

# Klein FFA Cattle Handbook 2024-2025

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## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of a production livestock feeding program is to allow students to develop responsibility, leadership skills and gain hands-on knowledge and application of the livestock industry. Agriculture Science Teachers/FFA Advisors are here to assist you with your project and provide guidance throughout the year.

## **THE GOAL**

To do everything in your power to produce the best muscled, best finished steer or the best breeding heifer you can. To learn everything you can and ask every question that you have on management, feeding, fitting or showing so that this will be a valuable learning experience. Remember, you are part of the Klein FFA Show Cattle Team. No matter where you are or what you are doing, you are representing yourself, your show team, your chapter, your school, your district, so you need to always be presenting yourself in a positive manner!

## **RULE BOOK AND FFA INFORMATION**

- I. Klein ISD Agriscience Project Center Rules (available on [Klein FFA Website](#))
  - A. The Klein ISD Agriscience Project Center is only for those students that raise their animal project at the school facility. The Klein ISD Agriscience Project Center rules MUST be signed and fees MUST be paid prior to animals moving into the facilities.
- II. Home Project
  - A. You do have the option to raise your project at home. Please be aware of the zoning regulations when deciding to keep your project at home. The Agriculture Science Teacher will make home visits to help you with your project as needed, however, all transportation is the responsibility of the student.

## **FORMS THAT MUST BE SIGNED & ON FILE**

- Klein ISD Agriscience Project Center Rules
- Klein FFA Barn Rules Addendum
- Species Handbook Receipt

## **EXHIBITOR MEETINGS/CLINICS**

Meeting dates and times will be announced in advance and will be held at the Klein ISD Agriscience Project Center. Every exhibitor is required to attend these meetings. At the meetings we will discuss important information that pertains to exhibitors. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to inform the Agriculture Science Teacher if they will not be able to attend a meeting. Workdays and Showmanship will be offered on a weekly basis (pending weather, prior commitments or emergencies) throughout the year and you are required to attend these weekly. You will be notified in advance if the meetings and/or workdays/showmanship will be moved or postponed. One-on-one work with you and your calf will be available with prior notice of the advisor.

## **GENERAL ANIMAL GUIDELINES**

- No animals may be moved in until all signature pages and fees are paid.
- Our cattle facility is focused on housing as many projects as possible, so please plan your projects accordingly.
- Steer pens are only guaranteed for 1 year, heifer pens are guaranteed for 2 years (pending the age of the heifer).
- Heifers must leave the facility within 1 week of their last show pending barn space is available.

## **TREATMENT OF ANIMALS**

- Abuse of any animal will not be tolerated and will result in removal from the farm and the FFA Program
- Abuse can consist of but is not limited to: riding, roping, striking, pumping, whipping, using a cattle prod, ect

## **BARN CLEANUP & MAINTENANCE**

- Each exhibitor is responsible for keeping their pens, area in front of their pens, all tack areas and common areas clean.
- You are required to clean, rake and sift your calf's pen(s) daily.
- Any manure, hay, spilled feed, etc. is NOT to be left in the aisle, washracks, trim racks or any other common areas.
- Manure removed from pens needs to be placed in the large roll off dumpsters. Manure should NOT be placed anywhere outside the barn, left in a pile or in wheelbarrows without being dumped.
- All other trash except manure should be placed in the small dumpster.
- All blowers, trim racks or community tools must be cleaned and put back in their correct places after use.
- Water troughs/feed pans should be cleaned with soap and water weekly.
- Feeders need to be emptied after every feeding if they did not finish. This will limit the amount of birds/other pests in your pen and barn.
- Please limit the amount of loose hay on the inside and outside of your pen, limiting waste for bird/pest nesting.

- Please keep the wash rack clean and do not throw manure in the drain or surrounding grass areas. Clean the wash rack after each use. This is a shared facility and the area is kept clean for everyone.
- After your calf's last show you have seven (7) days to clean your animal's pen (remove all feces, rake and sift the sand) and remove all your belongings from the barn and common areas.
- All feeders/exhibitors are REQUIRED to perform additional cleanup duties outside of their pens as needed; including barn workdays!!

