

Commerce FFA



Policy Manual 2022-2023

Updated 08/10/2021

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August 10, 2021



Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year and the Commerce FFA and Commerce Agricultural Science Department. It is enlightening to see the new and returning students in our program. This year's program of activities is loaded with a wide array of challenges and activities for your participation.

The Agricultural Science Program consists of three elements: Classroom Instruction, Supervised Agricultural Experience, and the FFA. This is a unique program and we believe it will be a life-changing experience for you. There are many opportunities for you to develop leadership skills as well as experience personal growth throughout your participation.

We look forward to each of you attending the variety of activities and meetings available. It is a great way to make new friends and create camaraderie which will last a lifetime. Remember, as with any endeavor you pursue, you only get out of this organization what you put into it. We are here to offer guidance and support for each of you. Please do not hesitate to contact one of us if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Courtney Goodwin
courtney.goodwin@commerceisd.org

Jacklyn Brent
jacklyn.brent@commerceisd.org

2022-2023 Commerce FFA Officer Team

President: Tori Belcher
Vice-President: Eric Bridges
Secretary: Darren Beal
Treasurer: Josey Swinson
Reporter: Holly White
Sentinel: Jared Buchanan
Student Advisor: Orrin Cameron

In order to become a Commerce FFA officer you must be going into your Sophomore, Junior, or Senior Year. Elections are held in May prior to the Chapter Banquet. For more information regarding becoming an officer see an ag teacher.

Commerce FFA Point System

Commerce FFA Members will utilize the following point system to keep track of their participation in the organization, and utilize their points to assist them in earning rewards, banquet recognition for specific awards and/or scholarships, etc.

At each point earning event, the student is responsible for making sure that they sign-in on the proper sheet to receive credit. Students are also encouraged to maintain their own point's log, and each points earning event must be signed-off on by an FFA Advisor within five (5) days of the event.

Points will carry from year to year when being considered for certain accomplishments.

The Following Points will be awarded as follows –

Growing Leaders

Leadership

Attends a Chapter Camp or Leadership Workshop	3
Attends a District Meeting, Camp or Convention	4
Attends Area Convention, Camp or Leadership Workshop	10
Attends State Convention	15
State Convention Courtesy Corps member or Ambassador	25
State Convention Chorus or Media Team Member	25
Attends Washington Leadership Conference	30
Attends National FFA Convention	40
Applied/Attempted to be a Chapter, District, Area or State Officer	5
Obtained a Chapter Office	10
Obtained a District Office	15
Obtained an Area Office	20
Obtained a State Office (<i>Or Approved Finalist</i>)	40
Competes on an LDE Team at District/Invitational	4
Competes on an LDE Team that advances to Area/State	8
Competes on an LDE Team that places Top 10 at State	15

Healthy Lifestyle

Coordinates a wellness learning topic at an FFA meeting or event	5
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Scholarship

Receives a local FFA or appropriate local HS scholarship	5
Receives an Ag-related organization scholarship	7
Receives an FFA scholarship on the District or Area level	10
Receives, or is a finalist for, a State or National Scholarship	25
Formally tours a Technical School, College or University	5
Receives Chapter/School Honor Roll Recognition	5
Organizes a study group for members	5

Personal Growth

Receives Greenhand Degree	10
Receives Chapter Degree	10
Receives Lone Star Degree	25
Attends a Record Book Meeting	2
Attends Quality Counts Certification meeting and completes	5

Career Success

Applies for Star or Proficiency Awards (<i>above Chapter Level</i>)	5
Star or Proficiency Award Finalist (<i>At State Level</i>)	15
Competes on a CDE team at Area/Invitational	4
Competes on a CDE team that advances to State	8
Competes on a CDE team that places Top 10 at State	15
Completed a Primary SAE (<i>Entrepreneurship, Exploratory, Placement or Research</i>)	10
Completed a Secondary SAE (<i>Improvement, Supplementary, Communication, Directed School Laboratory</i>)	5
Participates in County or Major Livestock Show Tours	5

Building Communities

Environmental

Attends a local "Work Day" for community improvement	1/hr
Coordinates a local improvement project	10
Participates in local recycling campaigns	5

Human Resources

Member of PALS and/or assist with Special Populations organization	5
Donates to Community Service Project (<i>items as designated by project coordinator</i>)	3/item
Works at a Community Service Event (<i>on behalf of FFA or other student organization</i>)	2/hr
Co-Leads a Community Service Project	10
Leads a Community Service Project	15

Citizenship

Volunteer/Community Service hours (<i>not mandated by FFA or other student organization</i>)	1/hr
Represents Chapter at local event/meeting (<i>ex. Rotary, Chamber, etc</i>)	3

Stakeholder Engagement

Works with a local group on an Agricultural Project or Represents Chapter	1/hr
Coordinates a project or collaboration with a local stakeholder	10

Economic Development

Has a local Entrepreneurship SAE that engages the public	5
Enters Project(s) into local county fair or show	3/ea

Strengthening Agriculture

Support Group

Parent(s) Attend(s) a Commerce FFA Alumni Meeting		2
Parent/Student participates in an Alumni Event/Fundraiser	3	
Parent/Student works at a Fundraising Opportunity(<i>ie. Rodeo, Auction, etc</i>)	1/hr	

Chapter Recruitment

Attends a Chapter FFA Meeting		2
Brings a Non-FFA member classmate to a Chapter Event (<i>includes meetings</i>)		2
Attends a Chapter Event (<i>such as Hamburger Supper, Holiday Party, etc.</i>)		2
Participates in FFA Week activities		1/ea

Safety

Complete the Ford Driving Skills for Life Academy		5
Participate in local Safety Fair/Event/Training Opportunity		5
Coordinate/Develop a Safety demo/event to share		10

Agricultural Advocacy

Use personal/public media platforms to positively advocate for Agriculture	1/post	
Participate/Advocate locally for Agricultural Campaigns and Events	3	
Coordinate/Develop a local Ag Advocacy event		10

Agricultural Literacy

Participate in local/national Agricultural Campaigns and Events		3
Develop a public display for an Ag literacy topic		5
Assist with local "Ag Day/Barnyard" events		5
Coordinate a local Ag Literacy event		10

Additional Points Opportunities

Fundraising

Attends Chapter Fundraiser (<i>Such as Customer Appreciation Day</i>)		1/hr
*Sells items in the Fresh Country & Seitz Fundraiser	1/item	
Obtains Chapter donation or sponsorship		1/\$50
*Provides items for Alumni Dinner & Auction (<i>minimum \$25 value</i>)	1/item	

Exhibits

*Attends Hunt Co Fair clean-up day		3
Attends jackpot, local or weekend show		2
Earns Title at jackpot, local or weekend show (<i>Grand/Reserve Champion, Showmanship</i>)		5
Represents FFA chapter at Major Show	10	
Earns Title at Major Livestock Show (<i>Grand/Reserve Champion, Showmanship</i>)	20	
*Attends a Barn or Greenhouse Work Day		1/hr.

Activities denoted with * are required for certain participations but are not limited to those activities, additional requirements may be added.

