

# **Taft I.S.D.**

## **Agriculture Facilities**

### **Show Project**

### **Handbook**



**2021-2022**

District Approved  
August 1, 2021

It is the policy of Taft I.S.D. not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap in its programs, services, or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Es norma de Taft I.S.D. el no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o actividades, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según la enmienda.

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# **I. Taft I.S.D. Agriculture Facilities and Show Project Rules & Regulations**

## **All participants must comply with the following criteria:**

**1.** Due to COVID-19 FFA Members, Guests and Advisors are recommended to wear a face mask covering the nose and mouth as well as practice social distancing while at the Taft I.S.D. Agriculture Facility.

**2.** Only Taft I.S.D. FFA Members and Junior FFA Members in good standing may be allowed to use the Taft FFA Agriculture facilities.

**3.** The Agriculture Science Facilities are a part of the Taft Independent School District and, therefore, all rules and regulations found in the *Student Handbook* and the *Code of Conduct* apply at all times. State law prohibits the possession and use of alcoholic beverages, narcotic drugs, controlled substances, tobacco, and firearms on school property. All violations will be reported to the Taft I.S.D. Police Department. Profane/abusive language and sexual misconduct will not be tolerated, and may invoke immediate removal from facilities in accordance with applicable District policy and state law. These provisions also apply to summer months, and all other times when school is not in session (i.e. Holidays, Spring Break, etc.).

**4.** Taft I.S.D., its representatives, agents, trustees, employees, volunteers, nor the FFA are responsible for damage or loss to personal property, injury of members, animal projects, guests, or family of participants. Any accident or safety hazard is to be reported immediately to the Agriculture Science teacher (AST), FFA Advisor, or Administrator.

**5.** Any animal that is raised as a project at the facilities and is entered for show under any group other than for the FFA Chapter at Taft I.S.D. will lose their facility privileges, as well as, pay a \$150 fine for use of the facilities and supplies.

**6.** Only a parent or legal guardian may accompany a student with an animal project to the facilities.

**7.** Guests at the facilities must be from Taft I.S.D. and hold an interest in the Agriculture Program. They may only be present with a member who is keeping a project at the barn. No more than 2 guests per member may be present at the facilities. Guests must sign in.

**8.** The Taft I.S.D. FFA Facilities may **NOT** be entered between the hours of 10:00pm and 5:00am unless special written permission has been provided by the AST. The combination to the gate may be given to each high school student & parent(s) and the parent(s) of the junior members. Only those who sign the *Taft I.S.D. School District*

*Agriculture Science Facilities Usage Agreement* form will be provided with the combination. The gate must stay locked at **ALL** times.

**9.** Any parent, guardian, guest, or student who does not abide by all of the rules and regulations will be removed from the property along with the students' Project as defined in section 12 below. The FFA member signing the barn contract is responsible for reviewing and abiding by **ALL** rules and guidelines with any guest, parent, family member, etc. who will be entering the Taft I.S.D. Agricultural Facility.

**10.** A student must do **ALL** of the following things before bringing any animal onto the Agriculture Facilities Grounds:

- obtain permission from the Taft I.S.D. FFA Advisor/AST;
- attend an official FFA meeting;
- participate in a "work weekend" to get facilities ready; and
- understand and sign the *FFA Code of Ethics*, the *Taft Independent School District Agriculture Science Facilities Usage Agreement*, and any other documents the District deems necessary.

**11.** No pets are allowed on agricultural facility grounds.

**12.** Any added structures and fixtures and/or changes to the layout of the facility including, but not limited to, pens, fans, heat lamps, scales, drainage holes, etc. must first be approved by the FFA Advisor/AST.

**13.** Projects that may be housed at the facilities include: turkeys, steers, market sheep, market goats, and market hogs. Only breeding projects being entered into a major show are allowed. Projects kept for special purposes must be approved through the FFA Advisor/AST in **written form**.

