

Aledo ISD

Agricultural Science Barn Packet

2023-2024



Students enrolled in the Agriculture Science Program are eligible to participate in the livestock project program. They have the option to purchase animal projects to care for during the school year and exhibit those animals at stock shows. The projects can be kept either at the Aledo Ag Complex or, in special cases, at home. These projects offer valuable learning opportunities, responsibility, and a chance to earn money by selling the animal project. While participating in the animal project is not mandatory, students should consider the following factors before deciding:

Affordability: Can the student and/or parent afford the project?

Location: Where will the project be kept?

Transportation: Is there daily transportation available for feeding and caring for the animal?

Transportation of the Animal: Will there be a need to transport the animal to shows or events?

Time Commitment: How much time will be required to care for the animal properly?

Financial Risk: What is the potential risk of losing money with this project?

Commitment: Is the student and the parents committed to seeing the project through?

Availability for Care: Can the student feed and maintain the project before and after school hours?

It is essential to be aware that animal projects involve a degree of uncertainty, and they can result in a total loss if not adequately maintained. Animals may encounter accidents, illnesses, or injuries that may not recover. However, students can mitigate the risks by working hard, acquiring knowledge, and dedicating themselves to the project. The student's commitment to caring for their animal can significantly impact the outcome, either minimizing risks or leading to rewarding experiences. Occasionally, surgical procedures may be necessary for the livestock. In such cases, a veterinarian will be preferred, but regardless of the practitioner, there is always a possibility of complications. The owner must be prepared to bear all associated costs and potential risks of illness or mortality of the livestock.

For safety and organizational purposes, no overnight trailer parking is permitted at any Aledo ISD Ag facility/barn without prior approval from an AG Teacher. If approval is granted, trailers may be allowed to stay for one night.

PURCHASING PROJECTS AND EXPENSES

1. **Purpose of Animals at Aledo Ag Complex:** The Aledo Ag Complex purpose is to assist members of the Aledo FFA Chapter in raising SAE projects for local or major livestock shows. Animals kept at the school barn are raised for market or breeding purposes. Please note that the Aledo Ag Complex is not a permanent home for animals, and all breeding projects are for exhibition purposes only. Therefore, all breeding animal projects must be removed after the show term.

2. **Selection and Purchase of Animal Projects:** The selection and purchase of an animal project involve collaboration among the student, parent, and teacher. The agriculture teacher's role is to assist the student in finding the best animal within the specified price range to help achieve established goals. However, the teacher will not dictate what to buy, how much to spend, or where to purchase from.

3. **Coordination with Teacher:** It is imperative to coordinate all animal projects with the teacher BEFORE finalizing and purchasing them. Any animal project bought without the teacher's approval may not be allowed to be housed at the Aledo Ag Complex due to space, quality, or health concerns.

4. **Examination and Vaccination:** Before bringing any animal into the Aledo Ag Complex, it must be examined by the Ag science teacher in charge of the species. Vaccination records from the breeder with the date of birth are required.

5. **Responsibility for Costs:** The student and parent are responsible for covering the cost of feed, the animal, SAE fees, entries, validations, and any other expenses associated with the project. The animal project must be paid for before the advisor purchases the project. Entry fees will vary depending on each stock show. Final payments for all stock show fees and FFA fees (excluding the cost of the animal) are due at the November FFA meeting. Failure to pay the fees may result in the removal of the animal from the complex. Projects purchased must meet the requirements of the intended show, and the teacher will provide necessary information regarding project care and grooming for each show.

6. **Feed and Additives:** All students are expected to purchase their own feed and additives. Advisors will advise the students on the appropriate feed and additives. Additionally, students are responsible for purchasing shavings as needed at the barn and for stock shows.

7. Veterinary Services and Other Costs: Project owners are responsible for covering the costs of any veterinarian or other services that cannot be provided by the advisors.

8. Show Season End-of-Year Procedures: Final clean-out of animal pens must occur within 7 days of the animal's removal at the end of the show season. Failure to satisfactorily clean the pen will result in a \$100 fine. Students will not receive a premium check until the pen is clean or the fine is paid. Failure to clean the pen and/or pay the fine may result in suspension from future participation in the FFA program.

9. Limited Space and Animal Housing: Due to limited space, teachers have the right to limit the number of animals at the barn. If such a situation arises, students allowed to house animals at Aledo ISD AG complex will be determined based on a set of criteria, including grade level and experience in raising and showing the specified species.

