

# Denton ISD FFA Agricultural Facilities Handbook



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2024-2025 Academic School Year

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## **Welcome**

Welcome to the FFA and to your Supervised Agricultural Experience Project (SAEP) within the Denton ISD Agricultural Program. We are proud to have you and look forward to generating a relationship with you and your family throughout this project. This handbook is specific to our guidelines for housing animal projects, ag mechanics projects, and all other SAEP's and utilizing the Denton ISD Agricultural Facilities.

## **The FFA**

The FFA operates on local, state, and national levels. Student members belong to chapters organized at the local school level. Agricultural education instructors serve as chapter advisors. Chapters are organized under state associations headed by an advisor and executive secretary, often employees of the state department of education. States conduct programs and host annual conventions.

The National FFA Organization, governed by a Board of Directors and a Board of Student Officers, charters state associations, provides direction, programmatic materials, and support. They also host the National FFA Convention, which draws more than 45,000 attendees each Fall. The National FFA Alumni Association's more than 40,000 members in 1,200 affiliates assist in the continued growth and development of active FFA programs.

## **Applied Learning**

The agricultural education program provides a well-rounded, practical approach to learning through three components: classroom education in agricultural topics, hands-on supervised agricultural experience, and participation in FFA.

## **Available Facilities**

### **T.J. Jones Agricultural Facility**

Located at: 7501 Teasley Lane, Denton, TX 76210

For Denton Guyer students and students who live North and West of Denton

### **Star Ranch**

Located at: 8400 Fishtrap Road, Crossroads, TX 76227

For students who live Central, South, and East of Denton or have cattle projects.

## Supervising Species Teachers

### **Cattle:**

Mrs. Laci Harbor

[lhabor@dentonisd.org](mailto:lhabor@dentonisd.org)

Mr. Bodie Noles

[jnoles@dentonisd.org](mailto:jnoles@dentonisd.org)

### **Poultry:**

Mrs. Laura Moss

[Lmoss@dentonisd.org](mailto:Lmoss@dentonisd.org)

Mrs. Ellen Todar

[etodar@dentonisd.org](mailto:etodar@dentonisd.org)

### **Lambs/Goats:**

Ms. Victoria Stallings

[vstallings@dentonisd.org](mailto:vstallings@dentonisd.org)

Mr. Tanner Vann

[tvann@dentonisd.org](mailto:tvann@dentonisd.org)

### **Swine:**

Abigail Deussen

[adeussen@dentonisd.org](mailto:adeussen@dentonisd.org)

### **Rabbits:** (Campus Based)

Contact Campus Ag Teacher

### **Ag Mechanics:** (Campus Based)

Contact Campus Ag Mech Teacher

## Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs

A unique aspect of the Agricultural Science Program is the Supervised Agricultural Experience Project (SAEP). It enables students to care for and exhibit livestock projects, develop agricultural crops, or horticultural enterprises or experience the other aspects of the agricultural industry. The SAEP is a powerful tool that teaches responsibility, time management, commitment, teamwork, and sound financial practices.

### Estimated Cost of Livestock Projects

<b>Species</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Duration*</b>	<b>Cost**</b>	<b>Feed/Tack**</b>
<b>Cattle</b>	12 months	March-March	\$3000**	\$3000
<b>Swine</b>	6 months	Sept. – March	\$750**	\$1000
<b>Sheep</b>	9 months	July-March	\$750**	\$400
<b>Goats</b>	9 months	July-March	\$750**	\$400
<b>Broilers</b>	3 months	Jan – March	\$2.00/head**	\$500 (DCLA)
<b>Rabbits (market)</b>	2 months	Feb-March	\$160**	\$200

#### NOTES:

\*All time durations will vary depending on the shows being purchased for and efforts in locating the project.

\*\* Costs for animals may vary depending on quality of livestock and location purchased.

\*\*\* Animals are not required to be kept at the Denton ISD Agricultural Facilities. The above costs do not reflect any charges that can occur for veterinary fees, medication, validation, entry fees, state tags, etc. These would be additional expenses for the project.

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## Liabilities

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### Animal Projects

No animal will be housed at the Denton ISD facilities without a current signed receipt of this document, a signed “Denton ISD student co-curricular/extracurricular contract” on file with the campus Ag Science Teacher, a purchased validation tag from Denton County, all fees (FFA, Bar, etc.) paid, and animals must be approved by an Ag Science Teacher. The required document is located at the back of this manual.

The Denton ISD Agricultural Program, Denton FFA Booster Clubs, District Employees, or volunteers will assume NO responsibility for accidents or injuries to students, parents, visitors, livestock, or personal property resulting from the use of the facilities or equipment, as well as livestock owned by other persons.

Insurance for animals kept at the facilities is not maintained by the school district, Agricultural Departments, or FFA Chapters. It is the responsibility of the student to provide any insurance coverage on his/her animal as deemed necessary. The loss of an animal, or expenses incurred because of loss, injury, illness, etc., including veterinary bills, is the sole responsibility of the student and will not be the responsibility of Denton ISD, Agricultural Departments, Ag Science Teacher, Career & Technical Education Department, or FFA Chapters. All animals that are housed at the Denton ISD Agricultural Facilities are housed at their own risk.

### Travel for School Activities

Before students can travel to any school sponsored activity the teacher must have on file a field trip release form, an extracurricular medical permission form, and any other documentation required by Denton ISD.

### Visitors

Any visitor(s) accompanying a Denton ISD FFA student and/or parent that is attending a Denton ISD sponsored event or activity must adhere to appropriate conduct outlined in this document plus fill out the **Denton ISD Volunteer Background Check Information Form** - <https://forms.dentonisd.org/Forms/volunteerapplication>.

Any student who has a visitor or non-Denton ISD FFA member or guest at the facilities takes full responsibility for their visitor’s actions or misconduct. We are only allowing 1 visitor per student with an animal at either facility (this does not include family members).

