

# **LAMAR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE**



## **FACILITIES REGULATIONS & LIVESTOCK PROJECT GUIDELINES 2023-2024**

## **LAMAR HIGH SCHOOL IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Lamar FFA Agriculture Complex Address:**

11611 Riceville School Road,  
Houston, TX 77071

### **Lamar FFA Agriculture Science Teachers:**

**Elisa Infante**

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### **Lamar HS Supervising Administration:**

**Rita Graves- Principal**

[rgraves1@houstonisd.org](mailto:rgraves1@houstonisd.org)

**Dennis Gillespie- Agriculture Science Director**

[dgilles1@houstonisd.org](mailto:dgilles1@houstonisd.org)

### **Emergency Numbers:**

Houston ISD Police 24-Hour Telephone

713-892-7777

Wharton Veterinary Clinic- Wharton, TX

(979) 532-1431

Gulf Coast Large Animal Clinic- Alvin, TX

281-331-2830

Texas A&M University Veterinary Medical 24-Hour Telephone- College Station, TX

979-845-3541

# **LAMAR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE FACILITIES REGULATIONS & LIVESTOCK PROJECT GUIDELINES**

The purpose of the Lamar Agriculture Complex located at 11611 Riceville School Road is to provide an extension of the classroom and to allow FFA members to utilize the complex for their Agricultural Experience Programs (SAEP). Houston ISD Student Code of Conduct applies to this facility. To ensure compliance, Lamar High School and Houston ISD employees including agriculture science teachers, facility managers, and administrators will monitor and manage the complex both physically and via security cameras. It is our goal as a district to establish, monitor, and continuously improve a strict set of rules and guidelines to be followed. This, in turn, should provide a safe, educational, and rewarding atmosphere that is conducive to learning.

The individual Agricultural Science Teachers (AST) may make decisions based on the best interest of the district, the school, the student, and the animal(s).

## **COMPLEX RULES**

All participants will comply with the following regulations and criteria.

1. As a Houston ISD facility supporting school-related activities, the most recent Lamar HS Student Handbook and the Houston ISD Discipline Management Plan and Student Code of Conduct will apply.
2. Students are expected to always act in a responsible manner at the Lamar Ag Complex. Any activities that endanger the health or physical well-being of students, parents, faculty, staff, visitors, facilities, or animals will not be permitted.
  - a. Loitering, or other activities not directly related to the furtherance of the students' SAEP, will not be tolerated.
3. The student must be a paid Lamar FFA member in good standing to utilize the Lamar Ag Complex. **Guests of the student must have prior permission to enter the complex.** The student is responsible for his/her family and guests at all times on the complex. If the family or guests violate the rules of the Lamar Ag Complex, it will be treated as an offense by the student. Please refer to page 4 –Visitor / Guest Policy Statement.
4. The student and their guests are to respect the value of the Lamar Ag Complex. Any malicious or negligent behavior will result in the immediate dismissal from the complex.
5. For security purposes, the facility will be open between 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. daily.
6. Driving and parking are permitted in designated areas. Students and/or parents reported and found to be driving in an unsafe manner can lose the privilege to keep a project at the Lamar Agriculture Complex. Students will be issued a Barn Violation Form. Parents will face consequences with HISD Police.
7. Only Lamar FFA market or breeding project(s) may be housed at the Lamar Ag Complex.
8. The Agricultural Science Teachers will monitor all guidelines and criteria closely. Ethical and humane treatment of animals and any violation of regulations will not be permitted, and the offense period outlined below will apply.

9. The Houston ISD, Lamar High School FFA, Lamar Athletic Booster Club, district employees, or volunteers will assume NO responsibility for accidents or injuries to students, parents, visitors, or livestock resulting from the use of the facilities or equipment, as well as livestock owned by other persons.
10. When a problem or concern arises, the method of resolution will follow a set “chain-of-command,” Always beginning with the supervising agriculture teacher.
11. **Always keep animal pen(s) clean.** Any animal not fed, watered, and cared for daily will be removed from the facility at the owner’s expense.

## **VISITOR & GUEST POLICY**

The following guidelines have been developed in order to maintain the safety and security of the Lamar Ag Complex and the Lamar FFA students. The Lamar Ag Complex is comprised of two components, (1) the livestock project centers and (2) the facilities grounds.

All visitors to the Lamar Ag Complex must obtain a written clearance from an AST. Any violator of this policy will be reported to the Houston ISD Police Department and will be subject to a criminal trespass charge. Security cameras are in place to monitor compliance with this policy.

