**Membership Handbook**

**2016-2017**



**Smithson Valley FFA Chapter**

**&**

**Smithson Valley Ag Booster Club**

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**Register for email updates and important information on our chapter website.**

Smithson Valley FFA www.smithsonvalley.ffanow.org

Check us out on Facebook - SVFFA Ag Booster Club

**Smithson Valley FFA Chapter**

**2016-2017 Officers**

President Katie Price

Vice President Emily Gwinn

Secretary Tyler Obeck

Treasurer Kaleigh Lawson

Reporter Barrett Kerr

Sentinel Spencyr Mays

Student Advisor Madison Oquin

Parliamentarian AJ Powell

Historian Jacob Elsworth

**The FFA Mission**

The National FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of young people by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

**The FFA Motto**

The FFA motto gives members twelve short words to live by as they experience the opportunities in the organization. **Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.**

**Structure of FFA**

The FFA operates on local, state and national levels. Student members belong to chapters organized at the local school level. Agricultural education instructors serve as chapter advisors. Chapters are organized under state associations headed by an advisor and executive secretary, often employees of the state department of education. States conduct programs and host annual conventions.

The National FFA Organization, governed by a Board of Directors and a Board of Student Officers, charters state associations; provided direction, programmatic materials and support; and hosts the National FFA Convention, which draws more than 45,000 attendees each October. The National FFA Alumni Association’s more than 40,000 members in 1,200 affiliates assist in the continued growth and development of active FFA programs.

**Applied Learning**

The agricultural education programs provides a well-rounded, practical approach to learning through three components: Classroom education in agricultural topics such as plant and animal sciences, horticulture, forestry, agrimarketing, etc; hands-on supervised agricultural career experience such as starting a business or working for an established company; and FFA, which provided leadership opportunities and tests students’ agricultural skills.

**Programs and Activities**

The FFA local, state and national programs and activities help members develop public speaking skills, conduct and participate in meetings, manage financial matters, strengthen problem-solving abilities and assume civic responsibility. Degrees earned at local, state and national levels recognize members’ increasing accomplishments. Competitive events and awards programs in areas such as public speaking, commodity marketing and Agriscience recognize students’ achievements, encourage them to excel beyond the classroom and develop career skills. Community service programs help students contribute to society.

Each degree of active membership requires commitment and a lot of hard work, but you don’t have to be a gifted student or live on a large farm or ranch to reach your goals. The FFA degree system is organized so that all FFA members, no matter where you are from, have an equal chance of obtaining each degree of membership including the highest degree of membership within the FFA, the American FFA Degree. However, you must show progress in your Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program to have a realistic chance of attaining this goal. If you are a freshman or sophmore in high school, now is the time to set your goal and create a road map on how you plan to achieve your goals withing the FFA.

**Greenhand FFA Degree**

FFA members enrolled in their first year of high school credit agricultural science, that have satisfactory plans for a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program and that have demonstrated their understanding of the history and purpose of the FFA may apply for their Greenhand Degree. This degree of active membership is awarded at the chapter level.

**Chapter FFA Degree**

Those FFA members that have received their Greenhand Degree may apply for the Chapter Degree. Members must be enrolled in an agricultural science class, have completed at least two semesters in agricultural science at or above the ninth grade level, have in operation an approved SAE program, demonstrate leadership skills and be actively involved in the activities of the local FFA chapter. This degree of active membership is awarded at the chapter level.

**State/Lone Star FFA Degree**

This is the highest degree of membership the State FFA Accociation can award. FFA members that apply to receive the Lone Star Degree only after they have received the Chapter Degree. Those wishing to receive their Lone Star Degree must have been an active FFA member for at least two years, complete at least four semesters of agricultural science at or above the ninth grade level, maintain a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program, invest significant time and money in their SAE, demonstrate their leadership skills and show a commitment to the FFA through involvement at the chapter level and above. This degree of active membership is awarded at the state level during the Texas FFA Convention.

**American FFA Degree**

This degree of active membership is awarded by the National FFA Organization and is the highest level of active membership which can be achieved within the FFA. This final step in the FFA Degree system encourages members to grow and achieve personally toward establishing yourself in an agricultural career. Members may apply for their American Degree only if they have received the State FFA Degree, have graduated from high school at least twelve months prior to the national convention and meet the very high standards of the degree.

These requirements include an excellent record of involvement within the FFA, operation and maintenance of records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program through which a member has exhibited comprehensive planning, managerial and financial expertise, have earned a productively invested a specific amount of both time and money.

The American FFA Degree is a sign of great accomplishment amount FFA members. Only a small percentage of FFA members even earn the degree (the greatest percentage of members ever to receive the degree in one year was less than one half of one percent).

(\*\*For specific requirements necessary to attain each degree of active membership, please read Article VI of the Texas FFA Constitution.)

Rules and Guidelines For Use of Ag Science Facilities

**Smithson Valley High School**

**Smithson Valley FFA 2016-2017**

**INTRODUCTION:** The following rules and regulations will be used for students using the livestock feeding facilities during the 2016-2017 show season. Pen space will be assigned. The Ag Teachers will assign pens according to classes or livestock, breeds, size, or other considerations.

**RESPOSIBILITY OF STUDENT:** Students and/or parents will assume full responsibility for the care and use of his/her respective pen and feed storage area. It is mandatory that these areas be kept clean and orderly at all times. (Areas will be subject to inspection at any time) **Each pen must be cleaned DAILY.**

All students will be assigned additional duties on specific days. Students will be responsible for general livestock sanitation and disease prevention. Those students not obeying this rule will be required to remove their animals from the school facilities immediately or the agriculture teacher will take the animal to a local sale barn.

All students using the facilities must attend all barn clean-up days. A minimum of 2 barn clean-ups will be scheduled; one at the beginning of the school year and one after the county sale in March.