Please allow 48 hours’ notice to your Ag Science Teacher for professional fitters, breeders, or groomsmen to enter our facilities.

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## Denton Independent School District Agriculture Science Ag Barn Facility Rules & Guidelines

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The following guidelines are effective immediately. Notification of changes will be sent to the campus administration and Ag Science Teachers. All content within this document is at the discretionary interpretation of Denton ISD campus administration and the CTE Director. This document will be kept updated and located on the Denton ISD district website. *It will be the responsibility of teachers, students, and parents to utilize the district website to obtain and/or refer to the most current version of this document.*

The Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities are the property of Denton ISD and are provided for the convenience of Denton ISD student FFA members choosing to participate in an animal SAEP. Utilizing the Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities is a privilege not a right and is only for Denton ISD enrolled students.

For all parties to best utilize the Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities, there are rules and regulations which must be followed. This document outlines the expectations, regulations, and rules that must be adhered to so that everyone involved can have a positive experience in the program.

**Everyone** must do their part to see that the Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities and projects are taken care of, and a positive image is portrayed to the public.

To ensure compliance, Denton ISD employees, including Ag Science Teachers, facility managers, maintenance workers, and administrators will monitor and manage the facilities (both physically and via security cameras).

The purpose of the Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities is to provide an extension to classroom instruction, to maximize learning, and to allow FFA members to utilize the complex for their animal SAEP.

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### General Expectations

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#### Access to Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities

To protect the safety and security of Denton ISD students and their animal projects, all individuals seeking access to the Agricultural Facilities will be required to complete a Volunteer Application\* with the Denton ISD Central Office Administration. NO PERSON will be allowed access to these facilities without a security pass from our local application process. Only individuals with a DIRECT connection to a Denton ISD FFA student WITH a project at their specific facility will be granted permission to access. This includes immediate family members and parents/guardians. This does not include classmates or fellow FFA members who do not have an animal at our facilities unless prior permission from the home campus Ag Science Teacher. All guests MUST stay in close proximity to the student owner of the project. Any student who has a visitor or non-Denton ISD FFA member or guest at the facilities takes full responsibility for their visitor's actions or misconduct. We are only allowing 1 visitor per student with an animal at either facility (this does not include family members).

\*This application is located at: <https://forms.dentonisd.org/Forms/volunteerapplication>

Only students who have animal projects will be given a gate code for entry. Students will not be allowed to give out the code to other people for any reason. If the gate code is given out – this will count as a

strike against the student. If a student has an issue feeding or working their animal, they need to communicate that with their species teachers and find another student with their same species to resolve the issue. If a student is caught giving out the gate code this will be considered a major infraction and will be issued consequences. Under no circumstances shall any student or visitor need to be out of the boundaries of the barn or arenas. You are NOT allowed past the gravel road near the big house at Star Ranch, unless advised by an Ag Science Teacher.

## **Denton ISD Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct**

The Denton ISD Agricultural Science Ag Barn Facilities are an extension of Denton ISD; therefore, all rules and regulations found in the Denton ISD Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct apply. This includes during the summer months, holidays, and weekends.

### **Misconduct**

Any infraction of district rules, policies, or guidelines as set forth in the Denton ISD Student Code of Conduct, Denton ISD Student Cocurricular/Extracurricular Contract, and/or the Denton ISD FFA Policy Handbook will result in disciplinary action and may cause immediate removal from the program. The Ag Science Teacher(s) in collaboration with campus administration will have the authority to suspend or remove any member for any infractions. All content of this document is at the discretionary interpretation of campus administration and the CTE Director for determining consequences for inappropriate behavior. These terms are as follows:

- A “Three Strike” discipline system is used by the Denton ISD FFA advisors. Any student failing to fulfill the obligations of the project in accordance with the rules and guidelines set forth by the project advisor will receive a “strike.” Infractions include but are not limited to, being defiant, missing a project meeting/weigh day without prior notice, neglect of animal (feeder empty, not feeding on time, pen not cleaned etc.), failure to perform required duties before and/or during the fair. Once a student has received three strikes, they forfeit their privilege to show within the Denton ISD FFA Program. These strikes must be verbal and documented as proof.
- Other disciplinary problems may result in the removal of exhibitor and animal from the Denton ISD Ag Barn facility (if housed there) or stock show, and/or loss of showing privileges with Denton ISD FFA for one or more years.
- Major infractions for immediate removal from Denton ISD FFA programs include but are not limited to insubordination, truancy, cheating, drinking, sexual misconduct, drugs, the use of tobacco products or vapes and violations of the Denton ISD Student Code of Conduct or major breaches of the FFA code of ethics.

### **Problems and Chain of Command**

When a problem or concern arises, the best way to resolve it is by following a set “chain-of-command.” Always begin with the supervising teacher.

- Campus Ag Science Teacher(s) and Species Teacher(s)
- Assistant Principal
  - BHS: Zephaniah Smalley
  - DHS: Mark Goggins
  - GHS:
  - RHS: Jay Swafford
- Campus Principal
  - BHS: DeCorian Hailey

- DHS: Joel Hays
- GHS: Dr. Shaun Perry
- RHS: Vernon Reeves
- CTE Director: Carla Ruge-Fritz

### **Open Communications**

Please maintain open communications with your Ag Science Teacher and Species Teachers regarding your participation in the program. Every effort will be made to ensure consistent communication with everyone in the program. Every teacher has their preferred way of communication, and it is up to the discretion of the teacher on how that is done i.e., Remind 101, Email, Group Text Messaging, or advisor preferred communication method. First and foremost, the goal is to make sure the students have a positive learning experience, and it is encouraged that you bring any situations or problems that are negatively impacting our students through the proper chain of command. All communication must be conveyed by the Ag Science Teacher to the student and back to the parent. Communication between the student and parent must be an integral part of the day-to-day activities. All questions and suggestions by the Ag Science Teacher and the student will be documented in the preferred way of their campus instructor. Ag Science Teachers may use their personal phones to contact parents and students, especially in case of an emergency. Every animal is fed, cared for, and evaluated separately. All suggestions concerning individual students and animals will be communicated directly with the species advisor. Gossip and assumptions can be very negative, and it is encouraged for everyone to avoid both. Students are expected to check notifications and acknowledge that they have received the message. Failure to communicate or acknowledge notifications will result in a strike.

