

# MARION FFA HANDBOOK

## INTRODUCTION

To the Agriscience Student:

We are glad to have you in the Agriculture Science Program and sincerely hope that you enjoy this course. This handbook will answer many questions that concern the coming year. There will be additions to this handbook during the year as the need arises. Please keep this book and refer as needed.

Parents:

We feel the Agriculture Science Program is one of the best programs offered today. We offer not only classroom work, but practical experience as well. We teach leadership, cooperation and responsibility. These traits are all important for our young people to learn and practice. Therefore, we ask for your help and cooperation in the coming year. Let's all work together and learn together.

## GENERAL RULES

1. Each student enrolled in Agriculture science classes is encouraged to join the National FFA Organization (FFA). Dues of \$25 per year must be paid by September 25. Those students who do not join FFA are not eligible to participate in any FFA activity, judging contest, livestock shows or scholarship consideration.
2. All members are encouraged to attend all FFA meetings and activities. Failure to attend at least 80% of all activities will result in loss of membership for the student. Parents are also encouraged to join and participate in Booster club activities.
3. Scheduling of meetings and workdays will be determined at the beginning of each school year. Students will receive a calendar of events during the first week of school. This is done to avoid conflicts and therefore, keep excuses to a minimum.
4. Project record books will be kept by every student in the program. These books are a state requirement and failure to complete the book could result in failure of the class.

## LIVESTOCK PROJECTS

Students enrolled in the Agriculture Science Program are eligible to participate in the livestock project program. Students may purchase animal projects to care for during the school year and exhibit those animals at stock shows. These projects allow students to take on responsibility while having the opportunity to practice the skills learned in class and maybe even earn a little money. Animal projects are NOT MANDATORY so the following questions should be considered when determining if a student will participate in the animal project part of the program:

1. Can the student and/or parent afford the project/
2. Where will the project be kept?
3. Transportation to feed and care for the animal.
4. Transportation of the animal if needed.
5. Time involved
6. Risk of losing money
7. Commitment of the student and parents to the project.

Please keep in mind these projects are a gamble and they can become a total loss. Animals can be hurt, killed or become sick and not recover. The risk can be reduced by hard work and desire to learn and apply your knowledge.

## OTHER PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

1. Animals kept at the school farm are raised for market purposes – this means all animals will eventually be removed and sold for food.
2. Family domestic animals do not meet the required project criteria.
3. The types of projects are as follows:
  - Cattle (on feed by June 1)
  - Sheep (Oct. 1)
  - Goats (Oct. 1)
  - Swine (Nov. 1)
  - Chickens (Oct. 1)
  - Turkeys (June 15)
  - Rabbits (Oct. 1)
4. The supervised animal project can be a dreadful problem or the greatest learning experience. It is only what you make of it!!

## PURCHASE OF PROJECTS

1. The selection and purchase of an animal project is a cooperative effort involving the student, parent and teacher. The agriculture teacher's role is to help you find the best animal possible in the price range set. The teacher will not dictate what to buy, how much to spend or where to purchase from.
2. The purchase of projects should be coordinated with the teacher BEFORE projects are selected and purchased.
3. The student and parent are responsible for the payment the animal. Failure to comply will result in removal of the animal.
4. Projects purchased must meet the requirements of the show intended. The teacher will assist in providing the necessary information regarding the care and grooming of projects for each show.
5. The student is responsible for validations and entries at all shows. There are fees involved with validation and the entering of each show.
6. In the event a check is returned for non-sufficient funds, only cash or cashiers check will be accepted for project payment.

### ESTIMATED ANIMAL PROJECT EXPENSES

Animal	Time Required	Initial cost	Feed cost	Other cost	Total est.
Steer	10-12 mos	\$2000	\$1500	\$500	4000
Pigs	3-5 mos	\$300-750	\$600	\$100	1000-1450
Lambs	5-7 mos	\$600-1500	\$250	\$75	925-1825
Goats	5-7 mos	\$500-1500	\$225	\$75	800-1800
Chickens	42 days	\$100	\$300	\$50	450
Rabbits	1-2 mos	\$200	\$50	\$25	275
Turkeys	5-7 mos	\$200	\$1500	\$75	1775

Please keep in mind these are only estimates.

## PROJECT SUPERVISION

The STUDENT is responsible for:

1. the daily care of his/her project.
2. Informing the teacher regarding any problems and/or progress of the project.
3. The entry fees needed for all stock shows.
4. The payment of feed and animal costs.

