

2025-2026 Bonner County 4-H Mission Statement, Rules & Regulations

BONNER COUNTY 4-H MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of 4-H is to help youth acquire knowledge, develop life skills, and form attitudes that will enable them to become self-directed, productive, and contributing members of society.

4-H BONNER COUNTY GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS

1. All exhibitors, parents and volunteers must abide by the 4-H Code of Conduct.
2. 4-H age is the age of the individual on January 1st of the current 4-H year. The 4-H year runs October 1st-September 30th. An individual may continue to participate in the 4-H program if they are 18 years old on January 1st of the current 4-H year. A member between the ages of 5-7 on January 1st of the current 4-H year may only enroll as a Cloverbud.
3. Age divisions in 4-H are as follows: Cloverbud: ages 5-7, Junior: ages 8-10, Intermediate: ages 11-13, Senior: ages 14-18
4. Individuals may enroll at any time, however, in order to compete for top awards and/or sell a market animal at the youth livestock auction, members must be enrolled and have membership fees paid between October 1st and January 20, 2026 (the third Tuesday of January).
 - a. 4-H enrollment is considered incomplete until registration in zSuite is submitted and membership fees are paid.
 - b. Any enrollments and/or enrollment fees received after January 20th are still eligible to participate in 4-H events but are not eligible for top awards and cannot sell a market animal at the youth livestock auction.
 - c. Enrolled members with fees paid who add projects after the January 21st deadline will not be eligible for top awards in those projects and cannot sell a market animal at the youth livestock auction.
 - d. Enrollment in clubs and projects are subject to availability.
5. 4-H members cannot enroll in the same project in two clubs.
6. Volunteer Enrollments:
 - a. All volunteers must be fully enrolled with fees paid, background checks and state-required trainings completed in zSuite by October 31, 2025. Volunteers that do not complete the required items by the deadline will have their projects closed to further enrollment until the volunteer certification process is complete.
 - b. New volunteers must also attend the New Volunteer Orientation training.
 - c. Volunteer leaders must have an active role in the planning, execution, and/or participation of their organizational and/or project meetings.
7. Project volunteers must have at least six project meetings.
8. 4-H members must attend 6 organizational meetings and two-thirds of all project meetings offered.

9. 4-H members may make up missed organizational or project meetings at the discretion of their organization or project volunteer leader. All organizational and/or project make-up meetings must be approved by the organizational and/or project volunteers and completed prior to record book submittal.
 - a. Acts of community service shall not be used or considered for project meeting make-up.
 - b. Make-up meetings will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
10. 4-H members must participate in at least one club-approved community service event before their project record book submission deadline.
11. 4-H volunteers must submit their project curriculum request forms via email or drop off the physical forms to the Extension Office no later than April 30, 2026 (the last weekday in April).
12. 4-H members must give one Oral Presentation (public speech, demonstration or Illustrated talk) for each project at either an organizational meeting, project meeting, Demonstration Day event or other Extension-approved event.
13. All horse record books are due the last Monday in July. Additional policies pertaining specifically to the horse project can be found in the Bonner County Horse Project Policies document.
14. All non-food, non-animal static projects and completed record books, including the Involvement Report, must be turned into the 4-H Exhibit Hall the Monday prior to fair week from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.
15. All perishable static projects will be due the Monday of fair week, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the 4-H Exhibit Hall.
16. All members must create and complete a new record book for each project in which they are enrolled for the current 4-H year. Members are not to recycle the previous year's record book.
17. Each record book must be signed by the project volunteer leader, 4-H member, and parent. Record books must include a total experience story, Involvement Report and applicable project skills/activity checklist to be submitted at exhibitor check-in. Record books missing the Involvement Report or any other elements will be considered incomplete. The 4-H member will be notified, and corrections must be received before the end of exhibit check-in in order for the project to be complete.
18. In Bonner County 4-H, Cloverbud years do not count towards participation years in 4-H for county awards. All Cloverbud projects are non-competitive and will be awarded a participation ribbon. Exhibiting is not a requirement for the Cloverbud project.
19. 4-H projects will be divided by age division and ribbons will be awarded according to each applicable division.
20. 4-H members that receive a top award are required to write a thoughtful thank you card to the award sponsor. Thank you cards must be submitted to the Extension Office no later than September 30, 2026, (the last weekday in September). Members that do not submit a thank you card may not be eligible for top awards the following year.
21. Grand and reserve champion ribbons will be awarded to the top two (2) overall placements in each age-division/project area/class.
 - a. Projects/age divisions/classes with a single participant may compete for grand and reserve rosettes in the overall division as long as they receive a blue ribbon.
 - b. When there are less than two blue ribbons awarded in a project area/age-division/class, participation in an overall class or issuance of top awards will be at the judge's discretion.