**A visitor is any person that does not meet the following descriptions:**

1. Lamar Ag Complex Building
  - a. Lamar FFA and Junior FFA members (and their immediate family members) that are actively participating in an approved SAEP on the Lamar Ag Complex.
  - b. Any invited guest of the Lamar HS AST, Lamar HS Staff or Administration of the school and district.
  - c. An invited guest that is actively participating in an approved SAEP of a FFA member and has received prior approval from the supervising agriculture science teacher of the livestock project before coming onto the premises (i.e. – livestock breeder, seller, or other advisor).
2. Lamar Ag Complex Grounds
  - a. All students enrolled in an agriculture science class and their immediate family members.
  - b. Any invited guest of the Lamar staff or administration of Lamar High School

## **LIVESTOCK REGULATIONS**

### **Introduction:**

The raising of livestock as a project is the most popular Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) that is conducted at the Lamar Ag Complex. The project is a cooperative effort of the student, parent/guardian, and agriculture science teacher. It is designed as a training instrument to allow students the opportunity to apply information acquired in the classroom. However, there are several areas that need clarification before the student undertakes a livestock project.

- The raising of livestock on the Lamar Ag Complex is a student's privilege, not a student's right. Feeding rules, regulations and guidelines must be strictly followed in order to reap the benefits of this privilege. Students must qualify and retain their eligibility to participate in this opportunity.
- *Not all animals are of suitable quality for exhibition purposes.* Most animals are of commercial quality and therefore rarely suited for exhibition in the show ring. Only those animals of superior conformation should be selected. Therefore, the agriculture science teacher should assist in the selection and ultimately approve the animal purchased and housed at the Lamar Ag Complex.
- Only a small percentage of those animals exhibited in the show ring will realistically realize a profit. **Do not be misled; this is not an easy money-making proposition.** Only the best of the best will fall into this category. The ultimate purpose of the livestock project is to have the student learn and understand those approved practices that will allow an animal to reach its full genetic potential. Learning the true meaning of responsibility is another outcome of the project program.
- As stated, the raising and exhibition of a livestock project is a cooperative effort between the student, parent/guardian, and agriculture science teacher with differing responsibilities. Those primary responsibilities are as follows:
  - Student – the person responsible for the daily care, feeding, exercising, grooming, and exhibition of the livestock project.
  - Parent/Guardian – the person responsible for the general supervision of the student on a day-to-day basis when the student is carrying out their primary responsibilities for their livestock project on the Lamar Ag Complex or at a livestock show.
  - Agriculture Science Teacher – the person responsible for providing guidance, instruction, and evaluation of the student so that the student can perform their primary responsibilities for the livestock project.

### **Eligible Livestock Projects:**

Only the following livestock projects are allowed to be raised on the Lamar Ag Complex: Market Steers, Breeding Heifers, Market Sheep, Market and Wether Doe Goats, Breeding and Market Swine, Market Broilers, and Market Rabbits. Livestock projects may not be moved to the Lamar Ag Complex without the notification and approval of the supervising agriculture science teacher. Space is limited in every livestock project area, and it is the task of the Lamar ASTs to ensure that the largest population of students can have the privilege of raising a livestock project. Therefore, a livestock level system has been established and will be the guideline used to determine student participation in raising a livestock project (refer to Livestock Project Levels of Exhibition and Selection Methods page 11). Livestock projects raised on the Lamar Ag Complex must be exhibited and, if applicable, Texas Livestock validated through the Lamar FFA and will only be eligible to compete in the following sanctioned terminal and/or premium shows: Lamar FFA Livestock Show & Auction, Ft. Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, San Antonio Show and Rodeo, and the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. Students may also participate in non-sanctioned “jackpot” shows at the student and parent discretion with the approval from a Lamar supervising AST. Students wishing to participate in non-sanctioned shows are responsible for any entry fees and risks associated with the transportation and exhibition of their animal project.

### **Livestock Project Levels of Exhibition and Selection Methods:**

The following is a list of methods that students are able to participate in raising a livestock project. Students are eligible to raise livestock projects in more than one of the methods listed below but will not be able to raise a livestock project through the Lamar FFA by any means other than those listed below.

1. **Level One:** Students can raise a project from the recommended breeder selected by the Lamar supervising agriculture teacher and Lamar administration. Students in this method will select animals through a randomized drawing which will allocate the student draw order for animal selection. Students who choose this level of exhibition will be automatically eligible to show and

sell their livestock project in the Lamar FFA Livestock Show and Auction. Students will also be eligible to participate in any other school-sanctioned events or livestock shows that have been selected by the supervising teacher.

