



Routt County Livestock Fact Sheet

Being a part of a 4-H/FFA livestock project is an exciting opportunity for 4-H/FFA members. Although raising and exhibiting an animal is a huge responsibility, the experience also offers tremendous rewards as you learn, meet new friends and gain new knowledge and skills. This fact sheet is designed to help you know what to expect when you exhibit your market animal at the Routt County Fair, so you can be well prepared. Below is a summary of Routt County 4-H livestock requirements and suggestions. We ask that all 4-H members read the Routt County 4-H Handbook, Policies & Procedures because as well because not all rules/requirements are listed in this document.

Eligibility: For Routt County –

- You must be enrolled/paid in 4-H and/or FFA.
- You must be of 4-H age (8-18) – age 8 as of January of current year.
- You must complete your livestock record book by September of current year (Record Book on state website: <http://co4h.colostate.edu/program-areas/>).
- Must be in good standing with your 4-H club (have met meeting/event requirements) to participate in the Routt County Fair and/or Colorado State Fair.
- Must own your animal by winter/spring weigh-in.
- If your animal is being raised anywhere other than your house/property an Animal Care and Housing Form must be completed and submitted to the Extension Office and can be found on our [WEBSITE](#).
- Livestock animals can be raised in Routt County or a surrounding county as long as the member is the Primary care provider and has submitted an Animal Care and Housing Form.
- You can only be enrolled in one 4-H program per year. If you are enrolled in Routt County 4-H – you cannot enroll in another county 4-H program.

Facilities: Once you are properly enrolled in Routt County 4-H or FFA, your first step will be to make sure you have an appropriate place to raise your market animal. Your swine, lamb, steer or goat will need an appropriate pen or lot with adequate space, shade and fencing. You may also need to check on local ordinances regarding raising livestock in your neighborhood.

- Town Kid Project – Routt County 4-H offers a Town Kid Project in Hayden (Routt County Fairgrounds). Local 4-H members can house their goat, sheep or swine projects at these facilities. Contact the Extension Office for more information.

Purchasing: Once the facilities are prepared, you will buy your animal. Keep in mind that you will have to purchase your animal in time to have it tagged/weighed in. You will want to share the weigh-in information (found on page 3 of this document) with the producer you purchase your animal from so



they can sell you an animal that will be market ready for the Routt County Fair. Contact your Extension Office for a list of producers.

Tagging: All Routt County market livestock animals will be tagged during the winter/spring weigh in. During tagging, a livestock identification tag is put in your animal's ear. The tag identifies your animal and confirms that you have owned your animal since weigh in. If your tag rips out after weigh in please contact the Extension Office to let them know.

Scrapie Tags: Scrapie tags are required for market and breeding sheep and goats that fall into the following classifications. Scrapie tags will be provided to you by the producer. Here is a [LINK](#) to the Colorado Department of Agriculture – Scrapie Fact Sheet.

Sheep

- All sheep sexually intact regardless of age and wethers 18 months of age and older upon change of ownership or cull animals 18 months or older moving to slaughter.
- All sheep sexually intact regardless of age and wethers 18 months of age and older for show or exhibition.
- All breeding sheep regardless of age.

Goats

- All goats sexually intact regardless of age and wethers 18 months of age and older upon change of ownership or cull animals moving to slaughter.
- All goats sexually intact regardless of age and wethers 18 months of age and older for show or exhibition and do not have a registration tattoo with registration of the tattoo is illegible.
- Due to scrapie found in goats in Colorado, all commercial goats sexually intact regardless of age and wethers 18 months of age and older not in slaughter channels.

ID your Animal in 4HOnline: All 4-H animals MUST be ID'd in 4Honline by the following dates. You may only show animals at the Routt County Fair that are ID'd to you.

- Horse and Dog – May 1
- Market Livestock – June 1
- Show/Breeding Rabbits – June 1
- Breeding Livestock – July 1
- Market Rabbits/Poultry – July 11

Raising your livestock animal: It is a big commitment to feed, water, bathe, groom, exercise and work with your animal daily and keep its stall area clean throughout the summer. Raising an animal is a daily responsibility. After all, your project animal needs food, water and exercise every day – just like you!



Your species project leader, Extension agent or FFA advisor can help guide you on caring for your project animal. Be watching for 4-H clinics being offered around Colorado to help you learn how to fit and care for your animal.

- NW Colorado Expo for livestock, horse, dog, rabbit and poultry. This is a MUST DO event for any 4-H animal member. This event rotates between 7 NW Colorado counties and takes place in June. It is like a mini-fair with clinicians and tons of educational opportunity. This year Expo will be in Garfield County, in June. Be watching the 4-H Bi-Weekly Updates for more information on this great event.