### **Social Media**

Any negative public comments (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, etc.) may result in the removal from the Ag Barn Facility and/or the program pending any possible disruption to the school setting. This decision shall be made by the home campus administration.

### **Conflict Resolution**

Personality clashes and personal disagreements will arise, but we encourage students and adults to resolve their issues between themselves in a mature manner. Public arguments at Denton ISD FFA functions and facilities (meetings, stock shows, Ag Barns, etc.) will not be tolerated. Such situations may result in one or both parties being ejected from the area and the future participation of that person and/or the student may be in jeopardy. Please refer to the chain of command when needing to address any conflicts that arise.

### **Facilities Care and Respect**

If you choose to keep your animal(s) at the Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities or to use the Denton ISD equipment (clippers, pens, etc.), you will need to respect and take care of it. Persons responsible for intentional damage/vandalism (to the property or equipment of the facility, district, or other students) will be held financially responsible for repair of the damage; disciplinary actions will be taken, and project removal from the facility will occur. In order to use the necessary equipment, you must be properly trained by an Ag Science Teacher and items must be checked out through the checkout process. The responsibility of cleaning any equipment (clippers, pens, popper) must be done by the student before returning the item.

## Denton ISD Equipment

Any equipment owned by Denton ISD is to be used by Denton ISD Ag Science Teachers or under the direct supervision of a Denton ISD Ag Science Teacher. Equipment is not to leave the Ag Barn Facilities unless being used by the Ag Science Teacher or a student has been granted permission to use the equipment off-site. This may include, but is not limited to, trailers, show boxes, fans, stall set-ups, blowers, hoses, dividers, pig boards, trim tables, chutes, poppers etc. If damage occurs to any equipment the student/parent will be responsible for replacing or reimbursing the full cost of the item. Any issue in replacing or repayment of the damaged items will reflect on your student account for the full amount of the item and will be placed on hold.

## Animal Selection

All projects kept at the Ag Barn Facilities must be approved by the Species Teacher(s). If a student wishes to select their own animal, they may do so under prior communication with their Species Teacher(s). This will be allowed only under certain circumstances and is up to the Species Advisor's discretion. If you wish to keep your project at an outside location, approval and a signed agreement between the parent/student and the Species Teacher(s) must be made. NO PROJECT will be shown under any Denton ISD FFA chapter without the consent of the Species Teacher(s) and it is the desecration of the species advisor on which shows the species is going to travel to. **If the species advisor is not attending the major show, the student needs to register under 4H**

## Number of Projects at Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities

Students will be limited to a maximum number of animal projects that will be housed at the Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities. Student will be allowed the following animals per species subject to the corresponding Species Teacher's approval:

- Market Swine – up to a maximum of 2 projects subject to Species Teacher(s) approval/facility space availability.
- Lambs/Goats – up to a maximum of 2 animals subject to Species Teacher(s) approval/facility space availability
- Cattle – up to a maximum of 3 or 4 projects subject to Species Teacher(s) approval/facility space availability
- Poultry – up to a maximum of 1 pen subject to Species Teacher(s) approval/facility space availability
- Rabbits – up to 2 market pens of 4 bunnies subject to Ag Science Teacher approval/space availability

If one facility becomes full of a certain species, the option is to house the animal at the other DISD facility. Spots are reserved by first come first serve. All the paperwork and fees must be paid to reserve a spot. Facilities are available to high school students or 8<sup>th</sup> graders enrolled in an ag class, then Jr FFA members. Due to this being a construction year 2024-2025, space will be limited.

## Costs

While showing animals is a positive experience, it is not a cheap one. You will incur costs for the animal, feed, entry fees, passes, transportation, hotels, vet bills, etc. Any expenses are to be paid at the time of service or deadline set forth for the event by the Species Teacher(s). NOTE –students will be required to pay an annual fee **per animal** to house an animal at the Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities. This will help cover costs associated with maintenance of the facility. Checks need to be made out to DENTON ISD.

- Cattle: \$100.00
- Sheep/Goats: \$50.00
- Swine: \$50.00
- Poultry \$50
- Rabbits \$25

Fee are to be paid and paperwork has to be turned in before the student receives a spot in the barn and may not move into the barn until everything is collected by the species teacher. Species teachers will set a due date but spaces are first come, first serve.

## Outstanding Debts

All outstanding debts, i.e., vet bills, feed bills, etc. incurred by the student in the raising of the project must be paid before the instructors can release payment from the sale of the project.

## Animal Project Management

The animal Supervised Ag Experience Project (SAEP) is the student's responsibility. All project management decisions will be made by the student/parent in cooperation with the supervising Species Teacher(s). The Species Teacher(s) will closely monitor all show rules. Ethical treatment of projects is always required, and rule violations will not be tolerated. Any unethical treatment of an animal will result in immediate removal of the student from the Denton ISD FFA program.

With the implementation of the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD), any student/parent who does not follow the management practices as directed by the Species Advisor, will immediately become ineligible to show. Disciplinary actions will be taken per the guidelines in this handbook.

The student's Species Teacher(s) must approve all projects before purchase, including personally owned animals, with open lines of communication and prior approval. The Species Teacher(s) will be *actively involved* in the selection process, and communicated with prior to the purchasing of the project or the project will not be eligible for the following:

- to participate in livestock shows sponsored by Denton ISD
- to be housed at the Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities
- to be affiliated with any Denton ISD FFA program.