Some activities are required of officers which they will not be eligible for points
Other Points opportunities may arise throughout the year as approved by Advisors
Please Check with Advisors PRIOR to an event to check if it is worth Points

Awards Program

The Commerce FFA Chapter has several award opportunities for members to participate. Each spring, the Commerce FFA hosts an Awards Banquet to recognize the achievements of FFA members. Members may complete a proficiency application and submit it before the required deadline which will be announced in the spring semester. The following awards will be awarded on the chapter level:

1. STAR AWARDS

- Star Greenhand (First Year Member)
- Star Chapter Farmer
- Lone Star Candidate

2. PROFICIENCY AWARDS

- Members will be awarded certificates based upon their Supervised Agricultural Experience Program

3. OUTSTANDING FFA MEMBER

4. Any other award chosen by the Advisors

**Students may apply for Proficiency awards, Lone Star FFA Degree, and Star Awards beyond the chapter level based upon their completed record book for their FFA experience. The ag teachers will start all students on their record books but it is the requirement of the student to maintain them. Requirements for these awards are located in the National FFA Manual and the Texas FFA Degree Selection Procedures. Please contact Ms. Goodwin or Ms. Brent if you wish to apply for advanced awards or for further information.

Scholarship Opportunities

1. Scholarship Opportunities through Texas FFA Association Scholarship Programs

Graduating seniors apply during the Spring Semester at the District Degree Check. Scholarship is based on academic rank (must be in top 25% for Houston, top 50% for the others), SAT/ACT scores (minimum 950 on SAT, minimum of 20 on ACT), and FFA activities. Students will interview at the Area Degree Check. Ten members from the Area Association will advance to state interviews to compete for these awards.

- San Antonio Livestock Show \$20,000
- Star of Texas Livestock Show \$16,000
- Houston Livestock Show \$18,000
 - You do not have to be an Agricultural or Life Science Major to receive this scholarship.
- Dick Wallrath Scholarship \$10,000
 - You do not have to be an Agricultural or Life Science Major to receive this scholarship.
- Jim Bob Norman Memorial \$10,000
- C.J. "Red" Davidson \$5,000
- Southwestern Exposition \$4,000
- Farm Credit Bank of Texas \$2,000
- Texas Agricultural Education Fund \$2,000
- Young Farmers of Texas \$2,000
- Ryan Mott Memorial Scholarship \$1,000
- SALE Tour Guiding Scholarship \$1,000

2. National FFA Scholarships

Graduating seniors apply for various scholarships. Students may obtain an application from www.ffa.org, the National FFA website. Eligibility requirements and award amounts are listed as well.

3. State Fair of Texas Scholarship

Graduating seniors must complete an application and submit it prior to deadline. More information can be obtained at www.bigtex.com.

4. Ag science Fair Competition

The Ag science Fair offers the opportunity for members to demonstrate their Ag science abilities through a science fair competition. Scholarships are awarded on the state and national levels.

5. Proficiency and Star Awards

Students can obtain various scholarships through participation in advanced awards. Students who win on the state and national levels will receive scholarships.

6. Career Development Events

Students can win various scholarships at various contests if they win high individual honors. Additionally, colleges scout judging team members and offer those students with exceptional abilities scholarships to judge at their universities or colleges, respectively.

7. Local Scholarships (Commerce FFA Alumni, Ladonia Rodeo Association, L-3, & Hunt Co Fair)

Graduating seniors can apply for these local scholarships to help defray expenses of higher education.

***** Other scholarship opportunities will be announced during class and at FFA meetings as they become available. *****

Commerce FFA Alumni & Scholarship Program

The Commerce FFA Alumni is an entity to help assist the Commerce FFA chapter. Membership dues of \$5/family must be paid annually by October 15th in order to be a member. Active participation within the alumni group allows the students to be eligible for add-ons to county fair projects and scholarships once the student becomes a senior. The Commerce FFA Alumni hosts a youth rodeo in August and a Dinner & Auction in the Spring. Participation in both of these events is highly encouraged in order to be considered actively involved. Meetings are held monthly and other information and requirements may be gained from the meetings.

FFA members who have been actively involved in the Alumni group will be considered for a scholarship to be awarded after the member's first semester of college and proof of enrollment. Amount of scholarships are determined by the Alumni each year.

Competitive Team Activities

The following is a list of potential events that can be competed in. Teams are determined based on participation, practice, and availability of resources.

Leadership Development Teams – Fall Semester

- Jr. Chapter Conducting
- Sr. Chapter Conducting
- Jr. FFA Skills Demonstration
- Sr. FFA Skills Demonstration
- Jr. FFA Quiz Team
- Sr. FFA Quiz Team
- Sr. Creed Speaking
- Jr. Creed Speaking
- Agricultural Issues Forum
- Radio Broadcasting Team
- FFA Public Relations
- Job Interview
- Ag Advocacy

*****Any member who wishes to participate on a LDE team is required to sell a minimum of 7 items during the Fall Fundraiser*****

Career Development Teams – Spring Semester

- Soil and Water Stewardship Speaking
- Extemporaneous Speaking
- Jr. Prepared Public Speaking
- Sr. Prepared Public Speaking
- Wildlife
- Land Evaluation
- Livestock Judging
- Horse Evaluation
- Dairy Cattle Judging
- Floriculture
- Nursery Landscape
- Farm Business Management
- Poultry Judging
- Ag Sales
- Agricultural Communications
- Homesite
- Entomology
- Vet Tech
- Agricultural Technology and Mechanics Systems
- Applied Agricultural Engineering

*****Any member who wishes to participate on a CDE team is required to sell a minimum of 7 items during the Fall or Christmas Fundraiser*****

*****Any member participating in BOTH only has to sell a minimum of 7 total.*****

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

The following activities are offered to all members in the Commerce FFA. Some activities may have prerequisites based upon leadership achievements.

Fall Semester

- Area V Greenhand Leadership Camp
- District FFA Meeting
- Leadership Development Events
- Chapter Meetings
- State Fair of Texas
- Four States Fair

Spring Semester

- Career Development Events
- Fort Worth Livestock Exposition
- San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
- San Angelo Livestock Show and Rodeo
- Hunt County Fair
- District Convention
- Area V Convention

Summer Break

- Area V Leadership Conference for chapter officers
- State FFA Convention
- Chapter Officer Retreat

When you look good... The FFA Looks Great!

FFA Code of Ethics

We will conduct ourselves at all times in order to be a credit to our organization, chapter, school and community by:

- Dressing neatly and appropriately for the occasion
- Showing respect for others and being courteous at all times
- Being honest and not taking unfair advantage of others
- Respecting the property of others
- Refraining from boisterous talk, swearing and other unbecoming conduct
- Demonstrating good sportsmanship
- Attending meetings promptly
- Taking pride in our organization and its functions
- Sharing with others experiences and knowledge by attending state and national meetings

Official Dress

The uniform worn by FFA members at local, district, area, state, and national functions is called official dress. It provides identity and a distinctive, recognizable image to the organization.