- a. All prices set forth by the recommended breeder are based on a fair market value of the exhibition quality of the livestock project and varies amongst all species. Costs can range from year to year and are varied due to animal availability, seasonal influxes of market increases/decreases, and any investment of care that has been given to the animal prior to delivery or selection by the breeder and student.
  - b. Students who select this method of exhibition must adhere to all of the rules and requirements of eligibility of the Lamar FFA Show & Auction.
  - c. **ALL students must attend the monthly FFA meetings and participate in 10 barn workday hours, 10 fundraising hours, and attend 3 scheduled social events per semester.**
  - d. This level is recommended for students who have little or no prior experience in livestock project care, maintenance, or exhibition.
  - e. This level is also recommended for those who wish to have more guidance with livestock project selection, feeding, grooming, showmanship, and exhibition requirements.
  - f. Students must always adhere the guidelines in the facilities agreement.
2. **Level Two:** Students can raise a project from a breeder of their choosing. Students who are interested in raising a livestock project through this method have the freedom to select their own maintenance, feed, and care regimen as discussed with their chosen breeder. Livestock projects that are selected through this method are eligible to validate their animal through the Lamar FFA and State Validation Program and are able to participate in any Texas Major Livestock Show. Students may also participate in any livestock shows, whether sanctioned or not, by the supervising teachers.
  - a. Students who select this method are able to freely negotiate the price of their livestock project with their selected breeder. If students would like recommendations of reputable breeders, they may seek the assistance of their supervising teacher. Teachers will **NOT** aid in the selection of the livestock project but may offer resources for animal selection techniques or guidance.
  - b. The supervising teacher may assist with the student and breeder with coordination of delivery or pick-up. The supervising teacher may also assist with transportation of the livestock project to the Lamar Ag Complex with appropriate planning and approval from the Lamar administration. This option is **NOT** guaranteed, and students should find an alternative method of transportation or delivery in the event a teacher is unavailable.
  - c. Any delivery or transportation of animals by unauthorized visitors will need pre-approval from the supervising ag teacher before arrangements of delivery are made. This means that any breeder or visitor who wishes to enter the complex is required to gain the approval from the supervising teacher prior to their entrance onto the complex. It is the responsibility of the student to gain pre-approval within 48 hours of the scheduled visit/delivery.
  - d. Livestock projects selected through this method must have the supervising teacher give animal health and condition clearance to ensure the animal is deemed in a condition so not to cause any breach in the ag complex biosecurity.
  - e. Students who select livestock projects through this method must meet the membership guidelines as listed in the Lamar FFA Membership Handbook.
  - f. **ALL students must attend the monthly FFA meetings and participate in 10 barn workday hours, 10 fundraising hours, and attend 3 scheduled social events per semester.**
  - g. Students who select this method must always adhere to the guidelines in the facilities agreement.

- h. Students will be eligible to participate in the Lamar FFA Livestock Show and Auction-Showmanship category for their respective species exhibition. The livestock projects will **NOT** be placed for an auction slot and will **NOT** sell in the Lamar FFA Livestock Auction. However, students are eligible to earn the respective award(s) for this category. Awards may vary from year to year and are **NOT** guaranteed as they are a privilege earned on exemplary exhibition of the livestock project.

#### **Livestock Show Requirements:**

To be eligible to participate in any livestock show, students must abide by the following requirements:

- Be enrolled in an agriculture science class.
- Be a member in good standing of the Lamar FFA Chapter. Livestock exhibitors must have their FFA dues paid in full by the assigned deadline for animal orders and fees.
- Attend all mandatory livestock meetings for the specific livestock project.
- Be passing **ALL** subjects at the time that eligibility is determined. If a student is ineligible to show due to grades, the animal is ineligible to show as well.
- Adhere to ownership periods and requirements established by state and/or county validation programs or those set by livestock shows.
- Have paid entry fees on time and meet show requirements.
- Livestock in poor condition due to disease, injury, or neglect will not be allowed to participate in livestock shows. The final decision will rest with the supervising teacher.
- Students will be allowed to participate in only those shows approved by the supervising agriculture science teacher.
- Students will be responsible for all personal travel to and from all personal livestock shows. This may include the transporting of their livestock project. Supervising teachers may offer transportation to sanctioned events. The decision of attendance and transportation to livestock shows is at the discretion of the supervising teacher.
- Exhibit the proper conduct while in attendance at livestock shows.
- The student will be responsible for all feeding, care, and grooming of his/her livestock project while it is at the livestock show.
- It is the sole responsibility of the student to be familiar with all rules pertaining to his/her livestock project (i.e.: weight limits, entry requirements, age, etc.). This information may be obtained from the supervising agriculture science teacher or livestock show.
- Outstanding obligations with the Lamar FFA must be cleared before a student will be permitted to enter or exhibit at a livestock show through the Lamar FFA.

