

Brazoria County 4-H Livestock Record Keeping Guide



2012-2013



This guide is made possible by:
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service- Brazoria County

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Wichita County

Introduction

In an effort to help the 4-H livestock exhibitors in Brazoria County, we have compiled this book of facts and helpful information to help first time and experienced feeders.

First, understand that there is a tremendous amount of information needed to execute a successful feeding program. And, there are a number of successful ways to feed livestock. Listed in this guide are facts about feeding your 4-H project. Also included are charts that will help you with weight gains, antibiotics and other general information that everyone needs to know.

For this book to work, we are requesting that everyone keep this book at your pens and record your feeding program (how much you feed/animal, and what type of feed you feed, etc) so we can check it, when one of us is at your pen. By having this information, we can give you better suggestions and guidelines to follow. This will also help you as a feeder keep better track of your animal's growth throughout the feeding program. Hopefully, this will also cut down on extra phone calls and visits to the office or to your pens. We feel it will just be a better way to do business.

In addition, there is a calendar included that has important dates such as validation times and when to call the office to make orders etc. Also, it has guidelines to follow for weighing, hoof care and clipping your projects.

As always, if you have questions that need to be answered, or you need help with your project, don't hesitate to call. We can't help you unless we know you need help.

Shane Jennings
County Extension Agent
4-H & Youth Development
Brazoria County



2012-2013 TEXAS 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK PROGRAM ETHICS POLICY



County Name:

This ethics policy applies to any 4-H/FFA member planning to exhibit animals at livestock shows in Texas. It includes Junior as well as open class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. All classes of livestock offered at the livestock event are included: Cattle (Beef and Dairy), Goats (Angora, Boer, dairy, meat, Cashmere), Equine (Horses), Llamas and other specialty animals, Poultry, Rabbits, Sheep, Swine, and any other livestock classes offered. This "Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy" will be enhanced with additional rules and guidelines which individual fairs and livestock shows adhere to on the local, county, state, regional, and national levels.

The following practices or procedures are unacceptable and are defined as being deceptive, fraudulent, unethical, and inhumane in the care, fitting, preparation and showing of all classes of livestock. The use of any illegal drug is prohibited. Any substance used to phenotypically alter the appearance of an animal entered in livestock events is prohibited. (See Guideline #5).

Proof of any animal being subjected to illegal and/or unethical practice(s) and/or procedure(s) described herein subjects the animal to immediate disqualification. The animal is ineligible for exhibition at any livestock show on the local, county, state, regional and national levels. The exhibitor will forfeit any premium, awards, or auction proceeds, and may be prohibited from future competition at livestock shows in Texas, as well as being subject to potential criminal prosecution.

The following is a listing of guidelines all 4-H/FFA exhibitors must follow to enter livestock at organized competitive events.

1. Exhibitors must be bonafide members of a 4-H Club or FFA Chapter in the state of Texas and care for their animals under the direct supervision of a County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher. Exhibitors must be enrolled in, and attending, public or private and/or home school elementary or secondary schools in Texas. Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9 (or 8 and in the 3 grade) and 19.
2. 4-H members that plan to show horses at any of the twelve district and/or the Texas State 4-H Horse Show should submit a signed copy of this Ethics Policy with their entry forms. While items 3-9, listed below, do not apply to the horse project, there are specifics on ethics in the publication Texas 4-H Horse Show Rules and Regulations (AS 3-2.043) that do apply. The Texas State 4-H Horse Show and all of the district horse shows are conducted under the rules and regulations contained in this publication and 4-H'ers are expected to comply with those rules regarding ownership, management and treatment of horses.
3. All exhibitors must have viable proof (Junior division) of ownership available to prove length of time animals have been owned. Market animals (Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goats) must be owned and under exhibitor's daily care by the following deadline dates: June 30 - Steers, October 31 - Sheep and Goats, November 30 - Hogs, to be eligible to participate at any major livestock show within Texas. This also includes all small market animals (Rabbits and Poultry). The official ownership date is the date shown on the bill of sale or receipt of sale, unless the animal was bred by the exhibitor, in which calving or birth records will be utilized. (Individual show rules may determine ownership requirements for non-market animals.) Registered breeding livestock must show the exhibitor as the sole owner of the animal on the breed association papers or certificates.
4. Exhibitors must continuously own and personally feed and care for their animal(s) throughout the entire feeding period. The feeding period begins with the specie validation date through exhibition at all shows. Prior approval must be granted by the specie specific county State Validation Committee in the event the animal will be outside the direct care of the exhibitor. The animal(s) may not be out of the exhibitors care for a period exceeding 48 hours. Exceptions may be made with approval from the specific county State Validation Committee.
5. No exhibitor may show a market animal which has been previously sold at a county, regional, or major livestock show or sale in which the ownership of the animal has changed hands after the state validation deadline for that specie. State validation deadline dates are as follows:

State Fair:

June 30 for steers, lambs, goats and swine

All Other Major Shows:

June 30 for Steers

October 31 for Lambs and Goats

November 30 for Swine

Market lambs and meat goats that sell at the State Fair of Texas are not eligible for further competition or validation in October.

6. Any method used to misrepresent the age of an animal for a class in which it is shown is deceptive and considered a violation of the rules and guidelines.
7. Showing an animal for another individual by claiming ownership in order to show in a specific livestock class or event is prohibited. False ownership is a violation of the rules and guidelines.
8. Treating an animal internally or externally, with any irritant, counter-irritant, or other substance used to artificially change the conformation or appearance of an animal for show is considered unethical, inhumane, and is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the use of graphite, air, powders, hemp, artificial hair coloring, common products such as fly spray, ointment or liniment used to the point that is irritating, (unless required to reduce edema at time of calving) or similar type products. The use of dyes, spray paint or other artificial coloring which result in altering an animal's true and natural appearance and/or color is prohibited. Adding false hair or hair-like material, fleece, or skin at any point, spot or area of the animal's body is illegal and will result in immediate disqualification.
9. Surgery, injection or insertion of foreign material under the skin and/or into the flesh of an animal to change the natural contour, conformation or appearance of an animal's body is illegal. This includes vegetable oil, air, silicon or any other substance used to alter the shape of the animal. Acceptable practices of physical preparation which are allowed include, clipping of hair, trimming of hooves, dehorning, removal of ancillary teats, and docking of tails.
10. The use of inhumane fitting, showing and/or handling practices or devices shall not be tolerated.
11. The Administration of the Texas 4-H and/or FFA Programs reserve the final and absolute right to interpret these guidelines and to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of or connected with or incident to "Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy".

Any violation of the "Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy" or specific rules as designated by individual fairs and livestock shows may result in forfeiture of premiums and awards, disqualification, and may result in probationary status and/or loss of eligibility for future participation in organized livestock competition. **Possible civil penalties may be imposed by the proper authorities based on evidence provided by the livestock show of exhibitors in violation of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act/or the animal mistreatment, neglect, and abandonment laws that apply on the local, state, and/or national levels.** All rule violations will be dealt with on an individual basis by the specie specific county State Validation Committee, the State Validation Coordinators, and/or livestock show officials.

I am verifying that I have read the "Texas 4-H/FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy" and understand the consequences of and penalties involved for illegal, unethical, inhumane, and unfair practices in livestock competition. I am also verifying knowledge that my family and I may be prohibited from future participation in organized validation programs in the State of Texas, and could face possible criminal prosecution and/or civil penalties if implicated in any of the aforementioned acts.



Note: Only one exhibitor per form.