Female members should wear:

Black skirt or pants— hem should be between knee and calf
White collared blouse
Official FFA scarf
Black nylon hosiery
Black dress shoes – closed toe and closed heel
Official FFA Jacket – zipped to top

Male members should wear:

Black pants or slacks
White collared shirt
Official FFA tie
Black socks
Black shoes or black boots (low top dress shoes)
Official FFA Jacket – zipped to top

CDE Dress for contests

- Buttoned down or Polo type collared shirt
- Nice Jeans or Slacks that fit at the waist and are free of fading or holes.
- Closed toe shoes are required
- Appropriate caps or hats for the contest

Official Dress for Livestock Shows

- Buttoned down or polo type collared shirt
- Nice Jeans that fit at the waist and are free of fading or holes.
- Closed toe shoes are required – NO Tennis Shoes.
- Belt should be worn
- No caps or hats
- Hair should be pulled away from the face and look orderly.

In addition to the previous guidelines, the Commerce ISD Student Dress Code is in effect at all FFA activities and competitions. If it is inappropriate to wear to school, it is inappropriate to wear to an FFA activity.

Agricultural Science & Technology Course Offerings

** All Agricultural Mechanics students must provide materials for personal projects.*

Agriculture Department Course Offerings					
9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade		
Principles of Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources (1 credit)	Animal Science Option				
	2-3 Credits from: Equine Science (.5 credit), Small Animal Management (.5 credit), Livestock Production (1 credit) Veterinary Medical Applications (1 credit)				
	0-1 Credits from: Any other CTE funded course				
	Floriculture Option				
	2-3 Credits from: Principles & Elements of Floral Design (1 credit), Horticulture Science (1 credit), Greenhouse Production (1 credit)				
	0-1 Credits from: Any other CTE funded course				
	Agricultural Mechanics Option				
	2-3 Credits from: Ag Mechanics & Metal Technologies (1 credit), Agriculture Power Systems (2 credit), Agricultural Equipment Design and Fabrication (1 credit), Agricultural Structures Design & Fabrication (1 credit)				
	0-1 Credits from: Any other CTE funded course				

FFA FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

The FFA provides many activities throughout the year that require money. The entry fees for contests, community service projects, the food and refreshments at meetings, animal projects assistance, and supplies for the banquet require a large sum of money. You are asked to participate in whatever fundraising activity that we have. The more money that our group makes, the more activities we can provide to you.

This year, as in the past, we are selling nutritional food products. We will be offering Seitz's Meat & Fresh Country Fruit and Meat. These products will be delivered in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas orders.

The students that are the FFA's top seller will receive \$100.00, 2nd place will receive \$75.00, and 3rd place will receive \$50.00 at our annual chapter banquet.

All officers are required to sell as outlined in their officer contract. Any student who wishes to compete on a LDE or CDE team must also sell, see guidelines listed on that page.

The FFA assists with fundraisers that are put on by the Alumni Group and members are encouraged to help with those fundraisers as well. If at any time throughout the year the chapter decides to participate in an additional fundraiser, members will be asked to assist with that.

Communication

Good communication is key to a successful chapter. Commerce FFA has put several items into place in order to make communication between the Advisors and the members and parents open and easy. We use email, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Below is information on how you can connect to each media type or just the ones you use regularly.

- Email: Ms. Goodwin and Ms. Brent will send out email bursts and information on upcoming events. If you would like to receive email updates from the ag teachers please email (courtney.goodwin@commerceisd.org or jacklyn.brent@commerceisd.org) your name and request to be added to the email list.
- Social Media
 - Facebook: search for Commerce FFA and “LIKE” the page so that you can receive updates and news.
 - Twitter: you can follow us at @commerceffa, we will be posting the same information on Twitter that can be found on Facebook
 - Instagram: Our username is commerce_ffa. We will be posting pictures of FFA members throughout the year to highlight our successes.
 - We encourage students to post pictures of activities with the hashtags of #commerceffa to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- **The FFA Advisors are available at most times if necessary but they also have families. NO PHONE CALLS BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7:00 P.M. AND 7:00 A.M. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS OR UNLESS AN ANIMAL IS DYING. IF IT IS AN EMERGENCY LEAVE A MESSAGE OR TEXT AND SOMEONE WILL CALL YOU BACK.**

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Commerce FFA History

Commerce FFA was chartered November 11, 1938. Throughout the chapter's history, members have been competitive in all aspects of FFA. Commerce FFA has accomplished many awards since their charter. Members today are continuing to follow in the footsteps of excellence that have lain before them. Membership in the Commerce FFA is open to any student grades 9-12 who are enrolled in an agriculture course. For further clarity on membership guidelines see the Official FFA manual or visit texasffa.org or ffa.org.

FFA Dues

Dues are collected at the beginning of the school year prior to November 1 and again in the Spring prior to March 1.

Yearly Member Dues \$20

Yearly Jr. Member Dues \$10

FFA Jackets

FFA Jackets can be purchased for \$80.00(\$105 tailored). This will include your jacket and a tie or scarf. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. The first member in each Principles in AFNR class to say their FFA Creed will receive their FFA jacket for free. All members are encouraged to purchase an FFA Jacket. See ag teachers for a form.

Junior Membership

Texas FFA Association Policy Handbook

Section 2: Junior Membership

7/15/2010

2.1 Operational Premises

(a) The FFA Organization is an integral part of agricultural education, a leadership development program for students of agriculture, food and natural resources instructional programs. FFA programs are intended to be applied activities related to the classroom and laboratory instructional programs. Thus, membership guidelines should reflect this philosophy and support enrollment in agricultural science courses. The organization of a Junior FFA chapter is entirely optional, with the need of such an organization to be determined by the local FFA chapter.

2.2 Constitutional Authority Texas FFA Constitution, Article V. Section B.- Junior Membership

Active chapters of the Texas FFA Association/Texas Association of Future Farmers of America may form Junior FFA Chapters for the purpose of enhancing and encouraging the education of younger students who are interested in the agricultural industry. Membership in the Texas Junior FFA organization shall consist of students enrolled in public schools or accredited private schools who are in the third grade and eight years old and may continue until they become eligible to enroll in the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources instructional program. Junior members must be affiliated with a chapter in the school district in which they are enrolled or with a duly chartered chapter in an accredited private school in which they are enrolled as a full-time student unless the school district approves a waiver for out of district students. School superintendents must approve and certify in writing out of district students to participate in the junior FFA program(s) of their district. Such waivers must be submitted annually. Each Junior FFA Chapter shall submit a roster to the State FFA Association that includes the name, date of birth, age, grade, and address. Each local chapter can set and collect dues. State dues in the same amount as active FFA membership dues shall be collected.

2.3 Membership Opportunities

(a) The membership year begins September 1 and ends August 31. Students initiate junior membership by participating in whatever location function is designated by the local advisor as a qualifying activity or event to initiate membership. (Examples: attend meetings, validate livestock under auspices of chapter) Local chapters may develop requirements in excess of state requirements for students to remain in good standing with the local chapter. Once a student is eligible to enroll in an agriculture, food and natural resources class of any kind, he or she is not eligible for junior membership. Middle school students enrolled in agriculture, food and natural resources classes must be submitted as active members (Discovery Degree members for local credit classes). (b) Junior FFA is designed to encourage involvement in agricultural science education. To this end, chapters are encouraged to develop and participate in local activities that promote leadership development and agricultural education for its junior members. (c) Junior FFA members are not eligible to participate in events in which the Texas FFA Association has direct oversight including but not limited to leadership development events, career development events, speaking development events, state FFA rodeo, talent and agriscience fair. Junior membership activities shall include exhibition of livestock and poultry projects. Local, county, regional and statewide shows and other agricultural education partners may include junior members in other events such as but not limited to agricultural mechanics shows and judging competitions. (d) Junior members are not eligible to cast a vote or participate in the discussion related to the official business of the Texas FFA Association or of any district, area association, do not count toward membership totals for delegate allocation and should not be listed on active membership rosters.

