DATE: August 14, 2012

TO: State Fair Livestock Exhibitors

FROM: Kris Spath
4-H Program Manager

We have received your 4-H livestock entries for the Nebraska State Fair and are excited that you will be joining us. This letter is to inform you of State Fair procedures that apply to all 4-H livestock exhibitors. The first two pages of this letter cover general information for all species. Each individual species has its own section on separate pages. If you have specific questions about your livestock entries, have your County Extension Educator contact one of the Superintendents. Superintendents are:

Beef: Brian Bosshamer, Buffalo County; (308)236-1235
Meat Goats: Randy Saner, Lincoln & McPherson Counties; (308) 532-2683
Sheep: Troy Walz, Custer County; (308)872-6831
Swine: Aaron Nygren, Colfax County; (402)352-3821
Dairy: Robert Tigner, Southwest IV Counties; (308)882-4731
State 4-H Program Administrator: Kathleen Lodl (402)472-9012

Entry to Grounds, Unloading and Traffic Flow:

- Enter Brunks lot from Stolley Park Road.
- Pick up exhibitor packet at livestock check-in trailer; livestock will be health checked at this time.
- Enter Gate #3 for swine, #4 for cattle, sheep and goats proceed through cattle tie outs.
- Drive through appropriate barn to unload.
- Exit to east and south through Gate #2.
- After unloading and exiting grounds, drop trailer off in the trailer lot (Luebbe lot) to the northeast of the grounds. Follow Stolley Park Road east to Stuhr Road, north on Stuhr road to the trailer lot (Luebbe lot) across from Gate #8.
- Vehicles without a parking permit will be allowed to park in the trailer lot.
- Move trucks with exhibitor permit to exhibitor parking inside Gate #3 or Brunk's lot. Trucks without exhibitor permits must park in general parking.
- **Please be courteous** to other exhibitors by quickly unloading animals and equipment and then moving trailers and vehicles so other exhibitors can unload.

Livestock Check in Trailer Hours:

- Open from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. starting Thursday, August 23.
- Available 24 hours (overnight) on Monday, August 27 and Friday August 31.
- Closing on Saturday, September 1 at noon.

Herdsmanship:

Herdsmanship is an important part of presenting a positive image of 4-H members and their livestock projects to the public. Herdsmanship **will be** judged this year, all exhibitors are encouraged to keep their areas neat and clean for public viewing.

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Drug Testing and DNA sampling of Randomly Selected Animals:
The Nebraska State Fair reserves the right to question the alteration of any animal's physical or physiological structure. As a condition of participation in the Nebraska State Fair, exhibitor agrees to submit to State Fair, at their discretion, any animal so entered for immediate drug testing. Tests may include, but not be limited to blood, tissue and urine. The exhibitor further agrees that the conclusions reached by the State Fair shall be final, without recourse against the State Fair.

All market animals (beef, sheep, swine & meat goats) must have a hair sample for DNA testing on file at Ak-sar-ben by the appropriate dates (April 1 for beef, June 15 for all other species) in order to be exhibited in the 4-H division at the State Fair. DNA samples will be taken at random during check-in and from all Division Champions and Reserves.

Health Certificates:
These are required on all animals entering the fairgrounds and will be checked by a veterinarian at the Livestock Check-In Trailer prior to entering the grounds. **If you have both 4-H and FFA livestock, they may be listed on the same health certificate as they will be checked at the same time.**

Drug Withdrawal Affidavits:
Please remember to bring your drug withdrawal affidavits (enclosed) with you for check-in. These are required and will be collected on **all species** when you check in your animals. **Put different species on different sheets.** Ear tag or ear notch numbers must be accurately completed. **All swine exhibitors must complete the Hormel affidavit and turn it in during check-in.**

Stall Availability:
Stall assignments for all species will be available at the livestock check-in trailer and posted in the barn after 8:00 am on Friday, August 31st. Animals may be unloaded and penned/stalled beginning at 10:00 am Friday, August 31. Cattle are required to tie out after 7:00 p.m. There will be flexibility in the event of bad weather. No tents/cages or chutes are allowed in the tie out area. There will be security in this area. The livestock office will be staffed with 4-H staff from 1:00 pm on Friday, August 24th through 5:00, Sunday, August 26th and again from 7:00 am on Friday, August 31st through 6:00 pm Monday, September 3rd.

