

Golden Prairie 4-H Policy Guide

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Golden Prairie
District

Table of Contents

Program Year Grievance/ Complaint Policy	3
4-H Rules Regarding County Fairs.....	3
County Fair Grievance Policy.....	4
Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YACA).....	5
Animal Check-In Terminology Policy.....	5
Check – In Dates Policy.....	5
1. Large Animal Check - In	
2. Small Animal Check - In	
Ear Tag Policy for Registered Breeding Heifers.....	6
Livestock Veterinary Checks Policy.....	7
Trego County Specific Policies.....	7



4-H Grievance/ Complaint Policy during the Program Year

If a 4-H'er and/ or their parent has a grievance or complaint that needs addressed during the program year the following chain of command will need to be followed to address the situation.

- 4-H Club Leader
- 4-H Program Manager
- Director
- Board Chair
- Director or Board Chair brings it to the GPED Board, or parent can bring it to the board in writing.

*Note: If this is a complaint about a policy, no changes will be made during the current 4-H Year. Policy changes may be presented to the GPED Board for consideration.

4-H Rules Regarding County Fairs

Every county in the state of Kansas is a little different from one another. The GPED Executive Board respects the traditions and values that each county composing the District offer to the 4-H Participants. In efforts to balance upholding those traditions as well as to hold all 4-H Participants to the same high standards that will prepare them for the Kansas State Fair; and, more importantly, for the life after 4-H, the GPED Executive Board exercises its right and duty to implement general rules and policies that pertain to all 4-Hers in the District.

A good “rule of thumb” that GPED abides by can be summed up as, “if it's not broke, we're not going to fix it.” However, as rules are challenged and/or questioned by 4-H'ers and/or their parents, GPED must step up and clarify rules and will do so by adopting written rules and policies to mitigate challenges or questions all with the aim of promoting fair and positive youth development for all.

For Rules regarding each specific County Fair, please refer to the most recently published county fair book – the space required to include each Fair Book is too daunting (the 2019 Logan County Fair Book is 78 pages long, the 2019 Gove County Fair Book is 96 pages long and the 2019 Trego County Fair Book is 38 pages long).

4-H Grievance Policy at Local County Fair

If you have a grievance:

Talk to the Superintendent in that area – if you feel it is not resolved, then put the grievance in writing, sign, and submit it to Extension Staff. This must be done within 24 hours of the incident, otherwise it is not a valid complaint. Within 24 hours of the complaint being filed, a ruling will be made.

The Grievance Committee consists of:

- The area Superintendent
- Extension Board Chair
- One Extension Board member from the Local County
- Local County Fair Board President/ Chair
- One Member from Local County Fair Board
- Extension Staff

The Grievance Committee ruling will be final. Any violation that affects future participation will be sent to the Golden Prairie Extension Board. (Approved 04/02/2018)

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YACA)

In order to educate youth on the proper and humane care of animals, GPED requires that all youth enrolled in Livestock Project(s) complete Youth for the Quality Care of Animals training every year. This is **DUE on May 1st** each year. Failure to do so will prohibit 4-H Participation of their Livestock Project(s) at their respective County Fair.

Animal Check – In Terminology Policy

What has historically been termed “Large/ Small Animal Weigh-In” has been replaced by the terminology “Small/ Large Animal Check-In.” This change better reflects the multiple-purposed objectives of a Spring check-in which includes not only weighing animals to determine rate of gain, but more generally to confirm and document 4-Her caretaking of a specific animal. Said specific animal may or may not need be required for weigh-in, but will still need to be presented at the local County Fair; thus, check-in is still required.

All Large Animals, regardless of class, are to be checked-in, ear-tagged (if required), and weighed (if desired) during the Large Animal Check-In. (Approved 3/5/2018) All small animals, regardless of class, are to be checked-in, ear tagged (if required), and weighed (if desired) during the Small Animal Check-In. (Approved 3/5/2018)

Check – In Dates Policy

Large Animal:

According to 4-H Fair Rules, Large Animals are judged based on market-value. The finishing process for preparing a market beef for slaughter typically takes anywhere between 120 and 160 days. Historically, State 4-H rules stated that Spring Check-In be at a minimum of 120 calendar days before the start of a local County Fair. There is no longer a State 4-H Rule that covers this issue.