Eligibility to Participate

All students must maintain eligibility in order to participate and be in good standing with the chapter for ANY activity such as LDE's, CDE's, Livestock Shows, Chapter, District, Area, or State activities outside of school, etc.

To maintain eligibility a student must be passing at Term OR if a failing grade is obtained at Term they must be passing that class at the Progress Period.

The ag teachers will check grades before any activity to determine a student's eligibility to participate. It is the student's responsibility to maintain passing grades or to keep all missing assignments due to FFA activities caught up upon arrival back to school.

Student's must also maintain eligibility regarding discipline and behavior per the Commerce ISD Student Code of Conduct

Remember...your failing grade or behavior could not only affect you but also your team.

Raising Fryers for Show

Your ag teacher must know by **mid-September** if you plan to show fryers in order to put in an order and a deposit. Fryers are received approximately 1 month prior to the Hunt County Show around Spring Break. Tag-in for fryers is generally the first Monday in April. See your ag teacher for a more detailed handout for care of your market fryers. It is recommended to purchase a minimum of 4 bunnies in order to choose the most uniform 3 bunnies to show.

Facilities - You will need cage(s) to keep them in. Preferably each bunny needs to have a cage of its own. Cages should be kept in well ventilated area away from predators.

Equipment - Feeders and waterers.

Feed - It is best to buy a formulated show feed.

Budget - Assuming you have an adequate pen.

Bunnies	\$50 per bunny
Entry Fee	\$ 25.00
Feed	\$25.00
Equipment	\$ 60.00
Misc.	\$ 15.00

Raising Broilers for Show

Broilers are received 6-7 weeks prior to the Hunt County Show at the end of April.

Facilities - You will need a room to keep them in. The room must be climate controlled, and have good ventilation. The room needs to be 60-80 square feet.

Equipment - Feeders that keep the feed dry and the chicks out of the feed are necessary. Large waterers. As the chicks grow, they will consume a lot of water. Heat lamps as well as other sources of heat.

Feed - It is best to buy a formulated show feed. We recommend that you start with 1 bag of Turkey Starter then go to a Show Broiler ration. You will also need to put an additive in the water to control coccidiosis as well as nutritional supplements. (Ag Teachers will instruct you on what and how much to add to the feed and water.)

Budget - Assuming you have an adequate pen.

Entry Fee	\$ 25.00
Feed	\$100.00
Equipment	\$ 60.00
Misc.	<u>\$ 15.00</u>
	\$200.00

Raising a Steer for Show

Steers are tagged in June for State shows and late October for the Hunt Co Fair. The steers that show at our county show are 15-18 months old at the show.

Facilities - You will need a pen that is large enough for a 1000lb steer to live without getting too muddy and messy. The steer will need shelter from the elements, but will not need the climate controlled. The pen should be large enough for you to lead him around and have easy access.

He does not need to be out on pasture.

Equipment - Source for clean drinking water and a feed trough. You will also need a rope halter, a show halter and a show stick.

Feed - It is best to feed a formulated show feed, also known as a fitting ration to the steer. "All Stock" or an economy feed will not produce the results desired.

Budget - If you are interested in a steer project, please contact an Ag Teacher and we will visit with you about the costs associated with raising a steer. We can also advise you on selecting a steer for show.

Raising a Market Goat

Goats are bought between August and September for the Hunt Co. Fair. They need to have been born between late April and mid June. Tag in for goats is in February.

Facilities

Goats can be effectively raised in fairly simple facilities. Goats need a living arrangement that includes protection from the weather in a barn or shed and a pen for exposure to the sun and exercise. A minimum of 15 square feet of barn space per goat and a minimum of 40 square feet of pen space per goat.

Equipment

Feeder, water bucket, halter/chain, spandex sleeve, syringes for deworming, dewormer.

Feed

Many feed distributors offer a formulated show feed for goats. It is important to feed goats with a feed that is specifically for goats in order to prevent them from getting urinary calculi.

Budget

Goat	\$300 and up
Entry Fee	\$25
Feed	\$50/month
Equipment	\$50

Raising a Market Lamb

Lambs are bought between August and September for the NETLA show. They need to have been born between late April and mid June. Tag in for lambs is in February.

Facilities

Lambs can be effectively raised in fairly simple facilities. Lambs need a living arrangement that includes protection from the weather in a barn or shed and a pen for exposure to the sun and exercise. A minimum of 15 square feet of barn space per lamb and a minimum of 40 square feet of pen space per lamb.

Equipment

Feeder, water bucket, halter, spandex sleeve, syringes for deworming, dewormer.

Feed

Many feed distributors offer a formulated show feed for lambs.

Budget

Lamb	\$300 and up
Entry Fee	\$20
Feed	\$50/month
Equipment	\$50

Raising a Market Pig

Pigs are at approximately 6 weeks of age at purchase and need to be 6 months old at show time. They need to have been born late September first of November. Tag-in for pigs is in February for Hunt Co. Fair. They must weigh between 230 and 280 pounds at show time in late April.

Facilities

Pigs can be effectively raised in fairly simple facilities. A 6 ft by 10 ft or larger space is needed with a shelter for protection from extreme weather and sun to prevent sunburns. The floor can be concrete with shavings or dirt.

Equipment

Feeder, water with self dispenser, whip or pipe, syringes for shots.

Feed

Many feed distributors offer a formulated show feed for pigs. Please see ag teacher for recommended brand of feed to use.

Budget

Pig	\$350 and up
Entry Fee	\$15
Feed	\$75/month
Equipment	\$50

Raising a Beef Heifer

Heifers must be purchased, registered in the student's name, and validated in order to show at a major show or must be owned for 30 days in order to show at county or jackpot shows. A beef heifer can be shown until around 2 years of age, this varies by breed.

Facilities

You will need a pen that is large enough for the heifer to grow in. The heifer will need access to shelter in order to get out of weather. You should have space large enough to lead heifer around in.

Equipment

Feed trough, water bucket, rope halter, show halter, show stick, comb.

Feed

A formulated show heifer feed is necessary for proper growth and health.

Budget

See an ag teacher if you are interested in a beef heifer and they can discuss costs of raising a beef heifer.