Record Books: Routt County requires youth to maintain a written record of the 4-H/FFA project in order to be able to exhibit at the Routt County Fair. The record books summarize the income and expenses for your project, awards earned and learning experiences. The record books will be reviewed at your July club meeting and need to be turned in by September. You can download your animal record book on the Colorado 4-H website: <https://co4h.colostate.edu/program-areas/colorado-4-h-project-information/>, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on “Download All e-Records Here.”

Registering for the Routt County Fair: All 4-H/FFA members enrolled in an animal project MUST register for the Routt County Fair through [FairEntry](#) by July 10. This is where you will pick the classes you/animal will be showing in at fair. If you have questions on the classes please contact the Extension Office and/or your project leader.

Weigh-In: Each species will have two weigh-ins to attend - a winter (steer)/spring (sheep, goat, swine) weigh in and a fair weigh in (all species). Make sure to carefully review the requirements of weigh-in in the Routt County 4-H Handbook. You will complete the proper weigh in paper work before arriving at weigh in and before leading your animal over the scale you will turn in the paperwork.

Each species will have a minimum weight requirement to be eligible to exhibit in a market class. These minimum weights are listed below. Although it is disappointing if your project animal does not meet the minimum weight requirement, you can still show this animal in the showmanship class and feeder class at fair but cannot sell the underweight animal in the Jr. Livestock Sale.

- 2024 Steer winter weigh in is February 18 from 12:30-2pm at the Routt County Fairgrounds in Hayden. Routt County Fair weigh in is Wednesday, August 14. Minimum weight for steers at fair on August 16 is 1000 pounds (there is no maximum weight). Additional requirements for lowline cattle can be found in the Routt County 4-H Handbook.
 - Market beef gain on average 2.5lbs/day. To make minimum weight, your market beef animal should be AT LEAST 555 lbs at the winter weigh-in.
- 2024 Sheep spring weigh in is May 12 at the Routt County Fairgrounds in Hayden. Routt County Fair weigh in is Wednesday, August 14. Minimum weight for sheep at fair on August 14 is 100 pounds (there is no maximum weight). Sheep must be born on/after Jan. 1 of current year.



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- Market sheep gain on average .35lbs/day. To make minimum weight, your market lamb should be AT LEAST 67 lbs at spring weigh-in.
- 2024 Goat spring weigh in is May 12 at the Routt County Fairgrounds in Hayden. Routt County Fair weigh in is Wednesday, August 14. Minimum weight for goats at fair on August 14 is 50 pounds (there is no maximum weight). Goats must be born on/after Jan. 1 of current year.
 - Market goats gain on average .25lbs/day. To make minimum weight, your market goat should be AT LEAST 27lbs at spring weigh-in.
- 2024 Swine spring weigh in is May 12 from 3-6pm at the Routt County Fairgrounds in Hayden. Routt County Fair weigh in is Tuesday, August 13. Minimum weight for swine at fair on August 13 is 235. There is no maximum weight on swine but we encourage swine members to raise a healthy, market ready animal (weights over 300 pounds are not market ready). Swine must be born on/after Jan. 1 of current year.
 - Market swine gain on average 1.5lbs/day. To make minimum weight, your market pig should be AT LEAST 96lbs at spring weigh-in.

Set Up for the Fair: Your club will be assigned a set of stalls/pens for your animals. The number of stalls or pens your club is assigned depends on the number of animals you are exhibiting. Space allocated each year depends on the overall number of animals in the fair. Prior to the fair the Extension Office will communicate with all members on the pen configuration at fair. You must provide your own feeders, waterers and shavings (swine will be provided with a waterer). No paper shavings allowed.

Shelves on Pens at Fair: Sheep, Goat and Swine – you may put a shelf on your pen. It must meet the following requirements or you will be asked to take it down.

1. All items on shelf must be in a container with a lid. There will be NO shaving or feed bags allowed on your shelf.
2. Shelves must be securely attached to the pen.
3. ALL empty feed and shaving bags MUST be put in a dumpster outside the barn – not the trash cans inside the MPB. (They fill up too fast with bags and start to overflow.)
4. No items can be removed from your pen Saturday night during the sale.
5. Proper stall labeling must stay on your pen until your animal is loaded out on Sunday.
6. Put your name on everything you bring to fair.
1. Stalls are 5 x 5 feet. If you are planning on putting boards in the bottom of your pen to keep your shavings in, the dimensions are:
 - i. 2 boards a 5" x 69"
 - ii. 1 board at 5" x 67"
 - iii. 1 board at 5" x 31"
 - iv. 1 board at 3.5" x 39"



Displays: Each year at fair there is a theme. You might work with your club or not to decorate your stalls at fair. It is common to include the following information: club name, animal's name, exhibitors name, weight and breed. Make sure to thank and recognize your sponsors and previous year's buyers. You will need to bring all the supplies for your club/pen display, as well as the materials needed to hang it. Zip ties, wire, rope, etc., are commonly used. Make sure the banner/display is hung securely and is safely out of your animal's reach and does not hinder the use of the stall door.