Exhibitor (Printed Name)	Date	Exhibitor (Signature)	Date
Parent/Guardian	Date	County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher	Date
Validation Chairman	Date	County Name	

General Information

Average Weight Gains by Specie & Amount Fed Per Day

Specie	Lbs/Day Gain	Lbs/Feed/ Lbs of Gain	Lbs of Feed/Day	
			Start	Finish
Beef	3.5	9 to 1	10	30
Lamb	0.75	8 to 1	3	5
Swine	2.0	5 to 1	2	8
Goat	0.5	3.5 to 1	2	5
Chicken	0.1	2.4 to 1	0.2	0.5
Turkey	0.15	5.2 to 1	0.5	3
Rabbit	1.5 oz.	2.8 to 1	2 oz.	5 oz.

Time to Buy Project and Validation Dates for 2012

Specie	Buying	Validation
Beef	March-June	June
Lamb	May-August	October
Swine	Sept-Nov	November
Goat	May-August	October
Chicken	Orders due Oct.	October
Turkey	Orders due July	September
Rabbit	Orders May-Aug.	December

*All projects must be validated to be eligible for the County Show

*Watch the 4-H newsletter for specific validation dates

Things to Remember

1. Health Papers- Some shows require you to have health papers at the show. You need to check the requirements before you leave home.
2. If you need it, bring it! Some shows will have feed, hay or supplies that you can buy, but don't count on it!
3. If you make an entry at a show, get a motel reservation at the same time or before. At some shows, getting a room at the last minute may leave you sleeping in the truck!

General Information

Approximate Age of Project at Show Date

Specie	Age
Beef	17-19 months
Lamb	Less than 1 year
Swine	5 ½ to 6 ½ months
Goat	Less than 1 year
Chicken	16-20 weeks
Turkey	18-22 weeks
Rabbit	3 months

Vaccinations For All Projects

Specie	Vaccination
Beef	Enterotoxemia Type C&D (7 way) IBR PI3 BVD BRSV Anthelmintics (stomach worms) (30-45 days)
Lamb	Enterotoxemia Type C&D Tetanus Soremouth Anthelmintics (stomach worms) (30-45 days)
Swine	Pseudo Rabies Pluro Guard Anthelmintics (stomach worms) (30-45 days)
Goat	Enterotoxemia Type C&D Tetanus Soremouth Anthelmintics (stomach worms) (30-45 days)
Chicken	Fowl Pox (8 to 10 weeks old)
Turkey	Pullorum-Typhoid (all show birds must come from clean flocks) Fowl Pox (8 to 10 weeks old)
Rabbit	Pasteurellosis ("Sniffles" caused by poor <u>ventilation</u>)

*****An Important Note*****

Medication Label

Name of Drug	OMNIBIOTIC (hydrocillin)	Active Ingredients
Directions for use: See package insert		
Cautions and Warnings	Warning: The use of this drug must be discontinued for 30 days before treated animals are slaughtered for food! Exceeding the highest recommended dosage level may result in antibiotic residues in meat or milk beyond the withdrawal time.	Withholding Time
	Store between 2° and 8° C (36° and 46° F) Keep dry and keep away from light	Storage
Quality of Contents	Net Contents: 100 ml Distributed by USA Animal Health, Inc	Name of Distributor

TAKE TIME
OBSERVE LABEL
DIRECTIONS

Please be aware that although the labeled withholding time is given, this is only the time needed to make the animal safe for human consumption. There still may be residual traces in the animal.

Drug residues can be created by:

- water and feed additives
- injections or external treatment
- simply by accident

Major stock shows have a ZERO
TOLERANCE policy on ALL
DRUGS!