#### **Ownership/Animal Cost:**

All eligible livestock must be owned and continuously cared for by the student for the duration of the livestock feeding period. The student is responsible for the cost of the animal, as well as any expenses incurred while feeding and caring for the animal during the project period. This includes, but not limited to, feed costs, entry fees, validation fees, transportation fees, and medical expenses. Please note that eligible livestock projects will have ownership date requirements established by state and/or county validation programs or set by the livestock shows. It is the student's responsibility to understand any and all ownership/validation requirements and to abide by them.

**Students will be placed on a limit of animal projects to be shown and kept at the Lamar Ag Complex. For the Lamar FFA Livestock Show & Auction, students will be allowed to show 1 animal of any species and cannot exceed more than 2 animals of different species. For example, students may exhibit 1 lamb and 1 pig but may not exhibit 2 lambs. Students who would like to exhibit an animal for any Texas Major Livestock Show will be limited to only housing 1 animal of any species.**

### **Livestock Project Housing:**

All approved eligible livestock projects must be housed on the Lamar Ag Complex for the entire duration of the livestock project period. Once an approved eligible livestock project has been housed on the Lamar Ag Complex, it may not leave the premises of the Lamar Ag Complex without prior expressed permission given by the supervising agriculture science teacher. If a livestock project is removed from the Lamar Ag Complex to be housed in a location, the student will no longer be eligible to exhibit the livestock project through the Lamar FFA.

### **Care of Livestock Projects:**

Students will assume the full responsibility for the proper care of his/her livestock project. The student must provide good treatment, fresh and clean water and feed, and a clean pen for their livestock project on a daily basis. The **NEGLECT** of animals will **NOT** be tolerated, and it will result in the student's immediate dismissal from the complex. Students will be given verbal and written notice during times of concern which may result in the issuance of a demerit or series of demerits which could ultimately conclude in the removal of the student from the program. Students may face potential ineligibility from further participation in the program.

### **Livestock Project Management:**

After a livestock project has been selected and put on feed in the Lamar Ag Complex, the supervising agriculture science teacher will make available more detailed information on feeding, caring, grooming, and exercising of specific types of livestock. The student must attend mandatory livestock raiser meetings for information and education on their specific livestock project. The project must remain in the continuous care of the student. Students choosing to follow a feed management program other than the supervising agriculture science teacher will be expected to do the following:

- The student will provide to the supervising agriculture science teacher the name and contact information of the person they are choosing to use for advisement for the feed management program (i.e. – livestock breeder, seller, or advisor).
- The student will communicate with the supervising agriculture science teacher (frequency determined by the supervising teacher) in regard to the feed management and exercise practices throughout the entire project period.
- The student will report any illnesses or diseases immediately to the supervising agriculture science teacher.
- The student will follow all preventative maintenance and vaccination protocols and schedules established by the supervising agriculture science teacher.
- The student will provide prior notification to the supervising agriculture science teacher of any visits to be made to the Lamar Ag Complex by any unauthorized visitor (livestock breeder, seller, or advisor). The student and a parent/guardian must be present at the Lamar Ag Complex during the time of the visit by the livestock breeder, seller, or advisor.

### **Pen Assignments:**

Students will be assigned pens upon bringing a project into the facility. Students may not move, or expand pens for any reason, unless approved by the supervising agriculture science teacher.

### **Daily Care:**

Students will provide their own feed, bedding and any/all appropriate animal care equipment needed. It is the responsibility of the student to provide the following for their livestock project and the facilities every day (including weekends, holidays, etc.):

- Fresh feed for the livestock project (minimum of twice daily for most livestock projects).
- Fresh water for the livestock project (clean water buckets or watering pans).
- Removal of manure, soiled areas, and debris (hay or trash) from the pen.



- Grooming of the livestock project.
- Exercise of the livestock project.
- Monitor the well-being of the livestock project.
- Clean feed areas, alley ways, exercise areas (arena), wash racks, and grooming areas after each use.
- Return all equipment to its proper storage place.

### **Feed Areas:**

Each student will be provided with a small space to utilize as a feed/tack area. It is expected that the student keep their feed area clean, organized, free from clutter and trash, and secure (locked). The Lamar FFA is not responsible for theft or damage of student property. All feed areas are subject to inspection at any time and combination codes, or keys must be provided if requested by the supervising agriculture science teacher. If the supervising teacher needs urgent access (in case of emergency) to student storage boxes, any locks shall be cut and removed. Any locks or inappropriate storage methods will be removed at the discretion of the supervising teacher.

### **Cleanliness:**

The cleanliness of the Lamar Ag Complex is the direct responsibility of every student who has a project. The supervising agriculture science teacher will assign specific clean-up duties. The cleanliness of the complex includes the student's assigned stall/pen, community areas, and proper storage of district equipment and supplies. All feces and other organic waste must be deposited in the appropriate dumping area located near the back fence behind the barn. All other waste generated must be deposited in the trash cans and dumpster. Students will be given verbal and written notice during times of concern which may result in the issuance of a demerit or series of demerits which could ultimately conclude in the removal of the student from the program. Students could face potential ineligibility from further participation in the program.

