SAE’s @ Willowridge

**SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE**

The Fort Bend County Fair is held in the end of September through the beginning of October. This is our county show. Major shows are Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (March) and San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The rulebook for Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will be posted at <http://www.rodeohouston.com/Get-Involved/Exhibitors-Participants/Livestock-Show> on October 1st.

San Antonio’s rulebook can be found at <https://www.sarodeo.com/livestock/category/junior-market-shows>. Fort Bend County Fair can be found at <http://fortbendcountyfair.com/events/livestock> and clicking on the species’ image.

The **SAE** seems to be an area in which both students and parent have questions. Hopefully, some of the basic questions will be answered here.

One of the first questions to be asked is**,**

**“Do I have to raise an animal to be in Ag and/or the FFA?”**

The answer is **“No, you do not have to have an animal project, but yes you must have an SAE”.** If you are interested in other SAE project options, please see [www.exploreSAE.com](http://www.exploreSAE.com).

We realize that not all students are available to raise an animal project for various reasons. There are many other activities available to students who are unable to participate in the animal project area to do so. This area of the Agriculture program is important and will enable students to receive a more complete concept of the total program. Students enrolled in an Agri-Science class are provided a list of activities related to that class which can be used as a supplement or in place of an animal project. These activities are valued in a point per semester per Agri-Science class to receive credit. There are many ways to accomplish an SAE.

**Other frequently asked questions include**:

* **Do I keep my animal?** The purpose of raising an animal for FFA is to see the experience firsthand of how animals are raised in a commercial setting for profit—these profits are going to be from processing their milk, meat, fur, or wool. Animals raised for FFA should NOT be considered pets, and they are not intended to be treated like a pet. At the end of the show, animals that are not kept for breeding purposes will be sold for market value. You do receive a check for this sale that is mailed to the Ag department a few weeks later.
* **My relative has livestock, can I just buy one from them?** If you purchase an animal that is not bred for a livestock show, there is no likelihood that you will “make it” to auction, and you will sell your animal for market value. Show animals are a higher quality than regular livestock animals and are bred to show the best qualities of their breed. To get the best experience, it’s best to follow the show rules, read the handbook, and purchase a high quality show animal recommended by your Ag teacher.
* **What kind of animal?** Student are able to exhibit the following animals at the Fort Bend County Fair and major shows: Beef cattle (market steers) swine, (market swine), sheep, goats, turkey, chicken (broilers), and rabbits (breeding stock or meat).
* **How much do they cost?** Obviously, steers cost more than a pen of broilers to raise. For this reason, we have asked some of our students to address this issue later on for each of the species include in our program.
* **When do I get my animal?** This will depend on two factors: The type of animal and which show you want to participate in. Market steers, for the Fort Bend County Fair need to be purchased and on feed by May of the year BEFORE the show. Market lambs & goats need to be purchased in Sept-Oct-Nov. Broilers and turkey projects for FBCF and majors will be ordered during the school year. Turkeys in December and Broilers in January-February for majors and August-September for Fort Bend County Fair. \*\*\*\***Students desiring to raise poultry for San Antonio or Houston must have ordered them by late spring.**
* **What kind of facility/pen do I need for my animal?** This will depend on the type of animal that you raise. Once you have made this decision, contact Mrs. Albright, who will be glad to assist you in planning your facility. We have a school Ag Barn if you need it for **lambs/goats/cattle only**. The mandatory meeting for receiving a barn contract is at the Trammel Fresno barn October 11. STUDENTS THAT DO NOT ATTEND A BARN MEETING WILL NOT RECEIVE A BARN CONTRACT.
* **Where is a good place to buy my animal?** There is a definite need to understand that we are dealing with **SHOW ANIMALS**, not commercial grade animals. Animals that are exhibited in livestock shows are not ordinary “farm animals”. They are bred to be of a higher quality, specifically for shows. We will be happy to assist you in locating quality show stock if you ask. All of the poultry projects (broilers and turkeys) are purchased through the county extension office from one hatchery. THEY MUST BE ORDERED FROM TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY OR THEY CANNOT SHOW.