Animal Welfare/Ethical Fitting of Animals

- Cattle stalls are to be cleaned at a minimum of ONCE a day, seven days a week. Goat/lamb pens MUST be cleaned once a week. Pig pens MUST be cleaned once a day, and shavings should be replaced every 7-10 days at minimum. .
- All animals must be cared for and fed twice a day, seven days a week. Fresh, clean water should be available at all times, no exceptions. Feeding schedules should be consistent.
- All animals should be cared for by the exhibitor majority of the time, the animal should not be located anywhere that the exhibitor can't care for it. Acceptable time away would be for hoof trimming, clipping, etc and should be only a couple of days.
- All animals should be exercised, walked, or prepared for show as directed by the AST. All animals WILL be controllable at all times. Any animal that cannot be controlled will not be allowed to show. (Any haltered animal should be halter broke and able to walk from Point A to Point B as requested by AST, swine should be able to walk from Point A to Point B with a show stick as requested by AST)
- Students or parents will not abuse animals in any manner (including, but not limited to: neglect, physical abuse, unethical fitting). Abuse will be determined by the AST and will result in the immediate and automatic forfeiture of showing for the show season.
- If an animal dies, the student is to properly dispose of the animal within 24 hours.
- If a student is unable to do their duties for care of the animal, someone, a parent, brother, sister, etc. is expected to do their duties for them. The animal does not go uncared for.
- If at any time a student/parent becomes aware of any problem with animals, contact your ag teacher or a veterinarian if necessary. Any medicine will not be administered without a charge for the cost of medicine.
- No unethical fitting of any kind as outlined in any Major Show rules will be tolerated.

Mobile Veterinarian

4G Veterinary Care

Dr. Kevin Gray, Cumby TX

903-994-2909

Local Veterinarian

Sulphur River Veterinary Clinic

6713 Hwy 24, Commerce TX

903-886-0104

Hunt Co. Animal Hospital

3440 State Highway 24, Campbell TX

903-886-3911

emergency 903-886-1004

Livestock Shows/Project Shows

For the 2022-2023 school year, the Commerce FFA will compete at the following shows (Note: this list is subject to change)...

Beef Heifers

Four States Fair & Rodeo, Texarkana
Fort Worth Livestock Show and Rodeo
San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo
San Antonio Livestock Show
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
Hunt County Fair
Any other Major show the exhibitor wants to haul to
Any Jackpot show the exhibitor wants to haul to

Lambs, Goats, Pigs, Steers

Hunt County Fair
See ag teacher for other shows depending on species

Fryers & Broilers

Hunt County Fair

Project Shows

Fort Worth Ag Mech Show
San Angelo Ag Mech Show
San Antonio Ag Mech Show
Houston Livestock Fair
Hunt County Fair

The exhibitor may enter at Major Shows not listed for various species however the ag teachers may or may not be able to haul the animals. Make sure you are aware of validation dates and entry deadlines.

Overnight Trips

The opportunity to participate in the Commerce FFA is a privilege extended to CISD students. Participation in the Commerce FFA places a student in a position of recognition and often bestows the position of role model upon the member. Any student who elects to accept the privilege of participating in the Commerce FFA must recognize that he/she is a representative of the school and district, and will be held to a higher standard of conduct than that applied to the general student body. This applies to school related and non-school related activities. The member is subject to state law, school district policies, school rules and regulations, the Commerce FFA Constitution and By-laws, and University Interscholastic League (UIL) rules. Commerce ISD policy governs all trips taken by FFA members. Any student found in violation of these policies will be disciplined accordingly.

- Students will follow directions given by Advisors, as well as adult chaperones.
- Students will conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times.
- Students will stay with the group at all times.
- Students will not leave the hotel or site of activity for any reason.
- Students will follow all curfew times. Lights out will be at the discretion of the advisors.
- Students must stay in the room assigned to them.
- Female students will not be allowed in rooms of male students. Male students will not be allowed in rooms of female students.
- Students will wear official dress, except when notified by the Advisors. Commerce ISD dress code is in effect at all times.

Violations to these guidelines will not be tolerated.

Useful Links

The following are links to FFA pages and stock shows throughout the state.

FFA

www.area5ffa.com
www.texasffa.org
www.ffa.org
www.judgingcard.com
www.theaet.com

Stock Shows

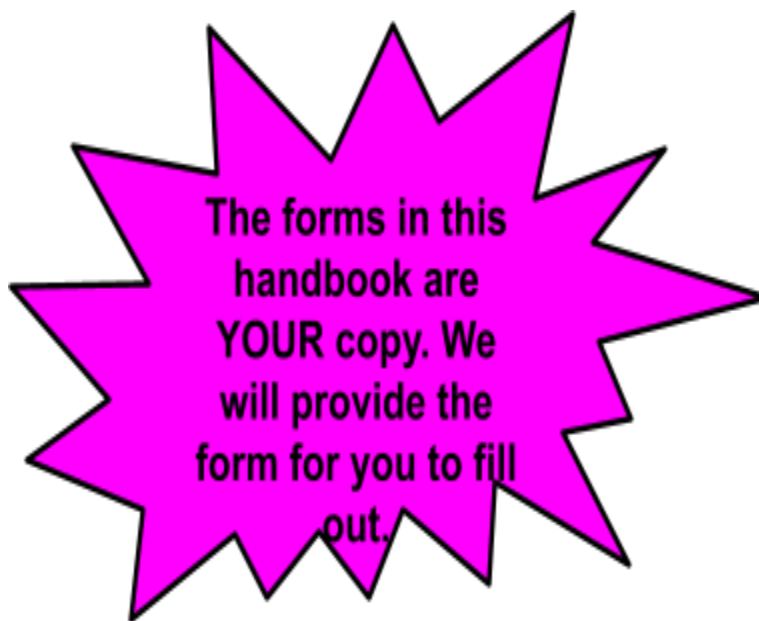
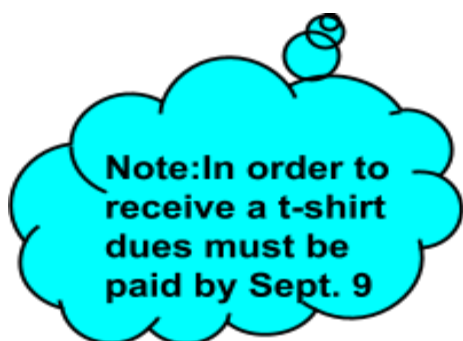
www.huntcountyfair.net
www.bigtex.org
www.fwssr.com
www.sanangelorodeo.com
www.hlsr.com
www.rodeoaustin.com

Agriculture

www.fb.org
www.txfb.org
www.weather.com
www.usda.gov
www.agriculture.com
www.agr.state.tx.us
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

Forms

The following pages are copies of the forms that need to be signed and returned to the Ag Science Teachers. If you are going to participate in any FFA activity or classroom activity we must have the permission slip and by completing these forms you are acknowledging that you have received and read the Commerce FFA Handbook. If you will be exhibiting an animal you will need to sign a Guidelines for Show form and Ethics Policy form; if you will keep your animal in the Livestock Barn a Barn Contract will need to be signed. Finally, the Membership form accompanying your dues must be completed and returned to your Ag science teacher by **October 15, 2021.**



Commerce FFA / AGRISCIENCE DEPARTMENT PARENT TRAVEL PERMISSION FORM
FFA Advisors/Agri-Science Teachers: Courtney Goodwin & Jackie Brent

STUDENT: _____ GRADE LEVEL: _____

PARENTS' NAME _____

The above named student has my consent to travel to and/or from each event participated in by this organization during this school year including all errands and activities related to duties and assignments made to members enrolled in the FFA / AGRISCIENCE CLASS. The mode of transportation will be Commerce ISD provided transportation.

