

Fair Recap Comments:

Exhibitors/Parents:

Good Morning,

I am emailing this morning with the hope to ask your consideration on a few items.

My 11 year old son had a red angus steer this year, which weighed in at 1,451 pounds. We accepted that we were over the weight limit for the sale and made no issue at the scales during weigh in or to follow this rule. He will still be able to sell his calf private treaty and cover his expenses, and we used it as a learning opportunity. In the future, however I would suggest if two scales are being used to weigh in, that if an animal is close they should be able to weigh in on the other scale as well.

I reviewed the fair book after weigh in and wasn't clear on what he would be able to do on show day. I asked and was told he would be able to show his calf per normal just not sell. On show day, the classes were posted and he was separated into a heavyweight class by himself and there was a feeder class of the steers that didn't make weight. When I questioned why these members were sorted into separate classes and not in the breed classes they should have been in, I was told that the sale committee said no and it would screw up the sale order if done that way. The market breed classes were completed, the championship drive was done and then the feeder class and heavyweight class was brought into the showing. As a parent I wanted my son to complete his project and be a good sport so he showed. He took his calf out, set him up, the judge asked him the weight of his calf, told him he'd done everything right, then walked him out of the ring. He was embarrassed.

I don't know how it has been done in the past or for each specie, but after talking with some other families, know of another situation two years ago where all the underweight hogs got placed in the first market class, were in the ring, and half way through they were pulled, and told they couldn't show and would need to be in their own class. I have no doubt that was embarrassing for those members as well.

I hope that my family won't be in this situation again, but in summary I'd like you to give some thought to the below bulleted list, to ensure all 4-H members successful opportunities when they show:

- The sale committee should not be dictating rules within the youth show.
- Other counties do allow animals that are under or over weight limits to show in the youth show. Some allow them to sell, but are sold by the pound and are not paid for any pounds over the weight limit.
- Consider adding verbiage in the fairbook what the options will be for animals that are over/under limits and make sure superintendents are clear on those expectations as well as members.
- Where I agree that there should be weight limits for the sale, I think it sends the wrong message to kids whose animals are under or over the weight limits, that they can't show with their peers in the breed classes within the market show. The lesson is learned in this situation with not getting to sell.

Thanks to each of you for all your work and efforts to make fair happen every year, but especially this year. Our families needed it! I also appreciate your consideration of the contents of this email.

Stacy Broda (Parent of Exhibitor)

Thanks for your response.

One other thought I've had as I visit with some of my ag teachers across the state and what their county fair sales do....Is it necessary anymore to have a weight limit?

I'm not sure of the history of what weight limits have been over the last 20 years in our county, but I'm guessing they haven't changed a lot. When I was showing and my parents were on the sale committee (I realize this was 20+ years ago) they had a weight limit because several buyers were buying beef specifically for themselves to butcher and the committee was trying to institute some quality control to keep from some large, framey animals that weren't fed properly from entering the sale. I'm not sure if that's the case anymore or where the percentages land. When I looked at the markets a couple weeks ago, cattle hanging on the rail weren't getting discounted unless they weighed over 1000 pounds. This would mean a fat steer would have to weigh on average 1600+ live.

I think we would all agree that education for our youngsters is the basis of these projects and them understanding the industry is important. If we are selling by the head and not the pound at our sale, is it important to have a weight limit on the top end, especially if industry currently is not discounting until they are 1600 pounds? I would agree we need a minimum weight.

The other point of discussion with having a weight limit is the educational piece/ethical issues of what happens when animals are overweight. It's an easy fix to hold an animal back from feed or hold it off water the night before or even the morning of weigh in. Is that ethical or from an educational perspective the industry standard?

In summary, my main goal was to bring attention for the policy and rules to be more clear on what happens to those members who end up underweight or overweight and have some discussion where the best place for animals to land, whether it be separate classes or put within the normal market show. I share the thoughts above in this email just as some points of discussion gathered from an industry perspective and what other counties are doing with their sales. I don't expect rule changes for my kids or for this specific situation as I don't believe we will ever be in this spot again, but always think discussion is healthy once in awhile to evaluate.

