

Jefferson County 4-H Fair Rule Book 2026



“Red, White, and Blue,
This Fair is For You”

Jefferson County Fair

July 22-25, 2026

Jefferson County 4-H Department

GENERAL 4-H INFORMATION

OSU Jefferson County Extension 4-H Staff

4-H Program Coordinator- Lindsay Lobdell

Education Program Assistant- Amanda Alps

Administrative Program Assistant- Toni Weaver

4-H Superintendents

Beef Cattle-

Sheep-

Goats-

Swine-

Small Animal-

4-H Rules

Our program adheres to State Fair rules, except in cases where Jefferson County 4-H has clearly stated a different requirement, the rules are decided upon by the 4-H Program Coordinator. State Fair rules can be found here: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/4h/oregon-state-fair>

Club Members Need Before Fair

1. Attend at least **Six** 4-H club meetings throughout the 4-H year
2. Have at least **One** 4-H educational component before fair (Tri-County Livestock Judging, Educational Display, Record Book Class, Etc.)
3. Have at least **One** community service completed before fair
4. Bring record book to pre-fair record book check
5. Sign up for Skill-A-Thon or Livestock Judging on your entries for fair

4-H Club Restrictions

1. Your 4-H career is in the county and state in which you reside in.
2. No switching clubs unless the Jefferson County 4-H Program Coordinator agrees.
3. Must have a valid reason to switch club/county 4-H and talk with local 4-H Extension Office.

Fair Board Rules

1. The Fair Board has a “no pets on the grounds” policy (unless a certified service dog). Any person with a pet on the fairgrounds during County Fair will be asked to leave.
2. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking area – **NEVER AROUND THE BARNs.**
3. Straw is **not** allowed on the premises

4-H/FFA Livestock Pen Fee

The Jefferson County Fair Management will assess a pen fee to help defray the increased costs of bedding materials and transportation of penning materials. For more information, contact the Jefferson County Event Complex at (541) 325-5050.

4-H Fair Camping Policy

Campers are expected to show maturity, good judgement, and common courtesy and to follow the RV Park rules and regulations. The same goes for campers who are camping in the designated dry camp area of the fairgrounds.

General Rules

4-H Exhibits/ Exhibitors

1. 4-H club members must be 9-19 years of age as of September 1, 2025 (and have NOT graduated high school) to exhibit at the Jefferson County Fair in the 4-H division. Members must be enrolled in their 4-H projects in Jefferson County by January 31st of the current year to be eligible to exhibit at fair.
2. Classes for all exhibitors are based on 4-H member's age during the current 4-H year. Juniors - 9-11 years, Intermediates – 12-14 years, Seniors – 15-19 years.
3. All 4-H Club members must be enrolled in the project and phase they exhibit in and have a completed project record for each project.
4. Each exhibit must be the work and property of the exhibitor. **4-H exhibits are entered and displayed at the risk of the exhibitor.** The 4-H Youth Development Program accepts exhibits and will exercise due care to protect them. 4-H cannot accept the responsibility for loss or damage due to the conditions imposed by large crowds, the arrangement of the building in which displays are housed, and the great number of exhibits. Every exhibitor shall indemnify 4-H from and against any claims for damage to persons or property caused by them or by their exhibits. 4-H'ers who have exhibits of great sentimental and/ or monetary value should carefully consider whether such exhibits should be exposed to possible hazards of the fair.
5. When exhibiting in a project with multiple skill levels (i.e. Static Projects), a club member may enter one level only.
6. Static exhibits must be picked up on Sunday from 8am-10am in the 4-H building. Anything left after this time will be discarded unless prior arrangements have been made.
7. 4-H animals cannot be shown in FFA; FFA animals cannot be shown in 4-H.
8. No more than one entry shall be allowed in any one class (Exception: Some Static Projects, Small Animal).
9. Non- Auction animals will not be released until ALL Market animals are loaded out on Sunday.
10. "For Sale" signs are not permitted on any 4-H exhibits.
11. When a 4-H member submits an exhibit to the Jefferson County Fair, the member is asking for a judge's opinion of that exhibit, be it an item or animal, on a given day.
12. All exhibits must be age appropriate and in good taste. Exhibits that include profanity, gore, nudity, or violence will not be displayed at the fair. 4-H Staff reserves the right to not display items that might be considered disrespectful or controversial.

4-H Dress Code

When participating in 4-H activities, you represent yourself, club, county, and the state 4-H program. Therefore, appropriate dress is always required of members (and leaders).

The following guidelines shall be in effect at all 4-H events:

- Clothing is to be neat, clean, and appropriate for the activity.
- Sturdy shoes are required when showing any livestock (no sandals)
- Judges will be aware of the above guidelines and will evaluate members accordingly.
- T-Shirts are not allowed in the show ring.

Not adhering to the dress code will result in dismissal from the show ring and/ or lead to dismissal from the County Fair, therefore forfeiting all premiums, awards, and sale checks. Final decision will be made at the discretion of the 4-H Program Coordinator.

