MARKET ANIMAL HEALTH
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Use this information as a supplement and outline to the 4-H/FFA project books. Also update and include new information on health care as needed. This guideline is an incentive for producers of meat animal projects to feed and maintain their animals in a proper and safe manner, enhancing the product being provided the consumer.

Market animal producers are encouraged to produce high quality animals using a minimum of antibiotics by maximizing proper nutrition, good management and preventive medicine. Youth need to be aware that just because they are producing a limited number of animals does not make it any less a responsibility to present the safest meat product possible.

**Keep It Clean:** Many animal health problems can be avoided if you keep it clean!

- **Clean Water:** Check the water supply daily, especially if animals are confined. Don't assume the water tank is full, check it out and keep it clean. The use of an automatic water system is encouraged for all species.
- **Clean Pen:** Keep the area clean and free of damp bedding. Beef, goats and sheep are likely to develop foot and hoof problems if left on wet bedding. It is very difficult to produce a showmanship quality coat on an animal kept in a dark, damp pen. After you sell your animal, clean the pen to the floor and disinfect the area with diluted chlorine, barn lime, etc.
- **Clean Feed:** Keep the feeder clean. Remove stale feed, manure, or foreign objects from the animal’s feeder. Dumping clean feed on old, stale or moldy feed will do nothing to improve the quality of your project.
- **Clean Air:** Buildings need to be well ventilated, providing good air circulation. This keeps the animal healthy and helps keep the pen dry and free of some potential problems. If your animal is penned outside, be sure to provide shelter and/or shade. An animal exposed to extreme heat will not eat the needed ration to gain weight.
- **Clean Feed:** Look at the quality of the feed you are providing your market animal. Is it free of dust, mold, poor quality grains and pellets. If pelleted feed is not firm and fresh, look for a different brand of feed. Hay provided beef, goats and sheep should be high quality, free of weeds and dust.

- **Good Nutrition:** Read the labels on the feed, and read the information in your project book. Talk with the people selling feed. Make certain that your market animal is getting a complete ration. If you are feeding whole grains, be sure to follow the guidelines in your project book. Beef, goats and sheep must also be provided trace minerals. This is necessary whether they are fed a complete ration or a mixed ration.

- **Vaccinations:** All project animals need to be vaccinated for certain diseases. Most vaccinations need to be given twice to be effective (normally the second dose is given 2-6 weeks after the first). Almost all vaccines have a MEAT DRUG WITHDRAWAL TIME. READ THE LABEL, and follow the directions carefully.
Whenever it is necessary to give an animal a shot, think about the carcass you are producing. Do Not give shots in the higher priced cuts of meat (the rump). Do give all shots in the lower priced cuts of meat (the neck). Some drugs cause tissue damage long after the drug withdrawal time (such as LA 200) resulting in carcass loss.

Check with the producer when you purchase your market animal. Find out if the animal was vaccinated, with what, and do you need to give a booster shot? At the same time, find out and write down the following information about your project animal:

- What breed is the animal?
- Was it dewormed? When? Type of dewormer?
- When was it born?
- What has the animal been eating?

**General Vaccination Recommendations:**

**BEEF:** 8-Way Clostridial - recommended for the vaccination of healthy cattle against diseases caused by clostridial bacteria. This protection is essential, since the diseases are usually fatal, and the on-set rapid.

Lepto Brucellosis 4-Way Respiratory Vaccine (Triangle IV) - recommended for the vaccination of healthy cattle to protect against IBR (Infectious Bovine Rhinotrachitis), BVD (Bovine Diarrhea), P13 (Para-influenza-3) and BRSV (Bovine respiratory syncytial virus).

It is recommended that a modified live vaccine be used for IBR, BVD, P13 and BRSV. All of these vaccines should be given at a low-stress time, when the animal is not being dewormed, weaned, dehorned or transported.

IBR-P13 Nasalgen - to provide protection against shipping fever. This should be given the animal when you unload at home, not as a prevention measure.

Selenium/Vitamin E - If the owner has not recently provided this shot, do so when you unload the animal at home. Be aware of toxicity levels before giving this injection.

Check the meat/drug withdrawal time on all product labels before administering.