22. 4-H members may not use exhibit articles from another person as part of their 4-H project. 4-H projects may not be entered into open class, unless being used in adult or peewee showmanship or participating in a costume class.
23. Organizational leaders are required to submit an Annual Financial Summary and Civil Rights Report to the Extension Office by November 1st of each year. For those clubs that do not manage funds, submit the form with \$0 or none. If a club fails to submit these items, the club will be deactivated, and members will not be able to enroll in the club until the paperwork is received.
24. Volunteers that lead a shooting sports project must submit their Shooting Sports Activity Log to the Extension Office on or before October 1st. Their shooting sports project will not be open to enrollment until the form is received.
25. All 4-H volunteers and members are to wear close-toed shoes at/during the following: in all barns, at weigh-ins, when caring for animals, and working the Food Booth.
26. Any county event must be judged by third-party judges. Leaders and parents are not allowed to judge their own project and/or family members in any event.

JUDGING CONTESTS

27. The Hormel scoring system is used in all judging contests.
28. The small animal judging contest is not required for completion of any small animal project and is open to all 4-H members regardless of project enrollment.
29. Livestock judging is not required for completion of any large animal project but does serve as the county-level qualifying event for the state contest.
30. Barn superintendent must notify the owner of each animal to be used during a judging contest.

GENERAL LIVESTOCK

31. In the event of a project animal death during the project year, the member or volunteer leader should contact Extension staff to notify intent to complete or drop the project. Members whose project animal dies may still choose to complete their project by submitting the non-animal project exhibit for the same species.
32. All 4-H members are required to wear exhibitor IDs during all 4-H showmanship and quality classes. Number cards may not be modified or altered. Members that do not qualify for top awards will exhibit letters instead of numbers.
33. Members are responsible for the care and maintenance of all animals until the animals leave the fairgrounds. If at any time the member needs to leave the fairgrounds, the member must make arrangements with the superintendent or their project leader.
34. All 4-H members are required to be present during the judging of their exhibit animal. Any exceptions must be approved by the Extension Office and applicable leaders council.
35. 4-H members must do the majority of the livestock preparation prior to and during fair themselves, except in instances regarding safety. Members may receive some assistance from another youth or a 4-H Leader.
36. All livestock (any beef, swine, goat, sheep, rabbit and poultry project) record books are due to the Extension Office the Friday before fair week between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Record books will be checked for completeness, Animal Science Lesson Checklist, the Involvement Report, and appropriate signatures.
 - a. If a record book is found to be incomplete for any reason, the record book(s) will be returned to the 4-H member with a list of corrections to be made before the end of record

book check-in.

- b. If a 4-H member does not submit a record book on Friday by 6:00 PM, they will be ineligible for ribbon premiums, Elk's awards, top awards and cannot sell their market animal at the livestock auction.

37. All cat, cavy, dog and pocket-pet project record books and/or exhibits must be turned into the 4-H Exhibit Hall the Monday prior to fair week from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