### **ANIMAL HEALTH**

- Check your calf daily for any changes in health. Look for scours/diarrhea, proper urination, snotty nose or any signs of fungus such as red spots, scaly or scabby skin.
- Report ANY health changes or change in eating habits to your Agriculture Science Teacher immediately.
- The neglect of animals will not be tolerated and it will result in the student's immediate dismissal from the complex.
- It is NOT the responsibility of the Agriculture Teacher to haul to the vet.
- Any vet visits will be paid at the time services are rendered.

### **PEN ASSIGNMENTS**

- Students will be assigned pens upon bringing a project into the facility. Students may not move or expand for any reason unless approved by the Agriculture Science Teacher.
- Pen Space is extremely limited, pens will be given out on a first come first serve basis based on pen fee payment (1 pen/student)
- If there are extra pens available, an extra pen can be purchased for an additional project
- All pens will be required to have a clip on the gate to prevent animal from opening the gate itself. Failure to follow this will result in a loss of farm points.

### **TACK STORAGE**

- All tack must be kept picked up and locked at all times.
- Each student is responsible for providing their own tack box with the dimensions being no larger than 72"W X 72"H X 48"D.
- All feed and supplies must be stored in your tack box.
- If you choose to not keep hay in your tack box, it must be kept in a hay bag and also kept organized. Your tack area will be facing the outside of the barn so there is a chance it will get rained on.
- Klein ISD and its Agricultural Science Teachers are NOT responsible for theft or damage of any personal items at the Klein ISD Agriscience Project Center.

## **FEEDING**

- Fresh feed must be provided at each feeding. All calves must be fed twice a day (including holidays and weekends) on a regular basis scheduled approximately 12 hours apart. It is understood that some exhibitors will have other commitments after school and will have to take care of their animals at a later time. If this is the case, your calf should be fed no later than 9PM.
- Your calf should be fed approximately 3% of its body weight daily.
- Your Agriculture Science Teacher and sometimes your breeder are available to make feeding suggestions as to how much feed to give you, what type of feed to give and what types of supplements may be needed to obtain your goals. However, it is very important that you only listen to 1 person, as listening to more than one person can mess up a feed plan.
- No matter what brand of feed you select, be sure it is a high quality feed that is specifically designed for show calves.

## **HAY**

- Hay is an important part of your calf's diet and our feeding program. Not only does it provide roughage, it helps to add rib shape and body depth over the course of the feeding period.

## **WEIGHING**

- Your calves need to be weighed weekly. It is your responsibility to maintain a record of these weights throughout the feeding period. Make sure you weigh the animal at the same time of day and during the same conditions, preferably before feeding.

## **MEDICATIONS/ADDITIVES/TREATMENTS**

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 and awareness of the supervising teacher. All established withdrawal times for any administered product must be strictly followed. The Agriculture Science Teacher will NOT be held liable for injury to livestock while assisting the exhibitor with their project. This includes giving medications, worming, trimming or any other activity directly involving the teacher and animals. If your calf has a problem or needs specific medication it is the responsibility of the exhibitor and/or parents/guardians to contact a veterinarian and seek medical treatment.

## **EXERCISE**

- Walking your animal daily is imperative in success to maintain flexibility and increase athleticism.
- Calves should be walked daily and should be halter broken as soon as possible.
- Once your animal is halter broken, you should work on showmanship daily, including walking and setting your calf up for show.
- The turnout pen is only for leaving your animal out while you are at the barn. Animals must go back in their pen before you leave the farm. Failure to do so will result in a farm point.

## **CLIPPING**

- Calves will be clipped, on an as needed basis, before prospect shows if time allowed and stock shows.
- Agriculture Science Teachers are available to assist in clipping your animal during scheduled clipping times unless otherwise agreed upon.
- Clean up clipped hair after you are finished.

## **ANIMALS LEAVING THE COMPLEX**

- Animals may not leave the facility for any reason without permission from the supervising Agriculture Science Teacher and a completed Rule 3 Approval for all state validated animals must be filled out and turned in prior to leaving.
- The Rule 3 Approval for all state validated animals MUST be received by the supervising Agriculture Science Teachers no less than 7 days prior to the date of departure.
- A new form is required for each event. Animals removed from the facility without this form in place are subject to permanent removal from the facility. The only exception to this rule is animals leaving for the purpose of livestock shows attended with the Ag Science Teacher.