10. Responsibility and Participation: Students will not be able to attend to animals during school hours. In case of inability to attend team events (e.g., loading cattle for the stock show, set up, validation, clipping, etc.), students will have to repay the FFA program with an hour's time per event before being allowed to participate in another event. A record will be kept to track this. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their projects and not rely excessively on others or AG Science Teachers.

11. Aledo Buckle Show and BDGA Clay Shoot: Students need to be available to assist with the Aledo Buckle Show in May and the BDGA clay shoot in March. These events are important for the FFA program, and students' participation is appreciated.

Please ensure that you thoroughly understand and comply with these guidelines for a successful and rewarding experience with your animal projects at the Aledo Ag Complex.

VISITORS AT AG FACILITY

To ensure the safety and well-being of all students, animals, and equipment at the Ag Barn, the following guidelines are in place for visitors:

Access Restrictions: Students who do not own an animal in the Ag barn will not be allowed entry into the Ag facility without pre-approval from an Ag Teacher. This measure is taken to prevent any potential harm and maintain a secure environment.

Visitor Pre-Approval: If a student, who is a non-family member or not an exhibitor for Aledo FFA, requires transportation from another student, they must be listed on the visitor pre-approval form before entering the Ag facility.

Ensuring compliance with these guidelines will help us maintain a safe and productive environment for all students involved in the Agriculture Science Program. Thank you for your cooperation.

CARE OF ANIMAL PROJECT

To ensure the well-being and proper care of all animal projects, the following guidelines and responsibilities must be adhered to:

1. **Instructor's Approval:** Each animal project must be cared for in a manner approved or established by the instructor. The instructor is authorized to determine necessary practices for proper care, including daily maintenance of pens/facilities, feeding, hair care, showing techniques, exercise, and more. All daily animal project requirements should be taken care of outside of school hours. Practices set forth by the Agricultural teacher must be followed without alteration.
2. **Consequence System for Failure to Care for the Animal:** The following steps will be taken when addressing animals without feed, water, or with unsatisfactory conditions:
 - 1st Offense: Parent and Student verbal warning.
 - 2nd Offense: Parent and Student signed documentation.
 - 3rd Offense: Parent, Student, Teacher, and Administrator Conference with signed documentation, including a description of the deficient behavior and expectations for the future.
 - 4th Offense: Removal of animal from barn/loss of barn privileges. Prolonged neglect of project conditions will result in the removal of the project from the student and facility.
3. **Student's Responsibility:** The student is responsible for the proper care of their animal project, including providing adequate nutrition and hydration for proper growth, cleaning the pen and surrounding area, and attending to emergency care if needed. Ag teachers will use provided contact

information in case of emergencies, and the final approval for emergency procedures remains with the owner. Students may only provide feed/water to other participants' projects with advance approval from the agricultural science teachers. Under no circumstance will unapproved visitors be allowed to feed animals.

4. **Pens and Aisles Maintenance:** Feces in pens must be removed as needed daily, and shavings should be replaced as required, at the expense of the student/parent. Aisles must be kept clean and free of trash, feed, hay, etc., and tack should be stored neatly in designated areas. Improper dumping of trash is strictly prohibited and can cause harm to animals, attracting flies and potentially causing infections.
5. **Feeding and Watering:** Projects must be fed twice daily on a twelve-hour schedule or as advised by the Ag Science teacher. Consistency in feeding is crucial for the well-being of the animals. Fresh, clean water should be supplied daily to each project, with water buckets/automated waters being dumped and cleaned outside the stalling area, not in any aisle.
6. **Exercise and Weather Considerations:** Exercise programs will be provided on a per-species basis by the Ag Science teacher. Students should check the weather daily and ensure that animals are fed and watered regardless of weather conditions. In extreme weather conditions, Aledo ISD may shut off water lines to the Ag barn facilities, and students/parents will be responsible for hauling water to care for the projects.
7. **Equipment and Shavings:** Students are responsible for purchasing materials used daily for their animal projects. A list will be provided before purchasing the animal and is subject to change. Shavings used in stalls, pens, and various shows are also the students' responsibility, with guidance from the Ag Science teacher on type and usage.
8. **Medication:** All medication, including prescription medication, used on project animals must be disclosed to the agriculture teachers before use. The use of illegal drugs/substances, and/or use of unethical or inhumane materials/practices is strictly prohibited.