### **Livestock Health/Disease Management:**

Health and disease management for livestock projects should begin when they are born, whether by the breeder or by the exhibitor raising the livestock project. Proper health care and management are crucial to the prevention, control, and treatment of diseases and metabolic disorders, which are commonly associated with nutrition deficiencies. With proper preventive measures in place, special attention should be paid to your animal's normal everyday behavior; any shift in this behavior could be an early indication of a problem. Consider having scheduled administration of vaccines, lice pour-on treatments, deworming, and hoof trimmings. When dealing with any medicine or medically treated feeds, always follow labeled withdrawal times. Do not administer any medications before consulting with a veterinarian and make certain that both you and the veterinarian are aware of show rules. Consider the amount of time prior to arrival at the show and assume that the elimination period is longer than the labeled withdrawal period.

### **Vaccination Recommendations by Species:**

**Cattle** - The following vaccines are recommended for market steers and breeding heifers:

- 7-way clostridial vaccination: protects against blackleg, malignant edema, black disease, and three types of enterotoxemia all caused by a *Clostridium* bacterium. This vaccine should be administered before weaning is completed.
- IBR/BVD/PI3/BRSV vaccinations: protect against various respiratory diseases, reproductive failure, and abortions.
- 5-way Leptospirosis: protects against kidney disease, bloody urine, abortion in pregnant females, and sickness in calves. Leptospirosis vaccine is often combined with a vibriosis vaccine, which

protects against a bacterial disease caused by *Campylobacter fetus*, resulting in failure of early pregnancy in females.

- Calfhood vaccination: protects against *Brucella abortus* for heifers between 4 and 10 months of age, resulting in abortion. This vaccine is mandatory by the Texas Animal Health Commission for heifers and must be administered by a veterinarian.
- Tetanus vaccination: protects against *Clostridium tetani* surviving in an open wound. If allowed to thrive, *C. tetani* will cause stiffness and reluctance to move, muscle tremors, and at worst, death.

**Goats & Sheep-** The following vaccines are recommended for market goats:

- Sore Mouth:
  - Vaccine: Ovine Ecthyma (Live virus)
  - Administered with appropriate applicator in the flank or the ear.
  - Administered at three to six weeks of age.
- De-worming:
  - Various de-wormers: Use the most effective depending on area in which the animals reside, as some parasites are more common in certain areas of Texas than others.
  - Administered orally once a month or as directed by a veterinarian.
- Tetanus Toxoid:
  - Vaccine: *Clostridium Perfringens* Type C & D (CDT) (Intramuscular Injection)
  - All lambs and goats should be vaccinated for Tetanus every six months if recommended by a veterinarian.
  - Tetanus Antitoxin:
    - Administered after castration, docking, and/or injury.

**Swine-** It is mandatory for exhibitors to follow the safety standards set by Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) regarding swine health and disease control. PQA requires exhibitors to establish a veterinarian client patient relationship (VCPR) for decisions regarding vaccines for disease control and animal welfare. The following vaccines are recommended for swine projects:

- PRRS Vaccine
- PCVAD Vaccine
- Mycoplasma Vaccine
- Swine influenza Vaccine
- Erysipelas Vaccine
- Rhinitis Vaccine
- PPV Vaccine – for gilts prior to breeding

***Keep in mind that there are plenty of other vaccines available for certain situations and you should always consult your veterinarian regarding these decisions.***

### **Medications / Additives:**

It is prohibited to administer any type of off-label or extra-label vaccine, medication, spray, feed additive or other substance internally or externally to any livestock project without veterinarian approval or supervision, and awareness of the supervising agriculture science teacher. All established withdrawal times for any administered product must be strictly followed.

### **Use of Livestock Equipment:**

Arrangements must be made prior to the use of any livestock equipment belonging to the Lamar FFA. Any equipment lost, stolen, or destroyed while in the possession of a student or parent will be replaced at their expense. Equipment can be defined as any tool or maintenance equipment that belongs to the Lamar FFA or Lamar Athletic Booster FFA Group. This includes, but is not limited to, mowers, weed trimmers, grooming chutes, clippers, blowers, or fans. Use of livestock transport cages may only be granted to

parents that assist the Lamar FFA staff in transporting livestock to designated events or in urgent cases. Livestock trailers will only be used by the Lamar FFA or HISD staff.

### **Disposition of Livestock:**

All livestock must be removed from the Lamar Ag Complex within two weeks from the end of the project period or per the guidelines set by the supervising teacher for the Lamar FFA Livestock Show & Auction. All livestock projects will be processed after the Lamar FFA Show & Auction unless otherwise specified by the buyer or new owner. The buyer is responsible for all costs incurred for the processing of their project.