4-H Record Book Policy

1. Record books must be updated as of July 1st and checked off at the Extension Office either Tuesday or Wednesday (July 7th, or 8th) between 8am-4:30pm to be eligible to participate in fair.
 - a. Resume must include 1 community service (section 7 or 8) and 1 4-H educational activity (section 3 or 9).
 - b. 4-H Story must be a minimum of 2 paragraphs
2. After fair, record books must be completed and checked off or turned in for judging, date and time TBD.
 - a. Project record must include sale check and/or premiums
 - b. 4-H story is completed
3. Further information regarding record books visit the Record Book Guidelines on our website or <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/4h/jefferson/resources/jefferson-county-4-h-record-keeping-4-h-members-parents-leaders>

4-H Ribbon Awards

1. The “Danish Merit” method of judging will be used for all exhibits, contests, and divisions within the 4-H department. The exhibits will be placed in Blue, Red, and White award groups according to quality or grade.
2. Ribbon award definitions:
 - Blue: Excellent to superior
 - Red: Good to excellent
 - White: Acceptable, but needs improvement
3. High Point Determination
Each 4-H project area has different categories with corresponding events in which youth may participate to achieve a high point award, meaning the highest cumulative ribbon scores for their division in that project. The calculation for high point includes the highest ribbon score from each category; presentation, record book, ed display, showmanship, conformation, etc. The youth having the highest totaled cumulative score in livestock, small animal, family and consumer science, and expressive arts is awarded the high point award.
4. The value of a given ribbon will be the same for all exhibits, and contests for which points are provided. Ribbon point values are:

Grand Champion- 5	Blue-6
Reserve Grand Champion- 3	Red-3
Champion- 3	White-1
Reserve Champion- 2	
- Ties are broken by the highest cumulative premium points in presentation and skill-a-thon. If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken by individual score in skill-a-thon placement. The static and horse project areas are unique and are calculated slightly different than livestock, however, the same qualifications are true. If you have questions about high point, contact the Jefferson County Extension Office.
5. If there is no competition or the entries are deemed unworthy of the award offered, the premium will be awarded at the discretion of the judge.
6. Champion, Reserve Champion, Special Awards (trophies, plaques, certificates, etc.) and State Fair participation must be of blue-ribbon quality.

4-H Premium Payout

Premium monies will be paid out the day JCLA starts handing out auction checks through December 31st of the current year at the Jefferson County 4-H Extension Office. Premium money will only be distributed once a completed record book has been checked off or turned in for judging.

Additional 4-H Animal Science Rules

NOTE: Rules in the “GENERAL 4-H INFORMATION” section of the state 4-H Exhibitors Fair book apply to Animal Science Exhibitors also. Those rules can be found on the state site here:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/4h/animal-science-exhibits>

4-H Breeding Project Possession Date

The possession date for breeding animals is June 1 of the current year (same as State Fair). Members must have the date accurately recorded in their record book for the species. 4-H members must own (or lease) the animals they exhibit.

Leased Animals

Members may lease animals as long as:

1. Copies of leases specifying responsibilities of lessee and lessor are on file at the County Extension office by June 1. (Horses, 90 days prior to the County Fair)
2. Members have the care responsibility as of June 1, (Horses, 90 days prior to the County Fair). Members are expected to be the only person handling, training, and preparing/fitting the leased animal for show. Members must have a clear understanding of the feed and care regimen, as well as actual time spent feeding and caring for the animal. Owners or others may not exhibit the leased animal(s) at any show during the period of the lease. At a minimum, the lease must run from June 1-September 1 or through State Fair.

4-H Animal Welfare

1. We support and encourage the humane treatment of all animals. Exhibitors will treat their animals with respect and provide for their continuous well-being through proper feeding, watering, handling, disease prevention, sanitation and attention to their safety.
2. Abuse of an animal can be reason for exhibitors' dismissal from the show ring or the Fair. Dismissal will be at the discretion of the 4-H Program Coordinator. No animal may be tranquilized or drugged with any substance, natural or synthetic. The animal is the responsibility of the 4-H member throughout County Fair. Any treatment deemed inhumane, be it on the part of the 4-H member or not, is the ultimate responsibility of the youth member. Abuse of a 4-H animal by anyone is grounds for criminal charges.
3. Exhibitors agree they have reviewed and will abide by the [Oregon 4-H Animal Science Ethical Standards](#) and they understand that a violation of these ethical standards will be treated, including potential disciplinary action, just as any other violation of expected conduct.
4. Drenching is NOT allowed except as prescribed by a veterinarian. A veterinarian must be present during the drenching process. In an emergency and a veterinarian is unavailable, the program coordinator and the superintendent will supervise. If this is a market animal the JCLA sale committee will need to be notified before drenching.