9. **Treadmill or Walker:** Students must receive training from the agricultural science teachers prior to using the treadmill or walker at the Aledo Agricultural Complex.

By following these guidelines and fulfilling their responsibilities, students can ensure the well-being and success of their animal projects while participating in the Aledo FFA Chapter.

PEN ASSIGNMENTS

To maintain a safe and organized environment at the Aledo ISD Ag Barn facility, the following guidelines and responsibilities are established for pen assignments:

1. **Limitation of Animals:** Due to space restrictions and equipment costs, the number of animals each student may raise at the Aledo ISD Ag Barn facility is limited to the available space. The Ag Science teacher will assign a stall or pen where the project animal will be kept, and students are not allowed to move their animals without permission from the Ag Science teacher. If there are more requests for stalls or pens than available spaces, the Ag Science teacher will devise an appropriate plan of action to accommodate the needs of each species.
2. **Reserved for Enrolled Students:** Pens are reserved exclusively for Aledo ISD actively enrolled students. Locks on animal pens are strictly prohibited to ensure safety during emergencies. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the lock being cut off and removed.

Student's Responsibilities:

- The student is responsible for the daily care of their animal project before and after school, but not during school hours.
- Combination locks are required for lockers, and combinations must be shared with the AG teacher for access when needed.
- The student must promptly inform the teacher about any problems or progress related to the project.
- All costs associated with the animal project are the student's responsibility.
- Attendance of ALL mandatory barn clean-ups is mandatory, and students must participate from start to finish. Parent substitution is NOT permitted. There will be scheduled barn cleanings throughout the year.
- Students must daily maintain cleanliness in their individual pens and the

barn. Unsanitary conditions can lead to dismissal from the program and negatively affect the well-being of the animals and fellow students.

- Students must read and adhere to all rules of shows entered and the AISD Ag Program. Any questions or problems concerning the project or student's performance should be communicated with the teacher(s).
3. **Teamwork and Assigned Jobs:** Students are expected to work as a team and assist in all areas needed. A job of the month chart will be implemented, and students are required to participate. Failure to complete assigned job(s) will result in the following consequences:
- 1st Offense: Parent and Student verbal warning.
 - 2nd Offense: Parent and Student signed documentation.
 - 3rd Offense: Parent, Student, Teacher, and Administrator Conference with signed documentation, including a description of the deficient behavior and expectations for the future.
 - 4th Offense: Removal of animal from barn/loss of barn privileges. Prolonged neglect of pen/area conditions will result in the removal of the project from the student and facility.
4. **Rule Updates:** If new situations arise, additional rules will be established and promptly communicated to students and parents.
5. **Change of Pen Assignments:** Pen assignments may not be changed without prior approval from the agricultural science teachers.

By following these guidelines and fulfilling their responsibilities, students can create a safe, supportive, and successful environment for themselves and their animal projects at the Aledo ISD Ag Barn facility.

Parent Responsibilities:

1. Provide general supervision of the project on a day-to-day basis and communicate with the teacher regarding any questions or issues related to the project or student's performance.
2. Arrange and handle transportation for students to the complex twice daily (8-12 hours apart) for feeding and caring for the animal.
3. Cover the transportation, lodging, and accommodation costs for students attending all stock shows.
4. Properly handle the removal of any deceased animal during the show

season, along with associated costs.

5. Ensure that all payments are made by the student promptly.
6. Stay informed about student grades to prevent ineligibility to show by signing up for the AISD parent portal for online access.
7. Adhere to AISD behavior guidelines (Student Code of Conduct) and familiarize themselves with the rules of shows and AISD rules.
8. Submit breeding animal official registration papers to the Ag teacher at least 2 weeks before validation. No Registration Papers-No Validation.
9. Collaborate and assist in livestock projects, including participating in tasks such as loading and unloading, set-up, and barn cleanliness.
10. Make necessary hotel arrangements for the student.