The PARENT is responsible for:

1. the general supervision of the project on a day to day basis.
2. Communication with the teacher should a question or problem arise concerning the project or student's performance.
3. The transportation and accommodations of students at all stock shows.
4. Making sure all payments are made by the student in a timely manner.

The AGRICULTURE TEACHER is responsible for:

1. Any problems that may occur with the animal project during normal working hours. The teacher is not required to make emergency calls after hours for the purpose of treating sick or injured animals. However, the teacher will make every effort to assist when needed with those problems.
2. The teacher will visit all projects in accordance with Texas Education Agency guidelines.
3. Livestock show participation is not a requirement of the program, therefore it cannot be guaranteed that teacher supervision will be available at every show. Every effort will be made for the teacher to attend all shows.
4. The teacher will assist in giving medications when possible. The teacher will NOT be held liable for injury to livestock while assisting the student with their project. This includes giving medications, castration, dehorning, docking, worming, trimming or any other activity directly involving the teacher and animals.
5. In addition the animal projects will be divided among the agriscience teachers in the following manner:

Lambs and goats – Mr. Wallace

Cattle, ag mech and poultry – Mr. Reiley

Pigs – Mr. Baker

Rabbits – Mrs. Roeder

Chain of Command: All questions and concerns for these animals should first be addressed with the advisor in charge. If that does not satisfy your needs then a meeting may be scheduled with all teachers and an administrator. If still not satisfied then the matter can be referred to the central office.

## LIVESTOCK SHOW PARTICIPATION

1. To show a project, a student must be a member of the FFA and enrolled in an agriculture science class.
2. In order to participate in a livestock show, students must be passing all courses as determined by TEA rules.
3. Students whose projects are not ready or are not of sufficient quality to participate in a show will not be allowed to show. This decision will be made by the teacher.
4. A list of eligible students will be prepared by the teacher to authorize attendance at the show.

5. Parent permission forms must be signed and returned before a student leaves school for a show.
6. The parents and student will make arrangements for travel and housing to major shows.
7. School policies will be enforced and discipline will be according to school policies.
8. Students who fail to follow rules at shows or contest will be removed from the eligibility list and barred from future participation.

## CODE OF ETHICS

Agriculture Science students will honor the FFA Code of Ethics. They will conduct themselves at all times in a manner befitting their organization, chapter, school and community by:

1. Dressing neatly and appropriately for the occasion.
2. Showing respect for the rights of others and being courteous.
3. Being honest and not taking unfair advantage of others.
4. Respect property of others.
5. Refraining from loud, boisterous talk, swearing, and other unbecoming conduct.
6. Demonstrating sportsmanship in the show ring, judging contests and meetings.
7. Attending meetings promptly and respecting the opinion of others in discussions.
8. Taking pride in their organization.
9. Sharing with others experiences and knowledge gained by attending National and State meetings.

### ANIMAL PROJECTS AT HOME:

When the facilities are adequate, most students may decide to raise livestock projects at home.

When making this decision, consider the following:

1. Supervision by teachers is limited to 1-2 checks per month.
2. Students must be able to provide transportation for animals to shows, validations, etc. Priority is given to the school farm for chapter owned trailers. If time and space allows then trailers may be used to haul animals kept at home.
3. Students must be able to provide medications and dewormers for animals kept at home.
4. Selection is the most important part of your animal project. If you choose to select your animal on your own then you have chosen to raise with out help from the teachers.

### USE OF STUDENT IMAGES:

During the year, pictures will be taken at various FFA events for use on the FFA website, newspaper, yearbook, etc. Advisors will refer to the forms turned in to the front office at the start of the school year to determine if parent permission is given for such use of those images.

### BOOSTER CLUB ACTIVITIES

The FFA Booster Club is responsible for raising funds to help agriculture students in many ways. The primary fund raising is done to provide scholarships for outgoing senior FFA members and for FFA travel. If the money is available, the booster club will also help fund the following activities:

1. Help to defray travel expenses for conventions and contests.
2. Purchase of equipment or items needed by the chapter to compete or attend shows and contests.

3. Other items as the club deems them necessary.

While participation of parents in this club is not mandatory it is highly encouraged – the more people involved the better it becomes. It also allows the parents to have a say in club activities and gives them valuable information about their children's activities in the FFA. Parent participation does not affect the student's opportunity to receive scholarships, etc. from the booster club. It does make it more difficult for the club to raise the needed money to make the scholarships possible. Scholarships and boost checks are based on the student's participation and are NOT guaranteed to every student.