- 38. Members' clothing should be neat, clean, modest, acceptable in repair and appearance, and be in good taste and decency as appropriate for the specific event. It is required that full-length pants/jeans/slacks as well as long sleeve shirts for horse, rabbit and poultry, boots or hard sole shoes must be worn. No baseball caps allowed in the show ring. Western hats are optional for beef only. Horse members must wear a western hat or helmet for showmanship. Dairy cattle/goat must wear a white shirt and black/white pants.
- 39. No open-toed shoes are allowed in any barn or while handling any project animal.
- 40. No tranquilizing or use of any calming products of any type will be allowed during 4-H events regardless of label directions.
- 41. Any animal deemed to be of substandard health by the judge or fair vet must be removed from the grounds the same day by the owner.
 - a. Any animal that shows signs of prolapse will be excused from the fair and must be immediately removed from the grounds.
- 42. All animals, including poultry and rabbits, must have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) if transported from outside the state of Idaho. Documentation must be provided to Extension staff at spring weigh-in or when requested.
- 43. All members must provide proof of ownership brand inspection for beef, bill of sale for goats, sheep, and swine, or proof of ownership for any self-bred animal. Documentation must be provided to Extension staff at spring weigh-in or when requested and should not be placed in the record book.
- 44. All animal exhibit stall fees will be coordinated by the project leader and submitted to the Fair Office.
- 45. Padlocks will not be permitted on any pen during the fair.
- 46. Taking down decorations and cleaning of animal stalls must be done on Sunday before 12:00 PM.

SHOWMANSHIP

- 47. Animals must be manageable and able to be led to participate in any class. If an animal is unmanageable, the barn superintendent, 4-H Market Animal Livestock Committee, Extension Staff and/or Fair Management will decide if the animal should be excused from the fair. Any judge may also dismiss an animal from the show ring if it is deemed unsafe.
- 48. Showmanship classes will follow the same age divisions as outlined by 4-H Policies and Procedures.
- 49. All members must fit and show a project animal which belongs to the member in a showmanship class for project completion. Members having more than one species of animal must fit and show each species. If a 4-H member has more than one animal of same species, only one must be shown in the showmanship class.
 - a. If the 4-H member has more than one animal of the same species, they must show the market animal in the showmanship class.

- b. If the 4-H member has a market poultry or rabbit, they may show a pet chicken/turkey/rabbit in the showmanship class or they may stand by their caged animals and answer questions from the judge.
 - c. If a horse 4-H member is unable to show their IDed project animal, they may submit a written request to the Extension Office for alternative means of completing the showmanship requirement.
 - d. If a livestock animal (beef, goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep and swine) member cannot show their project animal in a showmanship class they must compete in either the Sales Talk or the Livestock Judging Contest.
50. Members must fit and show breeding animals if they are not enrolled in a market animal project of the same species.
51. The top showmen will be selected from each age division in each class to compete for overall champion/reserve champion showman in each species.
52. The grand champion showman from sheep, beef, swine, goat and horse may choose to compete in the Large Animal Round Robin contest. Grand champion showman from dog, rabbit, cat, poultry and pocket pet may choose to compete in the Small Animal Round Robin contest. Champion and Reserve Champion triple tail ribbons will be awarded for each contest.
- a. Should a 4-H member be awarded grand champion showman in two large animal or two small animal species, the member can choose which species they would like to represent in the corresponding round robin contest. In the place of the grand champion, the reserve champion showman of the non-represented species will be invited to participate.

MARKET ANIMALS

53. 4-H members enrolled in a market animal project that are unable to attend a required event must submit a written request for accommodation to the Market Animal Livestock Committee for approval.
54. All market projects must be weighed-in at their species spring weigh-in; if the spring weigh-in is missed, the member will be dropped from the market project. Animals will be tagged, and Extension Staff/4-H Volunteers will verify proof of ownership and CVI (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection) for out of state animals.
55. 4-H members may weigh-in market projects for multiple species. Members must sign the consent and declaration form for which species they will sell at the youth livestock auction during livestock record book check-in. The declared animal must be sold.
- a. If the 4-H member does not consent to sell their market animal, the animal will be allowed to show only in a showmanship class to complete project requirements but will not be entered into a market quality class.
 - b. Should the member sign the consent and declaration form but then refuse to sell their grand or reserve champion quality animal or remove the animal from the fairgrounds before the Youth Livestock Auction, the member will not be allowed to participate in Bonner County 4-H the following year.
 - c. If a member wins grand or reserve champion of their non-declared market animal quality class, that animal must also be sold in conjunction with their declared animal.
 - d. If a member is enrolled in three market animal projects and the two non-declared animals win grand or reserve champion in their market quality class, the member will be required to sell the animals that placed grand and/or reserve and will not be able to sell their

declared animal.