When you begin to consider/look for animal projects:

The most important thing you can do is to:

1. Read the rules for the show you are buying an animal for.
2. Select and purchase a quality animal
3. Feed consistently the protein requirements for your animal’s age and condition. Stay consistent. Do not switch feeds just because you forgot to get to the feed store before they closed. That can upset their digestive system and be a problem. FEED ROUTINES SHOULD REMAIN THE SAME ON WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS!!!
4. Always offer free choice clean cool water.
5. Keep them healthy by de-worming as needed. Watch their feces and de-worm on a regular schedule, usually every month to 6 weeks.
6. Exercise them. Generally, 30-45 days out before the market show start working up to an exercise program. They should be prepared to show well before you walk into the arena, which takes DAILY time and practice.
7. Go to as many prospect shows as you have time to get to for practice. Watch other exhibitors that are successful.
8. Have fun and make as many friends as you can.

Show Pigs



**Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension Service**

**has up to date info we recommend reading**

At

http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/library/files/publications\_resources\_swine\_project\_guide.pdf

A few thoughts

\*Tag in is in November, the date has not been determined yet, and is usually at Fort Bend County Fairgrounds.

\*Transportation for your animals will be arranged but you must be able to arrive to help load animals before departing the Trammel Fresno barn and meet the trailer at the fairgrounds.

\*usually pigs are picked up in late October to early November to start the SAE

**Selection**

Selection is the first step in starting your project. A few key points to remember are:

1. Buy from a reputable SHOW PIG breeder. If you need help locating pigs see your Ag Teacher; I will help you find pigs. The chapter will be going in November to purchase pigs. You may go with us or find a pig on your own.
2. Age: It is extremely important that you purchase the right age pig. The pigs should be between 5 ½ to 6 ½ months of age at the time of the show.
3. Weight limits: check current show book—they usually should be within the 240-280lb range at the time of the show.

**Facilities**

Good, functional facilities are essential to a successful swine project. The ideal pen set would be as follows:

 water

 10’ 20’ waterwat

 10’

 Feed

**Pens** should have a covered area (grey area) that is open to the south side. The pens should not have any obstructions such as exposed sharp edges on which the pig may hurt itself. **The pen needs to stay as clean and dry as possible.** Pens should have some type of bedding material in them. Sand is available to students at the barn and should be cleared of waste daily. Hay should be avoided as it provides an environment for parasites. \*If you are keeping your animal at the Trammel Fresno barn, pens are assigned.

**Feeders and waterers:** Feeders may be as simple as a common feed pan or automatic feeders may be used. An important thing to remember is that the feeder should not be on the ground, it should be elevated slightly so that the pig does not eat “bent over”. The feeder may be set up on a concrete block or built on a stand. The best type of waterer to use is the automatic type. If an automatic waterer is used the area directly around it should be filled in with concrete or some type of concrete blocks to prevent mud holes. If buckets are used, they should be firmly secured to prevent the pig from tipping them over and making a mud hole.

**Feeds and Feeding**

Many pig shows are won and lost in the feed pan. Many students have started out with very high quality animals and have ended up with an inferior animal at show time due to improper management. There are no real “secrets” of feeding animals. Consistency is the best advice that can be given. It is important to stick with the same feed. A couple general guidelines to follow are:

**Feeding Procedures:**

The best method is hand feeding. The amount of the feed is limited to a certain amount at set times during the day. This type of feeding is used to prepare your pig for the show (regulating the pig so that it will go into the show at the weight you desire). There are some rules of thumb for hand feeding: The pig should be fed two times a day. If you decide to feed at 7:00am and 6:00pm then feed at that time every day (weekends included!!!) for best results. Animals get used to routines just as you do. Most pigs will need to be “held” or “drawn” before the show. We can give you advice on this depending on the appearance of your animal at that time if you like. Offer automatic water 24 hours per day unless advisor instructs you differently.

