



## 2021 Merced County Fair Pre-Application Information For Students Interested in Raising/Exhibiting a Goat, Lamb, or Pig at the Merced County Fair in 2021

The Merced County Fair has approved 4 “plans” regarding the 2021 Merced County Fair and FFA livestock exhibitors:

Plan A – In-person fair with Livestock show and sale

Plan B – In-person Livestock show and sale; no in-person fair

Plan C – In-person Livestock show with a virtual sale; no in-person fair

Plan D – Virtual Livestock show and sale; no in-person fair

With the current COVID-19 situation, current school schedule (hybrid and online learning), the parameters and “unknowns” involved in the above plans listed above, and the unknown(s) regarding the costs, investment, health/safety parameters, and potential risks associated with not knowing what the situation will be in the coming months, spring, and summer, Atwater FFA will BE LIMITING the # of approved projects and students for this year’s fair. Priority will be given to past experienced students who are and remain “eligible” (based on the next/enclosed page/form). “New” exhibitors will be selected based on availability and the eligibility parameters listed on the next/enclosed page/form.

There will be a series of steps and requirements for students to follow/meet in order to qualify for the application process. The FIRST steps are:

1 – To read, understand, and sign (BOTH student and parent) the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of this form and have it turned into the school (in person or mail) by November 13, 2020. If you mail the form, it MUST BE POSTMARKED by Wednesday, November 11, 2020. (Please mail to the school PO BOX listed at the top of this page)

2 – All applicants for GOATS, LAMBS, or PIGS MUST attend a species specific Parent/Exhibitor ZOOM meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2020. This is MANDATORY for ALL student applicants regardless if they have raised, exhibited, or shown a livestock species for Atwater FFA or not. Only those students who we have received a “2021 Merced County Fair – Atwater FFA Pre-Exhibitor Application Information” form will be eligible and/or accepted into the Zoom meeting. That meeting MUST BE ATTENDED BY A PARENT or GUARDIAN – NO EXCEPTIONS!

3 – Additional forms will be made available for those without a printer at various scheduled dates/times and those opportunities will be communicated to the students.

Regardless of the challenges associated with COVID-19, distance learning, etc.... Atwater FFA will strictly adhere to the policies listed on the “Pre-Exhibitor Application Form” including one’s GPA and current grades. Academics, earning a diploma, and graduation take precedent over raising an animal. If a student does not have time to meet their academic responsibilities, it is hard to justify they have time to meet the responsibilities associated with all that is required in raising/exhibiting an animal for the fair.



Atwater High School Agriculture Department / Atwater FFA  
 PO Box 835 / 2201 Fruitland Ave  
 Atwater, CA 95301  
 209-357-6026 (office) / 209-357-6067 (fax)

Student's Name (print):

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Ag Teacher (print):

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**2021 Merced County Fair - Atwater FFA Pre-Exhibitor Application Information**

Raising an animal to exhibit at the Merced County Fair as an Atwater FFA member is a privilege, not a right. While it remains a goal to provide as many students the opportunity to raise a small animal or livestock project for the fair, this "goal" does come with limitations based on student/animal resources, financial investment(s), manageability of students, and the health and safety of the animals. Just because you may have participated in raising and exhibiting at animal project for Atwater FFA last year, does not necessarily mean you will have the opportunity this year.

There will be certain requirements to be eligible in applying and being approved to raise/exhibit a small animal and/or livestock project with Atwater FFA. They include:

#1 – School Attendance: Students must be in good standing (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester) in terms of school attendance. Unexcused/truant absences and/or tardies (for any classes / periods) may disqualify you. If you cannot demonstrate good attendance and/or showing up to class on time, how can we trust you will do so with your animal/livestock project?

#2 – Academics: Students must be in good academic standing. Graduating and earning a diploma takes precedence over raising an animal. "D's and/or F's", especially in an agriculture class, may/will disqualify you. This includes current PROGRESS REPORT grades. Raising an animal takes additional time and responsibility. It would be hard to justify adding more time and responsibility to ones schedule with an animal project if you are already having a challenge fitting in time to meet your academic responsibilities.

#3 – Behavior / Discipline: Any school behavior or discipline issues may/will disqualify you. The ability to "trust" you in an occasional unsupervised environment and demonstration of good judgement, behavior, and character is REQUIRED.

#4 – "Strikes", Work Ethic, and/or Effort: If you raised/exhibited a small animal and/or livestock project for the fair last year, and you earned one or more strikes (while raising the animal or showing at the fair), you may lose the opportunity this year. If you did not demonstrate showing up when required, being on time, being a team player, and/or putting forth a solid effort towards your responsibilities last year, you may have forfeited your opportunity to be part of the Atwater FFA Show Team this year. With the choice of participating, comes the responsibilities that come with it.

#5 – Students MUST Own an FFA Jacket w/ Tie/Scarf – The Merced County Fair requires students to have a full FFA uniform when showing. FFA jackets and ties/scarfs can be purchased for \$65. Students can also earn a FREE FFA jacket tie/scarf through FFA fundraisers. Opportunities for purchase and/or earning a FREE FFA jacket and tie/scarf are available to all students.

#6 – FFA Involvement – Students MUST be actively involved in FFA events/activities including monthly meeting attendance and fundraising. This is a similar requirement for 4-H members who raise/exhibit animals for the fair.

The purpose of this form is to inform the student interested and/or considering an animal project for the fair that there are requirements, standards, and responsibilities that have to be met prior, during, and after the each fair. This is combined with the fact we have limited resources and opportunities available to ensure all aspects of Atwater FFA animal projects are manageable and within the safety and well-being of both animals and students. When Atwater FFA is faced with making decisions on both the number of students which applicants will be approved, it will be decided/based on the parameters listed above.

**In order to receive an application, you (student) must acknowledge you have read and understand the initial parameters involved in the application process and have it signed by both you and a parent/guardian.**

More/additional information will be provided with applications for dairy cattle, goats, sheep, and swine going out in December, with poultry and rabbit project applications going out between February and April.

**THIS FORM IS DUE ON/BEFORE November 13, 2020 TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY/PARTICIPATE FOR 2021 FAIR**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian Signature

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 Date