At the discretion of a species advisor, any animal that is raised as a project at the Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities and enters for a show under any group other than Denton ISD FFA may lose their facility privileges.

The Species Teacher(s) along with the home campus Ag Science Teacher(s) will provide the following for parents and students:

- Lead the selection & purchasing process for student animal project.
- Provide advice on feeding, grooming, equipment, and other necessary purchases. May lose this privilege is seeking advice from someone other than the advisor.

- Provide instruction and recommendations to help students properly groom animals for show, train their animals prior to show, learn animal anatomy and facts necessary for showmanship, and exhibit their animals successfully in the show ring.
- Provide students with entry forms for all school sponsored livestock shows and will provide tags for animals for state shows in accordance with State Validation Procedures and Regulations.
- Provide transportation for livestock to and from school-sponsored livestock shows decided by Species Teacher(s), based on Denton ISD approval.

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## Facilities Usage

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Facility usage is for actively enrolled Denton ISD agriculture and/or paid members of the Denton ISD FFA program who own an animal project. All projects housed at the Denton ISD Ag Barn facilities must be owned and cared for by actively enrolled Denton ISD students.

All animal projects must be owned by Denton ISD enrolled students to be housed at the Ag Barn Facilities or within 5 miles of the student's home campus at the discretion of the species advisor.

If you are **not** housing your animal at the Project Facility but rely on your Species Teacher(s) for travel, clipping, or maintaining your animal must be at the facility at the time your species teacher specifies.

Each student is responsible for the feeding and care of their project on their own time without the assistance of anyone, other than the student's immediate family or the Species Teacher(s), without prior approval by the instructor. **No visitor or guest of the student will be allowed at the Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities unless there is 48 hours' notice prior approval from the home campus Agriculture Science Teacher.**

Students are expected to provide their own transportation to and from the Ag Barn Facilities. For the safety of students, parents, and guardians, the Ag Barn facilities hours are from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm. No unauthorized personnel should feed or be at the Ag Barn facilities for any reason before 6:00 am or after 10:00 pm without permission from an Ag Science Teacher. Anyone present during closed hours will be considered trespassing. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact your Species Teacher(s), who will inform the CTE Director.

The Ag Barn facilities are to be used only for feeding and caring for the livestock projects. It is not a hang-out location and loitering will result in a campus referral.

**No pets** are allowed on the Ag Barn Facilities' grounds for any reason. This is for the safety of the pet, species projects, and persons at the Ag Barn Facility.

No structural additions or changes will be allowed without Denton ISD approval. Non-approved additions or changes will be removed immediately. No additions, subtractions, modifications, or construction relating to electricity, carpentry, plumbing, or location may be made. The use of electrical devices or extension cords must meet NEC and UL electrical codes. No cords shall lie within reach of any animal and must be properly secured. Animals can chew on the cord and be electrocuted. Use of any electrical devices and extension cords must be approved by an Ag Science Teacher.

Students should report any needed repairs to an Ag Science Teacher immediately so that repairs can be done in a timely manner. It is not the students or parent's responsibility to repair the area and/or equipment belonging to Denton ISD.

The appearance of the Ag Barn Facilities is a priority; there will be 2 scheduled “Ag Barn Facilities clean-ups” which are mandatory for students with animal projects housed at the Ag Barn Facilities. If a student is unable to attend for any reason, they are responsible for finding a suitable replacement deemed appropriate by the Ag Science Teacher.

### **Students MUST attend Barn Clean Up Scheduled dates: Aug 30 and April 11**

Students housing animals at Denton ISD facilities may be assigned duties or responsibilities for the care and maintenance of the facility as determined by the Ag Science Teacher/ Species Teacher(s). Failure to maintain Denton ISD facilities in clean and proper order or to complete duties assigned may result in the dismissal of the student and the removal of their animal from the facility.

Absolutely no chemicals, pesticides, spray, etc., or other forms of pest removal products are allowed at the Ag Barn Facilities. If there is a need to remove pests, Ag Science Teachers need to report the issue to the CTE Director immediately.

Due to limited space, only authorized trailers or other items will be allowed to be parked/stored at the Denton ISD Agricultural facilities. **Vehicles not authorized by the instructor, or the district are prohibited from entering the facility.**

**All rules, care of project, and feeding procedures apply to holidays and weekends.**

### **Care of Project**

Each animal must be cared for in a proper manner as approved or established by the Species Teacher(s). The Species Teachers are authorized to determine any necessary practices to ensure proper care of the student’s project. . This also includes, but is not limited to, daily maintenance of pen/facility, feeding, hair care, showing techniques, exercise, etc. Students must adhere to practices set forth by the Species Teacher(s) and these practices may not be changed. Feed needs to be fresh feed (not day-old feed) and water needs to be clean enough that students would drink it This applies to all projects that are shown under the Denton ISD FFA Chapters including owned animals.

- The following Barn Demerit system will be followed when addressing animals without feed or with unsatisfactory conditions:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense = Warning with parent Contact
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense = Warning & Parent, Student, Teacher, Administrator Conference
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense = Removal of animal from barn/loss of barn privileges
- Projects without feed or with unsatisfactory pen/area conditions for prolonged periods of time will result in removal of the project from the student and facility.
- If at any time a student and/or parent does not agree with the species teacher regarding care of an animal, please contact the appropriate campus administration to resolve the conflict.
  - BHS: Zephaniah Smalley
  - DHS: Mark Goggins
  - GHS: Timberlyn Mays
  - RHS: Jay Swafford
- The student is responsible for proper care of his/her project. This includes adequate nutrition and hydration for proper growth, the development of the project, cleaning the pen and surrounding area. If any project is found to need immediate emergency care, the Denton ISD Agricultural

Science Teachers reserve the right to seek treatment for that project at the owner's expense, when owners are unable to be contacted.

