**Meat Animal Project PRE-FAIR Information** February 29th, 2016 ***Read and Keep this letter!***

**Before the Fair**

1. ALL youth who hope to sell a market animal at the Meat Animal Auction:
	1. MUST contact at least two (2) businesses and invite them to attend the Auction. Ask them to attend, (purchase is not required) and tell them about the educational aspects of a Meat Animal Project. (See Business Invitation Instruction Sheet enclosed.)
		1. Give each business an Auction Bill/Poster (two bills are enclosed for this purpose)
		2. Have business person sign the Business Contact Form. (This is turned in at weigh in at Fair.)
	2. Invite them to a Buyer Appreciation Dinner, held before the Auction from 5:00-6:30.
	3. MUST turn in a Blue Workshop Card (stating they have attended an MAQA workshop and one other workshop per species exhibited by the exhibitor) by August 7th, 2016.
2. *EAR TAGS:* All animals must have official identification (tag) in place on the fairgrounds. Contact the Pierce County Extension Office or the Superintendent if you need a replacement. This must be done *prior* to the fair.
3. Want to check your animal’s weight before fair? Exhibitors can get an idea of their market animal's weight on Monday night, August 8th, 2016 from 6:00-8:00 pm. A representative from 4-H/FAA Livestock Committee will be present these hours ONLY. Your animal must be re-weigh in during the fair.

**At the Pierce County Fair:**

*Any 'wild' or sick animals will not be allowed to stay on the Fairgrounds. (Superintendents of each species will determine).*

**CHECK IN**

1. Beef, Sheep and Goats will be visually inspected as unloading.
All Swine must be visually inspected and **health papers** checked before unloading.
For Swine: No health paper = No unloading.
2. All animals need to be stalled prior to Weigh In times. Check all animals (breeding or market) in with Superintendent.

**WEIGH IN**

1. All market animals need to be weighed in on Wednesday Evening, August 10th.. Each exhibitor must bring his/her animal to the scale under control (bring help if needed). All 'family identified' animals must be designated to a single siblings name at weigh in. Please watch your email, Pierce County Extension Web page and informational mailings regarding 2015 ultrasounding schedule.
* Sheep/Goats: Wednesday, August 10 - 5:00.- 9:00 p.m., Drewiske Barn
* Swine: Wednesday, August 10 - 5:00-9:00 p.m., Drewiske Barn
* Beef: Thursday, August 11 - 1:00-3:00 pm, Arena Barn (this includes feeder calves)
1. All youth who plan to sell a market animal at the Meat Animal Auction MUST turn in the following at the time of County Fair Weigh In:
* Drug History Form (Remember this must be signed by parent or legal guardian)
* Auction Business Contact Form (from two businesses)
1. If you want your second animal Ultra-Sounded you may do so at your own expense. (Same rates apply, pay at weigh in to Livestock Committee).
2. After Weigh In, the market sheep, swine and beef animals will be divided into weight classes. Class lists will be posted in the Barn. (If both of an exhibitor's animals are in the same weight class, the exhibitor must have another current 4-H/FFA member show one of the animals.)

**CARCASS CLASS**

Both of an exhibitor's animals may be weighed first; however one animal must be selected to be entered in the carcass contest during Weigh In times.

Carcass Show results will be held Tuesday, August 16, at Spring Valley High School at 7:30 pm.

**RATE OF GAIN RESULTS and HERDSMANSHIP RESULTS**

Rate of Gain Champions and results , as well as Herdsmanship results will be announced at the Carcass Contest results event (date listed above).

**Auction Day**

Auction is Friday, August 12 at 6:30 pm

**Preparation and During Meat Animal Auction**

1. All Auction participants must attend Pre-Auction Meeting at 4:00 pm and are also required to participate as an Auction Assistant. This includes Auction set-up, Buyer Dinner (5:00-6:30 pm), registration, greeting, or tear-down of Auction. Parents are needed for tear down.
2. All market animals not already in Arena barn will be moved there for sale (sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits). You must be available to help move your animal. Be ready one hour before Auction. You must show your own animal in sale ring.
3. Auction info:
* To be eligible for the Auction the animals will be carcass graded live by the judge:
* Sheep: prime or choice.
* Goat:
* Swine: grade 1 or 2.
* Beef: select+ or better.
* Bidding begins when buyers/auctioneer choose.
* If your animal does bring quoted market price, you can decide to not sell your animal. This decision must be communicated BEFORE exhibitor leaves the Auction ring.
* No tranquilized animal will be sold.
* Auction animals will load out at 2:00 for beef and 3:00 for sheep/swine on Sunday, August 14. You must be present to help load your animal.
* Checks will be distributed at the Carcass Contest results night (Tuesday, August 16) to those with a buyers thank you card. Include a picture of exhibitor and project animal and have it ADDRESSED and STAMPED ready for mailing. If you are not present or do not have a thank you card, your check will be held until qualification are met. Contact Extension office if needed.
* When required, the Livestock Committee will issue joint checks to satisfy FSA requirements.

**Release Day**

1. **N**on-market and non-auction animals must stay untilRELEASE TIME: 4:30 PM ON SUNDAY. (See Auction section for times when those animals will be loaded**.)** If you want a non-auction animal to go to market/slaughter you must sign up by XXX.
2. ALL DECORATIONS MUST STAY UP UNTIL 4:30 PM.
3. Exhibitor must move bedding 3 feet out from building/wall to allow for easier removal at conclusion of the fair.