General Information

Common Antibiotics and Withdrawal Time (*before slaughter*)

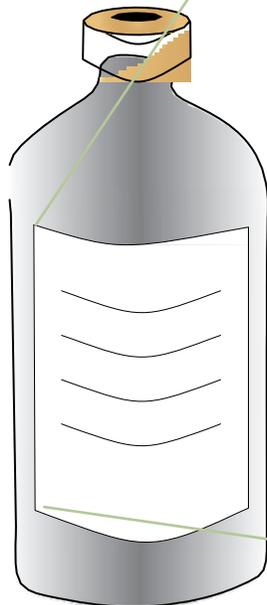
<u>Antibiotic</u>	<u>Beef</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Goat</u>	<u>Swine</u>
Penicillin	10 Days	9 Days	9 Days	7 Days
Penicillin (Long Lasting)	30 Days			
LA 200	28 Days	42 Days	42 Days	28 Days
Micotil	28 Days			
Nuflow	28 Days			
Baytril 100	28 Days			
Spectinomycin	11 Days			
Naxcel	0 Days	0 Days	0 Days	0 Days
Tylosin	0 Days	0 Days	0 Days	0 Days

****Make sure you calculate withdrawal times before show dates (if you attend a show while on prescribed antibiotics, make sure to have a copy of the prescription)****

Medication Label

Before administering any drug to an animal, you must have a knowledge of the information found on the drug label. Identify the parts of the medication label.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____



1 ~~Omnibiotic~~ **2**
(Hydrocillin in Aqueous Suspension)

For use in Beef Cattle, Lactating and Non-Lactating Dairy Cattle, Swine and Sheep.
For intramuscular use only.

Recommended daily dosage: The usual dose is 2 ml per 100 lb. of body weight given once daily.
Maximum dose is 15ml/day.

Body Weight	Dosage
100 lb.	2 ml
300 lb.	6 ml
500 lb.	10 ml
750 lb. +	15 ml

Continue treatment for 1 or 2 days after symptoms disappear.

5 Store between 2° and 8°C (36-46°F).
Keep refrigerated when not in use.

3 **Warning:** Milk that has been taken from animals during treatment and for 48 hours (4 milkings) after the last treatment must not be used for food. The use of this drug must be discontinued for 30 days before treated animals are slaughtered for food.

6

7 **Net contents:** 100 ml. Distributed **8**



TAKE TIME TO OBSERVE LABEL DIRECTIONS

Calculating Dosage from Medicine Labels

When Sara weighed her show pig yesterday, he weighed 175 pounds. She has noticed that he is showing symptoms of pneumonia. Sara called the local veterinarian, who suggested that she treat the symptoms with Omnibiotic. Calculate the dosage for Sara's pig.

Calculation Steps:

1. Identify Recommended Dosage:

2. Identify Minimum/Maximum Dosage:

3. Identify the weight of the animal:

4. Calculate dosage
(weight x ml/lb = dosage)

Omnibiotic

(Hydrocillin in Aqueous Suspension)

Directions for use:
See Package Insert

For use in Beef Cattle, Lactating and Non-Lactating Dairy Cattle, Swine and Sheep.

Read entire brochure carefully before using this Product.

For intramuscular use Only.

Active Ingredients: Omnibiotic is an effective antimicrobial preparation containing hydrocillin hydrochloride. Each ml of this suspension contains 200,000 units of hydrocillin hydrochloride in an aqueous base.

Indications: **Cattle** - bronchitis, foot rot, leptospirosis, mastitis, metritis, pneumonia, wound infections. **Swine** - erysipelas, pneumonia. **Sheep** - foot rot, pneumonia, mastitis; and other infections in these species caused by or associated with hydrocillin-susceptible organisms.

Recommended daily dosage: The usual dose is 2 ml per 100 lb. of body weight given once daily. Maximum dose is 15ml/day.

Body Weight	Dosage
-------------	--------

100 lb.	2 ml
---------	------

300 lb.	6 ml
---------	------

500 lb.	10 ml
---------	-------

750 lb. +	15 ml
-----------	-------

Continue treatment for 1 or 2 days after symptoms disappear.

Caution: 1. Omnibiotic should be injected deep within the fleshy muscle of the neck. Do not inject this material in the hip or rump, subcutaneously, into a blood vessel, or near a major nerve because it may cause tissue damage.