1. All students must abide by state, district and campus policies at all AGRISCIENCE/FFA sponsored events, whether held during normal school hours, after school hours, or on weekends and holidays.
2. I understand that students who violate said policies will be subject to disciplinary consequences in accordance with the STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT, including possible removal from future participation in FFA events.
3. I understand that infractions to any of these said policies which include theft, vandalism, and possession of illegal substances will result in notification of parent/guardian and my child being returned to school at the parent's expense without reimbursement of funds.
4. I agree to, and hereby, release Commerce Independent School District and its trustees, employees, sponsors and volunteers from all legal responsibility from liability resulting from any activities of this organization, including liability caused by or related to the negligence of any such party.
5. I **agree** or **do not agree** (please circle one) to allow my child to swim at any events that swimming opportunities available.
6. I **agree** or **do not agree** (please circle one) to allow my child's name and picture to appear on the Commerce FFA web page or other social media accounts or in articles in the newspaper.

This form must be signed and returned to the sponsor before the student will be permitted to participate in any activities of this organization. This Commerce FFA & Agricultural Science Department Policy Manual has been published to help your son/daughter gain the greatest possible benefit from his/her agricultural science/FFA experience. The FFA needs your cooperation. It is very important that each FFA member understands the opportunities and regulations outlined in this handbook. Parents are to encourage their son/daughter to abide by all rules or regulations set forth in this manual. Please go over all agreements outlined in this manual and return them to your Ag science teacher. Your signature and that of your child acknowledge the receipt of this FFA Member manual and the agreement to take full advantage of all the opportunities that are available to members.

____ I acknowledge that I have read and understand the guidelines outlined in the Commerce FFA Handbook.

Signature of Student _____ Date _____

____ I acknowledge that I have read and understand the guidelines outlined in the Commerce FFA Handbook.

Signature of Parent _____ Date _____

COPY to Keep

2021-2022 Commerce FFA Project Center Contract

The Commerce FFA Project Center is the property of Commerce ISD and is for the convenience of a student who has no place to keep a project animal, while enrolled in an agricultural science class at Commerce High School. The stall assignment will be determined by the Ag Science Teacher (AST). All equipment and facilities are under the direct control of the Ag Science instructors and Commerce High administrators. BEFORE a student is allowed to place an animal in the facilities, the rules and guidelines must be understood fully by the student and parents. After these rules are fully explained, the student and parent(s) will sign this contract to signify they understand and will abide by these rules. If a student or parent does not comply with these rules, and upon receiving their second written barn warning, the student will have five days to remove the animal(s) from the facilities.

1. Only students enrolled in Commerce ISD, showing through Commerce FFA, and meets the eligibility requirements will be allowed to house animals in the barn. Anyone not meeting eligibility will be required to remove their animal and clean pen within 1 week or pay \$50 fine.
2. The student and parent must do the following before bringing any project to the facility:
 - a. Obtain permission to show, feed, house, and care for a project from the AST
 - b. Attend a meeting between student, parent, and AST
 - c. Understand and sign the rules agreement
 - d. Pay barn rent
 - e. Have project approved by the advisor.
3. All students will be assigned a stall by the AST. Once an animal has been assigned a stall, the animal must remain in the stall except when the animal is being cared for or turned out for the night. When outside the pen animals must be haltered and under control at all times. Do not switch pens without approval from an AST. Due to space restrictions, student may be restricted to the number of animals per project season at the barn.
4. Stalls may not be changed or modified. All equipment or other items must be approved before they can be placed in the Project center.
5. Pens may be chained and/or locked, but a key or combination MUST be given to the AST's.
6. Cattle stalls are to be cleaned at a minimum of ONCE a day, seven days a week. Goat/lamb pens MUST be cleaned once a week. Pig pens MUST be cleaned once a day, and shavings should be replaced every 7-10 days at minimum. All waste must be placed in the dumpster, every time. All trash must be removed from the facility immediately. If parents or family members are feeding for students, it is their responsibility to clean pens. If animals are turned out for the night, pens must be cleaned for the night.
7. All students in barn are responsible for sweeping concrete walkways, rolling up any and all water hoses, picking up trash and wheelbarrow, if needed. Clean up after yourself. Help keep the barn clean. Barn should be presentable at all times for administration, community members, etc to walk through. Barn clean up days will be designated different times throughout the school year. Your attendance at barn cleanup is mandatory.
8. All animals must be cared for and fed twice a day, even on weekends. Fresh, clean water should be available at all times, no exceptions. Feeding schedules should be consistent. Animals must be attended/fed before and after school hours. Students will not have access to the Project Center during the school day to care for animal with exception to broilers if being stirred/fed throughout the day.
9. All animals should be exercised, walked, or prepared for show as directed by the AST. All animals WILL be controllable at all times. Any animal that cannot be controlled will not be allowed to show. (Any haltered animal should be halter broke and able to walk from Point A to Point B as requested by AST, swine should be able to walk from Point A to Point B with a show stick as requested by AST)
10. Any equipment brought to the facility is at your own risk. The district will not be responsible for lost, stolen, or broken equipment.
11. No pets allowed at the facility.
12. No firearms, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or tobacco are allowed at the Project Center. No one under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco will be allowed at the Project Center.

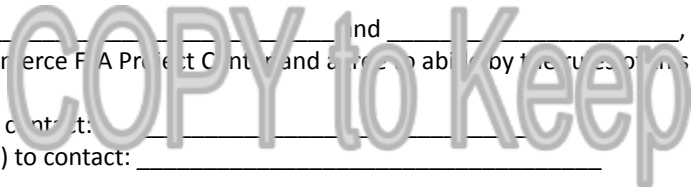
13. Students or parents will not abuse animals in any manner (including, but not limited to: neglect, physical abuse, unethical fitting) at the Project Center. Abuse will be determined by the AST and will result in the immediate and automatic removal of that student's animal from the Project center. Two barn warnings are not necessary for removal under these circumstances. Other major offenses include: vandalism, drugs, alcohol, not following rules set forth by AST or other actions that are determined serious by the AST.
14. No abuse of facilities will be tolerated; this includes cleaning as requested by AST.
15. No one is allowed at the Project Center between the hours of 11:00 pm and 5:00 am, without letting an AST know.
16. If an animal dies at the Project Center, the student is to properly dispose of the animal within 24 hours.
17. Pen rent is \$30 per animal, per project season. If you are removed before end of the year, you forfeit full amount. Premium money, sale checks for shows will not be paid out until balance is resolved in full. Members not clearing balances will be considered not in good standing with the chapter.
18. If a student is unable to do their duties at the Project Center, someone, a parent, brother, sister, etc. is expected to do their duties for them.
19. No other student or adult, may feed, move, water, or provide any other care, regardless of intent, to help another student's project(s) without the owner's permission, unless they have been instructed to do so by the Ag Science Teacher. In the event someone other than you or your parents/immediate family members feed your animal without your permission notify an Ag Science Teacher at once. No student should use feed, equipment, etc. of another student's without their permission.
20. If at any time a student/parent becomes aware of any problem with animals, facilities, or other students the AST's must be contacted first.
21. Commerce ISD Code of Conduct as listed in the student handbook will apply to the facility.
22. At the conclusion of the final show for the season of that animal, you have 2 weeks to remove the animal from the facility and thoroughly clean pen and surrounding area or pay a fine of \$50 before any livestock show checks are issued.