**Equipment and Supplies**

You will need various types of equipment and supplies for your pig throughout the year and at the show. The following is a list of needed items:

**Paint or ID your name on every item. They tend to look like everyone else’s at show.**

 Show Stick Feed and water pans

 Brush Soap

 Show Sheen (watch rule book) Towels

 Short Water Hose 1lb coffee can

 Kitchen Scale

 Pig $300-700

 **Barn Contract signed and notarized with check or cash for pen**

 Attendance to mandatory barn meeting is required!!!

These supplies will be needed mainly at show time.

The kitchen scale will be used to measure feed.

**The feeder should always know the brand of feed, protein of feed and lbs fed daily**.

**De-Wormer/Antibiotics**

At first sight of any changes in eating habits, runny nose, coughing, etc., notify Mrs. Albright IMMEDIATELY so treatment can be given or a veterinarian can be called.

**LAMBS & MEAT GOATS**

 

Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension Service

has up to date info we recommend reading

At

<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/sheep-goats/AS34060-meatgoatguide.pdf>

<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/sheep-goats/AS34059-showlamb.pdf>

A few thoughts

\*Tag in is the third Monday in October 3-6 PM at Fort Bend County Fair Grounds, so you need to be in possession and have your animal on feed before then. Transportation for your animals will be arranged but you must be able to arrive to help load animals before departing the Trammel Fresno barn and meet the trailer at the fairgrounds.

\*usually LAMBS/GOATS are picked up in the Fall early November.

\*Print out your show rules and keep up with weights for the show.

\*We also have a school Ag Barn that you may utilize if you do not have a place to keep the animal at home.

\*\*Hampshire is the only breed shown at Fort Bend County Fair. Houston has a wool and meat breed show. Check the rules to find allowed breeds for lambs at HLSR. Boer is the only allowed meat goat breed for shows.

\*It is required that you learn how to shear your animal before the final shearing for the show.

WHAT TO DO FIRST

* Decide what show you are going to and get a copy of the show rules the show office for major shows.
* Read the rules, most shows have age requirements (tooth rule), weight limits, shearing, and horn rules. This will determine what breed and age goat you need. Most county shows have a validation date. Some shows require a health certificate from the vet within 30 days of the show.
* All goats need access to clean fresh water and clean fresh feed and very limited amounts of hay.
* Be prepared - goats need a good fence and some shelter. Goats need shelter to be able to get out of the wind, rain, and hot sun.
* Make a commitment to take care of your goat twice a day. When you feed you need to watch your goat long enough so you can tell when he is sick or something is not quite right.

**Lambs & Goats**



**Supplies needed for your lamb**

\*I.D./paint name on every item

* Halter and lead rope
* Socks-Muzzle- Lamb blanket
* Feed pan and water bucket to travel with.
* Wound Dressing
* De-Wormer
* Koapectate or Pepto Bismol for scours
* Clorox to clean water trough
* Betadine Solution-Spray bottle for cuts or scrapes

Feed Equipment

* Feed (for 1 goat, you can put separate feeding in small plastic bags with supplements per feedings instead of hauling 50# bags to show)
* Fresh Alfalfa Hay; Feed only a handful every couple of days

**Feeding and Health and Exercising** is key to success. But also the initial investment of a quality animal can make all the difference in the SAE success.

* It is recommended that you feed 2 pounds a day and start with the higher protein. Go to a lower protein higher fat, to stop growth spurts and thicken the animal.
* If holding back on feed crimped oats can be given in place of what you cut back on. When you are ready to start pushing them on weight, muscle, exercise, etc you can lower the % protein and up the fat with a finisher.
* 2#/feed/day is considered a maintenance ration and 3#/feed/day they will be on the gain.

Whatever feed you choose follow their requirements as they pay a lot of $ for animal nutritionists to mix rations professionally.