**LIABILITY:** The Comal I.S.D will assume NO responsibility for accidents or injuries to students, visitors, parents, or their respective livestock resulting from the use of facilities, equipment, or livestock owned by other persons. Also, Comal I.S.D will NOT assume responsibility for the loss of livestock by theft, vandalism, or natural causes. **Buy a lock!**

**ANIMAL REQUIRMENTS:** Only top quality animals will be approved for exhibition. Animals in poor condition due to disease, injury, or neglect will not be allowed to participate and must be removed from the facilities. If not the animal is not removed the agriculture teacher has the right to take the animal to a local sale barn. The final decision will rest with the agriculture teacher.

**UNRULY ANIMALS:** Unruly animals which may cause injury to others will not be exhibited in any livestock show, and must be removed from school property or the agriculture teacher will take the animal to a local sale barn.

**EQUIPMENT USE:** Any FFA equipment lost, stolen, or destroyed while in the possession of a student will be replaced at the expense of the student including school trailers.

**SCHOOL TRAILERS:** You must be at least 24 years old to pull any of the school trailers. Only those trailers paid for by the Smithson Valley FFA Booster club will be available to exhibitors. Only Comal I.S.D employees are allowed to pull trailers paid for by school district funds. **Prior to borrowing a trailer you must provide a copy of your insurance and driver’s license to the agriculture teacher.**

**VALIDATION:** Each student must personally feed and care for his/her own animal. The teacher will be unable to validate the project for showing unless this is done.

**RECORDS**: A record book of receipts and disbursements must be kept on all projects. We recommend you use www.theaet.com to record all transactions.

**DAILY CARE:** The daily routine of feeding and care is very important. All animals will respond to an organized routine. All animals will be fed twice daily (minimum), preferably as close to twelve hours apart as possible. Normally this will require approximately thirty minutes in the morning and the evening. Recommended times: (7:00-7:30AM) (4:30-5:00PM)

**WEEKLY CARE:** All animals must the exercised a minimum of 30 minutes 5 times a week. Animal weight must be recorded and reported to the agriculture teacher each week. The more you put into the project, the more you will get out of the project.

**DISEASE PREVENTION:** The pen should be cleaned daily for all types of livestock. This reduces fly problems. Monthly worming for internal parasites and vaccinations for the more serious disease are mandatory.

**BARN HOURS:** Barn hours are 5:30 AM to 9:00 PM. Any student caught in the barn after hours will no longer be able to use the school facilities. If you need to enter the barn after hours contact an agriculture teacher for permission.

**STUDENTS NOT RETURNING:** Graduating Seniors and/or students not intending to enroll in the program for the following school year must attend the final barn clean-up on March 11, 2017.

**REMOVAL OF ANIMALS:** The Smithson Valley Agriculture Science Department reserves the right to remove any animal from the facilities if any ONE of the following conditions exists:

* **Animal abuse in ANY manner.**
* **Diseased of Infected animals.**
* **Animals that are unsafe.**
* **Students failing to observe rules.**
* **Breeding, animals not being fed for show purposes, can only be kept if pen space is available and approved by Ag Teacher.**
* **Animals not being properly cared for.**
* **Student no longer involved in program.**
* **Animal not removed 1 week after CCJLSA show. All out by March 11, 2017**

**GENERAL RULES WHICH APPLY TO STUDENTS WHEN ON SCHOOL PROPERTY:**

* **Speed limit-10 miles per hour (all times).**
* **NO student VISITORS at barns. This includes before and after school.**
* **No driving in unauthorized areas (Grass, Fields, Barns, Ect.)**
* **No parking of personal vehicles at barn during school hours.**
* **No motor bikes in barns or feeding areas.**
* **No fireworks, guns, or loud noises.**
* **No riding in the back of pick-ups, trailers, or on the outside of automobiles.**
* **No animals other than ones that have been approved.**
* **No cell phone use in the barn.**

**VIOLATION PROCEDURES:**

**1st violation of the rules- A warning will be given to the student to correct the condition immediately.**

**2nd violation of the rules- If conditions are not approved a second warning will be given and the parents will be notified of violations.**

**3rd violation of the rules- Will result in an immediate removal of animals from facility and will not be allowed to use facility in the future for raising animals.**

***MEMO:***

**Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year we will be charging a facility use deposit of $100.00. This deposit will increase to $250.00 for the 2017-2018 school year. $10.00 of this fee is none refundable; the rest will be refunded at the end of the year clean-up on March 11, 2017.**

**We have read and understand the rules and guidelines of the Smithson Ag. Science Facilities and agree to abide by them.**

**Species(circle): Hog Lamb Goat Chicken**

**Student name (printed)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parents signature.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**$100.00 Payment: Cash or Check Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Smithson Valley Ag Boosters Club

General Information

**Purpose**

The FFA Booster Club is an adult service organization dedicated to the promotion, encouragement and support of the agricultural science programs for students. The organization supports related matters not covered by the existing CISD budgets or directives. Only members in good standing may participate in business meetings or serve as elected officials.

**Membership**

Membership categories for FFA members are Junior members (3rd grade through 8th grade) and Senior members (SVHS students). Membership requires documentation of the child’s name, address, date of birth, age, phone #, grade and social security number. Membership fees are $20.00 for Junior & Senior members and are payable to SV Ag Boosters. Family membership (parents/guardians) is $10.00 or $5.00 for individual parents, payable to SV Ag Booster Club. Membership drives are held in September for the fiscal year of June 1 through May 31.

**Meetings**

Booster Club members will meet monthly, except in March, during the school year at a designated location. Meetings are conducted to inform members of upcoming shows, validations and chapter activities. The Booster Club Reporter will be sending out notices about this. Please make sure the Secretary has your names and correct email addresses for the mailing list.