4-H Animal Science Rules

1. All 4-H Animal Science exhibits, except dogs and horses, must be in place by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday of fair week.
2. All animals once entered must remain on the fairgrounds unless excused by the superintendent and 4-H Program Coordinator.
3. All animals exhibited must be carried throughout the current 4-H year by the 4-H member.
4. All animals must be gentle and under the control of the 4-H'er.
5. No animals may be entered in a combination of 4-H, FFA or Open Class.
6. A 4-H member can make only one entry in any one class.
7. ALL ANIMALS are subject to inspection by a veterinarian upon admission to, or while on, the exhibition grounds. No animal shall be admitted to or allowed to remain on the grounds that shows evidence of any infectious or contagious disease or any unsightly condition. The management (i.e. 4-H Program Coordinator and JCLA Sale Committee) reserves the right to require health inspections, diagnostic tests, treatments and/or other animal health measures or procedures which might become necessary in emergencies. Expenses incurred will be the responsibility of the owner.
8. If a dog has a visible skin or physical problem, a certificate from a veterinarian is required to indicate that the condition is not contagious nor harmful to the dog during competition.
9. All sheep and goats exhibited under 4-H are to have appropriate USDA Scrapie identification.
10. Any artificial means of removing or remedying physical defects of conformation in exhibition animals, such as lifting of filling under the skin, will be considered as fraud and deception. All animals giving evidence of such treatment will be barred from exhibition.
If any animal is found by the official veterinarian to have been tampered with as previously described, it shall be disqualified from competition. All prize money that has been won at the Fair by the exhibitor on any animal or animals so disqualified will be forfeited. The finding of the official veterinarian as to whether any animals have been improperly tampered with shall be final and conclusive. The Fair will not be responsible for the consequence, direct or indirect, of any animal or exhibitor being so disqualified or debarred from showing.
11. Fitting – Jefferson County 4-H Division is a youth show. It is continuation of the educational efforts that are made throughout the year. Jefferson County 4-H club members must fit and show their own animals. They may receive help from an active Jefferson County 4-H member(s), or current Jefferson County FFA exhibitor. All adults (including parents, leaders, and professionals) and non-4-H members are NOT allowed to fit animals. Any 4-H animal fitted for any 4-H show by adults, professionals, or non-4-H members will not be allowed to participate in the show and will be dismissed from the fairgrounds (dismissal will be at the discretion of the 4-H Program Coordinator)
12. Youth are expected to be able to exhibit their animals on their own. This includes leading it to the ring, in the ring, and getting it back to the pen. Potential safety issues arising from nervous, disruptive, or misbehaving animals should be brought to the superintendent immediately.

Livestock Ownership Rules

1. Exhibitors must own the animals they exhibit. Exception, guide dogs may be shown regardless of when received. Leased animals need to be in possession by June 1st of current year, contact the Extension Office with questions.

2. 4-H exhibitors are not allowed to share an animal in Livestock and Small Animal Projects. Exception for family dogs: Two or more 4-H members of the same family may share an animal in the Dog Project.

Housing of 4-H Livestock

1. 4-H Leaders are required to send stall and pen needs to the County Extension Office by July 1 of the current year.
2. Stall and pen assignments will be made on a club basis in conjunction with FFA needs.
3. Each club is responsible to have stall and pens clean and panels stacked by Sunday at 8:00 p.m.

Showing

1. Showmanship- Animal science exhibitors are required to participate in showmanship contests relating to their exhibits (animals exhibited in showmanship class must also be shown in a conformation class). 4-H members must show their own animal unless excused by the superintendent.
2. Abusive language, un-sportsman like conduct, or abuse of an animal in any contest can be reason for dismissal from the show ring at the discretion of the show superintendent, or 4-H Program Coordinator.
3. Market animals must be shown in conformation classes to be eligible for the auction. Exceptions to this rule will be dealt with by the Sale Committee. All decisions are final.
4. All animals need to be clean and in presentable show condition for all classes.
5. When participating in 4-H activities, you represent yourself, club, county, and the state 4-H program. Therefore, appropriate dress is always required of members (and leaders).

The following guidelines shall be in effect at all 4-H events:

- Clothing is to be neat, clean, and appropriate for the activity.
- Sturdy shoes are required when showing any livestock (no sandals)
- Judges will be aware of the above guidelines and will evaluate members accordingly.
- T-Shirts are not allowed in the show ring.

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Showmanship Rules

1. Showmanship classes will run in the following order: Senior, Intermediate, Junior.
2. Animal Science exhibitors are required to participate in showmanship contests relating to their exhibits, including ALL horse and dog show exhibitors. Animals exhibited in showmanship class must also be shown in conformation class. (Exception: horses and dogs.)
3. Contestants must show their own animals which are entered in 4-H classes at this show.
4. Judges may ask questions about the members' animal or about fitting and showing.
5. Exhibitors who win Grand Champion in their species will have the opportunity to participate in the Round Robin Contest. Exhibitors will use their own animal during the contest.
6. Exhibitors who win Grand Champion in more than one species will represent the Round Robin Contest with the species that placed highest in their respective large animal conformation classes (i.e. market or breeding.) If there is a tie in placing in the conformation classes, the 4-H Program Coordinator will supervise the flip of a coin to determine the species represented.