

Weston County Youth Catch-A-Critter Contest and Program

Objectives & Rules

Objectives

- ☒ Increase youth involvement and participation in livestock projects.
- ☒ Provide an opportunity for youth to get a “start” in the livestock industry.
- ☒ Provide an opportunity for local ranchers to display their cattle and be mentors to future producers.
- ☒ Provide an opportunity for youth to gain knowledge and understanding of the agriculture industry and livestock practices.
- ☒ Provide a fun activity at County Fair.

Catch-A-Critter Contest Rules

1. The contest will be open to 4-H and FFA members who are 8-18 years of age as of January 1st of the current year, 11-18 years as of January 1st of the current year for Catch-A-Calf contestants.
2. It is necessary that contestants have access to adequate livestock facilities before entering the contest. Livestock facilities may be subject to inspection.
3. The contest will be held in conjunction with the Weston County Fair Jr. Livestock Sale.
4. Successful contestants must enroll in Weston County 4-H or FFA in the upcoming year.
5. A contestant who wins a critter will not be eligible to compete again for that specific species.
6. The Weston County Fairgrounds, Fair Board, Jr. Livestock Committee, Donors, 4-H, and FFA will not be held responsible for any accidents connected with the contest.
7. All entries must be received in the **County Extension Office by July 1st** of the current year.
8. Contestants are only allowed a standard rope halter, used in the proper manner with a lead no longer than 10 feet during the contest. Use of any other equipment will result in disqualification. Contestants must provide their own halter and lead.
9. Contestants will have 5 minutes to successfully catch a critter.
10. The contest will be split by age divisions (dependent on number of entrants). 11 – 14 year olds and 15 – 18 year olds will compete in different divisions for the Catch-A-Calf contest, 8 – 10 year olds, 11 - 12 year olds, and 14 - 18 will each compete in different divisions for the Catch-A-Lamb/Pig/Goat contest.
11. A parent or guardian must give consent by signing the entry form.
12. The critter actually caught will not be the critter the contestant wins. Instead, the critter will be assigned a donor, and the donor will provide a critter of his or her choosing to the successful contestant for the upcoming 4-H or FFA year at a later date.
13. A contestant catching a critter is required to lead the critter to the winning area.
14. While one contestant has hold of a critter, no other contestant will be allowed to touch it. If two or more contestants catch a critter at the same time, the critter will be turned loose. Any disputes during the contest will be settled by official judges. Judges will be selected by the Catch-A-Critter Committee.

Catch-A-Calf Program Rules

1. Successful contestants must show the calf they catch at the Weston County Fair the following year as a Market Beef or Breeding Beef Project. Contestants enrolling in the Market Beef Project must participate in the rate of gain contest, carcass contest, and sell their animal at the Jr. Livestock Sale. Contestants who choose to enroll in the Breeding Beef Project will have a 3 year commitment. Contestants enrolling a heifer calf for the Breeding Beef Project must show that calf at the Weston County Fair the following year. In addition, the applicant must show the heifer's future progeny at the Weston County Fair the following year.
2. Successful contestants must develop a relationship with their donor mentor and follow the communications guidelines/timeline attached.
3. Successful contestants are expected to take excellent care of their calf. If contestants have concerns or questions regarding care of their calf, they should contact their donor mentor. Contestants may contact the County Extension Agent, FFA instructors or other leaders for assistance only after contact with the donor mentor has been made.
4. Successful candidates will be required to attend a Youth Quality Assurance Class presented by the 4-H/ Youth Development Educator.
5. Successful contestants will be required to keep up-to-date records on their projects and complete the official record book for 4-H or FFA.
6. Successful contestants will complete a project of their choosing detailing the progress of their project, their relationship with their donor mentors, and what they learned throughout the project. This project must be approved by the county 4-H/Youth Development Educator and entered in the County Fair if possible. For example, successful contestants can keep a diary of their project, write an essay, give a speech or presentation, complete an interview with the judge at the county fair, or any other number of possibilities.
7. Successful contestants will take delivery of their calf no later than December 1 of the year in which the contestant has caught a calf. It is expected that the successful contestant will work closely with the donor in this project to work out delivery details, care and feeding schedules, and for general mentorship.
8. Donor calves will not be allowed to be sold, traded or disposed of before completion of the market beef or breeding beef projects except by consent of the Catch-A-Calf Committee. If done without the knowledge and consent of the Catch-A-Calf Committee, the member will be responsible for reimbursing the donor the market value of the calf.
9. In the event that a calf dies or is uncontrollable, the member must contact the Catch-A-Calf Committee to resolve the issue. In the event of a replacement calf, the replacement animal will have the same eligibilities as did the original animal.
10. The Committee reserves the right to take away the calf from any successful contestant who does not abide by the rules. If any calf is taken away, no allowance will be made for any expense incurred by the contestant.
11. If the contestant fails to adhere to these requirements and/or does not contact their donor on a monthly basis to provide updates and information, then the contestant will also forfeit 25% of their sale earnings from their calf back to the donor. No exceptions will be allowed.

