

## **Additions/Changes to the 2026 Routt County 4-H Member Handbook, Policies and Procedures**

**Replace “Family Animal” with “Shared Animal”** this allows members (related or not) who house their animals at the same place AND care for the animals equally to have 1 shared animal per group.

### **Shared Animal:**

A “Shared Animal” may be declared by any group of youth who house their animals together at the same physical location. Each group may declare one (1) Shared Animal per species at the respective winter and spring market weigh-ins.

At fair weigh-in, immediately after the final animal from that housing group has been weighed, and before the animal leaves the scale, the Shared Animal must be officially assigned to a specific exhibitor who will show it at the fair.

A Shared Animal is an animal that may be weighed in under more than one eligible exhibitor’s name because all exhibitors keep their project animals at the same residence or facility.

Example: Three exhibitors who house their swine together each weigh-in one market hog under their individual names. They also weigh-in a fourth hog as their Shared Animal. This provides a backup in case one exhibitor’s primary project animal becomes unusable.

The Shared Animal must be Animal ID’d and registered in FairEntry for every exhibitor who may show it.

## **Update to Round Robin Rules – Rule 10**

### **Round Robin Showmanship Contest**

1. Round Robin Showmanship will be held on Saturday of Fair at 8:30am.
2. Participants will consist of the top two winners from junior, intermediate and senior horse, beef, sheep, swine, goat, rabbit, dog and poultry showmanship classes. Each exhibitor must own and show his/her own 4-H/FFA project animal, which they showed in their showmanship class at the Routt County Fair, for the first round of Round Robin competition.
3. Round Robin participants will be entered into the contest immediately after each showmanship class.
4. Participants show their respective species first, and then rotate to each remaining species.
5. If a showman places Grand Champion and/or Reserve Champion in more than one species, they may show the species of their choice in the Round Robin. The exhibitor must declare to the Superintendent which species they will be showing in the contest and contact the third place participant
6. If a qualified exhibitor cannot show a species (due to choosing another species or unavoidable absence such as leaving for college), the third place showman in that species will participate. If third place is not available, the original showman must provide an animal in their place, and there will just be one competitor for that division. Exceptions can be made after discussion with superintendents and the Extension Office.
7. Dress code is determined by the first species being shown. (See dress code rules under each species.)
8. In case of a tie, the score will be broken on the highest score from the individual’s original animal (first round of Round Robin).

9. Belt Buckle awards are sponsored by American Ag Credit and will be presented at 4pm right before the start of the Jr. Livestock Sale.
10. An exhibitor will forfeit their Showmanship Award if they refuse to participate in Round Robin Showmanship. The award will not be reissued.
11. An exhibitor will forfeit their Round Robin Award if a member exhibited poor herdsmanship, sportsmanship or engaged in unethical behavior during the Routt County Fair Livestock Show or if the member is incomplete in the livestock project OR if the member scored below a 70% on the judging of their record book.

**BEEF – Project Exhibit Rules** added in wording to help determine acceptable horn length.

6. All market beef animals must be naturally polled, dehorned, or evidence of attempted dehorning. Any horn longer than 2” must not be adhered to the bone. In cases where the horn base is too large, or dehorning would pose a safety risk, exhibitors may request an exception. Exceptions must receive prior approval from the Superintendents, and any approved animal must have the horn(s) safely blunted prior to show day.

**Reworded Rules:** added Senior members in their first year of the project can have assistance with fitting, and made sure rules said 4-H/FFA to include all members.

#### **Exhibitor Responsibilities**

3. If, for safety reasons, an exhibitor would need help, assistance may be provided by parents/legal guardians, siblings who are also enrolled in 4-H/FFA, another Routt County 4-H/FFA member, and/or a Routt County 4-H/FFA leader. The exhibitor must be **present and actively participating** during the assistance, unless presently exhibiting in a class.

**Senior Members** (unless it is their first year in the project) are **not permitted to receive any assistance** in fitting their animals. They are expected to independently complete all aspects of fitting and preparation.

Even with assistance, the **first year or inexperienced members** must contribute a **minimum of 50% of the fit job** of the animal.

Two warnings will be issued to any exhibitor who is found to be not actively participating in the fitting process, not present the entire time assistance is received, or receives help from a non-family or non-Routt County 4-H/FFA member. A third warning could result in disqualification from the show and/or livestock sale.

All concerns regarding this rule must be addressed with the species superintendent and/or a Routt County Extension personnel. **Only the Superintendents** and/or the Extension personnel will approach members regarding rules.

**4. Professional “Fitters” or any non-4-H/FFA individuals are prohibited from fitting, handling, or caring for 4-H/FFA exhibitor’s animals. Those exhibitors that utilize these individuals may be disqualified from the show and/or livestock sale.**