I really do appreciate everything you all do for fair and our youth in Laramie County. I know sometimes it's a thankless job, but know you make a difference for our kids. Stay warm today!

Stacy Broda (Parent of Exhibitor)

Answer: 4-H, FFA, and myself have met on this and we have another meeting scheduled in October. We are reevaluating weight limits and how classes are broken down in the shows. There is much to research and discuss on this matter and it will be a combined effort between all of us as to how to best prevent things such as this in the future. I do know that we will be making sure that the Fairbook is more accurate in its definitions and explanations of how the process is ran and what is expected of each species. This is a work in progress and we are staying in contact with Mrs. Broda at this time.

2020 Laramie County Fair - Feedback Form (Responses)

| Timestamp | Name | Phone | Email | Please provide your feedback below. |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------|---|
| 9/3/2020 14:46:55 | Barbara Edmunds | 3072207775 | starranime2@netzero.com | The fair was good hope it's all normal next year. <u>Staff was</u> great. Your kids are great. The sales were great as well glad you got it so people could purchase the projects |
| 9/3/2020 14:48:03 | Gracie Marske | 574-303-5922 | Graciebje@yahoo.com | We are thankful the staff worked hard at making sure we had a fair and also kept our family safe. It was not ideal. No one could expect it. We have family and friends throughout the country and know they were not able to offer opportunities for 4H. Thanks for all of the hard work! |
| 9/3/2020 15:06:07 | Amber Hoffman | 3077011053 | Haydenfei@yahoo.com | Considering the obstacle this year it was ran pretty well. The animals though were more stressed out I feel like and didn't show as well. The animals do better when they stay up there and we missed seeing the public coming to see the animals and all the kids hard work. |
| 9/4/2020 1:18:02 | Addy Rosner | 3072872765 | rosnera22@gmail.com | I was actually pleasant surprised with how awesome fair ran. We actually really enjoyed the show and go format and are so so thankful we got to show. We wished the pens were pushed back a little farther off the wall to keep from the build up of trafficking when we are hustling to get ready but other than that we were extremely pleased. This years format for the sale was 100x better as well. Overall the fair staff did awesome and we all really enjoyed fair. Our biggest complaint which may not even fall in your jurisdiction is we all are tired of rules not being upheld. Going to big shows they always emphasize that we can not make rules we are not willing to enforce or else you are going to hurt the honest kids, and that has continued to happen year after year. This year we had a goat shown that was not tagged by deadline, which many families had photo proof of and it was still allowed to show. We also heard instances where lambs who's tags did not match the tag that was suppose to be in that class were allowed in and won the class. In the beef barn every steer that placed high was fitted and the judge even commented that's why he placed them higher, after it was specifically stated this year families could not fit. We as fair families are all just frustrated with the lack of rules being enforced, if they won't be enforced across the board do without them and give everyone a fair shot. If we aren't going to kick our kids for hiring fitters let us all have that same chance, if one kid can wait till the week before fair to tag let us all. We are only hurting honest people and discouraging honesty in these 4-H kids. It sets a terrible example when the kids that continually break the rules are not only not held accountable but continue to win, and these young kids are taking note of that. We would all love to see a mutual understanding between 4-H, FFA, and the fair in regards to what rules are in place and who will enforce them. It has gotten to the point a lot of kids are getting discouraged and wanting to quit and that isn't how fair should be. |
| 9/4/2020 10:00:07 | Erin Gonzalez | 3076317284 | redhgongo@yahoo.com | I liked how the weigh ins and ultrasound went it was a lot less hectic. I also loved getting the vet check from the vet prior to arrival as I always get one for State. |
| 9/4/2020 19:26:28 | Corrine Quisenberry | 307-221-3076 | Corrineandkids@gmail.com | Fair went great this year! I really enjoyed this year's fair and a few months ago I wasn't even looking <u>forward</u> to it. I thought for sure fair would be canceled or it would be a nightmare to attend/watch my kids. This year's fair was the least stressful fair so far |