### **Non-Returning Students:**

Graduating seniors and/or students not intending to raise a livestock project for the following school year must remove all personal belongings (feed, storage containers, etc.) from the Lamar Ag Complex within two weeks from the last livestock show that they participated in or within the timeframe given after the conclusion of the Lamar FFA Livestock Show & Auction. Failure to comply will result in the forfeiture of personal belongings to the Lamar FFA and the student may be charged up to \$50.00 for the removal of the items which will be deducted from their Lamar FFA Show & Auction check.

### **Removal of Livestock:**

The Lamar FFA Agriculture Teachers reserve the right to remove any animal from the complex 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 failing to observe rules.
- Animals not being fed for exhibition purposes.
- Animals not exhibited and, if applicable, validated through Lamar FFA.
- Student is no longer involved in or is dismissed from the program.
- The animal has not been removed by the student within two weeks of the end of the project period.

### **Due Process for Removal of Livestock:**

The following process will be used if any conditions listed above warrant so:

- **First offense** – The student will receive a verbal or written notice from the AST, which constitutes a warning, and the problem must be remedied within two (2) days of notice date to the satisfaction of the Agricultural Science Teacher. Barn Violation Forms and Project Inspection Reports will be utilized to constitute the notice of a violation. The notice will be signed by both the student and the parent and filed in the main office of the Lamar Ag Department. A copy of the notice will be made available to the campus administrator of the student.
- **Second Offense** – Will follow the same steps as above but will be considered a final warning.
- **Third Offense** – The student will be issued a demerit and must follow the demerit guidelines for removal of the demerit.
- **Fourth Offense** – Students who do not earn merits for the removal of their demerit or students who have been issued 3 demerits will be evicted from the property and termination of FFA Membership status. If the animal has not been removed from the barn within 72 hours of having been served an eviction notice via HISD Legal Department, the animal will be seized by the Lamar FFA and sold at market auction. Any proceeds from the sale will be allocated into the Donation Pool Auction Fund. If the animal was sponsored by a scramble or non-profit organization, any residual funds (after all outstanding dues and fees are paid) shall be returned to that organization.

### **Livestock Project & Barn Violation Demerit System:**

All Lamar FFA Livestock Exhibitors will be placed on a demerit system. This will ensure that all students are held accountable for their actions and project responsibilities. An accumulation of 3 demerits will result in the eviction of the livestock project(s) and termination of FFA student membership. If students do not earn the required merits within 10 days of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Demerit, they will be removed from the chapter permanently. The earned merits required to be removed from suspension will be 2 (or 4 hours of service).

- Livestock exhibitors cannot exceed 3 demerits, or they will be removed from the organization and their animal evicted.
- Merits may be obtained AFTER the demerit is issued. Members MAY NOT earn them prior to the demerit.
- All members are expected to know and follow the Chapter Guidelines, FFA Code of Conduct, HISD Student Code of Conduct, FFA Demerit System for Membership and Livestock Projects.
- Should an infraction occur more than once, no opportunity will exist for receiving replacement merits (for example: if a student is issued a demerit for speeding, they will only be able to earn merits for that single infraction once).

### **Demerit**

<b>Infraction</b>	<b>Demerit</b>
Issuance of 1 Project/Barn Violation or 3 Unsatisfactory Project Inspection Reports	1
Late to Chapter Activity (without pre-approval)	1
Failure to attend FFA Chapter Meeting	2
Inappropriate use of social media	2
Failure to participate in Community Service Activity	2
Assigned to ISS or out-of-school suspension	3
Failure to participate in required FFA Activity	3
Academic Ineligibility (second infraction will result in termination of membership)	4
Failure to participate in required Livestock Meetings	4

### **Merits**

All merit activities require at least 2 hours of service. 2 hours = 1 merit earned

<b>Merit Activities</b>	<b>Merit</b>
Community Service (FFA activities are not eligible - No Double Dipping)	1
Working for LHS Staff Member	1
Working for FFA Advisors	1
Working at the Farm (Supervised by Agriculture Teacher)	1

### **Livestock Veterinary and Surgical Procedures:**

At times it may be necessary to seek the professional help of a veterinarian. Veterinarians may perform surgical procedures or recommend a specified treatment plan. However, the student and parent must realize there is a possibility for complications during any and all veterinary visits. The student and parent will be financially responsible for any fees incurred during any vet visit. Students and parents may not charge or create any accounts in the name of the Lamar FFA, Lamar High School, Lamar Athletic Booster FFA Group, nor Houston ISD. The owner must accept all risks or possibility of death of the livestock project which could occur. It will be at the discretion of the student and parent to proceed with any veterinary procedures. Supervising teachers will not advise or aid in the decision of any surgery or treatment plan from a veterinarian. Supervising teachers can recommend and distribute contact information for livestock veterinarians and in some cases, can transport livestock to veterinary visits.