2. If improvement does not occur within 48 hours, the diagnosis should be reconsidered and appropriate treatment initiated.

3. Treated animal should be closely observed for at least 30 minutes. Should a reaction occur, discontinue treatment and immediately administer epinephrine and antihistamines.

4. Omnibiotic must be stored between 2° and 8°C (36-46°F). Warm to room temperature and shake well before using. Keep refrigerated when not in use.

Warning: Milk that has been taken from animals during treatment and for 48 hours (4 milkings) after the last treatment must not be used for food. The use of this drug must be discontinued for 30 days before treated animals are slaughtered for food.

How supplied: Omnibiotic is available in vials of 100 ml.

**TAKE TIME TO
OBSERVE LABEL DIRECTIONS**

Properly Administering Medications

Read labels and answer the questions on the worksheet

What is the name of the product?

What species or type of animal is this product approved for?

What uses is this drug approved for? _____

Who can administer this product? _____

Does this make it an over-the-counter or a prescription product? _____

What is the proper dosage of this product?

How should it be administered?

Is there a withdrawal period for this product? If so, how long is it?

How should this product be stored?

Who manufactured this product?

Is there an expiration date?

What other information is included on the label?

Calculating Average Daily Gain

1. Start with the beginning weight of the animal.
2. Weigh the animal anytime during the feeding period.
3. Subtract the starting weight from the current weight
4. Take that number and divide by the number of days between the starting weight date and the current weight date.
5. The final number is the average daily gain of your project.

Example:

On June 1 your goat weighed 65 pounds.

On July 1 your goat weighed 77 pounds.

$$\begin{array}{r} 77 \\ -65 \\ \hline 12 \text{ lbs gained} \end{array} \quad \text{then} \quad \frac{12 \text{ (lbs gained)}}{30 \text{ (days in June)}} \text{ divided by}$$

FINAL ANSWER: 0.4 lbs gained per day

Reading Feed Labels

1. What is the name of the feed? _____

2. Who manufactured it? _____

3. What size of animals should it be fed to? _____

4. What form is the feed? _____

5. What ingredients are in this feed? _____

6. What ingredient is in the largest quantity? _____

7. Is this a medicated feed?

What medication(s) is (are) in the feed?

What is the withdrawal time for animals on this medicated feed?

8. How much protein is in this feed? _____

9. How many pounds are in the final feed mix? _____

10. What can you tell by the order in which the ingredients are listed? _____

11. What are the feeding directions? _____

12. What cautions are listed? _____

Beef

Pen Space: Your steer should have enough room to walk and exercise daily. For one steer you should have a pen no smaller than 40' x 40'. This should give the steer enough room to walk and be content.

Shelter: Your steer should have enough shelter to get out of the rain, snow or sunlight in the summer. One steer should have at least a shelter of 10' x 10' with three solid sides (the three sides should face North, East and West) and be at least 6-7' tall.

Daily Care: Your steer needs to be worked with each day. He should be broke to lead with a halter and lead each day so he gets used to you and following you around the pen. Practice setting his legs each day so it becomes automatic once you show him at the show.

Your steer needs to be fed twice each day, and make sure he has plenty of fresh, cool water to drink. **If you would not drink it, your steer should not either.** Start feeding by following the general guideline of providing 2-3% of the animal's body weight in feed, plus, 1 pound of hay per 100 pounds of body weight.

Take time each day to look at him all over to see if he has any cuts or issues that will slow his performance. Also, check for mood swings. If he does not come up to eat at feeding time, he may be sick or starting to get sick. **Your steer is just like you, when he does not feel good, you can tell by his moods and behaviors.**

Even though most shows are slick sheer shows, I suggest that you work on training the hair on your steer each day. The best way is to wash him and use a rice brush to brush his hair forward. After his hair naturally stays forward you can start brushing it at a 45 degree angle. This will help with clipping and gentling.