VIOLATIONS OF ANY OF THESE RULES WILL BE HANDLED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| First Offense | Written warning & parent, principal, Ag Teacher conference |
| Second Offense | Written warning & removal of animal(s) from Project Center within 5 days |

We, _____ and _____, have read and fully understand all rules of the Commerce FFA Project Center and agree to abide by the rules of this contract.

Email address to contact: _____
 Phone number(s) to contact: _____



Guidelines for Livestock Shows

- You will have a good attitude and be respectful.
- You are part of a show **TEAM**, always act as a team and support your team.
- The ag teacher should not have to FIND you every time something needs done at the heifer stalls. No exhibitor will be away from the stall for longer than 15 minutes at a time unless the ag teacher knows where/why the exhibitor is gone.
- Exhibitor & family will follow rules as outlined by the show and Commerce ISD.
- For overnight shows— a parent must come and stay with you the entire trip. If you are planning on being with another parent, Ms Daugherty must be notified and then Mr Drummond AND Mr Alderman must approve alternate arrangements at least 1 week prior to departing.
- Exhibitors are considered on school time from the time they arrive at the barn until 4:00 p.m. and are under the supervision of the ag teacher. From 4:00 p.m. until they arrive back at the barn they are under the care of their parent but are still at a school sponsored event under Commerce ISD rules.
- Meet at designated time at school to load tack/animals and follow ag teacher to the show, unless otherwise approved/arranged through ag teacher.
- ZERO TOLERANCE for the consumption or possession of alcohol, drugs, etc. Student will be automatically placed in DAEP, NO EXCEPTIONS.
- At the show, you will need to load & unload your own heifer and school/personal tack upon arrival. All exhibitors will help set up & take down together. We will leave the show together, regardless of release time of each animal. Unless otherwise approved/arranged through ag teacher.
- At shows—You must arrive at barn each morning no later than 7:30 am and not leave before 6 pm unless your ag teacher tells you otherwise or you have made other arrangements with your ag teacher. Plan on being even earlier on your show day.
- During the day, you should not leave your calf more than 15 minutes at a time. You may leave the fairgrounds to eat with a parent, but do not plan on being gone for lengthy periods of time. I understand food is expensive at the show, but someone needs to stay with your animal for the majority of the day. Grab something quick if you need to leave (with a parent only), bring lunch/snacks to the show, or find something to eat while we are there. No one should have to care for your calf for extended periods of time while you are on “vacation”. You can also walk around to shop or look at exhibits, but make sure that you are coming back regularly to check your calf. As long as your calf is in stall area, they are to be taken care of by exhibitor not someone else.
- Every time your heifer (or any teammate’s heifer) poops, clean it up immediately. You are part of a show team. Help each other out.
- Everything needs to be PRE-CLIPPED. If you need to do minor details at the show, you can, but the majority of the work should be done on your calf prior to leaving. If you need help clipping, please let your teacher know 10 days prior to leaving the show (otherwise teacher will assume you have it handled).

- Do not leave feed/water pans out, animals will knock them over. Heifers should get about 30 minutes to eat, if they do not eat it up by then, take it away. Feed buckets are not to sit in front of the animal all day. Hay should be given in small handfuls, or a flake at a time at the most. Hay will be given free choice at night in tie outs.
- If tie outs are available, you will purchase one and tie out at night. Everyone will get beds ready upon arrival at the show and then take turns getting beds ready each night after initial setup.
- **If a person from the show team is showing you will go watch and support them showing unless you are preparing your animal for show, NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- We will all feed around the same time, usually about 5:00 p.m.. Heifers should be walked daily because this is the only exercise they are getting while at show.
- You will wash/rinse your heifer every day while at the show in a timely manner prior to feeding and tying out for the night.
- Dress code--when showing, you will need to wear a button down/collared shirt pressed and tucked in, jeans free from holes/frays, leather boots, leather belt
- We will discuss the purchase of bedding prior to each show and will use the same type of bedding so we are uniform.
- A parent and student will be at each entry meeting in order to enter.
- Animals that haven't been cared/groomed for correctly, unruly animals, or animals not deemed fit will not be allowed to participate.
- **Students with poor work ethic /behavior issues will not show.**
- Grade checks will be sent out periodically; **no pass = no show**(see grade eligibility section of handbook). **To be in good standing with the heifer team you must participate in fruit and meat fundraiser(minimum of 10 items sold), not owe any debts to the chapter, participate in chapter activities.**
- Animals will not be allowed to stay in the school barn, or be signed off for any shows (including county) if exhibitor is not in good standing with the Commerce FFA chapter or Commerce ISD. **Ineligible with school district = no show.**

I understand ALL expectations as described in these guidelines and by my ag teacher. I also understand that he/she may add, delete, or modify these rules at his/her discretion. Your ag teacher reserves the right to not allow you to show if you cannot follow rules. I also acknowledge that I am responsible for the actions of my child after 4:00 p.m. each day that we are gone to a show for the 2018-2021 show season.

Student Signature: _____
 Parent Signature: _____

Guidelines for Ag Mechanics shows

- You will have a good attitude and be respectful.
- You are part of a show TEAM, always act as a team and support your team.
- The ag teacher should not have to FIND you every time something needs done with your project. No exhibitor will be away from their project until it has been judged.
- Exhibitors & family will follow rules as outlined by the show and Commerce ISD.
- For overnight shows– a parent must come and stay with you the entire trip, or you will ride with the ag teacher (This has to be arranged beforehand. The truck will only hold five students) . If you are planning on students riding with and being with another parent it must be approved by each parent in writing.
- Exhibitors are considered on school time from the time they arrive at the barn until the show is over. and are under the supervision of the ag teacher. From then until they arrive back at the barn they are under the care of their parents, but are still at a school function.
- Meet at designated time at the school shop to load projects.
- ZERO TOLERANCE for the consumption or possession of alcohol, drugs, etc. Students will be automatically placed in DAEP, NO EXCEPTIONS.
- At the show, everyone will help set up & take down together, and we will leave the show together.
- At shows–You must arrive at the grounds at the time set by the ag teacher and will not leave until the ag teacher has given permission to .
- You will clean your project every day while at the show, and consistently on show day.
- Dress code--when showing, you will need to wear a button down/collared shirt pressed and tucked in, starched jeans free from holes/frays, professional shoes, and belt
- A parent and student will be at each entry meeting in order to enter.
- Students with poor work ethic /behavior issues will not show.
- Grade checks will be sent out periodically: no pass = no show(see grade eligibility section of handbook). To be in good standing with the ag mechanics team you must participate in fruit and meat fundraiser, not owe any debts to the chapter, participate in chapter activities.