56. Alternate Market Animals:
- 4-H members may weigh-in and tag a main and one alternate of each species at the spring weigh-in.
 - An alternate animal may be shared by immediate family members.
 - The 4-H member must choose to bring either the main or alternate animal for each species prior to fair. Only one of each species will be weighed at fair check-in. Members will not be allowed to switch animals if the chosen animal does not make weight.
 - Members will not be allowed to switch a market animal to a breeding project at fair.
57. Members must also complete either a Quality Assurance form (beef, swine, rabbit) or a Country-of-Origin Labeling form (sheep, goat, poultry). Animals will not be weighed until these items are submitted.
58. If a 4-H member does not weigh their animal during the species scheduled fair weigh-in time, they will be immediately dismissed from the project and will need to remove their animal from the fairgrounds.
59. All 4-H ownership and feed requirements in the table below must be met by the members before they are eligible to participate at the fair.

Species	Ownership	Feed Periods
4-H Market Goat	70 Days (Animal must be born after October 1 st of previous year)	60 Days Minimum
4-H Market Sheep	70 Days (Animal must be born after January 1 st of current year)	60 Days Minimum
4-H Market Swine	100 Days (Animal must be born after January 1 st of current year)	80 Days Minimum
4-H Market Beef	150 Days (Animal must be born after January 1 st of previous year)	130 Days Minimum
4-H Market Poultry	Own and provide primary care of at least 5 birds	8 Weeks Minimum
4-H Market Rabbit	Raise at least one litter for market	8 Weeks Minimum

60. Only those market animals that do not make weight at the fair weigh-in will be entitled to one immediate re-weigh after the scales are rebalanced.
61. Except for Rule 55, each 4-H member may sell only one market animal through the youth livestock auction each year.
62. Animals meeting minimum fair weights are subject to the judge's discretion as to quality grade. Only animals that receive a blue or red ribbon in the quality class will be eligible to sell at the livestock auction.

63. The minimum weights on market animals to sell at the livestock auction are as follows:
- Goats– 60 pounds
 - Sheep– 105 pounds
 - Steer– 1100 pounds minimum/1,550 pounds maximum weight paid at the auction.
 - Swine– 225 pounds minimum/300 pounds maximum weight paid at the auction.
 - Rabbit – Pen of three fryers, 54 to 70 days old, 3 lbs. 8 oz to 5 lbs. 8 oz each.
 - Poultry: Chicken– Pen of three broilers, 6 to 8 weeks, 4 to 6 pounds each. Must be a Cornish-cross breed; no roaster breeds allowed.
 - Poultry: Turkey– Pen of two hens, 14 to 16 weeks old, 14 to 16 pounds each. Pen of two toms, 20 to 22 weeks old, 26 to 30 pounds each.
64. Swine over 300 pounds and beef over 1,550 pounds will still qualify to sell, if they receive a blue or red ribbon in the Quality class. Members will not be paid for any pounds over 300 for swine or 1,550 for beef.
65. Market animals that are underweight or receive a white ribbon in the quality class are not eligible to be sold at the livestock auction and will not be included on the livestock auction sale list.
66. The Extension Office will supply advertising signs for members with underweight and white ribbon animals **after** the livestock auction and no other signs may be used. No social media advertising will be permitted until after the livestock auction has ended. Members of these animals cannot approach perspective buyers on fairgrounds property until after the 4-H Livestock Auction ends.
67. Market project animals that were not sold through the auction may be advertised as for sale after the auction has ended.
68. The following livestock auction fees will be deducted from the 4-H member's proceeds by the treasurer of the 4-H Market Animal Livestock Committee and a check for the balance will be issued to the member following payment from the buyer:
- a. 4-H members selling a market animal will be required to pay a 5% selling fee to the Market Animal Livestock Committee.
 - b. Members who sold a steer are required to pay the final brand inspection.
 - c. Members who sold a hog are required to pay the National Pork Board fees.
69. Any member in violation of the Bonner County 4-H Mission Statement and Policies and/or the Bonner County Fairground rules may forfeit the right to sell any animal at the youth livestock auction the following year at the discretion of the Market Animal Livestock Committee and Extension Office.
70. Market animals in the livestock auction must be presented in the same manner as they were in Showmanship and Quality classes. Only member's awarded ribbons and banners may be displayed with the animal.
71. When the hammer falls and the auctioneer has declared the animal is sold, the sale is final. No switching, substituting, or deleting of animals will be accepted. Any 4-H member found to be in violation of this rule will have their auction proceeds returned to the buyer and the member will be unable to participate in any market animal project the following year. **When an animal is returned to the member by the buyer, the removal of the animal is the responsibility of the 4-H member.**
72. A formal change of animal ownership occurs when the animal in a youth market project is sold. **Any 4-H animal sold through the Bonner County livestock auction that is returned to the member cannot be shown as a 4-H project or sold at another show/fair for the current year.**