**SHEEP AND GOATS:** C&D with Tetanus - recommended for the immunization of healthy sheep and goats against enterotoxemia caused by clostridium perfringes Type C & D and Tetanus.

Respiratory Vaccines - may be useful in areas of extreme temperature and/or weather change, or where animals are exposed to a number of non-project lambs or goats.
BoSe - is recommended for young lambs and goats as a prevention to the disease white muscle. BoSe provides an adequate level of selenium to prevent white muscle disease.

POULTRY: Starting chicks on a medicated ration will ensure a healthy beginning on pelleted feed. Check withdrawal dates on this feed, making certain there is adequate time between the completion of this ration and sale day.

RABBITS: None recommended, check with your feed dealer and veterinarian.

SWINE: 3-way vaccine - recommended to provide protection against Atrophic Rhinitis, Pasteurellosis and Erysipelas. Iron injections are necessary in newborn piglets.

**Suggested Deworming Requirements:**

Deworming is necessary to control internal and external parasites in meat animals. The following recommendations will help assure the buyer of a healthy and well managed meat animal.

Dewormers are available in several forms: soluble in the drinking water, added to the feed ration, poured on the animal, given orally or by injection. Before giving any dewormer, read the direction for dosage, method of administration and drug withdrawal time. The least effective dewormer is the type which is added to the drinking water. The next type up from the bottom is that added to the feed, especially if more than one animal is being fed. Dewormers given orally should be given as directed, with feed and water being withheld for some types. If you choose to use an injectable, select a site that will not damage prime meat cuts.

When using a pour-on, be sure to follow the recommendations for protecting yourself from the drug. This is especially important if you are treating for external parasites. If you are using Ivomec dewormer for beef or sheep, do not use an additional external parasite treatment.

Know your animal's weight before administering a dewormer. If you are adding the medicine to the feed or water, separate all animals to be treated and provide them independent portions of the treated feed or water. Make certain the animal consumes all of the dose. Do not assume that a swine dewormer will work for beef, goats and sheep, or that a beef dewormer will be adequate for swine, goats and sheep. Read the label, and if unclear, check with a veterinarian. Single doses of some types of dewormers may be secured from a veterinarian.

**BEEF:** Treat for internal parasites with an approved dewormer. Treat for external parasites. Treat for liver fluke, if your animal has been on pasture. Ivomec F will treat for all three, internal and external parasites and liver fluke. Do not duplicate the treatment if you are using Ivomec F. Treat the animal when it is purchased, using information from the producer to help you decide what the animal needs. This would be an excellent time to treat both internal and
external parasites. Deworm in the winter, January or February, as general maintenance. If the steer is on pasture, include treatment for liver fluke. Deworm during the March weigh-in.

If necessary, administer a dewormer in the summer. Check withdrawal times before deworming in the summer.

**SHEEP:** Young lambs can be started on a deworming routine when 30-45 days old. A regular schedule of deworming every 21-28 days should be maintained throughout the spring and summer.

Lambs can be treated for internal and external parasites, with products listed as safe for sheep. Lambs on pasture should also be treated for liver fluke.

Lambs can be dewormed on the above schedule, if raised from ewes in the member’s project. If lambs are purchased, they should be dewormed, deflukek and treated for external parasites at the time of purchase. Be sure not to duplicate treatments, if Ivomec is used. It will protect from internal and external parasites. Lambs should receive a basic internal parasite dewormer every 21-28 days, until the critical time for drug withdrawal dates.

**GOATS:** Young goats can be started on a deworming routine when 30-45 days old. A regular schedule of deworming every 21-28 days should be maintained throughout the spring and early summer.

Goats can be treated for internal and external parasites, with products listed as safe for goats. Goats on pasture should also be treated for liver fluke.

Goats can be dewormed on the above schedule, if raised from does in the member’s project. If goats are purchased, they should be dewormed, defluked and treated for external parasites at the time of purchase. Be sure not to duplicate treatments. Goats should receive a basic internal parasite dewormer every 21-28 days, until the critical time for drug withdrawal dates. **Use only veterinarian recommended wormers and medications.**

**POULTRY:** Dewormers are available that can be added to the water or feed. Check withdrawal dates, and investigate possible options.