## **STOCK SHOWS**

- I. Prospect Shows (throughout the year at various locations)
  - a. Great place to practice showing your steer/heifer. Those dates and locations will be announced at a later date with plenty of planning time.
- II. Harris County Fair (October)
  - a. Great place to show your heifer and get some feedback before the majors.
- III. Major Shows (Heart of Texas, State Fair, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston, Austin)
  - a. The major livestock shows of Texas are held primarily during the spring show season. Major livestock shows are considered terminal shows for steers and making the sale at one of the majors is considered to be a great accomplishment.
  - b. All students who show in a major show are required to have taken the Quality Counts course and have passed the test to receive their certification number. This certification number MUST be written on all major show entries. The Quality Counts Course is for all animals being shown through Klein FFA.
  - c. All major animals must be validated through the State of Texas. Dates are TBD but one is in June (steers and heifers) and one in October (heifers only).
  - d. All majors are over night and a parent MUST be present at all times. This is not an option and will be strictly enforced.
- IV. Klein ISD Livestock Project Show (February)
  - a. This is the end point for all Klein steers and heifers can show as well.
  - b. Heifers must be State Validated in order to show here.
  - c. Steers must be purchased through Klein ISD on the following dates:
    - i. March 22, 2024 - \$625 (25% deposit)
    - ii. May 10, 2024 - \$1875 (75% remaining)

## **TRAVEL TO LIVESTOCK SHOWS**

- Klein ISD will provide transportation, when possible, for livestock projects to shows and/or validation. Your animal is NOT required to be transported by Klein ISD.
- The Agriculture Science Teacher will attend all planned and Klein ISD approved shows.
- Klein ISD is NOT responsible for transporting students to and from shows but will provide transportation to local daily shows if needed. All out of town shows a parent/guardian MUST be present at all times unless otherwise discussed and agreed upon with the Agriculture Science Teacher, however it is NOT the responsibility of the Agriculture Science Teacher and other arrangements may be made.

## **REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN LIVESTOCK SHOWS**

- Be enrolled in an agriculture science class at Klein High School.
- Be a member in good standing with the Klein FFA Chapter. Livestock feeders must have their FFA dues paid in full as well as their Klein ISD Project Center dues.
- Attend all mandatory livestock meetings and workdays.
- Be passing ALL classes 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.
- Have paid entry fees on time and met show requirements.
- Livestock in poor condition due to disease, injury or neglect will not be allowed to participate in livestock shows.
- Livestock that cannot be properly handled safely on and off the trailer, to and from the show ring will not be allowed to participate in livestock shows.
- The final decision will rest with the supervising teacher.
- Students will be responsible for all out of town personal travel to and from all livestock shows, including hotels, unless riding to and from to assist in the trailer.
- 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 at the livestock show. This includes all arrival and departure times set by the Ag Science Teacher.
- It is the sole responsibility of the student to be familiar with all rules pertaining to his/her livestock project (ie: weight limits, entry requirements, age, etc.). This information may be obtained from the supervising teacher of the livestock show.

## **LEASE ANIMAL EXPECTATIONS**

- In the event you lease an animal (heifer specifically) The Advisor in charge of your species needs the breeders contact information
- All bills will be the responsibility of the student to pay for upfront and get reimbursed from the breeder. (ie... feed, vet, hoof trimming, entry fees etc...)
- Animals will be hoof trimmed at every setup hoof trimming pertaining they are not pregnant (usually every 8 weeks)

- If at any time the advisor in charge feels the animal is being neglected the breeder will be contacted with concerns and requested to pickup the animal.