I understand ALL expectations as described in these guidelines and by my ag teacher. I also understand that he/she may add, delete, or modify these rules at his/her discretion. Your ag teacher reserves the right to not allow you to show if you cannot follow directions. I also acknowledge that I am responsible for the actions of my child after the show activities are complete each day that we are gone to a show for the 2021-2022 show season.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date _____

2022-2023 Commerce FFA LIVESTOCK PROGRAM ETHICS POLICY

Updated 08/12/2021

This ethics policy applies to any Commerce FFA member planning to exhibit animals at Hunt County Fair or any other livestock show. All classes of livestock offered at the livestock event are included: Cattle, Goats, Sheep, Swine, Fryers, and Broilers. This Livestock Program Ethics Policy will be enhanced with additional rules and guidelines which individual fairs and livestock shows adhere to on the local, county, regional, and state levels.

Commerce FFA livestock project exhibitors are under the supervision of an Agricultural Science Teacher who serves as the advisor for that project. Exhibiting livestock is a privilege, and exhibitors must comply with this document and respect the authority granted to his/her supervisor and fair board.

The following practices or procedures are unacceptable and are defined as being deceptive, fraudulent, unethical, and inhumane in the care, fitting, preparation and showing of all classes of livestock. The use of any illegal drug is prohibited. Any practice used to alter the appearance of an animal entered in livestock events is prohibited (See Rule #9 & #10). Proof of any animals being subjected to illegal and/or unethical practice(s) and/or procedure(s) described herein subjects the animal to immediate disqualification from the shows it is tagged for. If a violation is found of any of the following rules, this may result in a cancelled validation record.

The following is a listing of rules all Commerce FFA exhibitors must follow to enter livestock at organized competitive events.

1. Exhibitors must be bona fide members of Commerce FFA Chapter and care for their animals under the direct supervision of the Agricultural Science Teacher. Exhibitors must be enrolled in, and attending, public or private and/or home school elementary or secondary schools in Hunt County.

2. Market animals (Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goats) must be owned and under exhibitor's daily care by the county tag-in dates. For breeding animals, the official ownership date is the date reflected on the registration papers. This date is the specific date for each breed of record as recognized by the validation program. (Individual show rules may determine ownership requirements for non-market animals.) Registered breeding livestock must show the exhibitor as the sole owner of the animal on the breed association papers. If additional registration papers are found active within an association indicating ownership information conflicting with the exhibitor's sole ownership designation, the breeding animals may be considered multiple-owned and subject to disqualification. Breeding animal state validation deadlines dates: June 30 – Spring Heifer Validation; October 31 – Breeding Sheep and Goats and November 1 – Fall Heifer Validation.

3. To gain the life skills developed through the livestock project; exhibitors must be closely engaged in the feeding, maintenance, training, grooming and overall welfare of his/her animals. Exhibitors and immediate family/guardians are responsible for providing the primary and continuous daily care of livestock projects throughout the validation period. The validation period begins immediately following the county validation or tag-in date through exhibition at all livestock shows (*exhibitors must provide continuous care for breeding heifers, sheep and goats throughout the animal's eligibility to show*).

Commerce FFA livestock project exhibitors are under the supervision of the Agricultural Science Teacher who serves as the advisor for that project. Excessive involvement of third party consultants, breeders, fitters not affiliated with the Texas 4-H and Texas FFA programs is prohibited. Third party involvement interfering with the exhibitor's ability to provide primary daily care of and engagement with livestock projects may result in the disqualification of all livestock projects. Likewise, third party involvement interfering with the Agricultural Science Teacher's ability to properly supervise the livestock project may result in the disqualification of all validated livestock projects. Livestock projects must be raised at the exhibitor's place of residence, at the school livestock barn, or in close proximity in order for daily care which will be approved by the Agricultural Science Teacher. Prior approval must be granted by the Agricultural Science Teacher/County Extension Agent in the event the animal will be outside the direct care of the exhibitor and/or immediate family/guardian **FOR MORE THAN 2 NIGHTS**. Failure to notify the supervising Agricultural Science Teacher (AST) of the previous may result in the disqualification of all validated livestock. By signing this document, the exhibitor and parent/guardian, recognize his/her responsibilities for the primary and continuous care of livestock projects throughout the feeding period and hereby authorizes the Hunt Co Fair Board or Livestock Committee and/or supervising AST **the right to inspect your livestock project(s), along with any other validated livestock projects on premises, at any time during the feeding period with or without prior notice**. Validated livestock must be made available for inspection at any time requested where the livestock are to be located. Failure to make

inspection available as requested will constitute a violation of validation rules and may lead to disqualification of the livestock in question and any other validated livestock. Additionally, any exhibitor in violation of the primary and continuous daily care rule is subject to disqualification.

4. Any method used to misrepresent the age of an animal for a class in which it is shown is deceptive and considered a violation of the rules and guidelines.
5. Treating an animal internally or externally, with any irritant, counter-irritant, or other substance used to artificially change the conformation or appearance of an animal for show is considered unethical, inhumane, and is prohibited. Surgery, injection or insertion of foreign material under the skin and/or into the flesh of an animal to change the natural contour, conformation or appearance of an animal's body is illegal. This includes **injection of gas, air, oil, or other foreign substances**; cutting/tearing of the hide/underneath the hide or removal of tissue in any attempt to alter the physical appearance of the animal; numbing or "deadening" an animal's tail; cutting tendons of an animal; using foreign substances to build or cosmetically re-shape feet (this does not include medically necessary treatments for injured hooves or feet); as well as "twining" which includes the attachment of hair or hair substances (i.e. baling twine, cloth, fiber, etc.). Acceptable practices of physical preparation which are allowed include, clipping of hair, trimming of hooves, dehorning, removal of ancillary teats, and docking of tails.
6. The use of unethical fitting, showing and/or handling practices or devices compromising animal welfare shall not be tolerated.
7. Livestock exhibitors will be held accountable for the Guidelines for each species in which they validate livestock projects. Livestock exhibitors will also be held accountable for the rules and guidelines for each livestock show in which they exhibit validated livestock.
8. The Supervising AST along with the Fair Board and CISD Administration reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and to settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of or connected with or incident to "Commerce FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy".

Any violation of the "Commerce FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy" and/or associated validation guidelines, as well as specific rules as designated by individual fairs and livestock shows may result in disqualification and/or probationary status and/or loss of eligibility for future participation in organized livestock competition. **Possible civil penalties may be imposed by the proper authorities based on evidence provided by the livestock show of exhibitors in violation of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act/or the animal mistreatment, neglect, and abandonment laws that apply on the local, state, and/or national levels.** All rule violations will be dealt with on an individual basis by the Supervising AST, Hunt Co Fair Board, CISD Administration and/or appropriate livestock show officials.

I, the parent/guardian and exhibitor, am verifying that I have read the "Commerce FFA Livestock Program Ethics Policy" and understand the consequences of and penalties involved for illegal, unethical, inhumane, and unfair practices in livestock competition. I am also verifying knowledge that my family and I may be prohibited from future participation in organized validation programs in the State of Texas, and could face possible criminal prosecution and/or civil penalties if implicated in any of the aforementioned acts.

**Validation as listed in this document refers to state validated animals and/or animals tagged in for Hunt County Fair.

****ATTENTION:** Please list the address the livestock will be housed below. The address where the animals will be located should be approved by the Supervising AST if other than the exhibitors primary residence or school livestock barn.

Physical Address City, State, Zip _____

Exhibitor (Printed Name) _____ Parent/Guardian (Printed Name) _____

Parent/Guardian (Signature) _____ Date _____

COPY to Keep