**Show Projects**

**Updated 2024-2025**

**Deadline for communication with Ag Teachers/ 4-H leaders by species and their corresponding validation (ownership) date.**

**All pen deposits are $50 regardless of species, per exhibitor and pen. Please add this into cost as well as validation tags.**

**Costs can include but are not limited to: Purchase of animals, feed, supplements, vaccines/medications, health papers, vet visits, county/state tags, show entries, shavings for pen, halters/leads/show sticks, etc.**

**Cattle** – Cattle are the longest time commitment and should be purchased and secured prior to the beginning of the school year. Scramble Heifers for the following school year are entered during October and purchased during the summer. Breeding Heifers can be purchased up to Oct 1st ,however would need to be already halter broke and been weaned and on feed for a couple of months. Ownership and Validation for Steers is in June the summer prior to the school year. Normally our chapter has 10-25 calves on feed. Average total project cost $5,000+ , Feed alone will cost $2,500+

**Swine** – Oct and November Purchase - Validation – Nov for Majors/ Dec for County. Typically we purchase swine for Houston age barrows. This allows a single animal the opportunity to exhibit at county and a major show. Swine numbers for our chapter have ranged from 12 – 26 over the past 5 years. Will use pellet shavings this year in the barn. Average total project cost $1000+

**Meat Goats and Lambs** – July -Sept. Purchase - Validation – Oct. April to June babies are the best age for our county and the major show circuit. The past few years in our chapter and the county/ state - overall numbers for these have dropped. To be better than average in diminishing numbers and an increase in quality - exhibitors are spending really inflated amounts to be successful. Typically we have 5-8 meat goats and lambs on feed. Average total project cost $1000 +

**Dairy Goats** – Sept - Oct Purchase - Validation – Dec 2. We will have these available on a first come first serve basis at the beginning of school – please let the ag teachers know ASAP if you want to be on the list. We typically have more students sign up for this project than animals we can find (30+ Head). These are popular- do to the very reasonable cost and ease of handling the animal and make **great first year projects.** Average total project cost $500+

**Rabbits** – Oct. Deposit. Rabbits will not be housed in the barn this year. Validation – Jan; Average total project cost - $350+

**Broilers** (chickens) – Nov Deposit. Pick up Jan; Pen of 25 or 50 must be raised at home in an environmentally controlled barn. Average total cost - $250+

**Ag. Mechanics** – Available to HS Ag Fabrication Students (2nd year ag mechanics students) – Team projects are constructed for exhibition across the state of Texas – Sign-ups in September. Little to no cost for students. Team members are required to complete 15 hours of fabrication time outside of class during open shop opportunities.

**Horticulture/ Floriculture** - County Show Projects for container grown plants and floral arrangements. Average Project Cost - $75 This needs to be planned and entered by Jan 1 if you are electing to exhibit in this category.