**Comal County Fair Parade**

Comal County will have a parade through downtown New Braunfels on Friday morning during the Fair. The SVFFA students will be decorating a float for the parade. The float is a truck and a long flat bed trailer that is donated for the event by a member or local business. This float is for all Jr. and Sr. members of the FFA to ride on in the parade along with 2 to 4 adult chaperones. A committee will typically decorate on Thursday night at the Ag barn after school and then meet around 7:00AM Friday morning at a designated place to climb aboard! All students riding the float must have a signed permission slip that is available from the Ag teachers. If you or your child would like to participate Thursday or Friday, please contact the Ag Building at 830-885-1003 or one of the FFA Officers for more information.

**Smithson Valley FFA Chapter Show**

The SV Ag Booster Club hosts a local stock show for members of the Smithson Valley FFA and their immediate family members. The exhibitors show cattle, swine, goats and sheep and showmanship awards are given in ages in Pee Wee, Junior, Senior and Old Timer’s Showmanship for all species of the show. Parents are encouraged to participate in organizing and running the event as well as the concession stand during the show. Club members and many businesses donate generously to supply very sought-after awards for the Chapter Show. Participants must be active FFA members registered by October 1st of the current school year. If student is entered in the Chapter Show then they must exhibit this species at the county show or one of the majors under FFA.

**Livestock Projects**

The raising of livestock as a project is an integral part of the learning experience provided to students through the agriculture science program at Smithson Valley High School. The project is a cooperative effort of the student, parent and teacher. The project they choose is designed as a training instrument to allow students the opportunity to apply information acquired in the classroom.

The following guidelines will help clarify these responsibilities and requirements for the student as well as the parent.

A couple of notes before a student undertake a livestock project:

1. Not all animals are suitable quality for exhibition purposes. Most animals are of commercial quality and therefore not suitable for exhibition in the show ring. Only those animals of superior confirmation should be selected. The agriculture instructor should assist in the selection of all projects.
2. A good percentage of the animals exhibited in the show ring will actually place and realize a profit. This is intended to be a money making proposition; however, not all exhibitors will place and sell for a premium. The ultimate purpose of the livestock project is to have the student learn and understand those approved practices which will allow an animal to reach its full genetic potential. Learning the true meaning of responsibility may be a secondary outcome of the project.

**Selecting a Livestock Project**

Teacher’s Role: The agriculture teacher’s role is advisory only. If you choose to have the ag teacher buy your project he/she acts as an agent only. The selection and purchase of the project is a cooperative effort. The teacher will not dictate what to buy, how much to spend or from whom the purchase is to be made. The selection should however be coordinated with the teacher before the animal is purchased. The teacher wants to make sure you are purchasing the best animal for the price you are about to pay.

**Expenses Incurred**

The student and parent are responsible for the initial cost of the animal. Prices for all species vary widely. It is recommended that a parent be present when the actual selection and purchase is made. Any other expenses for the purchase of the animals must be paid by the parent. The parents will also be responsible for any expenses incurred by their child while feeding and caring for the animal during the school year.

**Ownership**

No animal may be owned by one person and fed by another. Each student must feed and care for his/her own respective animal. Animals may be validated and registered for stock shows under more than one child’s name in the same family so that a sibling may show the animal in case of an injury or illness. The teacher should be notified of any special arrangements where students are taking turns in feeding and caring for their animals. Normally this type of arrangement will be discouraged.

**Validation**

Validation is the identification & registration ID of an animal that is to be shown in Texas. In order to show at any county or major shows, your animal must be validated and registered with the county extension office. Validation tags may need to be ordered in the summer months. Contact the Ag science teachers for information on validation tags and dates. Students and parents or legal guardian must be present with their animals at validation for signature purposes. There is a charge for the tags and the tattoo ink. The charge is established by the county livestock validation committee and is subject to change each year. The cost will be per entry. In addition to Smithson Valley High School, Canyon High School and the Comal County Fairgrounds also host validation & registration sites. Requirements and validation dates for each animal will be announced by the Ag teachers. If an animal missed the validation deadline it will not be able to be shown under any circumstances! Validation dates vary and are different for each species: steer validation in June, goats and lambs in October, swine in November, Poultry is banded before purchase. Rabbits have ear tattoos.

⧫ Validation costs are not entry fees to Stock Shows! ⧫

Registration for Stock Shows

**Participation in any SV FFA, county or major show requires passing grades in all academic classes**

**during his or her last regular grading period at the time of the show. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!!!**

In order to attend any major show: Houston, Ft. Worth, San Antonio, Star of Texas, Comal County Junior Livestock Show and the Smithson Valley FFA Chapter Show, you must fill out entry cards. **It is ultimately the parent’s and exhibitor’s responsibility to complete all forms and pay all necessary fees for each show they wish to attend.** The teachers and Booster Club officers will organize a designated night in October or early November to distribute the necessary forms and collect the appropriate fees. Booster club members and Ag teachers will be on hand to answer questions and help fill out these forms. The student and parent or legal guardian must attend the registration meeting. Necessary items for the registration are student’s social security number, entry fees (check book please), and signatures of parents/guardians and students.