73. All barns will be closed to spectators during scheduled showing times and during the livestock auction. The barns will reopen upon completion of their species events.
74. Members that have sold an animal through the auction must submit a completed Income Record Profit/Loss statement and the Market Animal Production Summary from their record book to the Extension Office before their auction check will be released to the member.
75. Members are required to write a thoughtful thank you card to their buyer and turn it into the Extension Office. Livestock auction checks will not be released to 4-H members until thank you cards have been received.
76. Checks must be picked up at the Extension Office and cashed within 90 days of the issue date.

HERDSMANSHIP

77. 4-H members will feed and provide clean water **at least** twice a day and when prudent livestock management dictates.
78. Each 4-H member is responsible for maintaining his/her animal in a fit and clean state for the duration of the fair.
79. Animals must be fed, watered, and have pens cleaned by 9:00 AM every day of the fair. Exhibitors will receive one verbal warning. More than one warning may result in the member forfeiting their ability to exhibit that species the following year. Fair dismissal is at the discretion of the Market Animal Livestock Committee, 4-H leaders, barn superintendents, and Extension staff.
80. 4-H members must maintain and display their animals in a way that does not endanger the animal, other members or the public. This includes storing **all** equipment and feed in non-exhibit locations and in appropriate areas and containers.
81. Market animals must remain in their assigned pens until they are released by their respective superintendent.

BEEF

82. Water buckets and feed pans may not be left in front of beef animals except for during feeding periods.
83. Other than registered breed standards, horns and scurs can be no longer than two inches and must be blunt.
84. Market steer shall be on dry feed (no pasture) from the time of the official spring weigh-in until the time of the sale.
85. Market steers are to be taken off water and feed by 9:00 PM the evening before weighing in at the fair.
86. 4-H beef members must fill out a haul slip. Beef animals will be brand inspected and inspector fees are the responsibility of the members.
87. All steers must be halter broke and the 4-H member must be able to lead the animal across the scales at the spring weigh-in. If the animal is deemed unsafe by Extension staff, it will be disqualified as a market animal project.
88. There is no maximum or minimum weight for steers at spring weigh-in.
89. Beef animals that are not able to be controlled by the 4-H member will be excused from the fair and will be asked to remove the animal from the grounds. This decision will be at the discretion of leaders, superintendent, Market Animal Livestock Committee, Extension staff, and judge. Animals that get loose two times during showing will be immediately tied up.

SHEEP/GOAT

90. There are no maximum or minimum weights for sheep and goat at spring weigh-in.
91. A goat being used as a market animal project must be a meat breed.
92. Sheep and goats may wash at fair in the designated washing stations.
93. Only wethers and does/ewes are allowed. No bucks or rams.
94. Goats and sheep are not allowed beyond the entry of the beef barn or in the beef wash racks.
95. All goats and sheep must have a scrapie tag or tattoo before the spring weigh-in.
96. Pet, pack, and breeding goats may be shown with horns. All horns must be tipped, taped, or padded. Dairy goats must be dehorned or polled or have scurs less than 2 inches long.
97. Halters may not be used for showing market sheep or for any showmanship class. Market goats may show with a show halter.
 - a. Breeding sheep may be shown to breed standards.

SWINE

98. There is no maximum or minimum weight for swine at spring weigh-in.
99. Feed containers must be kept clean and removable feed buckets must be removed after feeding.
100. Storage of show equipment and buckets must be out of the aisles and kept clean.

