



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources
4-H Youth Development Program



TO: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION DIRECTORS, 4-H YOUTH ADVISORS, AGRICULTURE TEACHERS/FFA ADVISORS, GRANGE YOUTH FAIR LEADERS, FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF.

To maintain the statewide cooperation that currently exists between Cooperative Extension, Agriculture Education departments, the California State Grange, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Fairs and Expositions Branch (CDFA), it is essential that all staff members, leaders, and advisors in these organizations and agencies be informed of the joint policy governing ownership/entrepreneurial projects and enrollment of youth who participate in fairs and expositions as members of the 4-H, FFA, Grange, or as independent exhibitors. We hope that all leaders, staff teachers/advisors, fair and exposition officials, and members/exhibitors will observe these policies so that the best interests of all organizations and the members/exhibitors are served educationally.

The 4-H, FFA, and Grange organizations recognize the role of the CDFA to establish and enforce state rules for educational and fair competition at California fairs. These organizations recommend to CDFA, the content of this agreement be supported in the annual "State Rules for California Fairs" publication and that equitable rules be included for independent exhibitors. We recommend that the content of this agreement be used as a basis for rule development and enforcement at all endorsed fairs and expositions or other sponsored events.

None of the organizations, publicly or privately supported, have the right to determine the extent to which an individual can participate in projects whether as a member of an organization or independently provided the minimum requirements are met for supervised project work and the member remains in good standing. The members and parents should determine what projects should be undertaken in each organization, or independently. The agriculture instructor, the 4-H leader, and the Grange leader should not discourage a member from following the choice agreed upon by the member and parents.

It is agreed that when an individual belongs to more than one organization or exhibits as an independent, he/she must carry a different ownership/entrepreneurial project in each organization/independent. To further clarify this policy, when a member maintains projects in 4-H, FFA, Grange, or independently, the projects may not be in the same kind of livestock or crop production classification. "Production classifications" refers to

the grouping of livestock and crops with consideration given to their production type and usage, and not by species. To assist in determining whether the projects are to be considered “different” and may be carried in different organizations or independently, see attached Addendum 1 for a listing of projects production classifications that have been agreed upon for the administration of this agreement.

Transfers:

A member of an FFA chapter, Grange, or 4-H unit (club, group, etc.), or independent exhibitor may transfer projects from one organization/independent to another only once during a calendar year. All transfers must include official notification by the member to the organizations involved of their desire to drop and/or add a project and take place at a time that would allow for the supervision of the project by the respective organization/independent. Transfers must take place not less than the number of days required for the ownership and supervision of respective species, prior to the exhibit or award recognition of the project. Please note that members transferring from 4-H, FFA, or Grange to independent may be ineligible to participate at fairs as an Independent exhibitor if documented disciplinary action involving their project(s) has been taken against them by 4-H, FFA, or Grange organizations. Fair management shall determine the length of ineligibility. Please refer to VII. Junior Department, Exhibit Eligibility and Livestock and Horse Exhibits, Ownership sections of the State Rules for California Fairs for more information on ownership and eligibility requirements. For additional details regarding the agreement for members transferring projects from 4-H or Grange to FFA when entering the seventh grade, refer to Addendum #1 below.

Once a project transfer is made, youth may not transfer their project to another organization for 12 months. For clarification, the 12-month period starts from the date of the first show occurring after the transfer. For example, a youth transfers their project from 4-H to FFA on May 25th. The first show, following the project transfer, occurs on July 30th. The youth may not transfer their project to another youth organization until July 31st of the following year. Transferring projects once is allowed when ownership requirements are met. Transferring projects between organizations more than once within a 12-month period is prohibited.

We agree that members are expected to care for, prepare for the show, and exhibit their own animals while at the fair or livestock show. However, because of the educational nature of livestock shows, it is appropriate on occasion for parents, leaders, or other youth eligible to exhibit at that show to provide assistance. The assistance should always be given only when the exhibitor is present and actively engaged.

Separate classes for 4-H, FFA, Grange, and independents should be maintained and strengthened. However, we recognize that in some circumstances combined classes may be appropriate. When combined classes are established, the decision should be reached with input and agreement by 4-H, FFA, Grange, and independent representatives participating in the affected show(s).

It is important that the official uniform requirements be followed at all sanctioned events in which youth are exhibiting as a member of the 4-H, FFA, Grange, or independent. Fairs should support and honor language in the California FFA Constitution that outlines the official dress and show uniforms for the organization, which has been approved by members of the association.

We are in agreement that 4-H, FFA, Grange, and CDFA will unite in an effort to support the ethical and humane treatment of all animals at fairs and expositions and in the production of a healthy and safe food supply. We also agree to reinforce the educational emphasis of competitive programs for plants, and animals by maintaining the standards of integrity of all participants while attending endorsed fairs and expositions or other sponsored events.

This agreement is effective on January 28, 2026, and remains in effect indefinitely until modified or terminated by mutual consent.

Kimberly Holmes 1/28/26

Dr. Kimberly Holmes
Director of Statewide 4-H Youth
Development Program

Jill Sperling 2/18/26

Jill Sperling
State FFA Advisor
California Department of Education

Joseph B. Stefenoni 2/18/2026

Joseph Stefenoni
President
California State Grange

Michael Francesconi 2/18/2026

Michael Francesconi
Branch Chief
CDFA Fairs & Expositions

ADDENDUM #1

4-H, FFA, GRANGE AND INDEPENDENT EXHIBITOR AGREEMENT

Ownership Projects Classified by Production Type

The following livestock and crop categories have been agreed to be “different” from each other based on production unit classification.

Dairy Cattle (Including Replacement Heifers)	Equine
Beef Cattle (Including Veal)	Grain
Poultry	Landscape Management
Rabbits	Nursery Operations
Swine	Outdoor Recreation
Sheep	Pomology
Dairy Goats	Specialty Crops
Meat Goats	Turf Grass
Pygmy Goats	Vegetables
Fiber/Oil Crops	Viticulture
Floriculture	

Transfers to FFA

Students desiring to transfer projects to FFA must notify **both** the FFA Advisor and the 4-H or Grange project leader of their intent to transfer and drop/add their project at a period of time not less than the period required for ownership and supervision of that project. To be eligible to be a member of FFA and exhibit a project under FFA a student must: 1.) be pre-enrolled in an agriculture education course, 2.) be affiliated with the State FFA organization, 3.) be a legal owner of the project and be supervised by the FFA Advisor for the period of time required by the agreement for this project production classification, and 4.) keep records of conduct of the project. Under this agreement, students can transfer projects to FFA and drop them from 4-H or Grange prior to completion of the sixth grade. Under no circumstances, however, may a student exhibit as an FFA member prior to the official completion of the sixth grade.