**Each stock show has its own information and guidelines printed or available on the Internet. While we make every effort to inform our members of the requirements of stock shows, it is ultimately the exhibitor’s and parents’ responsibility to inform themselves of/adhere to all requirements. \*All major breeding stock shows require a health certificate which can be purchased from a veterinarian.**

**Estimated Animal Expenses**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Animal** | **Avg. Time Required** | **Initial Cost** | **Feed Cost** | **Misc Expenses (Vet, entries, validation, supplies)** | **Total Estimated Cost** | **Possible Income (based on previous CCJLSA Points for blue ribbons)** |
| **Steer** | 10-12 months | $2000  Minimum | $2000-$2500 | $300 | $4500-up | $5600 |
| **Swine** | 5-6 months | $400 up | $500-$700 | $75 | $900-1000 | $1200 |
| **Lambs** | 6-10 months | $400 | $150-200 | $75 | $950 | $1500 |
| **Goats** | 6-10 months | $400 | $150-200 | $75 | $950 | $1600 |
| **Broilers** | 2 months | $75 | $75 | $75 | $200-225 | $1400 |
| **Rabbits** |  | Buck = $40  Doe = $30  Min. 1 Buck/2 Does | $30-50 | $75 | $250 | $1000 |
| **Turkeys** | 5-7 months | $75 | $150-200  Depends on # fed | $125 | $400  Depends on # fed | $1350 |

**Recommendations for Feeding and Care of Animals**

The feeding and care of the animals is a very important aspect of the livestock project. Many believe it is responsible for at least fifty percent of the success or failure of the project. Below is a list of practices which, if done consistently, will lead to success in the show ring.

**Halter Breaking (Cattle, Lambs, & Goats)**

One of the most important considerations which arise early in the feeding period is teaching the animal how to lead with a halter. The animal must be worked daily. This is no easy task and sometimes can be very time consuming. Consistency is the key. Normally this can be accomplished in the first several weeks.

**Approved Livestock Surgical Practices**

Many times it will be necessary to perform surgical procedures on livestock. These procedures can consist of docking of tails, castration, dehorning, etc. These procedures should be done by a veterinarian. Regardless of who does the procedure, the parent must realize there is always the possibility for complications. The owner must accept all risk of illness or death of the animal.

**Weighing on a Regular Basis**

Knowing the animal’s weight and weighing on a regular basis is very important. Weight gain or loss is the best indication of how well the animal is progressing. Animals should be weighed on a weekly basis. It is particularly important near show time, as weight limits and classes are critical to placing the animal. It is also very important to know the minimum and maximum weight limits for the category in which your animal will show. Weight limits may be found in the specific show catalogs or show rule summaries. Your advisor or someone on the contact list can give you valuable information on how to adjust your animal’s weight near show time.

**Exercise**

Proper exercise will allow the animal to develop muscle tone and reduce the bulkiness of the underline (belly). This is time consuming but very important, especially near show time. Animals must be walked or ran at least once daily. Normally, this should start around the first of October for sheep and cattle. Hogs may be exercised only the last month of the feeding period. Exercising the animal is probably the area neglected most by young people first learning to care for show animals.

**Equipment Use**

Arrangements must be made with the Ag teachers for the use of any equipment belonging to the FFA. Clippers, blowers, etc. may not be removed from the Ag building and must be cleaned and turned in to the supervisor at the end of each day. Use of the livestock trailers will be limited to the agriculture teachers and supervisors. Any FFA equipment lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed while in the possession of a student will be replaced at the expense of the student and parent.

**Grooming Livestock for Shows**

Along with feeding your animal, time must also be devoted to grooming. Washing, combing and clipping are daily activities for cattle, sheep and goats. The animals must be trained to stand correctly and calmly. This is critical because in some cases the judge may want to handle the animal. Proper grooming is required for the Smithson Valley Chapter Show as well as Comal County Youth Shows and all major shows. The Ag advisors are available to help and educate students with their project. They will also have handouts available on each species which will detail more about the care for your animal.

**Livestock Insurance**

Special livestock insurance is available for those who are interested. Cost and other information may be obtained from the Ag teachers.

**Stock Show Web Sites**

**\*Read Show Rules!!\***

Comal County Extension Service http://comal-tx.tamu.edu

Comal Co Junior Livestock Show www.ccjlsa.org

State Fair of Texas www.bigtex.com

Fort Worth www.fwssr.com

San Antonio www.sarodeo.com

Houston www.hlsr.com

San Angelo www.sanangelorodeo.com

Austin www.rodeoaustin.com

Check these websites for complete information pertaining to arrival of animals, show times, release times and other information

**\*Be sure and check dates of shows for specific species shows**

**\*2016-2017 Smithson Valley FFA Booster Club Officers\***

**Executive Board:**

President Shawn Parks 210-287-1367 [mash4parks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mash4parks@sbcglobal.net)

1st Vice President Jeff Jordan 210-627-1416 [jjordan@cpsenergy.com](mailto:jjordan@cpsenergy.com)

2nd Vice President Bobby Craft 210-387-2679 [bc@bobbycraft.biz](mailto:bc@bobbycraft.biz)

Secretary Reneau Elsworth 210-488-8008 [reneau.elsworth@yahoo.com](mailto:reneau.elsworth@yahoo.com)

Treasurer Margie Pipkin 210-865-2371 [tmkpipkin@yahoo.com](mailto:tmkpipkin@yahoo.com)

Reporter Elizabeth Schaeferkoeter 210-685-9905 [elizabethhavens@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabethhavens@yahoo.com)

Parliamentarian Shalyn Schroeder 210-260-8126 [shay\_v\_s@yahoo.com](mailto:shay_v_s@yahoo.com)

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**\*Ag Department: 830-885-1003\***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
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| Josh DeWaters | ext. 4023 | 210-215-4155 | joshua.dewaters@comalisd.org |
| Heather Sanders | ext. 1113 | 830-237-7539 | heather.m.sanders@comalisd.org |
| Martin Shaw | ext. 4021 | 940-249-7175 | martin.shaw@comalisd.org |
| Victoria Tierney | ext. 4020 | 210-854-2307 | victoria.tierney@comalisd.org |

Smithson Valley Ag Boosters Club

Committees

**CCJLSA Sale** Assist Committee Chairperson in contacting previous buyers and new buyers for the Comal County Jr Livestock Show & Sale: and/or assist in hospitality, buyer registration or auction spotter.

**CCJLSA Gala** Assist in preparation for the Blue Ribbon Gala held before the Comal County Youth Show.

**Chapter Show** Assist in preparations and execution of all facets of the Smithson Valley FFA Chapter Show held before the major shows.