### **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

- Feed and check your animals' water twice daily.
- Keep feed troughs and water troughs clean.
- Clean pens daily including sifting.
- Add sand as needed, not a dig out and reload weekly.
- Check your calf's health daily. Look for scours, runny noses, fungus, etc. Report any abnormalities to the Agriculture Science Teacher immediately.
- Do NOT leave your calf unattended while tied up for any reason if you are not present!
- Weigh weekly and record your calf's weight.
- Keep your calf on a proper deworming schedule.
- Handle your calf and practice setting it up daily.
- Know that you will get injuries handling these animals, safety is key, so doing what you need is important.
- Attendance is MANDATORY at ALL barn cleanups, workdays and meetings from start to finish!
- Students will work together with other students and parents and advisors at all times
- Students will speak appropriately to all other students, parents and advisors at all times.
- If you feel there is an issue contact the advisor in charge of your species immediately.
- Failure to speak and work together appropriately will result in discipline referral or even removal from the project center/ FFA program

### **PARENT EXPECTATIONS**

- General supervision of your student and their project on a day to day basis.
- Communicate with the teacher should a question or problem arise concerning the project or the student's performance.
- Provide transportation of your student to and from the Klein ISD Agriscience Project Center for twice daily feedings, if they cannot drive.
- Provide transportation, cost of lodging and accommodations of students to all stock shows.
- Make sure all required payments are made by the provided due dates.
- Be aware of student grades to prevent inability to show.
- Follow ALL Klein ISD Agriscience Project Center rules and regulations.
- Read and follow all rules of shows entered by the students as well as the Klein ISD Agriscience Project Center Rules, and the Klein Cattle Handbook.
- Parents will work together with other students and parents and advisors at all times
- Parents will speak appropriately to all other students, parents and advisors at all times.
- If you feel there is an issue contact the advisor in charge of your species immediately.
- Failure to speak and work together appropriately will result in possible removal from the project center.
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## **AGRISCIENCE TEACHER EXPECTATIONS**

- Provide advice in regards to any problems that may occur with the animal project during normal working hours.
- Provide assistance when needed for breeding heifer projects.
- Contacting teachers outside of working hours is for emergencies only! The teacher will make every effort to assist with problems.
- The teacher will check projects weekly at scheduled workdays ONLY, unless an emergency has arisen.
- Assist with feeding programs and make recommendations if they are the only one doing the feed plan.
- Attend all scheduled and approved shows.
- The teacher will assist in giving medications when possible. The Agriculture Science Teacher will NOT be held liable for injury to livestock while assisting the exhibitor with their project. This includes giving medications, worming, trimming or any other activity directly involving the teacher and animals.
- If your calf has a problem or needs specific medication it is the responsibility of the exhibitor and/or parents/guardians to contact a veterinarian and seek medical treatment as well as provide transportation.
- The teacher will provide transportation for all animals raised at the Klein ISD Agriscience Project Center to shows entered by the chapter provided there is adequate trailer space available.

## **CHAIN OF COMMAND**

If a situation arises the following chain of command MUST be followed:

- Address the issue with the Agriculture Science Teacher of that species.
- Address the issue with the student's Assistant Principal.
- Address the issue with the Klein HS CTE Administrator.
- Address the issue with the Klein HS Associate Principal for Curriculum & Instruction.
- Address the issue with the Head Principal.

## **RELAY OF INFORMATION**

All Klein Cattle Show Team information will be sent through a group chat created by the Agriculture Science Teacher with all Klein Cattle Show Team Raisers. The Cattle Show Team raisers are held to a high standard and their communication about their project is their problem, meaning, they need to be responsible enough to relay all information to the parents.



# Klein FFA Cattle Handbook 2024-2025

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## AGREEMENTS

I have received a copy of the Klein FFA Cattle Handbook 2024-2025. I understand it is my duty to become familiar with and abide by the rules and policies set forth by the Klein FFA in this handbook and the Klein ISD Livestock Project Center Rules. I understand that if I do not abide by these rules and policies that disciplinary actions can and will be taken against me and I risk being removed from the Klein ISD Livestock Project Center as well as the Klein FFA.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Agriscience Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Administration Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## ADVISOR SECTION

### Steer

\_\_\_\_\_ 25% Payment (\$625) Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Remaining Payment (\$1895) Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Pen Fee/Rules \$200 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Validation Fee (Major) \$30 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Barn Cards

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Heifer

\_\_\_\_\_ Pen Fee/Rules \$200 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Validation Fee \$30 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ June \_\_\_\_\_ October