**Removal of Deceased Livestock:**

Any cattle, swine, sheep, or goat projects that pass away while on the complex during the project period, will be removed by a professional rendering company or can be transported to a veterinarian who can dispose of the remains. The cost of this removal or disposal will be the responsibility of the student.

**Prohibited Practices:**

The following practices will not be allowed by students, parents/guardians, or guests to the Lamar Ag Complex:

- The use of electrical shock devices.
- The use of any motorized vehicle to exercise livestock projects.

**Project Feedback and Recommendations:**

Again, the raising of livestock on the Lamar Ag Complex is a student's privilege, not a student's right. Therefore, feeding rules, regulations and guidelines must be strictly followed by the student for them to retain their eligibility to participate in the livestock project program through Lamar FFA. Students will receive frequent feedback on the progress of their project by their supervising agriculture teacher.

**Project Inspection Reports** will be used to communicate periodic project evaluation ratings and management information. A **Project/Barn Violation Form** will be used to notify a student of a major infraction regarding project management, behavior, or clerical expectations. A summary review of the Project Inspection Reports and, if applicable, Project/Barn Violations that a student receives during a project period will be used to determine the students' eligibility to continue to participate in the livestock project program. Furthermore, a demerit system may also be used to evaluate the performance of a student to meet expectations during a livestock project period and to determine their eligibility to continue in the livestock project program. An example of a demerit system is Lamar FFA Membership Demerit System which can be viewed in the Lamar FFA Member Handbook.

**Lamar FFA Show and Auction Eligibility:**

Students must maintain their Lamar Show & Auction eligibility requirements as outlined in the Lamar FFA Show & Auction Rulebook. Please reference the rulebook for a detailed explanation of all eligibility expectations and regulations.

**Complex Security:**

The Lamar Ag Complex is monitored by the agriculture science teachers, high school administration, and Houston ISD Police Department by physical monitoring and through the use of video surveillance. It is the responsibility of all participants to conduct themselves in a proper manner and to report any security concerns to any of the above parties immediately. It is the student and parent responsibility to remain diligent and communicate any strange or inappropriate behavior by other FFA members, parents, visitors or strangers. Access to the Lamar Ag Complex is only available between the hours of 5:00 am and 10:00 pm daily.

**Complex Biosecurity:**

Biosecurity is a set of measures designed to protect the Lamar Ag Complex from the entry and spread of pests and diseases. Biosecurity is the responsibility of every person that utilizes the Lamar Ag Complex for raising a livestock project. Please be mindful that anyone and anything that is brought onto the Lamar Ag Complex can be a source of pests and diseases for livestock. For this reason, the following practices have been established and must be followed:

- Access to the Lamar Ag Complex shall be limited to those persons listed under Visitor and Guest Policy on page 4 of this guide.

- New animals entering the Lamar Ag Complex will be monitored closely for a minimum of 21 days for any signs of disease or sickness. Animals may be isolated to prevent contact with other animals upon introduction into a livestock pen or stall.
- Returning animals from other facilities or livestock shows may have been exposed to pests and diseases, so students must follow the established protocol by the supervising agriculture science teacher for disinfecting and reintroducing livestock to the complex.
- All persons should practice good hygiene to include handwashing when entering and leaving the ag complex.
- Students will follow all livestock preventative maintenance and vaccination protocols and schedules established by the supervising agriculture science teacher.
- Students must have appropriate footwear for use when carrying out daily responsibilities in the ag complex. The footwear should be stored in the student's designated space.
- If it is determined by a supervising agriculture science teacher that it is necessary to place any of the buildings or outdoor spaces under quarantine due to pests, sickness, or diseases, then no livestock will be permitted to leave or enter the outlined spaces until a quarantine has been lifted. Students that fail to comply with a quarantine by removing livestock, will not be allowed to return the livestock to the Lamar Ag Complex and will no longer be eligible to exhibit the livestock project through the Lamar FFA.

#### **Livestock Project Space Priority:**

Stall designation and assignments will be selected by the supervising teacher. Students enrolled at Lamar High School in an agriculture class will have priority in stall assignments and can only be accepted during approved animal selection periods. Students who have submitted all the necessary paperwork for Level One Exhibition will automatically be granted stall priorities which will be delegated by the supervising teacher. Students who meet the livestock project health clearances in the Level Two Exhibition method will also be granted stall priorities which will be delegated by the supervising teacher. A student may have no more than four (4) animals at the facility at one time. Species exhibition amounts and regulations are outlined in the Lamar FFA Livestock Show & Auction Rulebook. The supervising teacher(s) reserves the right to amend this rule on an as needed basis.

