4H and FFA members and challenged them to wake up every morning, look in the mirror and tell themselves, "If it's meant to be, It's up to me". The take home message here is that you need to take control of your livestock project, stay informed and do not rely on someone for the success of your project.

As I close off this 4H Newsletter I want to encourage you to contact us should you have any questions regarding the information that I am providing to you today. Our office number is (956) 487-2306 or email me a [o-montemayor@tamu.edu](mailto:o-montemayor@tamu.edu).

Thank you,

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