



NEBRASKA 4-H POLICY HANDBOOK: Clover Kids

4-H POLICY AND PROCEDURE HANDBOOK

Section 5: 4-H Eligibility

- The first year of eligibility for participation in the 4-H Clover Kids program is the calendar year the member becomes six (6) or 4-H age of five (5).
- Children may join Clover Kids when they turn six to eight (five to seven 4-H age) during the calendar year. This program will assist youth in developing emotional, physical, intellectual, and social skills. Clover Kids programming is designed with activities and learning opportunities that are developmentally appropriate for six to eight year-old children. Youth within this age are not yet ready for competition.
- The Clover Kids program is developmentally appropriate and involves the following components:
 - Encourage involvement of parent or significant adult
 - Focus on self-esteem and provide positive feedback
 - Share through cooperative learning
 - Non-competitive: Emphasize fun and success of every child
 - Recognize individuals for participation
 - Recognize and give incentives without rank or placing
- Clover Kid programs, in addition to the curriculum provided, can be developed as long as a safe environment is assured. ([Go to Section 16.3, Risk Management for related guidelines.](#))

16.1.2 Animal Exhibits for Clover Kids

- Animals and animal subject matter can contribute to Clover Kids objectives. However, for safety, liability, and competitive reasons often associated with livestock shows, some restrictions are necessary to maintain Clover Kids program objectives. The Clover Kids program will be developmentally appropriate and involve the following components:
 - Encourage involvement of parent or significant adult
 - Focus on self-esteem and provide positive feedback
 - Share through cooperative learning
 - Noncompetitive -- emphasizing fun and success of every child
 - Recognize individuals for participation



- Present recognition and incentives without rank or placing
- Specific reasons for being cautious with direct large animal involvement are as follows:
 - Children eight and under often lack the mental and physical skills for controlling and understanding the strength of large animals (Livestock Conservation Institute, 1994).
 - Young children may lack the strength, balance, and attention span to adequately manage large animals (American Medical Equestrian Association, 1993).

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- Because of these reasons, Clover Kids programs involving live animals must adhere to the following guidelines:
 - Exhibition includes discussions with youth based on their knowledge of the care and raising of the animal.
 - Exhibitors show in a non-competitive setting for participation only.
 - Age, size, and temperament of animal projects must be appropriate for the exhibitors age and size.
 - Horse projects are not appropriate for this age group.

Suggested guidelines for all animals, including livestock species (Beef, Sheep, Dairy, and Swine) are as follows:

- There will be one adult/teen volunteer present for every two Clover Kids that are handling or exhibiting animals. This applies to all animal projects.
- Livestock animals should be no more than six months of age and no more than 350 pounds at time of show.