- **PENS-** Shavings and feces are to be removed daily. The shavings should be replaced as needed and are an expense of the student/parent.
- **AISLE-** The aisles are to remain clean and free of trash, feed, hay, etc. This is the responsibility of all students. Tack is to be kept in designated areas and put up neatly. Trash and debris can cause harm to animals if ingested.
- **TRASH/DUMPING-** Wheel barrows are provided for all to use at the barn. When cleaning out pens it is the responsibility of the student(s) to take the wheelbarrow to the front of the barn and dump it in the designated area and not outside our barn doors or in the driveway. Improper dumping will attract flies and cause more disease and infections in the barn. If you see improper dumping, please report it immediately to the Ag Science Teacher(s), so appropriate actions can be taken. The dumpster is in the front of the Guyer barn and at the back of the Star Farm barn, please make sure all your personal and animals' trash is thrown away properly and not left on barrels or in aisles.
- **FEED-** Projects are to be fed twice daily on a twelve-hour schedule, or as advised by Species Advisor(s). **BE CONSISTENT.** It is recommended that feeding should be done before 10am and 10pm. Animals are creatures of habit. Hay needs to be kept in a container.
- **WATER-** Fresh, clean water should be supplied daily to your project. Empty water buckets are unacceptable; they should be filled every day during feeding. Water buckets/automated waters must be dumped and cleaned daily outside of the stalling area and not in any aisle.
- **EXERCISE-** Exercise programs will be on a per species basis and will be given to the student/parent from the Species Teacher(s). Please note these programs can change as needed for the project.
- **WEATHER-** Students should check the weather daily. Regardless of the weather conditions, your animal(s) needs to be fed and given fresh water. This includes rain, snow, ice, and just cold weather.

In the event of extreme weather conditions Denton ISD reserves the right to shut off waterlines to the Ag Barn Facilities. In the event this occurs, students/parents are responsible for hauling water to the Ag Barn Facilities to care for the project.

Always seek Species Teacher's advice if there are questions regarding weather conditions and the daily care of your animal.

- **EQUIPMENT-** Materials used daily by the student will be purchased at the student's expense. A list will be provided prior to purchase of animal(s) and is subject to change as the need arises. If the equipment is property of Denton ISD, please do not use it until you have been properly trained or under the supervision of an Agriculture Science Teacher.
- **SHAVINGS-** These are the students' responsibility and an expense you are expected to incur. Species Teacher(s) will advise on type, and when they are needed. Shavings are used in stalls, pens, and at various shows, this will be communicated through the Ag Science Teacher.
  - All shavings and extra unnecessary tack will need to be stored at your home of your own accord.
- **Storage-** You will be instructed by your Species Teacher(s) to only use your provided space for storage, tack, feed, shavings, etc.

## Recommended Veterinarians

Westgate Veterinary  
Denton, TX  
940-387-9522

Hooves and Paws  
Aubrey, TX  
940-365-9430

Town and Country Animal Hospital  
Aubrey, TX  
940-382-1986

We as ag teachers strongly encourage you to use one of the vets listed since they actively work with the livestock species in our barns. Before contacting a vet, you need to contact your Species Teacher(s). We as Ag Science Teachers are not veterinarians, but we can direct you as to whether it is a vet emergency.

### Health papers:

Some major livestock shows require all animals to go through a health check before coming onto the grounds. If you need health papers for a show, and you are traveling with the school, the Species Teacher(s) will coordinate a health check and the cost will vary depending on the number of animals being checked. This is non-negotiable.

## Medication to Animals

All projects and animals under the Denton ISD FFA are the responsibility of the species teachers; therefore, ALL forms of medication or substances or any other treatment MUST be approved by the Ag Science Teacher and approved by a licensed Veterinarian. We will follow all major show rules regarding feed and drug residue restrictions. The Species Teacher(s) will not knowingly give your child's animal(s) any illegal drug or substance. The rules regarding substances change regularly, so do not depend upon what you could or could not do when you were showing before the current situation. If you have a question about anything that you may want to give your animal, please check with your Species Teacher(s) first. Projects are subject to testing, and if an exhibitor is found in violation, a stock show may ban them from ever participating again. Students and parents will be required to sign an affidavit stating you have not given anything not approved by the FDA or USDA to that animal. All major show rules regarding feed and drug restrictions will be followed.

With the implementation of the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD), any student/parent who does not follow the management practices as directed by the Ag Science Teacher, will immediately become ineligible to show. Disciplinary actions will be taken per the guidelines in this handbook.

- **NO** medication including but not limited to off-label or extra-label medications, sprays, feed additives, over the counter medication and/or other substances will be given internally or externally to any livestock project without approval of the species teacher. All established withdrawal times for any administered product must be strictly followed.
- The species teacher will notify students and/or parents if medication must be administered to any animal.

- Species teachers will seek veterinarian assistance if he or she has any questions arise pertaining to administering medication.
- **In the event an animal tests positive before, during or after a major event, the student and/or parent must inform the Species Teacher immediately.**
- All animals shown under the Denton ISD FFA Chapter or housed at the Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities must follow these guidelines regardless.
- Students traveling to jackpot shows over the weekend will be subject to a quarantine period of 5 days. Within those 5 days, if the animal shows no signs of disease or pests, then they will receive entry back into the barn. All animals with signs of diseases or pests will be provided more quarantine days and medications will be administered.

Due to this Veterinary Feed Directive, you should only seek advice from your veterinarian and or your species advisor only. If you have sought advice from a vet, you are responsible for notifying your species advisor within 24 hours.

If given medical advice and you choose not to follow vet or species advisors' advice on medicating an animal, the student and parent will be held liable for all monetary values lost, if it should spread or infect other animals in the barn.