**14.** Students will be required to participate in all mandatory "work weekends." Students who do not participate in the "work weekend" to prepare the barn, will not be allowed to have animals in the barn facility.

**Students are required to clean and sanitize pens within 1 week of the removal of the student project. Failing to do so will result in a \$100 fine paid to Taft FFA, as well as, the student not being allowed to use the facilities the following year.**

**15.** Students who show turkeys may not be in the pig barn, walkway, work ring, or surrounding area. Students who show pigs may not be in the turkey pen or surrounding area.

***These animals can spread diseases to and from each other. Students caught will be held responsible for medical fees to treat every animal.***

**16.** Exhibitor signs at the shows will be provided. If the student takes it from the show or needs it replaced for any reason, they will pay a \$10 replacement cost.

**17.** Quality hay is allowed and may be used for feeding purposes **only** for cattle and goats. Hay is **NOT** allowed in the pig barn area. Hay is **NOT** allowed to be used for bedding at any time.

**18.** Students who become ineligible to show for any reason must remove the animal and any related equipment that is not owned by Taft I.S.D. within 7 days of Notice of Eviction.

**19.** Students who are unable to come to the barn due to suspension or AEP must make arrangements for a parent or other FFA member to care for the animal(s).

## **II. ANIMAL COST & CARE**

***If an animal is to be removed for any reason, please consult and notify your agriculture teacher prior to doing so.***

- The student is responsible for all costs of the animal. This includes, but is not limited to: the initial cost of the animal, any expenses incurred while feeding and caring for the animal, feed and supplements, and any medical expenses (ex: vet bills, etc.).
- The student is responsible for proper care of his/her animal. This includes adequate nutrition and hydration for proper growth, the development of the animal project, and cleaning the pen and surrounding area. When owners are unable to be contacted immediately, the Taft I.S.D. Agriculture Teacher reserves the right to seek treatment for any animal found to be in need of **immediate emergency care**. The owner will be responsible for any costs incurred.
- Only the respective owner (student) or parent/guardian is allowed to feed or care for an animal unless prior approval was obtained from the FFA Advisor/AST.
- Self-feeders and round bales are **NOT** allowed without previous approval.
  - Request for these items can be approved by Agriculture Science Teachers/ FFA Advisors.
  - If these items are approved by an AST and they are being misused, the AST will ask for these items to be removed.
- You must notify the FFA Advisor/AST at least 24 hours before any Breeders or Jockeys are coming to the barn. They must wear booties at all times.
- The abuse of any animal by a student or adult will result in the student donating the animal to the FFA program, as well as, any disciplinary consequences as dictated by District policy, handbooks, and state law. The student and parents/guardians will

indefinitely not be allowed on the grounds. Abuse includes, but is not limited to: starving, neglect, and physical abuse.

- A folder will be provided to the students with large animals to keep records of feed, supplements, weights, medications, and any other important documents. The folders will be checked weekly.
- Students will be responsible for the care and feeding of their projects twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening.
- Students may trade out feeding and care responsibilities with other **FFA Members** who keep animals at the barn on weekends, holidays, and during vacations; but it is still the owner's responsibility to ensure that projects are properly cared for.
- Students will clean the manure and any other waste from their pen each day and dispose of it in the provided dumpster.
- Students will be responsible for cleaning the entire length of drain on their side of the barn for an assigned number of days each week, these days will be assigned according to a schedule that will be distributed by the Ag teacher to the students by email each month. The waste should be removed from the drain and disposed of in the provided dumpster.
- Students who fail to keep their pens clean may be required to remove their project from the barn.
- All animal project management decisions will be made by the student/parent.
- Animals that expire due to natural causes or by euthanasia by a veterinarian must be disposed of properly and humanely within eight hours of notification.
- No animals may be slaughtered on school property, including any Agriculture Facilities.
- *The FFA Advisor/AST is available to assist and aid a student when a student requests this assistance.*

### **III. FACILITY FEES**

Rental fee is based per animal and it is charged yearly. Fees will be due before the animal enters the barn facilities.