* Watch stool for shape and condition. Normally a round pellet means they are holding and an elongated pellet would give indication that the animal is on the gain (or gaining weight) Stool should be soft and pelleted not sticky or clumpy or loose.
* They do not need hay other than a handful of alfalfa every couple of days. De-worming is needed when the stool is loose or you can do it routinely once a month.
* Can use a small bucket for water clipped to pen, PVC pipe cut long wise in half and caped on ends with wood (2x6) strap metal hangers for feeder or buy a small hanging trough.
* A teaspoon of ammonium chloride may be given daily to prevent urinary calculi (buy at feed store) Most feeds have a % of AC but it doesn’t hurt to add it daily as preventative. Urinary Calculi can be researched on the internet. It is similar to kidney stones in humans.
* Monitor the animal’s growth and talk to your advisor about additives that may be beneficial.
* A young lamb or goat normally only needs a good grower ration to grow for the first few months. Depending on the growth and by watching your weight chart you should be able to monitor if the animal needs additives. But always keep up with how many pounds you feed daily.

**Exercise**

* Should be worked up slowly, just as a human would work up to an exercise program.

Every other day up to 4-5 minutes of pulling a tire, a treadmill, walker, walk out away from pen and a good steady 200 yard run back, walk out again and good run back 3 times, (don’t let them run back to the pen and tank up on water right away-just a few sips till they settle down-then back on fresh water)

* The day they are not exercising work on standing on the ramp (never leave alone on the ramp or tie) Let them stand on the ramp rail or sling tie for 10-15 minutes, then work a few minutes on driving.
* Don’t overdo it -but do it !
* Start exercise program at least 30-45 days out from show date.
* Weight weekly and record your weight.

**Signs to watch for:**

**Urinary Calculi**

1. If your animal is not urinating or showing any signs of stress trying to urinate, rubbing along the fence continually or showing signs of stress at all. Talk to your advisors asap. Read up ahead of time on urinary calculi as it is fatal very quickly if not caught early within 24 hours. Stop feed and give fresh hay and water but it will probably not eat or drink anyway. Immediate drenching of ammonium chloride, vinegar, etc may help. Sometimes clipping off the tip of the penis will alleviate blockage and allow them to urinate but most often a vet will need to intervene or put the animal down. You do not want them to suffer and it will be very costly. Preventative: add the ammonium chloride as above mentions.

**Scours**

* Talk to your Advisors immediately
* Remove all feed: supply fresh water and hay only for 48 hours to settle stomach
* Possibly test for Giardia or coccidia (talk to advisors but a spoonful or two of fresh manure in a zip lock bag drop off at the vet to be tested)
* Review your calendar and it may be time to de-worm or just need to do it again.

**Estimated Expense List**

Here is an example list that a lamb feeder has provided to us. We hope that this list of expense will help you see what type and how much expense goes into raising a lamb.

Supplies Amount

Lamb or goat $ 350.00-800.00 (the sky is the limit with a show lamb or goat)

Feed ------------------------------------$ 20.75 + for a 50#bag/total for 1 yr **avg** feeding 2.5lbs/day

Halter and lead rope--------------$ 18.00

Socks-------------------------------------$ 19.00

Muzzle --------------------------------- $ 7.75

Blanket----------------------------------$ 15.00

lumber for your pen------------------$ 250.00 or rent a stall at the ag barn ($75 per feeding period). See barn rules.

To have on hand or in show box

Showing Equipment

* Hoof nippers
* Extension Cord
* Scissors
* Shampoo
* **Short** Water hose and Nozzle
* Baby Wipes
* Brushes
* Extra Towels
* Notebook containing all paperwork, registration papers if applicable, and health papers if required for show.
* Entry information
* Name Board or Signs
* Small box containing wire pliers, small rope, wire, hammer, pencil, maker.
* Rake, Shovel, Broom etc to clean pen
* Lawn chair

**Broilers**



**(Market chickens)**

**Check show rules for ordering chicks**

Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension Service

has up to date info we recommend reading

At

Broilers/Roasters

<http://gallus.tamu.edu/library/extpublications/L5431.pdf>

Broiler orders are due to Mrs. Albright by October 10.

