



4-H AND FFA PROJECTS HARDSHIP POLICY AND GUIDELINES

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of the youth livestock program is to develop responsibility, dedication, decision-making, leadership, trustworthiness, sportsmanship and citizenship through the possession and personal care of a live animal project. The youth (4-H or FFA member) will have many educational opportunities and activities to learn about animal agriculture and develop life skills. We are striving for maximum contact with the animal and participation in educational activities.

HARDSHIP POLICY:

The ability of the youth to provide personal care for the animal is a major goal in the livestock projects. The guiding concern in granting permission for hardship requests should be the education and development of youth. Concern for ensuring that the animal is shown has minimal importance in granting hardships. Any exhibitor housing his or her animal on any property other than their own must acquire and have approved a project/hardship form prior to purchase of animal.

GUIDELINES FOR GRANTING HARDSHIPS:

CATEGORY I - POSSESSION OF ANIMALS

- A. Animal should be housed within a reasonable distance to allow youth to interact with the animal project on a positive basis.
- B. Youth (4-H or FFA member) should do the majority of work and care for the animal project.
- C. All housing requests must be made prior to possession date.
 - 1. Residential restrictions will be considered.
 - 2. Opportunities for housing will be considered.
- D. Animal housed across the parish line must be recommended by both Agent and/or FFA Advisor.

CATEGORY II - REPLACEMENT OF INJURED OR DECEASED ANIMALS

- A. Injured animals must be checked and verified by the 4-H Agent and/or FFA Advisor or veterinarian.
- B. The replacement animals should be of comparable quality. Replacement of animals will be considered only to those exhibitors with one animal project per species.
- C. Replacement animals must be obtained within a reasonable amount of time to be determined by Livestock Show Manager.

CATEGORY III - CONFLICTS WITH SHOW AND EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Exhibitors must show their own animals. Exceptions will be made only in the following cases and with proper approval. In all cases, when the exhibitor cannot show his/her own animal, the exhibitor must have a bona fide 4-H or FFA member to show in his/her place. If the animal qualifies for the championship classes and the exhibitor is unable to show the animal, the same individual exhibiting in class must show the animal in the championship class.

1. Exceptions:
 - a. Exhibitors animals will be allowed to show in class and in the championship drive only if the exhibitor cannot show due to illness, physical handicap, personal injury or death in the family. The Livestock Show Manager shall approve or disapprove these requests.
 - b. Academic conflicts (school tests, academic contest, ACT, etc.) will be considered. The Livestock Show Manager shall approve or disapprove these requests.
 - c. To obtain an exception for school conflicts and physical handicap, the exhibitor must file a Livestock Project Possession/Hardship Form and have proper approval prior to The State Fair of Louisiana.

HARDSHIP PROCEDURE:

Youth and/or parent must fill out hardship form and include all pertinent information. The form must be signed by the youth, parent and/or guardian, Agent/FFA Advisor, and Parish Chair/School Principal (when it relates to a school related function or activity).

THE STATE FAIR OF LOUISIANA LIVESTOCK SHOW MANAGER RESERVES THE RIGHT FOR FINAL APPROVAL ON ALL HARDSHIPS AND MAY MAKE EXCEPTIONS TO THE ABOVE GUIDELINES BASED ON EACH SITUATION.

4-H AND FFA PROJECT HARDSHIP/POSSESSION FORM

Parish/Chapter _____

Exhibitor Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Project Description:

Replacement/Conflict:

Circumstances:

Location/Distance/Regularity of Visits:

Other Caretakers, etc:

Signature of Exhibitor

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Parish Agent/FFA Advisor

Date

Parish Chair/School Principal

Date