- Cattle: \$50 for first head; \$35 for each after per student family
- Swine, Sheep, Goats: \$25 for first head; \$15 for each after per student family
- Turkeys: \$10 for every 5 birds per student family

Fees will provide basic supplies & maintenance for the barn. Use of a veterinarian for specific medical needs and maintenance fees will be at the project owner's expense.

#### **IV. REMOVAL OF ANIMALS AFTER SHOWS**

The student is to remove all projects from the agriculture facility 30 days after their last show. If the student becomes ineligible, the animal(s) must be removed 30 days after the student is found ineligible. If not removed, the student will be assessed a **\$100** hauling/handling fee to deliver the animal to the nearest auction barn. Money made from the auction will be donated to the Taft FFA chapter. Animals must be alive when removed from the property. Any projects sold to independent buyers must be loaded by the FFA member or parent. Buyers may not enter the barn facilities.

#### **AGRICULTURE FACILITIES DISASTER PLAN**

- Taft I.S.D. and/or its employees are not responsible for any evacuation or care of FFA animal projects through a disaster of any type (natural, chemical, etc.).
- The movement or evacuation of any FFA animal project is the responsibility of each individual animal owner.

#### **Transportation**

The FFA Advisor/AST will only transport large animals (sheep, goats, swine, and cattle) to the Ag Farm at the time of procurement, as well as to and from any Livestock Shows the animal has entered under Taft FFA. The FFA Advisor/AST will not be responsible for hauling animals off at the end of the year, should the student decide not to floor the animal at the show.

#### **V. STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

- Students are expected to act in a professional manner at all times in the Agriculture Facilities.
- Any activities, which endanger the health or physical wellbeing of students/parents/teachers/facilities or animals, will not be permitted.
- Loitering or other activities not directly related to the Projects will not be permitted at the facilities.
- Students will not be able to enter the Agriculture Facilities while serving in AEP or any suspension.

Students will abide by the *Conduct and Student Handbook* at all times while at the Agriculture Facilities.



***FEED and TACK STORAGE***

- Valuables should be brought to and from home as needed unless they are kept in a locked box. (Ex: show stick, grooming supplies, etc.)
- Taft I.S.D. and its employees are not responsible for theft or damage of any personal items.
- Tack/feed areas are to be clean at all times and free of scattered hay and open feed.
- Feed must be stored in a sealed or locked container when in the feed room. The student is responsible for the container. No open bags will be allowed.

## **VI. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR LIVESTOCK SHOWS**

In order to be eligible to participate in any livestock show as an FFA student, students must meet the following requirements:

- Be enrolled in an agriculture science class, grades 9-12.
  - Students who need to take advantage of the gap year in Ag Science courses outlined by the Texas FFA Constitution and bylaws are permitted to do so and still be eligible to show livestock if the student meets ALL of the following requirements:
    - Have taken two consecutive semesters of secondary agriculture science courses for high school credit.
  - Upon completion of the gap year, students must re-enroll in an agriculture science course to maintain active membership.
- Be a paid member of the Junior FFA, grades 3-8.
- Have the approval of a supervising teacher.
- Be a member in good standing of the Taft FFA Chapter.
- Attend 60% of monthly FFA meetings.
- Be passing ALL subjects at the time that eligibility is determined per UIL guidelines.
- Meet any other show requirements that may arise.

If a student is ineligible to show due to grades **or** behavior, the animal is ineligible to show.

### ***TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND CONSEQUENCES***

The Agriculture Program reserves the right to remove any animal from the facilities, if any one of the following conditions exists:

- Animal abuse or neglect in any form,
- Diseased or infected animals,
- Animals that are unsafe to handle,
- Students failing to observe rules as defined above,
- Animals not being fed for show purposes,
- Student is no longer involved in the Program, and
- Major infractions at school.