### **Pen Assignments**

Due to space restrictions and equipment costs, the number of animals a student may raise at the Denton ISD Ag Barn facility is limited to the available space. The Species Teacher(s) will assign a stall or pen where the project animal will be kept; they are not to move without permission from Species Teacher(s). If more requests for stalls or pens have been made than spaces available, the Species Teacher(s) will devise an appropriate plan of action that best fits the needs of said species.

- Pens are reserved for Denton ISD actively enrolled students only.
- No locks are allowed on any animal pens in case of fire or other emergencies. Failure to comply will result in lock being cut off and removed.
- No students will be allowed to switch facilities unless advised by your species Ag Science Teacher
- Active High School FFA members have priority over Jr. FFA members. This may result in moving or removal of the Jr. FFA member's project from the Denton ISD Ag Facilities.
- The hierarchy of pen placement is as follows:
  - Active FFA Members
  - Jr. FFA Siblings of Active FFA Members
  - Jr. FFA Members with no siblings in the active program
  - Extenuating circumstances can be discussed
- Students are responsible for cleaning out their pens

### **Senior Students**

No senior student may start a project that will not finish before the end of school year. Graduated seniors will not be allowed to utilize the Denton ISD Ag Barn Facilities. Special circumstances do arise and will need prior approval from the Species Teacher(s) and the CTE Director. Animals will be removed from the project center within 2 weeks of the last show sponsored by the Species Teacher(s).

## **Removal of Projects**

The student is to remove all projects from the Ag Barn Facility prior to the last day of the Denton County Livestock Show or with prior approval from an Ag Science teacher with the intent to show during the summer months. NO ANIMAL will be allowed to be shown after this deadline. If the project is not removed by the end of the Denton County Livestock Show, the animal will be removed at the student's/parent's expense and sold at a local auction facility. The proceeds of the sale will be used to offset the expenses incurred due to the removal. After expenses have been covered the remaining balance (if applicable) will be mailed to the student/parents.

- All students are required to thoroughly clean their project's pens prior to the designated Barn Clean-Up date. If the pen is not clean the student will be responsible for a \$100 fee that will be placed into the DISD Ag Barn facility budget. The species teacher will also hold any monetary awards they may have received from stock shows that year until the student has performed their cleaning duties.
- Students are expected to attend the full day of barn clean up and not leave early.
- Any student who is required to remove a project due to disciplinary action or is not passing all classes at the last school sponsored show, will be required to remove their animal within 5 calendar days of notice. In addition, departing students must clean their stall.
- Graduating seniors and/or students not intending to feed a livestock project for the following school year must remove all personal belongings (feed, storage containers, etc.) from the Denton ISD Ag Barn facility within two weeks from the last Denton ISD sponsored livestock show of that Ag Science teacher, that the student participates in.
- Failure to comply will result in the forfeiture of personal belongings to the Denton ISD Ag Barn facility.
- Purchasing and housing animals at the barn without prior permission from the species science teacher is prohibited.
- Students are required to be paid FFA or Junior FFA members, failure to do so will result in the student not being eligible to show and therefore the project does not need to be housed at the Denton ISD facility.

## **Project Death**

If a project dies at the project center, it is the student's/parent's responsibility to contact the Species Teacher or if he/she cannot be reached please contact another Denton ISD Ag Science Teacher.

- The Species Teacher will provide information to students/parents about the removal process.
- It is the student's/parent's responsibility to remove the project within twenty-four hours after being notified.
- The removal of a deceased animal is at the expense of the student/parent.

Advisors can assist in locating another animal project prior to validation but after validation the new animal would not be able to compete.

## **Junior FFA Members**

Dues are to be paid to the FFA Chapter of the receiving feeder high school's Ag Science Teacher that the junior member is zoned to attend. If showing multiple animals, the Species Teachers will discuss and devise a plan of action. Ag Science Teachers/Species Teachers are responsible for communicating necessary information to Junior FFA members.

## Scramble Animals

Any Denton ISD FFA students that participate in any calf scramble, at any show or event, must have prior approval and permission from the Species Teacher two weeks prior to the scramble event.

- Scramble forms and certificates must be signed and approved by the corresponding Species Teacher.
- Student(s) and parents are responsible for reading and meeting the rules and expectations of the scramble shows. It will also be the responsibility of student(s)/parents to have the scramble student arrive at the appropriate show, location, and time, as required by the show.
- All general rules and expectations apply to scramble animals. If a student does not meet Denton ISD or the scramble show rules, Denton ISD FFA will drop sponsorship of the scramble animal.
- Student must have prior approval from the species teacher before signing up for the calf scramble contest

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## Denton Independent School District Livestock Show Rules & Guidelines

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All entry forms for Denton ISD sponsored shows will be filled out at the campus Major Livestock Show Meeting. The student and the parent are responsible for reading all of the show rules prior to filling out the registration for the Major Livestock Shows and DCLA show.

Being a member of the Denton ISD FFA Show Team is considered a privilege; therefore, the following rules must be followed. Any Denton ISD FFA member is expected to follow the guidelines of this handbook, student code of conduct, and extracurricular guidelines. Any FFA event is considered an extension of Denton ISD and therefore all participating students must be actively enrolled in a Denton ISD school to participate.

Any Ag Science Teacher supervising a species has sole discretion to adjust, amend or add additional expectations as deemed important for the success of his or her program and upon approval from the CTE Director.

The stock show experience is fast-paced and requires a lot of hard work on the part of everyone involved. To have a successful, positive experience, everyone must work as a team.

## Denton ISD Sponsored Livestock Shows

Denton ISD sponsored shows for 2024-2025 will be limited to species specific show list. All of these are school sponsored and will be at the discretion of your species teacher.

- All entry forms for Denton ISD sponsored shows will be filled out at the major livestock show meeting at their respective campuses.

NOTE: Denton ISD sponsored shows are *for Junior Market and Junior Breeding shows only* or the discretion of the species teachers.

