

Fair Tips for New Animal Exhibitors

Sometimes we just assume that everyone knows what to do to prepare for the county fair and we forget about our new families who joined us in the fall and who have not been through a fair. Below are some tips that might help you be better prepared and eliminate some of that last minute stress of fair.

Before Fair (all animals)

- July 1 – make sure all your animals are entered in FairEntry – directions on how to do this will be included in the weekly Clover Connect. 2023 will be the first year for this fair management program.
- For beef, sheep, swine, and meat goat make sure you fill out and sign the Animal Care & Management Disclosure Statement (also known as drug affidavit) and turn in by July 1.
- Purchase a Palo Alto County Fair T-shirt (\$8) at the Palo Alto County Extension Office to wear when you are showing your animal(s). Your first T-shirt for exhibiting in will be free. Only exception is for horse exhibitors – they should refer to the fair book for proper show ring attire.
- Fair Book – for a complete list of fair classes and rules check out our Palo Alto County Fair Book [here](#). Read the rules beforehand!

Arrival with Animals

- All animals are to be in on the fairgrounds by 9:00 PM on Wednesday, the evening before the first day of the fair. Take to appropriate barn.
- Families with more than one exhibitor need to be prepared to identify each individual animal with its owner at weigh-in/check-in.
- Know your check-in/weigh-in/testing times:
 - Beef (lead calves & feeder pens) is 6:00-8:00 PM on Wednesday before the first day of fair.
 - Poultry that is 6 weeks or older should arrive between 5:00-6:00 PM on Wednesday to undergo Pullorum testing.
 - Market Swine is weighed in beginning at 9:00 AM on Thursday at the scale in the swine barn.
 - Market Sheep/Meat Goats are weighed in beginning at 9:00 AM on Thursday in the Sheep Barn.
 - Dogs – need to be on the grounds for the 8:30 AM on Thursday for the Dog Agility Show at 9:00 AM – will be released after the Dog Obedience Show. Check in with Dog Instructor.
 - Pets – need to be on the grounds a half hour before the Pet Show – will be released after the show. Check in at fair office.
- Feeder Pen Exhibitors – turn in your worksheet for the project by noon on Thursday.
- Get stall cards from the fair office and hang above pens or on cages as soon as animals are in place.

Specie	What is provided for you	What to bring to the fairgrounds	Expectations during the fair	Before you leave the fairgrounds when fair/show is over
Horse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tack - hay & feed - water bucket - hose & spray nozzle - push broom - pitch fork & wheel barrow - grooming supplies & fly spray - appropriate show attire - riding helmet - costume for costume class - extension cord - 2-3 bales bedding/stall - fan & wire to hang 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - feed & water animal daily by 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM - clean manure out of stalls and put in designated pile - only the 4-Her who identified the horse/pony is allowed to ride the animal while on the fairgrounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clean out pen – manure and bedding should all be cleaned out and put in designated pile outside of building - remove stall sign - pick up all trash in and around stall
Beef Cattle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stall space - bedding (wood chips) - electricity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pail for water - feed bucket & feed - hay - pitch fork - lead ropes - show halter - show stick - hose and spray nozzle for washing - grooming supplies & fly spray - clippers - blower - grooming chute - fan & wire to hang - show box to keep supplies in - extension cord - fair T-shirt to show in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - feed & water animal daily - clean up any manure and throw in designated pile outside of building - make sure animal is comfortable (fan) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clean out pen – manure and bedding should all be cleaned out and put in designated pile outside of building - remove stall sign - pick up all trash in and around stall

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Bucket/Bottle Calf (including 2 nd year calves) Bottle Lambs/ Meat Goats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stall space - bedding (wood chips are provided for calves) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lead rope - water & feed buckets - feed & hay - bedding - hose for washing animal - washing supplies (shampoo /brush) - pitch fork - questionnaire & feed sheet for 4Hers - open class – stall poster to hang - 4-Hers need a fair T-shirt to show in – not required for open class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - feed & water animal daily - clean up any manure and throw in designated pile outside of building - make sure animal is comfortable (fan) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clean out pen – manure and bedding should all be cleaned out and put in designated pile outside of building - remove stall sign - pick up all trash in and around stall/pen
Sheep/Meat Goats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stall space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - water & feed buckets/pans - bedding - feed & hay - pitch fork - scrub brush/soap - hose - clippers - hoof trimmers - halters - show chains & S clips - baby wipes for cleaning noses & ears - fly spray - combs - fair T-shirt to show in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - feed & water animal daily - clean up any manure and throw in designated pile outside of building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clean out pen – manure and bedding should all be cleaned out and put in designated pile outside of building - remove stall sign - pick up all trash in and around pen
Swine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stall space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - water & feed pails - water & feed pans - hose & nozzle - soap & brush - shovels, brooms, wheel- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - feed & water animal daily - clean up any manure and throw in designated pile outside of building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clean out pen – manure and bedding should all be cleaned out and put in designated pile outside of building

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Swine – Cont.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - barrow - fan & extension cord - fly spray - panels - spray bottle - show stick & show brush - fair T-shirt to show in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - make sure animal is comfortable (fan) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - remove stall sign - pick up all trash in and around pen
Rabbits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cage(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - water bottle/dish - feed dish & feed - toenail clippers - lock for cage (optional) - grooming supplies - scoop (for cleaning below cages) - 4-Hers need a fair T-shirt to show in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - feed & water animal(s) daily - keep animal(s) cool in heat (frozen water jug in cage) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clean out cage(s) - clean out under cages
Poultry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cage(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - water dish - feed dish & feed - lock for cage (optional) - comb - 4-Hers need a fair T-shirt to show in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - feed & water animal(s) daily - keep animal(s) cool in heat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clean out cage(s) - clean out under cages
Dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agility equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - leash - dog treats - dog poop bags - grooming supplies/brush - toenail clippers - water & bowl for water - fair T-shirt to show in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - keep dog in designated area on fairgrounds - keep dog on leash - clean up after your dog - keep dog cool and provide clean water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clean up after your dog
Pets		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - leash and/or cage/container - 4-Hers need a fair T-shirt to show in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - check in with pet a half hour before the show in fair office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clean up any mess made in show ring or on fairgrounds

*There is a herdsmanship contest between all the barns. Cleanliness of alleys, stalls, or pens and appearance of animals is all part of the contest. Conduct of 4-Hers & FFA members is also considered. Winning barn gets a sign that is added to a list in the show ring. Make it be your barn!