Monthly care: Each month your steer will need his hooves trimmed approximately every six weeks). If you don't have a hoof trimming table, you will need to contact a hoof trimmer and make appointments. Do not trim hooves within 2 weeks of a show. Accidents can happen and leave your animal limping at showtime.

Check your steers weight gain each month and calculate average daily gain. Make sure he is gaining at an acceptable level. If he is slower gaining, you will have to adjust his feeding. If he is gaining faster, you may need to decrease his feed each day.

Check your steers feces for stomach worms. They are long worm looking and they can cause your steer not to gain weight as fast as he needs to. Also check you steers nose and membranes. If they look dull in color you can almost bet that he has stomach worms. Treat him with an anthelmintic, like Ivomec, etc.

Lambs

Pen Space: Your lamb should have enough room to walk and exercise daily. For one lamb you should have a pen no smaller than 10' x 20'. This should give the lamb enough room to walk and be content.

Shelter: Your lamb should have enough shelter to get out of the rain, snow or sunlight in the summer. One lamb should have at least a shelter of 5' x 10' with three solid sides (the three sides should face North, East and West) and be at least 6-7' tall.

Daily Care: Your lamb needs to be worked with each day. He should be broke to lead with a halter and lead each day so he gets used to you and following you around the pen. Practice setting his legs each day and make him brace. The best way to teach this is popping him on his rump where he lunges forward and flexes his muscles. This is very important in showing lambs.

Your lamb needs to be fed twice each day, and make sure he has plenty of fresh, cool water to drink. **If you would not drink it, your lamb should not either.**

Take time each day to look at him all over to see if he has any cuts or issues that will slow his performance. Also, check for mood swings. If he does not come up to eat at feeding time, he may be sick or starting to get sick. **Your lamb is just like you, when he does not feel good, you can tell by his moods and behaviors.**

Monthly care: Each month your lamb will need his hooves trimmed. You can buy a set of hoof nippers and cut the excess off the hoof. If you look at the bottom of the hoof, you will see the edges growing faster than the middle. You cut off the edges evenly, so when the hoof is on the ground, it lays flat.

Check your lambs weight gain each month and calculate average daily gain. Make sure he is gaining at an acceptable level. If he is slower gaining, you will have to adjust his feeding. If he is gaining faster, you may need to decrease his feed each day.

Check your lambs feces for stomach worms. They are long worm looking and they can cause your lamb not to gain weight as fast as he needs to. Also check you lamb's nose and membranes. If they look dull in color you can almost bet that he has stomach worms. Treat him with an anthelmintic, like Ivomec, etc.

Periodic Care: About once every 2 months your lamb will need to be sheared. This is more important in the summer months where he could overheat. This is also the best time to check your lamb's fat cover. You can feel his ribs and back bone to see how he is finishing.

Swine

Pen Space: Your hog should have enough room to walk and exercise daily. For one hog you should have a pen no smaller than 10' x 20'. This should give the hog enough room to walk and be content. Concrete is cleaner to keep, but dirt is softer on the animal's legs and feet, so plan accordingly.

Shelter: Your hog should have enough shelter to get out of the rain, snow or sunlight in the summer and winter. White hogs will blister in the sun (summer or winter). One hog should have at least a shelter of 5' x 10' with three solid sides (the three sides should face North, East and West) and be at least 4-5' tall.

Daily Care: It is best if you can walk your hog each day for exercise. This will help a lot when you exhibit at a show. Practice using a show stick with him, so he understands which direction you want him to travel.

If you put your hog on a self-feeder, it is hard to gauge how much they are eating if they are being self fed. Hand feeding twice a day, every day gives you the opportunity to look at your hog to make sure he is healthy and begin the gentling process and begin the bonding process. It is easier to start walking them if they know and trust you. By placing the feed on one end of the pen and the water on the other end you can make your hog exercise himself.