Catch-A-Lamb/Pig/Goat Program Rules

1. Successful contestants must show the lamb/pig/goat they catch at the Weston County Fair the following year as a Market or Breeding Project. Contestants enrolling in the Market Project must participate in the rate of gain contest, carcass contest, and sell their animal at the Jr. Livestock Sale. Contestants who choose to enroll in the Breeding Project will have a 2 year commitment. Contestants enrolling a lamb, pig, or goat in the Breeding Project must show that critter's future progeny in the Weston County Fair the following year.
2. Successful contestants must develop a relationship with their donor mentor and follow the communications guidelines attached.
3. Successful contestants are expected to take excellent care of their lamb/pig/goat. If the member has concerns or questions regarding the care their lamb/pig/goat, they should contact their donor mentor. Contestants may contact the County Extension Agent, FFA instructors or other leaders for assistance only after contact with the donor mentor has been made.
4. Successful candidates will be required to attend a Youth Quality Assurance Class presented by the 4-H/Youth Development Educator.
5. Winners will be required to keep up-to-date records on their projects and complete the official record book for 4-H or FFA.
6. Successful contestants will complete a project of their choosing detailing the progress of their project, their relationship with their donor mentors, and what they learned throughout the project. This project must be approved by the county 4-H/Youth Development Educator and entered in the County Fair if possible. For example, successful contestants can keep a diary of their project, write an essay, give a speech or presentation, complete an interview with the judge at the county fair, or any other number of possibilities.
7. Successful contestants will take delivery of their lamb/pig/goat no later than May 1 or the boarding time specified by the Farm School Program if taking advantage of that program. It is expected that the winner work closely with the donor in this project to work out delivery details, care and feeding schedules, and general mentorship questions.
8. Donor lamb/pig/goat will not be allowed to be sold, traded or disposed of before the completion of the Market or Breeding Project except by consent of the Catch-A-Critter Committee. If done without the knowledge and consent of the Catch-A-Critter Committee, the member will be responsible for reimbursing the donor the market value of the lamb/pig/goat.
9. In the event that a lamb/pig/goat dies or is uncontrollable, the member must contact the Catch-A-Critter Committee to resolve the issue. In the event of a replacement lamb/pig/goat, the replacement animal will have the same eligibilities as did the original animal.
10. The Committee reserves the right to take away the lamb/pig/goat from any successful contestant who does not abide by the rules. If any lamb/pig/goat is taken away, no allowance will be made for any expense incurred by the contestant.
11. If the contestant fails to adhere to these requirements and/or does not contact their donor on a monthly basis to provide updates and information, then the contestant will also forfeit 25% of their sale earnings from their lamb/pig/goat back to the donor. No exceptions will be allowed.