Additional Electricity Available:
Please continue to use common sense in the equipment you bring - though there is sufficient power available, it is not unlimited.

Bedding: The State Fair will be operating a Feed Store this year. Bagged bedding will be used for the Cattle Barn as well as the Sheep and Swine Barns. Bulk bedding will be used in the tie-out areas. For the Cattle Barn, 4 bags will be supplied for each entry. Additional bedding may be purchased from the Feed Store. Bedding will be supplied for the Sheep, Swine and Dairy Goats as in the past. All services will be provided by State Fair personnel. Please use no more than 1 bag of small woodchips for every two sheep, goat or swine pens.

Livestock Insurance: Because of heat, stress or other conditions, an animal occasionally dies during transit or at the State Fairgrounds. Some insurance companies do offer special insurance for 4-H exhibitors to cover their animals during transit and exhibition. If you are interested in assuring that such a loss will be covered, contact a local insurance agent. There is no insurance coverage (through State Fair or 4-H) for this type of loss. For animals that are sent to slaughter from the fairgrounds, the trucking and/or packing company has insurance to cover losses during transit from the fairgrounds to the packing plant.

Feed Service: Bring your vehicle with feed and/or tack to Gate #3, a 30 minute unloading pass will be issued to you to allow for unloading. After unloading, exit through Gate #3 to either the exhibitor parking lot (with permit) or general parking (without a permit). Vehicles exceeding the 30 minutes will be towed at the owner's expense.

BEEF EXHIBITORS:

Beef Check-In: Check-in location information will be included in the livestock exhibitor packet picked up at the check-in trailer prior to entering the fairgrounds. Please have the 4-H Livestock Show Ethics Affidavit and Statement of Disclosure (enclosed) with you. **Market beef must have a DNA sample on file and weigh in Friday, August 31 from 5:00-10 pm or Saturday, September 1 from 8:00-12 pm. All breeding beef must be checked in from 5:00-10 pm on Friday, August 31 or from 8:00-12 pm on Saturday, September 1.**

****Exhibitors are responsible for having their animals checked in during the designated times.**

Showmanship: You should have pre-registered for showmanship along with all your other pre-entries for State Fair. If you have not pre-registered through your county office, you may complete the showmanship registration card available in the Livestock Office and return it to the Livestock Office - **no later than 12:30 p.m. on Saturday. NEW**There will not be separate market and breeding beef showmanship sections but instead Junior (10 yrs.), Intermediate (11-12 yrs.) and Senior (13-18 yrs.) divisions.** Beef Showmanship will be Sunday evening following the market beef show. Exhibitors must show in the class assigned to them unless prior permission is received from the Superintendent.

Carcass Contest: Bids will be available in the 4-H Livestock Office. Sign up deadline is **6:00 p.m.** Sunday. All Division Champion and Reserves must sign up.

Rate of Gain: Steers and market heifers must meet the following weight requirements to be eligible for blue or purple ribbons. Steers and market heifers must meet the following average daily gain requirements to be eligible for *first or second place in a class*:

	Min. ADG	Min. Wt.
Market Steers	2.2 lbs	1000 lbs
Market Heifers	2.0 lbs	900 lbs

British Breed Steer Division: Exhibitors in this division must have **original registration papers/steer certificates** as per the 2012 Premium Book:

> "The British division will be subdivided into Angus, Hereford and Shorthorn steer classes. Steers in the British division must be owned by the exhibitor, be registered by the official breed association, and exhibit breed characteristics typical of a purebred animal of the breed in which they are entered. Appendixed Shorthorn/Shorthorn Plus steers will not be accepted in the purebred Shorthorn steer class. The American Hereford Association currently offers a Steer Certificate for purebred steers from registered parents OR for steers with a registered sire and a commercial purebred Hereford dam. In order to stay consistent with the American Hereford Associations rules for their purebred shows, the 4-H division of the Nebraska State Fair will accept the Steer Certificate with a commercial purebred dam. There are NO changes for the Angus or Shorthorn requirements."