#### **Livestock Project Experience Levels:**

Below are ways to best describe the level of livestock project experience of students which can be categorized as follows:

- **Experienced Feeder:** Students who have raised and exhibited a livestock project through the Lamar FFA, 4H, or any other organization which exhibits show quality animals. They have an in-depth understanding of livestock project care and exhibition.
- **Intermediate Feeder:** Students who have raised and exhibited a livestock project but may be attempting to raise a species they are not familiar with. They understand the requirements and are working to advance their knowledge with a variety of species through time and experience.
- **Greenhand Feeder:** Students who have no prior knowledge or experience with any livestock project.
- **Junior FFA Member:** Any 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Houston ISD student interested in developing a livestock project prior to their enrollment in Lamar High School. Junior FFA exhibition space is determined on the number of current Lamar High School student participation and can vary each year.

#### **Barn Maintenance and Farm Chores:**

Any student housing a livestock project at the Lamar Ag Complex will be required to assist in the daily and general maintenance of the facilities. Students will be assigned a weekly chore or task required to be completed. Completion of the tasks will be supervised by one of the supervising agriculture teachers.

Chore charts will be created, implemented, and monitored by the agriculture teachers. Tasks may include but are not limited to:

- Sweeping the barn walkways
- Trash pick-up and disposition of full trash cans in the dumpster
- Organization of tools and materials such as water hoses, feed bins, wheelbarrows, storage containers, rakes, shovels, and brooms

Any student housing a livestock project at the Lamar Ag Complex will be required to provide the materials listed below upon the delivery or move-in of their animal project:

- Bulk size pack of paper towel rolls or any pack equivalent to 12 rolls of paper towels.
- 2 Bottles of Blue Dawn Dish Soap
- 1 box of XL- 44 Gallon Heavy Duty Trash Bags

## **ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS**

Below is a list of estimated cost calculations based on the average amount spent by Lamar FFA students in previous years. Included in the cost calculations are average initial animal investment, feed and hay, livestock show entry fees, veterinary visits, and any equipment or tools needed for the success of the project. All cost calculations are an estimate and are **NOT** guaranteed. Costs may be lower or higher than averaged below based on market prices of all factors mentioned above.

**CATTLE: \$6000**

**LAMBS: \$2200**

**GOATS: \$2200**

**PIGS: \$2000**

**RABBITS: \$700**

**CHICKENS: \$500**

It is the responsibility of the student to financially maintain the costs associated with the project or any costs incurred throughout the duration of the project. It is the responsibility of the student (highly recommended) to maintain and keep all receipts of purchases made for the project for personal record-keeping purposes.

It is not a requirement for students to obtain a livestock project. Livestock projects are elective projects that the student and parent can select to maintain. Raising a livestock project through the Lamar FFA is not a right or expectation, it is a privilege and is ultimately the responsibility of the parent and student on their decision to elect to raise a livestock project in the Lamar FFA. There are a variety of other ways to be an active FFA member. These methods are mentioned in the Lamar FFA Member Handbook. The Lamar FFA offers a variety of leadership and career development opportunities, some of which require little to no financial responsibility by the student or parent.

**LAMAR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE FACILITIES  
REGULATIONS & LIVESTOCK PROJECT GUIDELINES  
AGREEMENT FORM**

We have received a copy of the 2023-2024 Lamar FFA Agriculture Complex Regulations and Livestock Project Guidelines. By signing this document, the student and parent/guardian acknowledge the regulations and guidelines, and have read, understand, and agree to follow those regulations and guidelines as outlined.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***No amendments to this form will be accepted.***



## LAMAR FFA PROJECT INSPECTION REPORT

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Stall: \_\_\_\_\_

### PROJECT EVALUATION RATING

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent     | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Above Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsatisfactory              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory  | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Conference Requested |

### MANAGEMENT AREAS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feeding:_____     | <input type="checkbox"/> Grooming:_____           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watering:_____    | <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise:_____           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weighing:_____    | <input type="checkbox"/> Regularity of Care:_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanliness:_____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:_____              |

### Additional Comments:

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Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Supervising Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## PROJECT / BARN VIOLATION FORM

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Stall:** \_\_\_\_\_

### CLERICAL

- ☐ Missed Meeting
- ☐ Paperwork Missing
- ☐ Grades
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### BEHAVIOR

- ☐ Horseplay
- ☐ Parking/Speeding
- ☐ Language/Bullying
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### MANAGEMENT

- ☐ Missed Barn Chores
- ☐ Pen Cleanliness
- ☐ Feed/Water Mgmt.
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Comments:

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**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Supervising Teacher Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_