**Broilers are purchased in quantities of 25** with no more than 75 birds purchased per student. Poults are $1.25 each and MUST be ordered through Texas A&M Poultry Science for majors.

Houston major online entry forms are due BEFORE December 1. Any submissions attempted after December 1 will not be eligible to show.

\*\*Chickens MUST be housed at the individual students’ home and be available for weekly status checks by Mrs. Albright. There is no district housing for chickens at this point in time.

**At show time, you will pick three chickens/turkeys to show and it is recommended to find a buyer for the rest of the birds. The remaining animals should not be kept as pets. They cannot be entered into another show.**

**Youth Poultry and Turkeys**



More information at

<http://gallus.tamu.edu/library/extpublications/ps-5145.pdf>

* All Major Show broilers you must check that shows website and rulebook.
* There are many different suggestions for feeding and caring and selection for SAE’s
* Whoever you choose to follow just be consistent.
* There is no district housing available for turkeys at this point in time. Turkeys should be kept at the home of the student and be available for weekly update checks by the Ag Science teacher.

**RABBITS**

**MEAT PENS AND BREEDING RABBITS**



Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension Service

has up to date info we recommend reading

At

http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/library/files/rabbit\_project\_reference\_manual.pdf

For our county show in September/October we recommend California rabbits for the meat pens. Other allowed breeds are listed in the show rulebooks for Fort Bend County Fair and Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The above website is very helpful and stays up to date with TAMU recommendations.

See our Fort Bend County Fair website for all dates, rules and show information. Tag in for rabbits for FBCF is the third Monday in August.

\*\*Rabbits MUST be housed at the individual students’ home and be available for weekly status checks by Mrs. Albright. There is no district housing for rabbits at this point in time.

Meat pens can also be shown at Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in March. Validation for this show is in December, so rabbits should be purchased and on feed by mid-November.

Steers

Texas A&M Agri-Life Extension Service has up to date info we recommend reading

At

<http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/beef/as1-2-managing-beef-cattle-for-show.pdf>

We encourage our students to utilize all facilities that they have, but if new facilities must be built we recommend the following:

16’ X 32’ pen 10’ X 16’ shed

2’ X 3’ feed box with a mineral box on one end

Adequate water container to hold 25 gallons of water.

We also have a school Ag Barn that you may utilize if you do not have one available. Since cattle require a larger size pen, the rental fee is $150.

Locate pen so that it will drain correctly, and the calf will have a dry place to lie down. Then pen should also be located in such a manner that the shed will block the north wind. It may be necessary in some situations to fill dirt or sand into raise the level of the pen so that proper drainage will occur. We have found that 16’ X 52’’ stock panels make excellent construction materials for pens. Corrugated sheet metal can be used to make a good water tight shed.

Estimated cost of pen if new materials are used is $250-$300. Breeding cattle projects can be raised in the same type pen, but pastures should be provided for grazing and exercise.

Cost of animal------------$ 2000.00 + 4000.00 +

 Clipper Blades------------$50.00

Feed cost----------------$700.00+

 Vet. Expenses------------$75.00

 Misc. expenses-----------$100.00

\*\*\* It is recommended that you purchase your own set of clipper blades to be used to groom your calf. Ringworm and many other problems can be eliminated if you keep your own personal set of clipper blades ready for use: sterilized and sharp. The Advisors have clipper motors you may check out from the department.

