

Youth Livestock Projects

Each year, more than 150 local youth grow toward becoming successful adults by experiencing their own success with 4-H livestock projects. In Edgecombe, Nash and Halifax counties, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service partners with parents to provide this time-tested experience for youth to learn by doing! For several weeks, these youth assume the daily responsibility of ownership, caring for, grooming and training a steer, pig, goat or lamb. They are also required to keep written records of the expenses associated with their animals.


The Show and Sale

In April, youth with livestock projects are invited to participate with their animals in the Eastern Carolina 4-H Meat Animal Show & Sale. This event is held at the East Carolina Agriculture & Education Center located between Tarboro and Rocky Mount, N.C. on Kingsboro Road. During the “show” portion of this event, the animals are judged according to livestock industry standards. Youth exhibitors are judged for their showmanship, and the quality of their record books.



The “sale” portion of this event is an exciting livestock auction! The youth present their animals to an audience of bidders in a state-of-the-art sales arena. More than 200 local individuals and businesses offer bids which are usually greater than the actual market value of the animals. The bidders are generous because they are intentionally supporting 4-H youth development, making sure these youth have a successful conclusion for their livestock projects. Soon after the show & sale, a well attended awards ceremony allows each youth to be individually recognized for his or her success.

How to Get Involved

 **A youth participant or parent . . .** should first contact a Cooperative Extension Agent in your local Cooperative Extension Center.

Nash County Center	(252) 459-9810
Halifax County Center	(252) 583-5161
Edgecombe County Center	(252) 641-7821

A successful livestock project begins in the fall. More than seventy years experiencing livestock projects have made it necessary to establish requirements and deadlines in order for youth participants to succeed. Informational meetings are scheduled for participants to fully understand the entire process and expectations.



A business or individual . . .

may support 4-H youth participants in one of two ways.

① You can best support these hardworking youth by attending and placing bids during the exciting 4-H livestock auction in April. If you are the highest bidder, your bid is a promise to reward a 4-H youth participant by donating the amount of your winning bid to that youth. Your name (or that of your business) is then publicly announced to the audience and later published as a supporter of this 4-H Livestock Show & Sale. You can pay on the evening of the auction or be billed for the amount of your winning bid. The highest bidder is not expected to actually take possession of the animal. Prior to the auction, someone from the livestock industry commits to purchasing and accepting all of the animals at their current market value.

② If you prefer not bidding during the auction, you may support these 4-H'ers by pledging an amount for someone to bid on your behalf. Each year more than 200 absentee supporters pledge and contribute more than \$50,000 toward rewarding these 4-H'ers. It is best to allow your pledge be used on a “bid where needed” basis, keeping the auction strong for all participating youth. Your local Cooperative Extension Agents can recommend someone to bid on your behalf.



Eastern Carolina Agriculture & Education Center

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Edgecombe County
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Halifax Farm Bureau
Nash County
Nash Farm Bureau

*This facility is managed by the
East Carolina Livestock Arena Board*



Eastern Carolina 4-H Livestock Show & Sale

April 12-13, 2016

✿ 4-H . . . ARE YOU INTO IT? ✿

4-H is a "learn by doing" educational experience for youth 5-19 years of age. 4-H offers opportunities for youth to develop self esteem by experiencing success and achievement. In addition to livestock projects, 4-H provides children and their parents more than 200 other projects and activities designed to help you learn and grow together. These activities include community 4-H clubs, summer camps, workshops, 4-H Congress, County & District Activity Days and much more!



A local tradition since 1937



Edgecombe – Halifax – Nash