Agriculture Teacher Responsibilities:

1. Provide advice during normal working hours for any problems related to the animal project. Emergency calls after hours for treating sick or injured animals are not required but will be accommodated when possible.
2. Conduct regular visits to all projects following Texas Education Agency guidelines.
3. Select feeding programs for each animal project area, ensuring all animals at the complex receive the recommended feed. Feeding instructions for barn-raised animals will come solely from Ag science teachers to ensure consistency.
4. Make efforts to assist students in livestock show participation, but teacher supervision cannot be guaranteed at every show. However, transportation to predetermined shows with at least 3 exhibitors participating in junior shows will be provided.
5. Assist in giving medications when possible but will not be held liable for any injury to livestock while assisting students with their projects.
6. Divide animal projects among Ag science teachers based on their expertise.

Livestock Show Participation:

1. Students must be FFA members to show a project, as per state requirements.

2. Students must meet UIL and district rules for academic eligibility, including passing all courses, to participate in livestock shows, contests, or calf scramble.
3. Junior members must also maintain UIL eligibility standards.
4. Students whose projects are not ready or lack sufficient quality for participation in a show will not be allowed to show, as decided by the teacher (final decision).
5. Eligible students must inform the Ag teacher one week in advance to participate in school-sponsored stock shows; failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence.
6. Arrangements for supervision at major shows should be made with the teacher by parents and students.
7. Transportation, lodging, and costs at all stock shows are the responsibility of students and parents.
8. School policies and the student code of conduct will be strictly enforced at all times.
9. Students who fail to follow rules at shows or contests will be removed from the eligibility list and barred from future participation.
10. Inappropriate public displays of affection will not be tolerated in public and can result in students being sent home at parents' expense.
11. Students with projects housed at the Aledo Ag Complex will be required to enter under the Aledo FFA Chapter at all livestock shows.

CODE OF ETHICS

Agriculture Science students are expected to uphold the National FFA Code of Ethics. Failure to comply with the code of ethics will result in removal from the FFA program. Students will conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on 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. Respecting the 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 opinions of others in discussions.
8. Taking pride in their organization.
9. Sharing experiences and knowledge gained from attending National and State meetings.
10. Public displays of affection will not be tolerated.

Guidelines for the Aledo Agriculture Complex:

The Aledo Ag Complex is a learning classroom, and as such, all policies governing student conduct in AISD apply at all times. Rules regarding smoking, illegal weapons, alcohol, etc. on school property also apply to the complex. Consequences will be issued for students and family members who fail to comply with the project center rules.

The primary responsibility for supervision at the facility rests with the student and/or parents when an instructor is not present, including summer hours.

Students will be held financially accountable for any willful acts of vandalism. The use of tobacco or alcohol by students or parents on AISD premises will lead to the immediate removal of students and projects.

Each student is responsible for the feeding and general daily care of their project. Students are not permitted to feed animals or enter pens that do not belong to them unless prior arrangements have been made with the owner or advisor. Daily care includes providing fresh feed and freshwater, removing manure, soiled areas, and debris from the pen, grooming, exercise, monitoring the well-being of the animal, and cleaning feed areas, alleyways, exercise areas, wash racks, and grooming areas after use. All equipment should be returned to its proper storage place. Failure to meet these requirements will result in consequences for the student, including the possibility of facing animal cruelty charges.

Students are responsible for safe and efficient use of electricity on the project center facilities. The use of electrical devices or extension cords must meet NEC and UL electrical codes. The following guidelines are for use on the project facility:

1. Extension cords must be heavy-duty outdoor rated with GFCI protection may be used after FFA advisor approval;
2. No decorative lighting.
3. Only heat lamps that have been approved by an agricultural science teacher and checked 2x daily by the student.
4. Heat lamps must not be used over or near pen shavings.

5. Multiples of cords with use from a splitter will not be allowed.

NO FIREARMS are allowed on the premises, and family pets or dogs are not permitted.

After the student's last show, projects are considered complete and must be removed from the complex within 7 days. Those planning to process an animal after the show should arrange a processing date in advance. Pen structures may not be altered without the approval of the Ag science teacher.

Loitering at the complex is not allowed. Students must either be working with their animal or cleaning pens.

Theft at the AISD AG Complex will not be tolerated, and any student found stealing will face consequences according to the Student Code of Conduct and possible prosecution.

The AISD FFA Program reserves the right to remove any animal from the complex if there is evidence of animal abuse or neglect or if the animal is diseased or infected.

BARN DUTIES

Swine Side Duties:

Safety check:

- Ensure lockers and pens are securely shut.
- Put brooms, shovels, and wheelbarrows in the Tack Room.
- Secure heat lamps to the tops of the railing using zip ties.
- Ensure extension cords are NOT left in the aisle.
- Roll up hoses and store them properly.