There will be a sifting committee to determine characteristics for the purebred Hereford steers. Exhibitors will be contacted by the State Hereford Association for further details. The committee's decision is final.

Breeding Heifers: **Original registration papers** must be presented at check-in for breeding heifers. Entries without registration papers will show as commercial. All heifers must have **legible** tattoos. Heifers with fresh tattoos will be disqualified.

Blocking Chutes and Fans: Families must have purchased a permit for each blocking chute. Because of the new fans in the building, there may not be the need for as many fans as in the past. No free standing fans allowed in any of the barns. Evaporative coolers **will not** be allowed at the 2012 State Fair. **Chutes may be set up in the barn on show day only.**

SHEEP EXHIBITORS:

Check-In: Check-in and weigh-in available **ONLY FRIDAY NIGHT!** Breeding Sheep and Market Lambs must be checked in **from 6:00-9:00 pm on Friday, August 31st.** When you bring your lambs to the weigh in area, please be sure that they are close-sheared, dry, and have all covers removed. Have 4-H Livestock Show Ethics Affidavit and Statement of Disclosure (enclosed) with you. **Market sheep must have a DNA sample on file.**

****Exhibitors are responsible for having their animals checked in during the designated times.**

Showmanship: You should have pre-registered for showmanship along with all your other pre-entries for State Fair. If you have not pre-registered through your county office, you may complete the showmanship registration card available at check-in and return it to the check in area - **no later than 9:30 p.m. on Friday.** Exhibitors must show in the class assigned to them unless prior permission is received from the Superintendent. Showmanship will be held following the breeding sheep show on Saturday, September 1 in the Five Points Bank Arena; the market show will also be held in the Five Points Bank Arena. **NEW** There will be separate age divisions for showmanship: Junior (10 yrs.), Intermediate (11-12 yrs.) and Senior (13-18 yrs.) divisions.**

Shipping: Bids will be available in the 4-H Livestock Office. Sign up in the livestock office; deadline for sign-up is **6:00 p.m.** Sunday.

Bedding: Bags of woodchips will be available at the Feed Office in the Sheep Barn. If you have more than one pen, we ask that you use no more than 1 bag for every two pens, or if you only have one pen, use no more than 1 bag.

Registered Breeding Sheep: Registration of animals must be completed by fair time. Registration papers must be presented at check-in.

Scrapie tags: **All ewes**, including market, are required to have scrapie identification, or they will not be able to show.

Classification of Market Lambs: Market lambs will be classified by breed as they are being weighed and identified. The opinion of the classifier is final, and lambs must show as assigned or be disqualified. Classifier may rule to allow youth every opportunity to show his/her own lambs.

Classifier guidelines:

- AOB (All Other Breeds) - may include Southdown, Shropshire, Oxford and other breeds not listed.
- Whiteface Influence- includes whiteface breeds and speckles that range from white with black spots to blackface with white spots, with a minimum of 30% of hair areas (face, ears, legs below knees and hocks)having white coloring.
- Hampshire- an open face with ears covered with a dark brown or black hair and free from wool. The face should be dark in color, and practically free of wool from the eyes down. A wool cap should extend from the neck over the forehead. Legs below the knee and hock should be relatively free of wool.
- Suffolk- the head should be black, hornless, and well covered with a thick black hair coat. The muzzle should be long and deep, with legs being black. Belly should be covered with wool. Wool should not extend below the knees and hocks.
- Natural Colored- lambs exhibiting predominate amounts of natural colored fiber in spots or entire fleece.
- Crossbred- lambs not meeting breed characteristics or coloring specifications of other classes.

Market lambs will be divided by breed into up to 6 divisions. A breed with less than 10 head will be subject to combining with another breed at the superintendent's discretion. Classes will be sorted by weight into classes of approximately 25 head per class. If a division has less than 25 head, and not combined, all may show together. Division Champions and Reserve Champions will be selected for each breed division and will compete for Grand Champion.