Supplies: A successful experience at the fair requires having the right supplies. Following are some things you will most likely need. **PUT YOUR NAME ON EVERYTHING!!!**

- **Bedding** – You will want to purchase your shavings before arriving at fair. We do not provide shavings and they will not be For Sale at fair. No paper shavings allowed.
- **Broom** – Keep your assigned area and walkways neat.
- **Feed** – Your animal will need feed throughout the fair.
- **Bucket** – You will need a bucket to haul fresh water to your animal.
- **Chairs** – You will spend a lot of time in the barn area, so you may want to bring chairs. Remember to keep the aisle area open for fair guests at all times.
- **Fans** – Fans are **NOT** allowed at the Routt County Fair because of electrical concerns.
- **Extension Cords** – The following has been requested of all electrical cords used in the barn:
 - Only 12 gauge cords can be used in the MPB
 - No cords longer than 25 feet
 - The cords must have a ground prong
 - The cords have to be in condition with no rips, frays, etc.
 - The Superintendents will be monitoring this throughout the week.
- **Grooming Supplies** – Make sure to bring grooming brushes, soap, spray bottles, etc., normally used to wash and groom your animal. Many sheep exhibitors put sheep blankets or tubes on their lambs to keep them clean.
- **Groom Stands or Chutes** – Your animal should come to the fair already clipped or shorn, however minor fitting will be needed to get your animal show-ready.
- **Show Equipment** – You will need a halter, show stick, comb/brush or other show equipment.
- **Show Attire** – read your Routt County 4-H Handbook to make sure you are following the 4-H Dress Code and show attire.
- **Rake or Shovel** – you will need to remove droppings and soiled shavings from your animal's pen area frequently. Stalls and pens need to be maintained throughout the fair. This will also help reduce flies in the barn area.
- **Wheel Barrow** – You will need to haul dropping and soiled shavings from the barn to the designated waste area.

Showing – There are two types of shows in which you can exhibit – showmanship and market (and/or breeding) classes. In showmanship classes, the judge is evaluating your skills in fitting and showing your



animal, rather than just the quality of your animal. In market classes, the judge is evaluating your animal. Of course, a good show person will ensure his or her animal is shown to its best potential in the market class, helping the animal place as high in the market class as possible.

- Showmanship Classes: These classes are divided by 4-H age groups. Juniors (8-10), Intermediate (11-13) and Senior (14-18)
- Market Classes: Once all the animals have been weighed, they will be grouped into different classes based upon weight. Classes will be posted the evening after weigh in at fair.
- Feeder Classes: If your project animal did not weigh enough to show in a market class, you may show in the feeder class.

Junior Livestock Sale: The beef, sheep, goat and swine shows at the county fair are market shows. As market animals they will be sold at auction at the conclusion of the fair. You will want to market yourself/animal to potential buyers and invite buyers to the auction to purchase animals and show their support for 4-H/FFA.

- **Flood Days** – Each year Routt County 4-H livestock sale members Flood Routt and Moffat Counties. The 4-H members go door to door to businesses hanging Jr. Livestock Sale/Fair posters, thanking past sponsors for their support and educating new businesses on how to support 4-H and the Jr. Livestock Sale. All market animal members are asked to attend Flood Days in July. First year livestock members are highly encouraged to attend.
- **Preparing for the Auction** – Each exhibitor may sell only one large animal (steer, sheep, goat, or swine) and one small animal (one pen of market poultry or one pen of market rabbit), unless you win Grand and/or Reserve then you may get to sell more animals. When an animal receives Grand or Reserve Grand Champion it automatically becomes designated for sale. If an exhibitor receives more than one Grand/Reserve Grand Champion then each animal must sell.
 - If you place one Grand or one Reserve Champion large animal, you may sell another large animal of another species for the maximum of one non-Grand or non-Reserve placing. Placing two or more Grand or Reserve large animals eliminates this option.
 - If you place one Grand or one Reserve Champion small animal, you may sell another small animal pen of another species for the maximum of one non-Grand or non-Reserve placing. Placing two or more Grand or Reserve small animals eliminates this option.
 - A youth may consign no more than three consignments unless all are grand and/or reserve champions.
 - You will wash and prepare your animal just as you did for the show (NO GLITTER on your animal). You will follow the same dress code as for the show.
- **Jr. Livestock Sale BBQ** – Prior to the sale we host a BBQ for all families, members, supporters and buyers. Each 4-H member is required to work a shift at the BBQ. Your club leader will let you know when your shift is. Please show up for your shift with clean hands/face and a nice 4-H shirt on.