**Concession Stand** Work scheduled times during Chapter Show and the Comal County Junior Livestock Show

**Scholarship Fundraiser** Assist chairperson in promoting and executing the Smithson Valley Ag Boosters scholarship fundraiser held in the spring.

**Animal Species** Assist the chairperson in presenting educational activities that pertain to each species to help increase the exhibitor’s knowledge in fitting and showing. Assist in organizing, designing and executing any measures necessary to win the herdsman award at the CCJLS and at major stock shows as needed.

**Membership** Assist chairperson in organizing, publicizing and executing the membership drive. Organize and input data into membership data base, assist in creating an FFA directory and Handbook.

**Publicity** Assist chairperson in photographing and collecting information of the various FFA and Booster Club activities for publication in newsletter and local newspapers; assist Reporter in meeting notice and newsletters.

**Ag Mechanics** Assist mechanics team in organizing, preparing and delivering projects for display and/or competition as needed; publicize activities and achievements.

**Leadership/Judging Team** Assist Ag teachers in organizing students and travel arrangements for various meetings and competitions throughout the state; record and provide publicity of activities and achievements.

**Junior FFA** Assist Ag teachers and FFA Officers in organizing and overseeing age appropriate instructional activities during monthly meetings; and distributing information to all Junior FFA members.

Agriculture Science

Scholarship Opportunities

**Smithson Valley Ag Booster Club Scholarship**

Financial assistance for post high school technical or collegiate education is available through fundraising efforts by the Smithson Valley Ag Booster Club. Numbers of Scholarships vary depending upon the success of the Booster Club Scholarship Fundraiser. In 2015 12, $1,000.00 scholarships were awarded. Students must be active FFA members and are required to be enrolled in Agriscience classes at least 3 years of high school. See the Ag teachers for specific requirements. Applications are due in February.

**Comal County Junior Livestock Show Association Scholarship**

This organization raises scholarship money through concession stand sales at the Comal County Jr Livestock Show. Recipients must be graduating seniors actively involved in 4-H, or FFA at Smithson Valley, Canyon, Canyon Lake, or New Braunfels High School. Call the Comal County Agriculture Extension Office or see the Ag teachers for details.

**National and Texas State FFA Scholarships**

Over $2 million in scholarships is available for **YOU** through the National FFA Collegiate Scholarship Program! All you have to do is have the right combination. Sure, grades are important, but the FFA combination takes into account the whole you! Your community service, your FFA involvement, your leadership skills, your SAE. Talk with your FFA advisor and download the application. Applications are available in November and due in February.

**Texas A&M Floyd Collins Memorial Scholarship**

This scholarship was established by the family and friends of Mr. Floyd Collins, a beloved Agricultural Science teacher at Smithson Valley from 1995-1998. The Smithson Valley Ag Booster Club raised additional funds to enable the scholarship to become a $50,000 endowed scholarship.

Scholarship recipients must be Smithson Valley High School graduates, an active FFA member and taken at least four semesters of agricultural science courses at Smithson Valley High School. This scholarship applies only to students enrolling in Texas A&M, College Station. See the Ag science teachers for more information

**S.A.L.E and Houston Livestock Show Scholarships**

The San Antonio and Houston Stock Show and Rodeos are 501c-3 non-profit organizations supporting Texas youth and education. To date, the San Antonio Stock Show educational commitment exceeds $58 million. Students applying for a S.A.L.E scholarship must comply with several basic requirements to be eligible including: students must be a Texas resident; students must graduate from a Texas High School; students must attend an accredited Texas college or university; students must major in college in agriculture or an agriculture related field as determined by S.A.L.E. For additional information on S.A.L.E. scholarship opportunities, contact your local University, County Agent, FFA Chapter or Ag Science teacher for details and applications. Submitted in April and awarded in June.

**Sam Womble Memorial Scholarship –** This scholarship was established by the family of Mr. Sam Womble, a beloved Agricultural Science teacher at Smithson Valley from 1993 until 2003. Scholarship recipients must be Smithson Valley High School Graduates, an active FFA member and taken at least four semesters of agricultural science courses at Smithson Valley High School. See the Ag teachers for more information.

**\*For additional scholarship availabilities, please check with your Ag teachers and counselors\***

**SVFFA Ag Booster Club**

**Scholarship Application**

The Smithson Valley Ag Booster Scholarship is open to graduating Smithson Valley High School seniors with three or more years of participation in Agricultural Science Classes and FFA activities. This scholarship is applicable toward the reimbursement of tuition and books for post high school education in an approved college or technical program.

Applications will be scored by a committee. Interview may be conducted for scholarship finalists or tie breakers. Scholarship awards will not be based upon financial need, race or religion background. All applications will be accepted. Any falsification of information shall disqualify the applicant.

* **Amount:** A minimum of four $1000 scholarships per year are available and will be awarded based using the criteria below. The scholarship account will be reviewed yearly and additional $1000 scholarships could be awarded based on funds raised.
* **Eligibility and Requirements:** 􏰀
* Must be a graduating SVHS Senior with plans to attend a College or Technical/Trade School.
* Have an overall GPA of 80 or above on a 4.0 scale. (Must submit a copy of the most recent high school transcript)
* Submit Community Service Log to verify participation in at least 20 hours of FFA approved service activities.
* Student must have participated in Agricultural Science classes for at least three years, with at least 2 being at SVHS.
* Student must have participated in an FFA project (animal project, LDE/CDE Team, or Ag. Mech) for at least three years, with at least 2 being at SVHS.
* Applicant must have been a member of the FFA for a total of at least three years, with at least 2 being at SVHS.
* Applicant’s family must be a *current* member of the SVFFA Booster Club.