- Attendance for major shows is based on participation, species teacher discretion, and funding for teacher travel.
- For the 2024-2025 school year, students may participate in additional shows with prior approval from species teachers.

- For 2024-2025 school year, if parents/students choose to attend additional “Jackpot shows” on their own or under the discretion of the species teachers they will need to comply with the following if showing under a Denton ISD FFA chapter:
  - Gain permission from species teacher at least 1 week in advance
  - If proper notice is not given, the Ag Science/Species Teacher has the right to refuse.
  - Supply your own means of transportation: truck, trailer, cage, etc., or to the discretion of the Species Teacher if help is needed.
  - Quarantine is not an option; we will be supplying quarantine spaces for animals after Jackpot shows. Each animal will need to quarantine for at least 5 days after shows to avoid the spreading of pests and disease throughout the barns.
  - The use of Denton ISD equipment such as fans, blower, show boxes, mats, popper, etc. must have approval from the Ag Science Teacher and be checked out through the proper process.

### **Student Eligibility for Livestock Shows**

To be eligible to participate in any livestock show as a Denton ISD FFA member, students must meet the following requirements:

- Be actively enrolled at a Denton ISD school High School. Students must be enrolled in an approved Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources class to participate in Denton ISD FFA chapters.
- Eligibility in the Denton ISD FFA organizations is based on the UIL eligibility standards found in TEA code 33.081 “no pass, no play.”
  - However, eligibility waivers for International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, honors, or dual credit classes are accepted for only one grading period during the school year for any FFA events above the chapter level. To be eligible for a waiver in these classes the following criteria must be met:
    - 1) One failing grade 50 or above OR 2 failing grades 60 or above
    - 2) There can be no zeros or missing assignments during that grading period.
- If a student is ineligible to show due to UIL ineligibility, the animal is also ineligible to show unless the animal is validated under family registration set out by the Texas AgriLife Extension Program.
- UIL eligibility guidelines will be followed to determine eligibility.
- Comply with National FFA and Texas FFA member guidelines
- Must comply with Denton ISD’s compulsory attendance (FEA Legal and FM Local)
- All FFA or Junior FFA membership dues are paid, and student is in good standing with Denton ISD FFA chapter.
- All FFA members or Junior FFA members must complete the quality counts program through the Denton County Extension Agency.
- Students will be allowed to participate in only those shows approved by the species advisor.
- Attend all mandatory livestock meetings for the specific livestock project.
- Have paid entry fees on time and meet show requirements.
- Students will be responsible for all personal travel to and from all livestock shows.
- Substitute exhibitors for any animal species must be approved and coordinated by the species teacher in conjunction with livestock show rules.

## General Expectations

- All students are expected to follow the Denton ISD student code of conduct and any co-curricular or extracurricular guidelines set forth by Denton ISD.
- All students showing with the Denton ISD FFA are expected to follow the rules and guidelines of the major stock shows. All shows provide a catalog/guidelines book via their website. Should you violate a rule, you will be subject to the consequences.
- All Denton ISD policies regarding travel, transportation and student behavior will be enforced.
- Everyone is expected to work as a team to load and unload animals/show projects, set up and tear down pens, weigh animals, etc. Denton ISD FFA works as a team to encourage and help one another, which means you are expected to watch other students show, etc. We will travel as a group as much as possible and work together to make it a positive experience for all the students. If there are extenuating circumstances where you cannot work with other FFA members, please communicate with the sponsoring Ag science teacher.
- All animals must be validated, and all validation rules must be followed. It is the responsibility of the student and/or parents to check the accuracy of the validation.
- All species will pen together at major shows. Meaning your animal will be penned with Denton ISD animals and are not allowed to be moved to another area of the show to be penned with others. This is to assist in monitoring of animals at all times by Denton ISD teachers.
- Animals should be clipped and groomed as much as possible before they leave for the shows. Each Ag Science teacher will give instructions for their procedures and sign-up times.
- All families are expected to make their own hotel arrangements.
- Payment for stock show registration is expected at the time of registration. Your registration will not be submitted until payment is made. Denton ISD FFA will hold a Major Show meeting in October for all species, this is mandatory for you to attend, and all payment and paperwork is to be completed at this time or the student will not be entered for the show(s).
- If you are not present to assist with loading or unloading, or to show or sell your animal, then your animal will not be shown or sold. The species teacher must approve any exceptions.
- Substitutions for showing animals must follow the guidelines of the major stock show. Any substitutions must have prior approval from Species Teacher.

## Showmanship

The main purpose of showmanship is to present your animal/show project to the judge in a manner that will make your animal look its best. Showing can emphasize strong points and de-emphasize weak points of the animal.

Success in showing begins at home. You and your animal cannot learn proper showing techniques at the last minute. It is important that you practice as often as possible. Showing can be a very rewarding experience if you take the time to learn how to show. When starting out, not only the animal must be trained, but the exhibitor must learn the proper showing techniques as well. Mini showmanship clinics will be offered during the specific species meetings. Please make plans on being there.

## Other

- If an exhibitor is unable to be present for loading of tack and animals/show project yet still wishes to show they will be responsible for transporting animal and tack/show project on their own using personal vehicles unless prior arrangements are made with the Ag Science teacher.
- Students are expected to perform duties at the livestock show. This includes but is not limited to set-up, cleanup, etc., as set forth by Ag Science teacher.

- Parents/students may be asked to leave any DISD FFA sponsored event for any behavior misconduct including but not limited to aggressive or disrespectful behavior towards advisors, other parents, or students, or any behavior that brings discredit to our organization.
- Students who choose to attend livestock shows outside of the designated school shows must follow all Denton ISD FFA and show team guidelines as they still represent our organization.
- Any decisions or instructions made by the species teacher at a school-sponsored show are final. Any concerns should be addressed through the chain of command prior to leaving for an event or upon immediate return following an event.
- If a student wishes to attend a show an animal/project on their own – they must join 4H and register animal/project through 4H

### **Parent Responsibilities and Expectations**

Denton ISD and campus administration reserve the right for discretionary interpretation of the contents in this guide. Any disciplinary action or violation of this document will be at the sole discretion of Denton ISD and campus administration.