RABBITS

101. Any blue or red ribbon pen of meat rabbits may be sold at the livestock auction.
102. Per ARBA standards, a market pen of three fryers must meet the following:
 - a. The 4-H member must breed and raise the litter.
 - b. The pen of three fryers should be as uniform as possible in weight, size, condition, appearance, fur and fleshing.
 - c. Litter should be 8 to 10 weeks (54 to 70 days) of age by day of animal check-in for fair.
 - d. Minimum weight is 3 lbs. 8 oz, maximum weight is 5 lbs. 8 oz.

POULTRY

103. Any blue or red ribbon pen of three (3) broiler chickens or two (2) turkeys may be sold at the livestock auction.
 - a. The 4-H member must raise the broilers/turkeys.
 - b. The pen of three broilers or pen of two turkeys should be as uniform as possible in weight, size, condition, appearance, and fleshing.
 - c. Broilers should be a minimum of 6 weeks old and no more than 8 weeks old, turkey hens should be a minimum of 14 weeks and no more than 16 weeks old, and turkey toms should be a minimum of 20 weeks old and a maximum of 22 weeks old.
 - d. Broilers should weigh 4 to 6 pounds each, turkey hens should weigh 14 to 16 pounds each, turkey toms should be 26 to 30 pounds each.
104. All market poultry project members must own and provide care for their animals according to species rules. All market broiler project members must own and provide care for animals for no more than 12 weeks. All market turkey project members must own and provide care for animals for no more than 16 weeks for hens and no more than 22 weeks for toms.

105. Any poultry to be exhibited at fair are required to complete the Avian Flu Testing event put on by the ISDA prior to fair. Poultry that do not have an Avian Flu leg band will not be allowed at fair.
106. Bonner County Fairgrounds does not allow waterfowl on Fairgrounds property. 4-H members using a waterfowl breed for their poultry pet project will not be allowed to bring their animal to fair and will instead exhibit their project animal at an alternate event to be arranged by Extension Office staff and the Market Animal Livestock Committee.

SPECIAL CONTESTS

107. Registration is required for all county events. Information for registration deadlines will be made available to 4-H families.
108. **Demonstration Day**– This contest is open to all 4-H members enrolled in any project. While it is not a project requirement to participate in Demonstration Day, presentations given at the event count towards project completion. Registration is required.
109. **Fashion Revue** – All 4-H members enrolled in the Sew Much Fun, Sewing Expressions or Jewelry Making projects are encouraged to model at this event. The style of garment/jewelry, fit, model appearance will be judged and must be the project work of the exhibiting member. Participants will be divided into 4-H policy age divisions.
 - a. Registration for event participation will be required. The event may be cancelled if an acceptable number of participants, determined by Extension staff, is not reached.
110. **Judging Contests** – There may be three judging contests held each year. Livestock Judging, Small Animal Judging, and Horse Judging. None of these events are required for project completion.
111. **Sales Talk** – This contest encourages members to enhance their public speaking skills and is open to all 4-H members enrolled in a market or breeding animal project. Awards will be given in each of the three categories: Junior, Intermediate, and Senior. The rules are as follows.
 - a. A participant is allowed 4-7 minutes for their presentation.
 - b. Participant is allowed one assistant to handle the animal. Each category will be judged by a single judge.
112. **Beef Bowl** – The Beef Bowl is sponsored by the Bonner County Cattlemen and was instituted to encourage 4-H beef members to become more knowledgeable of the beef industry. The Beef Bowl is patterned after the Bonner County Horse Bowl, except beef and cattle-related questions are asked. All 4-H livestock clubs are invited to enter a 4-member team into the contest. Questions will be taken from the 4-H project manual and the Idaho Beef Council material. Awards will be provided to first, second, and third place teams.
113. **4-H Club Secretary and Treasurer Books** – Club secretary and treasurer books may be submitted to select the most accurate book in the county. Books must be submitted with the non-food static projects the Monday before Fair Week. Ribbon awards will be given.
114. **4-H Club Scrapbook** – 4-H clubs may submit a scrapbook and report of club activities. Ribbons will be given to those clubs participating books. The scrapbooks must be submitted with the non-food static projects the Monday before Fair Week and will be displayed in the 4-H Exhibit Hall.