It is always best to set up a self watering system also. They can be very simple to build by using a 20-50 gallon drum and affix a water nipple, and make sure he has plenty of fresh, cool water to drink. During the winter you can put a floating heater in the barrel to keep water from freezing. **If you would not drink it, your hog should not either.**

Take time each day to look at him all over to see if he has any cuts or issues that will slow his performance. Also, check for mood swings. If he does not come up to eat at feeding time, he may be sick or starting to get sick. The sooner you contact your veterinarian on this issues, the sooner your hog will be healthy again. **Your hog is just like you, when he does not feel good, you can tell by his moods and behaviors.**

Weekly care: Check your hog's weight gain each week and calculate average daily gain. Make sure he is gaining at an acceptable level. If he is slower gaining, you will have to adjust his feeding. If he is gaining faster, you may need to decrease his feed each day. Know the weight limits and dates of your show prior to purchasing a hog;

generally your hog should be 5-6 months of age at show time. It is very important that your hog is not too heavy or light for the show.

Check your hog's feces for stomach worms. They are long worm looking and they can cause your hog not to gain weight as fast as he needs to. Also check your hog's nose and membranes. If they look dull in color you can almost bet that he has stomach worms. Treat him with an anthelmintic, like Ivomec, which can be poured in his water or a quality feed with wormer, such as Safe-Guard®. With practice, you may prefer to inject a wormer under the skin. Check also for lice or mange and treat accordingly with veterinarians recommendations. Be careful of diarrhea in your hogs, the sooner you treat the faster they get over it.

Periodic Care: It is a good idea to use a skin conditioner on your hog during the feeding program. As you get closer to the show, you might want to treat him each day to get his hair and skin shiny, use a "light oil" product like Sullivan's Sudden Impact, etc.

It also helps to have fresh bedding under his shelter to keep him clean. Hogs can get cold easily, so a heat lamp would be a good investment during the winter months.

In the summer months keep the hogs out of direct sunlight (especially white hogs).

Clipping your hog's hair at least a week prior to show will help keep you and your hog's stress levels lower. The current trend is to clip hair to a length of $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1".

Goats

Pen Space: Your goat should have enough room to walk and exercise daily. For one goat you should have a pen no smaller than 10' x 20'. This should give the goat enough room to walk and be content.

Shelter: Your goat should have enough shelter to get out of the rain, snow or sunlight in the summer. One goat should have at least a shelter of 5' x 10' with three solid sides (the three sides should face North, East and West) and be at least 6-7' tall.

Daily Care: Your goat needs to be worked with each day. He should be broke to lead with a collar and lead each day so he gets used to you and following you around the pen. Practice setting his legs each day is very important in showing goats.

Your goat needs to be fed twice each day, and make sure he has plenty of fresh, cool water to drink. **If you would not drink it, your goat should not either.**

Take time each day to look at him all over to see if he has any cuts or issues that will slow his performance. Also, check for mood swings. If he does not come up to eat at feeding time, he may be sick or starting to get sick. **Your goat is just like you, when he does not feel good, you can tell by his moods and behaviors.**

Monthly care: Each month your goat will need his hooves trimmed. You can buy a set of hoof nippers and cut the excess off the hoof. If you look at the bottom of the hoof, you will see the edges growing faster than the middle. You cut off the edges evenly, so when the hoof is on the ground, it lays flat. Make sure to cut the excess off the heel of the hoof and less off the toe. Goats will grow the heel more quickly and develop more problems if the heel is not properly trimmed.

Check your goat's weight gain each month and calculate average daily gain. Make sure he is gaining at an acceptable level. If he is slower gaining, you will have to adjust his feeding. If he is gaining faster, you may need to decrease his feed each day.

Check your goat's feces for stomach worms. They are long worm looking and they can cause your goat not to gain weight as fast as he needs to. Also check you goat's nose and membranes. If they look dull in color you can almost bet that he has stomach worms. Treat him with an anthelmintic, like Ivomec, etc.