Wash Rack/Scales:

- Hose off manure in the wash rack.
- Remove manure from the scales and turn off the water.
- Roll up hoses and store them appropriately.

Main Aisle:

- Sweep and clean manure from the main aisle.

Aisle A:

- Sweep and clean manure from Aisle A.

Aisle B:

- Sweep and clean manure from Aisle B.

Locker Aisle A & B (side aisles):

- Sweep and clean manure from the locker aisles.

Trash:

- Dispose of trash in the dumpster.

Cattle/Lamb/Goat Side Duties:

Tack Room:

- Sweep the floor and ensure all items are hung up on hooks in the Tack Room.

Dumpsters:

- Sweep around the dumpsters.
- Ensure no manure, shavings, or wheelbarrows are left lying around them.

Cattle Locker Aisle:

- Sweep the cattle locker aisle daily.

Cattle Pen Aisle:

- Sweep the cattle pen aisle daily.

Wash Rack:

- Clean out the wash rack and roll up hoses, placing them on hooks.

Barn Check:

- Ensure no manure is left in the arena.

Hoses:

- Roll up hoses and place them on hooks.

Shovels/Brooms:

- Put shovels and brooms in the tack room on hooks.

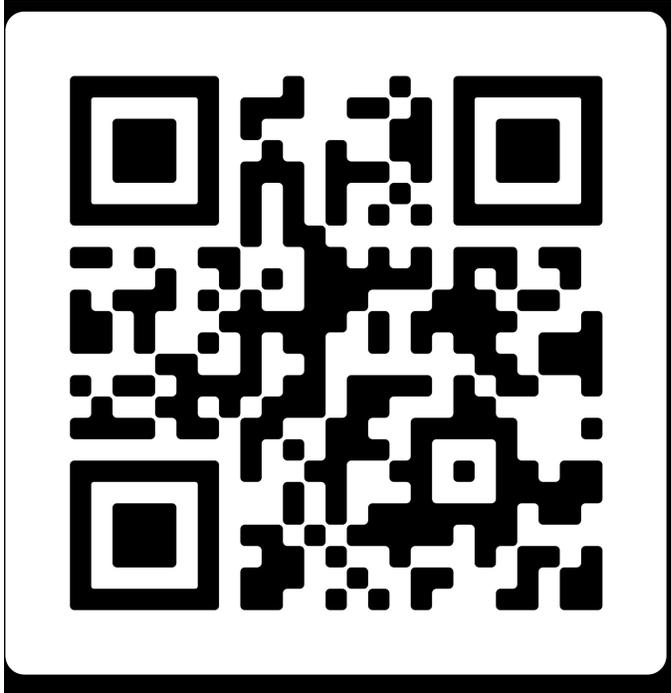
Clean Scale:

- Clean manure on and around the scale.

Helpful Resources

- Follow us on Facebook: ALEDO FFA - Stay updated with our latest news and events.
- Remind 101 Groups for FFA Members, Teams, Officers, and Livestock Participants and Parents:
 - Send a text with the @ code to 81010 to join the Remind groups:
 - FFA Remind - @2122ale

- Pig Remind - @4h76fg
- Cattle Remind - @42bgkf
- Goats Remind - @4dkhgb
- Lambs Remind - @9hahdf
- Ag Mech - @affaam
- Barn Remind - @ha84ea
- Calf Scramble Exhibitors - @ek7da2
- Calendar of Events: Check <http://aledoffa.ffanow.org> for the latest updates on events.
- SAE Project Ideas: Get inspiration from Pinterest or search "University of Illinois SAE Project Ideas."
- Stock Show Websites: View rules for specific stock shows at their respective websites:
 - State Fair of Texas - www.bigtex.com
 - Heart of Texas - <https://www.hotfair.com/events/2021/livestock-show>
 - Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo - www.fwssr.com
 - San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo - www.sarodeo.com
 - San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo - www.sanangelorodeo.com
 - Houston Livestock Stock & Rodeo - www.rodeohouston.com
 - Austin Stock Show & Rodeo - www.rodeoaustin.com
 - Parker County Stock Show - www.parkercountystockshow.com
- AG BACKERS Meetings: Join us on the 1st Monday of each month from Aug – June.



Please scan the QR code and fill out the Aledo barn packet signature page!

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