**Scoring:**  A committee consisting of 5-7 members of the SVFFA Booster Club will determine recipients. All applications must be complete and received by the application deadline to be considered eligible. Winning applicants determined by the committee  will be considered final.

**Guidelines:**

**(Also used for the State (Lone Star) and FFA Degree)**

1. Leadership Development Events (LDE): Participation in chapter conducting, skill demonstration, creed speaking, FFA quiz, public relations, agricultural issues forum or radio broadcast above the chapter level at an FFA sanctioned district, area, state or national event or at an invitational event. Participation in an FFA prepared public speaking, junior prepared public speaking, extemporaneous public speaking, or soil stewardship speaking at a FFA sanctioned district, area, state or national event or an invitational event sponsored by a FFA partner.
2. Career Development Events (CDE):Participation in any of the events classed as career development events by the Texas FFA Association including: agricultural communications, agricultural mechanics, agricultural sales, Agriscience fair, agronomy, farm business management, floriculture, food science and technology, forage evaluation, forestry, horse evaluation, land evaluation, livestock evaluation, marketing plan, meats evaluation, nursery and landscape, poultry, range and pasture, range plant identification, tractor technician, wildlife and recreation management and wool. These events may be FFA sanctioned events or invitational events hosted by FFA partners.
3. Project Shows: Exhibition of SAE or course-related projects in an organized show above the chapter level. This may include the exhibiting of market or breed livestock or projects built or produced by the student in an agricultural class or in a placement SAE supervised by the agricultural science teacher.
4. Conventions and Meetings (FFA), Student Awards, Leadership and Service: Participation in official FFA district, area, state or national conventions, meetings or banquets as an attendee or voting delegate. Application above the district level for star awards, proficiency awards, John Justin “Standard of the West” Award or work based learning/agricultural industry awards. Student activities that are expressly designed for leadership development: leadership camps, conferences and workshops, Greenhand camps and activities that are service-driven in nature such as district, area or state service projects. Held a FFA officer position. Courtesy corps, talent, national band and chorus, and state chorus participation shall be classed in the activity area. Bonus points for FFA degree.

**\*The Ag teachers can help with any questions concerning guidelines\***

**What Equipment Do I Need for a Show?**

**What Before Show Preparations Do I Need to Do?**

The list of preparations and equipment below are not all inclusive, nor are they the only way to do things. This should get you started though. Some of this equipment is required and is annotated. The other equipment is optional, but is nice to have. As always, if you have any questions, please talk to an Ag teacher or another more experienced parent.

**Steers/Heifers Prep**

\*2-5 days prior to a show, wash and clip steers; grind hooves if necessary

**Equipment**

**\*** Show halter, required – use only when showing

\* Show stick, required

\* Comb if it is a hair show – comb down hair during show (if it is sticking up or after judge touches)

\* Brush – use to brush off dirt and shavings

\* Rags, cloths – use to wipe noses, ears

\* Regular halter, required – use when they are tied up; if the show is terminal bring an old halter, because you won’t get it back

\* Neck rope, required – use when they are tied up

\* Feed bucket, required – if the show is terminal bring another throw away bucket you can leave behind

\* Feed, required

\* Water bucket, required – if the show is terminal bring another throw away bucket you can leave behind

\* Drench gun

\* Spray bottle

\* Show Sheen

\* Chairs

\* Camera

\* Snacks/Drinks

\* Showbox

\* Hose and spray nozzle

\* Soap

\* Clippers

\* Blower

\* Chute

**Lambs Prep**

\*2-5 days prior to the show, wash and clip

**Equipment**

\* Halter, not required but really recommended

\* Feed bucket, required – if the show is terminal bring another throw away bucket you can leave behind

\* Feed, required

\* Water bucket, required – if the show is terminal bring another throw away bucket you can leave behind

\* Clippers

\* Hose and spray nozzle

\* Soap

\* Rags, cloth – wipe nose and ears

\* Carding comb

\* Lamb rack

\* Blower

\* Lamb covers

\* Show box

\* Muzzles

\* Spray bottle

\* Chairs

\* Camera

\* Snacks/Drinks

**Goat Prep**

\* 2-5 days prior to a show, wash and clip

**Equipment**

\* Chain collar

\* Feed bucket, required – if the show is terminal bring another throw away bucket you can leave behind

\* Feed, required

\* Water bucket, required – if the show is terminal bring another throw away bucket you can leave behind

\* Clippers

\* Hose and spray nozzle

\* Soap

\* Rags, cloth – wipe nose and ears

\* Chairs

\* Camera

\* Snacks/Drinks

**Hogs Prep**

\* 2-5 days prior to a show, wash and clip

**Equipment**

\* Feed bucket, required – if the show is terminal bring another throw away bucket you can leave behind

\* Feed, required

\* Water bucket, required – if the show is terminal bring another throw away bucket you can leave behind

\* Clippers

\* Hose and spray nozzle

\* Soap

\* Rags, cloth – wipe nose and ears

\* Good spray bottle

\* Show box

\* Show stick, required

\* Chairs

\* Camera

\* Snacks/drinks

**Rabbits**

**Equipment**

\* Show stand

\* The Rabbit Standard

\* Nail Clippers

\* Rabbit carrier, required

\* Brush/comb

\* Towel

\* Water containers, required. Food is not normally needed because they don’t stay overnight – check with the show

**Poultry**

**Equipment**

\* Disposable cups, required – wire these to the corners of the cages to give your birds the maximum amount of room

\* Wire

\* Carriers, required

**Common Smithson Valley FFA Terminology**

(Many terms are not species specific and may apply in other forms)