MEAT GOAT EXHIBITORS:

Check-In: Check-in time is from **7:30–9:30 am on Saturday, September 1st** in the sheep/goat barn. Have 4-H Livestock Show Ethics Affidavit and Statement of Disclosure (enclosed) with you. **Market goats must have a DNA sample on file.**

****Exhibitors are responsible for having their animals checked in during the designated times.**

Showmanship: You should have pre-registered for showmanship along with all your other pre-entries for State Fair. If you have not pre-registered through your county office, you may complete the showmanship registration card available in the Livestock Office, and return it to the Livestock Office - **no later than 12:30 a.m. on Saturday.** Exhibitors must show in the class assigned to them unless prior permission is received from the Superintendent. Showmanship will be held immediately following the show. **NEW** There will be separate age divisions for showmanship: Junior (10 yrs.), Intermediate (11-12 yrs.) and Senior (13-18 yrs.) divisions.**

Shipping: There will be an opportunity to ship goats from the fair. Bids will be available in the 4-H Livestock Office. Please sign up in the livestock office by **6:00 p.m.** Sunday. Goats must weigh a minimum of 60 lbs to be shipped.

Pen Assignments: These will be posted in the Sheep/Goat Barn by 8:00 a.m. on Friday, August 31. **Goats must be in their assigned pens by 9:30 am on Saturday, September 1.**

Bedding: Bags of woodchips will be available at the Feed Office in the Sheep Barn. If you have more than one pen, we ask that you use no more than 1 bag for every two pens, or if you only have one pen, use no more than 1 bag.

Scrapie tags: **All does** are required to have scrapie identification, or they will not be able to show.

SWINE EXHIBITORS:
Check-In: The wash rack will be locked at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday morning and your pigs must be in their pens for tagging and tattooing. Weigh-in/check-in will take place beginning at 7:30 am on Sunday, September 2. Hogs will be **EARTAGGED** again this year. Remember, you or your representative **must accompany** your hogs to the scale with a completed Hormel Affidavit included in this mailing; all market hogs will be sold this year. We **will not** skip any pens to weigh later.

****Exhibitors are responsible for having their animals checked in during the designated times.**

Showmanship: Everyone will be entered into the showmanship competition. The Swine Showmanship Contest will be judged on **Sunday beginning at 5:00 p.m.** in the Swine arena. Exhibitors must show in the class assigned to them unless prior permission is received from the Superintendent. **NEW** There will be separate age divisions for showmanship: Junior (10 yrs.), Intermediate (11-12 yrs.) and Senior (13-18 yrs.) divisions.**

Animal Identification: The identification sheet your Extension Office mailed to the UNL Animal Science Department in June is the official form. **Your pigs must match the identification sheet exactly.** Please have your ID sheet in hand when you load and make sure the ear notches and sex are correct. **If the animals don't match the sheet, they will not show! Any market hog with bloody and scabby notches will not show. Market hog must have a DNA sample on file.**

Pen Assignments: These will be posted in the Swine Barn by 8:00 a.m. on Friday, August 31st.

Bedding: Bags of woodchips will be available at the Feed Office in the Sheep Barn. If you have more than one pen, we ask that you use no more than 1 bag for every two pens, or if you only have one pen, use no more than 1 bag.

Hormel Affidavit: Everyone will be required to market their hogs from the State Fair, bring the Hormel affidavit with you and your hogs on weigh day, Sunday. This form must be completely filled out and must include ear notch numbers and animal sex. You must present this form at check-in as the hogs move toward the scale. Please make sure your PQA number is on the affidavit.

Swine Load-out: This year hogs will be loaded onto the truck to go to at **8:00 pm** on Monday**.** Please make sure you take your hogs back to their pens after showing and that the animals are in the pens no later than 6:00 pm. **Do not leave them in the wash rack**.

Hormel Foods Corp would recommend the following guidelines for selling your hogs at upcoming swine shows.

To maximize the best possible carcass premiums sell carcasses weighing 181 to 215 pounds which should equate to live hogs weighing between 240 and 275 pounds.

To avoid discounts, sell carcasses weighing between 167 and 229 pounds which should equate to live hogs weighing approximately 225 to 290 pounds.

Any individual carcass weighing less than 167 or more than 229 will be discounted on a progressive basis.

Hormel Foods will not harvest individual live weight hogs weighing less than 215 or over 330.