**Parent Responsibilities:** Your assistance as a parent of the livestock/project show team is very important and valued. To help promote teamwork, good showmanship and success the following must be adhered to:

- Review show team guidelines, show rules, and contents of the DISD FFA handbook with your child frequently.
- Ensure your child accurately completes and turns in all registration paperwork and other required forms on time.
- Refrain from the use of tobacco, alcohol, and profanity at all FFA and livestock events.
- Support the decisions and instructions given by FFA advisors, show judges, and other officials at all FFA and livestock/project events.
- Provide positive support of your child and the entire FFA show team.
- Ensure that your student is on time to all required meetings and that they follow all show team contract guidelines.
- Parents are to provide transportation and accommodation for your student at all stock shows.
- All animals must be validated, and all validation rules must be followed. It is the responsibility of the parents to check the accuracy of the validation.
- Use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on school property, including the Denton ISD Ag barn facility. In addition, please remember that stock shows and other FFA events are family experiences. Adults are strongly discouraged from consuming or having in their possession alcoholic beverages in or around the primary/general areas of the livestock show team, including animal pens. Alcohol is prohibited if the showgrounds do not allow it.
- Parents/students may be asked to leave any DISD FFA sponsored event for inappropriate misconduct, aggressive or disrespectful behavior towards advisors, other parents, students, or any behavior that brings discredit to our organization.
- Any decisions or instructions made by the Ag Science teacher at a school-sponsored show are final. Any concerns should be addressed through the chain of command prior to leaving for an event or upon immediate return following an event.

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### **Terms, Conditions, & Consequences**

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REMINDER: ALL terms and conditions are subject to change. The contents of this manual are at the sole discretion of campus administration and Director of CTE. This document will be kept updated and located

on the DISD district website. *It will be the responsibility of students and parents to utilize the district website to obtain and/or refer to the most current version of this document.*

The Agriculture Program reserves the right to remove any animal from the facilities or during shows if any one of the following conditions exists:

- Animal abuse or neglect in any form
- Diseased or infected animals
- Animals that are unsafe to handle
- Students and/or parents failing to observe rules
- Animals not being fed for show purposes
- Student is no longer involved in the program
- Student expelled or withdrawn from DISD
- Student Place in an Alternative Program

***If the student fails to abide by any of the above-mentioned rules or guidelines set forth in this document and other Denton ISD district policy, actions will be taken to remove the animal and/or ban any future Agriculture facility privileges. The student is subject to disciplinary action for failure to comply with these rules/guidelines.***

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## **DISD Ag Science Teacher Guidelines and Expectations**

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All DISD Ag Science Teachers (AST's) will be responsible for following all district policies, including expectations and guidelines listed in the DISD Employee Handbook, Career and Technical Education Employee Handbook, DISD FFA Handbook, and policies and protocol listed in the Student Code of Conduct. All Ag Science teachers are under direct supervision of campus administration.

The following guidelines are currently enforced. **Any new rules that may become necessary will be effective immediately** upon notification to campus administration and Ag Science Teachers.

### **Ag Science Teacher Guidelines & Expectations**

- Each Denton ISD Ag Science Teacher will be responsible for:
  - Instructing students in the field of Agricultural Science
  - Supervising their campus's FFA chapter activities
  - Selecting and supervising FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience projects.
    - Livestock, Ag Mech, Horticulture, Agri science Fair, etc.

### **Amendments**

The Director of CTE and campus administration reserve the right to change or amend the contents of this document. The contents within this document are at the discretionary interpretation of Denton ISD campus administration and Director of CTE. This document will be kept updated and located on the DISD district website. *It will be the responsibility of teachers, students and parents to utilize the district website to obtain and/or refer to the most current version of this document.*

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## Student and Parent Acknowledgement

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Parents and Students Please initial to agree to the following terms listed in this contract:

- \_\_\_\_\_ : I will only allow a species advisor or another student with the SAME species feed for me as directed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : If there is an outbreak in the barn, I will allow the advisors to treat my project at my cost.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : I understand that my advisors are not veterinarians.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : I will follow feed recommendations followed by my advisors only.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : I will not “hang out” in the barn. I will accomplish feeding, washing, taking care of my animals, and leave.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : I will help CLEAN out the wash racks and the barns even if I did not use them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : I understand if the barn becomes dirty (shavings in front of the pens, dirty wash rack, trash) and the problem cannot be identified I will attend a species-specific cleanup day (not on schedule).
- \_\_\_\_\_ : I will attend to barn clean up dates: August 30 and April 11 (right after ½ day of school and stay until entire barn is clean even helping other species areas)
- \_\_\_\_\_ : I will keep my pen clean and my animal healthy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : My student and I accept responsibility for accessing, reading and following the policies in the Denton ISD FFA Policy Handbook on the Denton ISD website.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : All fees occurred by my animal or project will be paid by the student and parent immediately
- \_\_\_\_\_ : I understand that 3 or more students must be attending a show before a species advisor will attend the show. I understand that the cost of the species advisor attending may have to be paid by the students attending.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : I understand that the **Denton ISD FFA Policy Handbook** and **Denton ISD Student Code of Conduct** contain information that my student and I may need during the school year. All students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in both documents. If I have questions regarding the **Denton ISD FFA Policy Handbook**, please contact the high school Ag Science teacher or the CTE Director.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : I allow my student’s name and photograph to be used in any FFA and/or Denton ISD publications.
- \_\_\_\_\_ : I allow the Agricultural Science Teacher(s) to effectively communicate with my student via group text message or the most efficient way possible.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_