**Generic Terms**

**Major Show** – Open to every county in Texas. (Ex. San Antonio, Houston, Ft. Worth, etc.)

**County Show –** Open to Comal County 4-H or FFA members

**CEA** – County Extension Agent

**AST** – Agriculture Science Teacher

**Point System** – Comal County Junior Livestock Show method of awarding show exhibitors

**Validation** – process to identify all show animals for current show season

**Ag Building** – Classroom and Laboratory area

**Ag Barn** – Feeding facility where animals are kept on SVHS Campus

**SAE** – Supervised Agriculture Experience Program

**Cocciodisis, Bloody Scours** – Serious condition needing Veterinarian attention

**Scours, Runs** – Watery discharge of fecal material from rectum of animal

**Clippers, Lasers, Calf head, Rough Shear** – Different types of animal shears used to groom animals for show

**Class out, Classify** – Animal not meeting certain breed characteristics is reclassified into correct breed

**Breed** – All animals in a similar group with like characteristics

**Weight Class** – All animals weighing within certain weight range by breed

**Light Weight** – Minimum weight standards for species

**Middle Weight** – Mid range weight standards for species

**Heavy Weight** – Maximum weight standards for species

**Grand Champion** – Overall winner of species

**Reserve Breed Champion** – 2nd place overall winner for species

**Division Winner** – Winner of species (Ex. Champion Finewool, Champion Hampshire)

**Check In** – Checking in with show officials, getting weight cards, verifying entries

**Weigh Out** – Animal exceeds maximum or minimum show weight

**Sift** – Process to eliminate lower quality animals before final judging occurs

**Haul** – Transport animals to show, or validation

**Pneumonia, Cough** – Serious condition affecting animals’ respiratory functions

**Droopy, Lethargic** – Animal not showing normal energy level

**Off Feed** – Animal not eating normal ration of feed

**Hoof Trimming** – Process to trim excess growth from animal’s feet

**Clinic** – Training session in preparation for future competition

**Doctor an animal** – Administer medications to animal

**Probiotic** – Beneficial bacteria found in animals system

**Antibiotic** – Medication to destroy all bacteria in animals system

**Steroid** – Medication used to boost animals system to healthier state. Veterinarian use only

**Vitamins** – Medication to improve deficiencies in animals

**Protein** – Organic substances, essential in animals’ diet

**Fiber, Roughage, Hay** – Organic substance, essential in animals’ diet

**Ruminant** – Multi-compartmental stomach in certain animals (Ex. Cattle, Sheep, Goats)

**Monogastric** – Single stomach animals (Ex. Pigs, Horses)

**Castrate** – To remove or band testicles of male animals

**Prospect Show** – Show where animals can be exhibited prior to major shows, usually no weight limits

**Fall Show** – Show held in the fall of the year (Oct thru Dec)

**Circuit** – Exhibitors showing animals under circuit rules and guidelines

**Chapter Show** – Only open to SV FFA members

**Custom Fitter, Jock, Jockey** – Someone who fits animals for a fee

**Breeder** – Person who raises animals for show, or breeding purposes

**Condition, Fat, Full** – Animals meeting correct condition for show. Not too fat or too full

**Bloated, Fill** – Gaseous buildup in animals’ stomach

**Cattle Terms**

**Bull** – A sexually mature male. Bull calf used to denote males less than one year of age

**Cow** – A female that has produced a calf

**Calf** – Offspring of female

**Steer** – A castrated male

**Heifer** – A female that has not produced a calf

**Yearling** – Beef animal approximately one year in age

**American** – Breeds developed in the U.S by combining existing breeds, including at least one tropical-adapted breed, most often American Brahman. Brahman, Brangus, Santa Gertrudis, Simbrah, and ABC

**ABC** – American Breed Crosses: Bralers, Brahmousin, Beef Masters, and any other crosses with Brahman breeding. These breeds with Brahman breeding generally perform more efficiently in hot, humid climates.

**AOB** – Examples: Gelbvieh, Braunvieh, and Salers, sometimes called exotics

**European, Continental, Exotic** – Breeds developed on the continent of Europe, excluding the British Isles; also called “Exotic” breeds. Charolais, Chianina, Limousin, Maine-Anjou, Simmental, and AOB or crosses. These breeds are often referred to as Exotics and are larger, fast growing and more muscular, and have less fat

**British** – Breeds developed in the British Isles. Angus, Red Angus, Hereford, Polled Hereford, and Shorthorn. Typically more easily fattened or finished; they usually have a more docile disposition; and the average breed size is smaller than other groups

**Marbling** – Fat deposits inside the muscle or meat of beef cattle, usually looks like white lines through raw meat

**Airing, Pumping Up** – Artificial means of making animal muscles look larger. (ILLEGAL)

**Show Stick** – Stick used to position feet and legs of a beef animal

**Chute, Trim Stand** – Apparatus used to restrain animal during clipping or grooming

**Sheep Terms**

**Ram** – A male that is sexually mature. Young males are called ram lambs

**Buck** – Another name for a sexually mature male. Male goat

**Ewe** – Female sheep

**Lamb** – Young sheep

**Wither** – A castrated male

**Black, Medium Wool** – Suffolk’s and Hampshire’s or a cross of these breeds; known much more for growth and muscling and not for fleece content