Chickens & Turkeys

Pen Space: Birds require 2 square feet of floor space through 4 weeks of age and 6 square feet from 4-8 weeks of age. By 12 weeks of age, hens must have at least 7 square feet, and toms at least 10 square feet. Chickens can have less space, but these guidelines will work for both.

Shelter: About two weeks before your birds arrive, disinfect the house to kill any germs that may be around. Put down about 4 inches of fresh litter. Wood shavings (not cedar), cane fiber or rice hulls make the best litter. Hay, newspaper, etc. all make poor litter for new birds.

Construct a cardboard brooder guard to keep birds near heat, water and feed. The brooder guard should be 10 to 18 inches high (depending on chickens or turkeys) and must be a minimum of 5 feet in diameter for 50 birds. When birds are 7 days old, remove the guard and allow them full freedom of the pen. Two 125 watt bulbs per 50 birds are also needed to keep the birds warm. Use the lamps until the birds are fully feathered (about 4 weeks).

Initial Care: During the first three days, treat with a general antibiotic. Also, add electrolytes to the water supply.

Daily Care: Check you birds multiple times each day. Even small changes can have a big impact! Since all the chickens and turkeys that will be shown are from the same hatch, feeding and watering on a daily basis is the most important factor for your birds. Make sure that you are feeding a complete feed that is made for chickens or turkeys. Like a hog project, you keep feed out all day long like a self feeder. The birds will scratch and eat most all day, so this is very important. Make sure he has plenty of fresh, cool water to drink. **If you would not drink it, your birds should not either.**

Death loss can be high in some hatches so a daily check on the health of the flock is important. Isolate any sick birds so any sickness would not carry from one to another.

Flock Health: 1.) Respiratory infections are usually treated with a broad spectrum antibiotic labeled for birds.
2.) Coccidiosis outbreaks can be controlled with a poultry coccidiostat like Amprolium.
3.) Water Glut is a condition that can cause birds to stagger and have convulsions. It is caused from birds drinking too much water too fast when the water is empty for a period of time.

4.) Check for parasites on the birds frequently. Compounds like Sevin Dust can be used.

Rabbits

Pen Space: Rabbit hutches that are about 30 inches wide, 30 inches long and 18 inches high are about the right size for one to two rabbits. If you have more than 2 rabbits you can have two hutches or make a larger one. It is a good idea to have each rabbit separate from the others to monitor feeding.

Hutches can have a wood frame, but the sides and bottom should be chicken wire. Make sure you make a door so you can get the rabbit in and out of the hutch.

Keep the hutches out of direct sunlight. The direct heat will hurt the rabbits, so keep them cool in the summer. Remember, rabbits can molt if they are over 85 degrees.

Daily Care: During the winter months, it is a good idea to have a heat lamp of some sort above the hutch to keep the rabbits warm.

In the summer months, the best way to keep the rabbits cool is to keep their water cool. Some have had good results with placing filling gallon milk jugs with water, freezing them, and then placing the jug in the hutch.

Make sure he has plenty of fresh, cool water to drink. **If you would not drink it, your rabbits should not either.**

Unlike most animals, rabbits do not require many shots and most all problems can be taken care of with regular cleaning of the pens. Major diseases are listed below:

Coccidiosis- If your rabbit has coccidiosis they will lose weight quickly and have bloody feces. You can treat your rabbits with an approved coccidiostat.

Pasteurellosis- This disease is also called the Sniffles. It is a respiratory problem that is caused by poor ventilation in the place you keep your rabbits.

Parasites- Ear and Skin Mange are the two biggest parasites. You can cure the problem by applying a few drops of a commercial oil solution to the affected areas.

You will need to work with your rabbits each day also so they become used to you. You will also need to practice showing your rabbits. Place them on a piece of carpet and make them stand still with their back legs under them and the front legs pointing forward. Pet your rabbit frequently so they are not afraid.

