Youth Livestock Projects
Each year, more than 100 local youth grow toward becoming successful adults by experiencing their own success with 4-H livestock projects. In Nash, Edgecombe and Halifax Counties, North Carolina Cooperative Extension partners with parents to provide this time-tested experience for youth to learn by doing! For several weeks, these youth assume the daily responsibility of ownership, caring for, grooming and training a steer, pig, goat or lamb. They are also required to keep written records of the expenses associated with their animals.

The Show and Sale
In April, youth with livestock projects are invited to participate with their animals in the Eastern Carolina 4-H Meat Animal Show & Sale. This event is held in the East Carolina Agriculture & Education Center located between Tarboro and Rocky Mount, N.C. on Kingsboro Road. During the “show” portion of this event, the animals are judged according to livestock industry standards. Youth exhibitors are judged for their showmanship, and the quality of their record books.

The “sale” portion of this event is an exciting livestock auction. The youth present their animals to an audience of bidders in a state-of-the-art sales arena. More than 200 local individuals and businesses offer bids which are usually greater than the actual market value of the animals. The bidders are generous because they intentionally support 4-H youth development, making sure these youth have a successful conclusion for their livestock projects. Soon after the show & sale, a well attended awards ceremony allows each youth to be individually recognized for their success.

How to Get Involved

A youth participant or parent . . .
should first contact the 4-H Extension Agent in their local Cooperative Extension Center.

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<tr>
<th>County Center</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nash County Center</td>
<td>(252) 459-9810</td>
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<tr>
<td>Halifax County Center</td>
<td>(252) 583-5161</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edgecombe County Center</td>
<td>(252) 641-7815</td>
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A successful livestock project begins in the fall. Seventy years of experience with livestock projects have made it necessary to establish requirements and deadlines for participants to succeed. Informational meetings are scheduled for participants to fully understand the process.

A livestock buyer . . .
can support the 4-H youth participants in one of two ways.

① You can best support these hardworking youth by placing bids during the exciting 4-H livestock auction in April. If you bid and purchase an animal, you do not necessarily take possession of the animal. Prior to the auction, someone from the livestock industry commits to purchasing and accepting all of the animals at their current market value. When you bid up the price, you pay only the amount above the support price (market value). You are actually paying a premium that goes directly to and rewards these young people. Your name (or that of your business) is publicly announced to the audience and later published as a supporter of this 4-H event. Your presence at the sales arena confirms your support of these 4-H youth.

② If you prefer not bidding during the auction, you may support these 4-H’ers by pledging an amount for someone to bid on your behalf. Each year more than 200 absentee bidders pledge and contribute more than $50,000 toward the payment of premiums to these 4-H’ers. If you pledge an amount to be bid, it is recommended that you do not designate it toward a particular 4-H’er. It is best to permit your pledge be used on a “bid where needed” basis, keeping the auction strong for all participating 4-H’ers. Your local Cooperative Extension Agents can recommend someone to bid on your behalf.
4-H . . . ARE YOU INTO IT?  ❄️

4-H is a “learn by doing” educational program for youth 5-19 years of age. 4-H offers opportunities for youth to develop self esteem by experiencing success and achievement. In addition to livestock projects, 4-H provides children and their parents more than 200 other projects and activities designed to help you learn and grow together. These activities include local 4-H clubs, summer camps, workshops, 4-H Congress, County & District Activity Days and much more!