**Fine Wool** – Rambouillet, Delaine, Debouillet or a cross of these breeds; silky white face that is narrow

**Fleece** – Wool of sheep

**Flock** – Herd or group of sheep/goats

**Cross** – Crossbred between medium wool and fine wool breeds

**Clip, Shear** – Shear wool off of lambs in preparation for show

**Blow out** – Use blower to remove dirt and debris from fleece

**Track, Run, Exercise, Pull a tire** – Methods used to condition animals for show

**Brace, Push, Set Up** – Techniques used to exhibit animals for show

**Cage** – Portable pen used to haul animals on pickup

**Inter-muscular** – Shot given under the muscle

**Subcutaneous** – Shot given under the skin

**Tooth rule** – Tooth rule means that all baby teeth have to be intact to show

**Run Dog** – Run dog is used to exercise sheep

**Stand, Table** – A table keeps the lamb secure and stable while clipping

**Drenching, Tube** – A tube used to get liquids down the throat

**Hot Shot** – A usually electrified prod designed for driving an animal

**Wrinkles** – A trait that is undesirable for show

**Thin hided** – A desirable trait for show, they like the hides to be tight

**Lambing** – The act of giving birth in sheep

**Mutton** – Meat from sheep over one year of age

**Goat Terms**

**Billy, Buck** – Intact male goat

**Nanny, Doe** – A sexually mature female goat

**Kid** – a young goat

**Wether** – A castrated male

**Kidding** – The act of giving birth in goats

**Mohair** – The fiber on an Angora goat

**Flock** – Herd or group of sheep/goats

**Chevon** – Meat from goats

The most popular goat breeds in this area are **Spanish** and **Boer**. Spanish goats are from Spain and are known for their ability to thrive under harsh conditions and can utilize browse very effectively. Boer goats are becoming increasingly popular throughout Texas. Known for their muscling, they have begun to dominate the goat show industry. They typically are white with red or brown spotting and are noted for their width and dimension of muscling.

**Rabbits**

**Buck** – Male rabbit

**Doe** – Female rabbit

**Bunny, Kit** – The young are called kittens, and as with baby cats, their eyes open at about 10 days of age, their ears at about 12 days.

**Meat Rabbit** – Sometimes called “commercial rabbit”; typically 8-10 pounds when adults; most common breeds are: New Zealand, Californian, Satins, Champagne d’Argent; all rabbits can be raised for their meat, but these are the most common

**Meat Pen** – Pen of three meat rabbits

**Gestation** – (Pregnancy) 30-33 days

**Litter Size** – 4-12 (Average 7)

**Hog, Swine, Pig**

**Boar** – A male of breeding age. Young males are called boar pigs

**Sow** – A mature female that has produced young

**Gilt** – An immature female pig that has not produced a litter

**Barrow** – A castrated male

**Farrow** – The act of giving birth

**Feeder Pig** – A weaned pig that is ready for the finishing stage

**Ear Notch** – The method used to permanently identify pigs

**Gestation** – Pregnancy; 112-114 days or 3 months, 3 weeks, 3 days

**Litter** –The group of pigs born to a sow during one farrowing

**Wean** – Process of separating young from the sow

In general, pork breeds that are non-white (Hampshire and Duroc) are considered terminal breeds. This means, they are known for growth, muscling and leanness. The white breeds (Yorkshire and Landrace) are known for their mothering abilities. This includes their prolificacy and milking ability.

Hampshire

Yorkshire

Duroc

OPB

**Poultry**

**Poultry** – A term that includes chickens, turkeys, geese, pigeons, peawolf, guineas, and game birds

**Hen** – Sexually mature female

**Rooster** – Mature male chicken

**Cockerel** – A young male chicken

**Pullet** – An immature female chicken

**Poult** – Young turkey of either sex

**Broiler** – A young chicken of either sex

**Layer** – A hen that is kept for egg production

**Tom** – A male turkey

**Chick** – A young chicken that has recently been hatched

**Spent Hen** – A hen that has completed her laying cycle

**Oviposition** – The egg laying process

**Show / Validation Important Dates**

**2016-2017**

**September 23**  Comal County Fair Parade – SVFFA Float

**September 27-October 20** State Fair of Texas

**January 6 – 7** SVFFA Chapter Show – New Braunfels Fairgrounds

**January 13-February 4** Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo

**January 15 - 21** Kerrville Show (Hill Country District Show)

**February 3 - 19** San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo

**February 9 - 26** San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo

**March 1 - 4**  Comal County Junior Livestock Show

**March 7 – 26** Houston Stock Show and Rodeo

**March 11 - 25** Rodeo Austin Junior Livestock Show

**Validation Dates:**

**October 11 (9am – 12pm)** *Lambs & Goats* at SVHS Ag Building

**Week of November 14-18 Date & Time TBA** *Swine* at SVHS Ag Building

**Fundraiser Dates:**

**January 28, 2016** CCJLSA Gala at New Braunfels Civic Center

**April 22, 2016** SVFFA Scholarship Dance - Anhalt

**Important Meeting Dates**

**2016-2017 SVFFA and Booster Club Meeting dates:**

Sept. 19th              SVFFA Membership Sign-Up Meeting in Cafeteria @ 7 PM

Oct. 13th               SVFFA and Booster Club Meetings @ 7 PM

Nov. 15th               Stock Show Sign-Up Meeting in Cafeteria @ 7 PM

Dec. 13th               SVFFA and Booster Club Meetings & Christmas Party @ 5 PM

Jan. 10th                SVFFA and Booster Club Meetings @ 7 PM

Feb. 7th                 SVFFA and Booster Club Meetings @ 7 PM

March                   NO MEETING

Apr. 25th               SVFFA and Booster Club Meetings & Officer Elections @ 7 PM

May 16th               SVFFA Chapter Banquet

**COMAL COUNTY JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW ASSOCIATION (CCJLSA)**

**2016-2017 Meeting Schedule**

**Monthly Meetings start at 7:00**

September 12, 2016 Canyon High School

October 3, 2016 Smithson Valley High School

November 7, 2016 New Braunfels High School

December 5, 2016 Canyon Lake High School

January 2, 2017 Canyon High School

February 6, 2017 Smithson Valley High School

March No Meeting

April 3, 2017 New Braunfels High School

May 1, 2017 Comal County Fairgrounds

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**SMITHSON VALLEY FFA SCHOLARSHIP**

**FUNDRAISER DINNER AND DANCE**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2016 6:00pm -12:00am**

**ANHALT DANCE HALL, HWY 46**

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL FOLLOW**

**CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES**

**SILENT AUCTION FAMILY FUN NIGHT**

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