As such, the Golden Prairie Extension District (GPED) is solely responsible for determining the length of time between Spring Check-In and the first day of the local County Fair.

GPED requires a minimum of 120 days between Spring Check-In and the beginning date of the respective local County Fair. (Effective 2019) (Approved 3/5/2018)

Small Animal:

According to 4-H Fair Rules, Small Animals are judged based on market-value. The finishing process preparing a market pig for slaughter typically takes anywhere between 115 and 120 days. The finishing process for preparing a market sheep or goat for slaughter is highly variable (30-80 days or beyond). Historically, State 4-H Rules stated that Spring Check-In be at a minimum of 60-90 calendar days before the start of a local County Fair. There is no longer a State 4-H Rule that covers this issue.

As such, the Golden Prairie Extension District (GPED) is solely responsible for determining the length of time between Spring Check-In and the first day of the local County Fair.

GPED requires a minimum of 60 days between Check-In and the beginning date of the respective local County Fair. (Effective 2019) (Approved 3/5/2018)

County Fair 4-H Ear Tag Policy for Registered Breeding Heifers

If desired, all cattle (regardless of class) for entry into a local county fair governed by 4-H rules may be ear-tagged with EID tags purchased at the expense of the 4-H'er or their parent/ Legal Guardian.

For Registered Breeding Heifers ONLY – there is an option to forego an EID ear tag if and only if the animal is previously registered in the 4-H'er name or family name (not parent/legal guardian name) prior to June 15th. If the animal is registered in any other name, the 4-H'er must use an EID tag which will be recorded in their name for the purposes of county fair only.

When foregoing an EID ear tag, the 4-H'er must submit all the registry paperwork (in their name) which matches the animal's registry tattoo. Golden Prairie Extension Staff will verify the match, collect, copy, and return all paperwork. Photocopies of all documents are to be kept in a confidential file for subsequent verification for Check-In at the County Fair.

(Effective 2019) (Approved 03/05/2018) (Edited and Approved 7/6/2021 – Effective October 1, 2021)

Veterinary Checks of 4-H Livestock Projects Policy

Large animals or small animals are required to be checked by a professional veterinarian during the County Fair Check-In Day. Animals determined by the veterinarian to be infectious or unfit for the County Fair Livestock Show(s) are automatically disqualified from participation in the contest and must be immediately removed from the fairgrounds in order to ensure the health and safety of all other livestock and persons at the fair **(9/4/2018)**.

Specific Rules for (Trego County ONLY)

Breeding Heifers

Trego Co, we require families to bring in all breeding heifers to small animal weigh in, registered heifers will have proper ID (tattoo/brand) as listed on registration papers, and papers will be due per KS State Fair Requirements to the Trego Co. Office.

(Approved May 2, 2022 – Effective October 1, 2022)

Sportsmanship Clause (Round Robin)

Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion animals are to be used for the Round Robin Competition, unless a veterinarian determines that the animal is injured by a physical examination. If the veterinarian determines a legitimate injury to the animal, the participant will still be able to compete in the Round Robin Competition.

The 4-H'er or parent of the 4-H'er in question is responsible for contacting their vet and having them come to the fairgrounds to check the animal in question. The 4-H'er is also responsible for full payment and travel expenses from the vet visit. Once the vet has completed their check, the 4-H'er must prove the animal is deemed healthy or if the animal is considered to be injured before the show begins.

If it is determined that your animal is injured, you will remain in your original home species and the reserve champion animal will be used. If your animal is determined to not be injured, you and your animal will forfeit your champion showmanship title as well as your eligibility to compete in the Round Robin Competition.

(Approved – Effective)