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- **Sale Order** – The livestock species judge will rank the final championship drive animals. This will determine the order of sale within each species. The sale order shall be turkeys first, then scholarship animals, beef, chickens, goat, rabbit, ducks, lamb, geese, swine.
- **Sale Method** – The Routt County Fair Jr. Livestock Sale will sell all animals by the head (not by the pound). You will want to make sure your potential buyers understand the procedure for your county. The person who buys your market animal will have the option of flooring the animal (buy back), donating the animal to a local charity or having the animal processed for their own use.
 - *Flooring the animal (Buy back)* – If your buyer does not want to keep the animal they purchase they can floor the animal and pay only the difference between the final bid price and the established (floor) market price. The floor price is set prior to the sale and is based upon current market prices.
 - *Donating the animal to a local charity* – The buyer may get the winning bid on the animal and then donate the animal to a local charity or food bank. The buyer pays for full winning bid price and for the processing of the animal being donated and designates where to donate the animal.
 - *Having the animal processed for their own use* – The buyer will pay the full bid price, plus the cost of processing the animal. The buyer picks which processor to send the animal to. The buyer contacts the processor to let them know how he/she would like the animal processed. The Jr. Livestock Sale will arrange for the animal to be transported to the processors. The buyer will pick up the animal from the processor.
- **Add On/Raising the Floor** –
 - *Add On* – an Add On is a financial gift to reward a youth for his/her outstanding work. To place an Add On please fill out an Add On form prior to, during or after the Jr. Livestock Sale.
 - *Raising the Floor* – During or after the Jr. Livestock sale a buyer can “Raise the Floor” in a certain species. Example – most of the goats sold for \$750-\$950 except for 5 that sold for under \$750. A buyer can “Raise the Floor” on the goats to \$750 – raising those 5 goats up to \$750.
- **Thanking your Buyer** – Immediately following the sale of your animal in the show ring, you and your animal will exit the ring and have a picture taken with your Buyer. This is a great time to thank your buyer for the first time. Introduce yourself, shake their hand and thank them for supporting you and 4-H/FFA. Some youth choose to give their buyer a gift at this time.

After the fair is over, promptly follow up with your buyer. You can pick up your buyer picture from the Extension Office, frame the pictures and hand deliver the framed picture with a nice thank you card to you buyer. (You will have a document for the buyer to sign showing you have delivered a framed picture. You will need this signed document to pick up your Jr. Livestock Sale check.) If you did not bring them a gift a fair, you can present one at this follow up visit. Next



year, acknowledge your buyer on your club display, place a thank you ad in the Routt County Fair Book and send them a BBQ invite to the Jr. Livestock Sale BBQ.

- **Representing Junior Livestock:** Hundreds of people come through the barns at the fair. Often this is the ONLY time they ever learn of 4-H or FFA, so what you do, how you look and how you behave has a huge impact on the reputation of the 4-H/FFA livestock projects. Do your part to be a great ambassador by following these guidelines:
 - Keep your animal fed, watered, and comfortable throughout the fair. Have your pen cleaned by 8:30am every morning and check on your animal regularly.
 - Keep your area clean at all times.
 - Keep the aisles open so people can walk through the barn and see the animals.
 - Answer questions graciously.
 - Be on your best behavior. You reflect on everyone in 4-H and FFA.

- **Final day of Fair requirements**– the last Sunday of fair all livestock members are required to help break down the livestock barn. Meet at the livestock barn at 9am and check in at the 4-H office. They will instruct you on what needs to be done. At 11am, or when the 4-H superintendents say, the livestock pens can be broken down in a very systematic order. Wait for instruction. When the barn is all broken down and cleaned you can check out at the 4-H office.

As you can tell, there is a lot to learn to purchase, care for, exhibit and sell a market animal. Fortunately, there are many resources to help you succeed. In addition to helpful advice from parents, Jr. Leaders, project leaders, FFA advisors and 4-H extension agents, there are numerous publications. You have each received the Ohio State University species manuals (for sheep, beef, swine, goat). These manuals are excellent 4-H publications that cover safety, selection, management, health maintenance, nutrition and feeding, marketing, fitting and showing and ethics. Most importantly, have fun as you make new friends and have exciting new experiences as a livestock exhibitor.