**RABBITS:** None recommended. Check with your feed supplier and veterinarian.

**SWINE:** Discuss the deworming schedule for the weaner pig you plan to buy. Deworm pigs at 100 pounds, and again if necessary, using the drug withdrawal days as a guide. Be sure to pen pigs separately when deworming, whether in the feed or water. If an injection is given, be sure to select a safe site.
Identifying Signs of Illness:

It is critical to identify the early warning signs of illness in an animal being raised for the auction project. Several days off feed can interfere with months of work with your animal's feeding program. Use the following guidelines to help identify when to be concerned:

- Animal is not eating the usual ration of feed. A slight change in appetite may be caused by changes in the temperature, but complete loss of appetite should not go unnoticed.
- Animal is not drinking water. This is most easily detected when the animal is provided clean water each day, without an automatic device or nipple supplying the water.
- Animal has an unusual discharge from the anus. This may be mucous or blood, diarrhea, or dry, hard manure. Any change from the normal, especially if accompanied by an odor or change in color should be noted.
- Animal has a mucous, froth, or blood discharge from the mouth or nose.
- Animal has a watery or mucous discharge from the eyes.
- Animal has become lame, such as a sprain, cut, footrot, scald or puncture wound.
- Animal has a fever, is shaking or shivering.
- Animal develops a rough, dry, dull coat.
- Animal is scratching and has hair loss in patches. Could have ringworm, warts, or external parasites.
- Animal is depressed, has droopy ears and is listless.

Reacting to Health Problems:

- Examine your animal and make notes.
- Determine the animal's temperature. Use a rectal thermometer purchased from the veterinarian's office or feed store.
  - Beef: 101.5 degrees F is normal    Sheep: 102.3 degrees F is normal
  - Rabbits: 102.5 degrees F is normal    Swine: 102.6 degrees F is normal
  - Goats: 102.3 degrees F is normal
- Any reading 2 degrees above normal should indicate the need to contact a veterinarian. Allow for some elevation due to hot days and exercise by the animal. If you need to contact a veterinarian, be sure they know the type of project animal they are treating. Stress to them the need to keep the animal drug free for the safety of the meat.
- If medication is prescribed, be certain to follow the directions closely and complete the treatment as directed.
- Any injury to an animal, especially if the skin is broken or a joint swells, should be treated by a veterinarian as soon as the condition is noticed.

County Fair Health Guidelines:

Read the health sections in the Coos County Fair Exhibitor’s Handbook. Any concerns that will disqualify an animal from entering the fair should be known by members.
before they arrive at the check-in gate. Knowledge in advance can prevent refusal at the entry gate.

Warts: Beef animals with warts are not allowed in the fair. Aggressive treatment may be successful in curing the warts, or removal may be needed. Warts are contagious, so segregate animals if you have several housed together.

Pinkeye: Beef, goats and sheep can have pinkness or cloudiness of the eye. If noticed early, it can be successfully treated. If the infection goes untreated, permanent damage may result. Seek veterinarian assistance.

Foot Problems: A wet pen can lead to severe infections of the hoof and/or foot. Foot rot can develop and will need to be treated with regular trimming, topical foot rot medication, and possibly antibiotics.

Scald: Scald can create similar problems, but between the hoof. In severe cases, maggots can be found between the hoof. Watch for soft spots, change in odor, and limping. Keep bedding dry and the pen clean.

Ringworm: Noticeable round patches on the skin, where the hair is gone and the skin appears scaly, may be ringworm. Exposure to sunlight and applications of iodine will improve the condition. Ringworm is contagious, keep animals separated and wash your hands. It can be transferred to humans.

Diarrhea: Try to determine the cause of the diarrhea. Have there been changes in the feeding routine, the type or amount of feed, the weather, water consumption, exercise, etc.

External Parasites: All animals should be free of lice, ticks or mange. Careful rinsing when washing animals will help identify any problems and reduce skin irritations that can resemble these problems.

Respiratory Infections: Animals showing signs of respiratory infections may be refused entry to the county fair.

Any signs of illness should receive attention. Watch the animal closely, and if symptoms do not disappear, take action to correct the problem. Contact your parent, 4-H leader, FFA advisor, or veterinarian to help keep your animal healthy.