



Iowa 4-H Requirements Regarding Clover Kids (K-3) Members Working with Animals

Introduction

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Iowa 4-H Youth Development Program supports safe, educational, and developmentally-sound small animal activities for children in Kindergarten through third grade. Educational opportunities for animal subject matter and interaction with animals can contribute to the learning objectives of the Iowa 4-H Clover Kids program. However, for safety and liability reasons, as well as developmental appropriateness, the restrictions outlined in this document are necessary.

Requirements

Members of the Iowa 4-H Clover Kids program may exhibit or showcase their work in a noncompetitive event or activity. All Clover Kids animal exhibitions must be cooperative and not competitive. Clover Kids are not eligible to receive premium funds as a result of exhibition. Clover Kids may receive participatory ribbons, but may not receive regular competitive purple, blue, red, or white 4-H fair/exhibit ribbons.

Developmentally-appropriate small animal exhibits for children in grades K-3 include pets, rabbits, poultry, sheep, goats, and bucket bottle projects (calf, sheep and goat).

Safety requirements for all calf, sheep and goat livestock species are as follows:

- Animal must remain on a halter at all times
- Animal must be born in the calendar year of the show

Animal species specifically excluded from K-3 exhibition opportunities are swine, equine, camelids (llama and alpaca), beef (other than bucket bottle), and dairy (other than bucket bottle).

Rationale

The physical and emotional safety of children is a prime consideration when working with animals. Special procedures, such as joint leading and/or close proximity of adults, need to be employed to promote and protect children's safety. In general, the handling of all animals requires discipline and motor skills that have yet to be fully developed in most K-3rd grade children, and when coupled with animals' unpredictable behavior, does not provide optimal safe educational environments.

Insurance coverage (accident or liability) for Clover Kids (K-3) programs involving small animals is contingent upon conducting developmentally-appropriate programs that are in compliance with Iowa State University, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, and Iowa 4-H policies, regulations, and guidelines. Contact your local county ISU Extension and Outreach office to learn more about securing insurance coverage for Clover Kids programs.