

Preparing Your 4H Project for Fair

Research and learn basic care including:

- 1) housing
- 2) feeding
- 3) vaccinating
- 4) parasite control
- 5) grooming
- 6) training to show

Housing: Should provide shelter from rain, wind, and sun. Keeping your animal comfortable will keep it healthier and more productive. Some examples are: providing a friend (no one likes being alone), allowing adequate feeding space, clean water and feed buckets, a muddy and/or shady area for pigs to rest, and clean bedding.

Feeding: Appropriate for that species, and high quality feed and hay without mold should be fed. Always make any changes slowly, if not diarrhea, bloat, and/or death may result. Feed according to the amount of gain or production wanted, and only use feed for that species. Be sure there is enough bunk space for each animal so one doesn't get too much, and another, not enough.

Vaccinating: Cattle, sheep, and goats need CDT or an 8 way Clostridial with tetanus. Also IBR/PI3 intranasal vaccine to prevent respiratory infections is highly recommended. Leptospirosis, BVD, BRSV, Hemophilus, and Brucellosis (females only) are also needed in cattle. Remember vaccinations help prevent disease, but there are inherent risks associated with bringing your animal to fair. Disease and death may occur in spite of the best of preventative programs. Vaccinations should be

given at least 3 weeks before the fair, so they have time to be effective.

Parasite control: All animals must be free of external parasites. The most common problems seen are lice and mites. Both can be treated with pour-on products such as Ivomec or Eprinex. All susceptible animals in the environment need to be treated. Withdrawal periods must be followed. They are on the label of the product. Keeping flies to a minimum is very important to the comfort and efficient productivity of your project. Removing manure, keeping the stable area clean, maintaining water areas and keeping water fresh are environmental ways to decrease flies and insects. Fly control insecticides also can be applied to the animal and the environment.

Internal parasites (“worms”) can decrease the growth and productivity of your animal and in some cases lead to death. All animals should be dewormed, or have a fecal examination done by your veterinarian, when first obtained and periodically throughout their life. There are many different products available and it is best to consult your veterinarian or experienced herdsman for information on parasite control. Withdrawal times must be carefully followed to insure public safety. Please do not deworm the day or two before fair as parasites may pass during the fair.

Grooming: Bathing, brushing, and clipping hair should be started many weeks before fair. Not only does frequent grooming help train the hair, but it helps train your animal to enjoy being touched. It also is good for your animal and allows you to check their skin for problems. Keeping their coat and skin healthy will be helpful as this is what everyone sees first at the fair. Be careful to not allow hogs to get sunburned by providing shade. Make sure sheep do not have sores, especially from shearing that can be hidden under their wool.

Foot care is an essential part of grooming. Hoof rot must be prevented with proper hoof trimming and a clean, dry stable area.

If hoof rot is present it must be treated with antibiotics, and foot baths or treatments. The animal must be free of hoof rot to show at the fair. A properly trimmed hoof is important for show animals. Do not trim your animal's hooves too close to fair because soreness and lameness may result.

Training to show: Your project animal must be handled and worked with daily for at least 6 weeks prior to fair. This may mean just scratching their back, touching their feet (sheep and goats), or moving their feet with a show stick. The animal should get used to you moving him/her around the pen and stopping and standing still. Steers need to be trained to tie and halter broke to lead. Daily grooming will help you develop a positive relationship with your animal.

Please make sure your animal is in good health prior to coming to fair. Do not bring a sick or unhealthy animal to fair. The fair is a stressful time for animals. Unhealthy animals can be a source of infection for other animals, and can lead to death of the unhealthy animal, and disease and/or death of others.