A few items to remember:

Feeding:

* Feed 2-3% of their body wt. Upping the amount as they grow. Keep a weight chart
* If calves have not been on feed already you can start calves off with a pre-conditioning feed or grower ration. Feed a bag and then graduate them into a higher protein feed 14% +/- and go to a lower protein and up the fat with a finishing ration to condition (finish/fat)
* To stop growth spurts and thicken the animal go to a higher protein. Monitor the animals growth weekly. But do not switch feeds quickly. Graduate into a new feed over a 7 day period. The less you switch up feeds the better the digestion and growth will be for the animal. But watching the needs of the animal are very important.
* Provide plain salt and mineral block free choice in the pen.
* If holding back on feed crimped oats or cotton seed hulls can be given in place of what you cut back on. When you are ready to start pushing them on weight, muscle, exercise, etc you can lower the % protein and up the fat with a finisher.
* Lots of free choice fresh hay.
* Fresh water ALWAYS
* De-Worm every 45-60 days. Watch feces for signs of blood or scours. Either should be dealt with asap.
* Bathing and/or watering down as much as possible every day is great for hair growth.
* Probias or yeast is always good to give after hauling, times of stress or after antibiotics(½ pkg. Yeast every 3-4 days added to feed for digestion or probias is best as a paste to add microbes in rumen)
* Keep a weekly wt chart!
* Know your show rules on weights

If you animal has scours (diarrhea):

* Talk to your Advisors immediately
* Remove all feed: supply fresh water and hay only for 48 hours to settle stomach
* Possibly test for Giardia or coccidia (talk to advisors but a spoonful or two of fresh manure in a zip lock bag drop off at the vet to be tested)
* or it may be time to de-worm or just need to deworm it again with a different dewormer

If you see abnormal swelling on the left side of the calf:

* There are certain animals that experience bloat or other digestive disturbances. If you see any signs of swelling or bloat on the left side of belly. (That is where the rumen is located) let your advisors know. It may be that the calf needs to be off feed for 24-48 hours and given fresh water and hay. If bloat is suspected, it can be fatal. Begin walking the animal and try to get it to belch or pass gas by walking.
* There is a bloat treatment at Tractor Supply or the feed store that can be given to degas but if necessary, drench the animal with 40-60 ccs of mineral oil and walk for 20 minutes. If it continues the vet should be called immediately.

Suggested

SHOW SUPPLIES CHECK LIST

**FOR LONG HAIRED CATTLE**

* REGISTRATION & OR HEALTH PAPERS
* **WATER BUCKET \* Never share buckets!!!!! With ANYONE**.
* FEED BUCKET \*\*\* BRING YOUR OWN BUCKETS!!!
* FEED & HAY

**SHOW BOX**

* Show sign
* Show halter
* Blue stall halter
* Blue neck rope
* Show stick
* Scissors
* Comb and brush
* Short water hose with nozzle
* Hay bag
* Towels or rags
* Number& or comb holder
* Hair care and adhesives cannot be used at Most Major Shows. Check the rulebook ahead of time.
* Dawn or Joy soap-to wash calf

**EXTRAS**

Lawn chairs

Camera

* ALWAYS WASH CALF THE DAY BEFORE THE SHOW
* REMEMBER STALL DUTY AND FEED TIMES.
* TAKE CARE FOR YOUR ANIMAL, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, THEN YOU CAN PLAY
* HAVE FUN



Short Haired Cattle

SHOW SUPPLIES CHECK LIST

**FOR Humpies and short haired cattle**

* REGISTRATION papers
* **WATER BUCKET \* Never share buckets!!!!! With ANYONE**.
* FEED BUCKET \*\*\* BRING YOUR OWN BUCKETS!!!
* FEED & HAY
* Rake

**SHOW BOX**

* Show sign
* Show halter
* Stall halter
* Neck rope
* Show stick
* Scissors
* Comb and brush
* Short water hose with nozzle
* Hay bag
* Towels or rags
* Baby wipes
* Number holder & or bandanna for pocket
* SHOW SHEEN OR Hair care and adhesives can NOT be used at **Most Major Shows**. But bring show sheen for shows that allow. Check the rulebook ahead of time.
* Dawn or Joy soap-to wash calf

**EXTRAS**

Lawn chairs

* ALWAYS WASH CALF THE DAY BEFORE THE SHOW
* REMEMBER STALL DUTY AND FEED TIMES.
* TAKE CARE FOR YOUR ANIMAL, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, THEN YOU CAN PLAY
* HAVE FUN