**The FFA Advisor/AST reserves the right to refuse student/project entry into any shows based upon any failure to follow the guidelines noted above.**

## **VII. INFRACTIONS**

**If the student fails to abide by the Student Handbook, Code of Conduct, or any of the above-mentioned rules or guidelines, actions will be taken to remove the animal and/or ban any future Agriculture Facility Privileges. The student is subject to disciplinary action for failure to comply with these rules/guidelines.**

*Action Steps Taken:*

1. A verbal warning (any infraction)
2. Written Warning to be signed by student and parent
3. Conference with parents, principals, student, & FFA Advisor/AST.
4. Removal of animal. Student will have 7 days to remove the animal or it will be donated to the Taft Agriculture Program.

## **Infractions**

Students will earn infractions based on daily walk-throughs. Items that will be checked include, but are not limited to:

### **PIGS**

- failing to feed the appropriate food  
(only quality pig food may be fed unless otherwise directed by the FFA Advisor/AST.)
- failing to feed pigs twice daily,
- failing to clean pens twice daily,
- failing to provide fresh shavings,
- failing to sweep isles daily,
- failing to clean drains daily,
- failing to exercise pigs as directed, and
- failing to attend showmanship meetings.

### **GOATS & SHEEP**

- failing to feed goats/sheep the appropriate food,  
(only quality goat/sheep food may be fed unless otherwise directed by the FFA Advisor/AST.)
- failing to provide fresh water daily,
- failing to feed goats/sheep twice daily,
- failing to exercise goats/sheep as directed,
- failing to attend showmanship meetings, and
- failing to check daily for ringworm and lice.

### **CATTLE**

- failing to feed cattle the appropriate food,  
(only quality cattle food may be fed unless otherwise directed by the FFA Advisor/AST.)
- failing to feed cattle twice daily,
- failing to clean pens twice daily,
- failing to provide fresh shavings/bedding,
- failing to exercise & tie cattle as directed, and
- failing to attend showmanship meetings.

**\* Abuse of any kind will result in immediate removal.**

## **VIII. Taft Independent School District Agriculture Science Facilities Usage Agreement**

By signing this document, I agree to the following terms:

### **Student:**

I agree to abide by the rules and criteria set forth in the Taft I.S.D. Agriculture Facilities Rules and Regulations that I have received, read, understood, and signed. I agree to pay all relevant fees associated with the expense and upkeep of my project. I agree to conduct myself in a professional manner at all times. I agree that I will not share the gate combination with any other person.

### **Parent/Legal Guardian:**

I agree to abide by the rules and criteria set forth in the Taft I.S.D. Agriculture Facilities Rules and Regulations that I have received, read, understood, and signed. I agree to pay all relevant fees associated with the expense and upkeep of my child's project. I agree to indemnify Taft I.S.D., Taft I.S.D.'s employees and volunteers of liability for an injury that my child or I may sustain by participation in activities at the Taft I.S.D. Agriculture Facilities, and I agree to monitor my child for compliance with the above stated rules. I agree that I will not share the gate combination with any other person.

**INDEMNITY: Parent agrees to hold harmless, defend and indemnify Taft Independent School District, it's board members, officers, directors, employees, successors, assigns and agents from and against any and all losses, damages, liabilities, suits, claims, demands, costs and expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses) arising out of any matter that may occur during Parent and Student's presence on Taft Independent School District property. Further, Parent releases, acquits and forever discharges Taft Independent School District, it's boards members, officers, directors, employees, successors, assigns, and agents from any and all claims arising out of any matter that may occur during Parent and Student's presence on Taft Independent School District property.**

This document is binding and non-negotiable.

**Student**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(sign)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

**Parent(s)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(sign)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(sign)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

**FFA Advisor/  
Agriculture Science Teacher**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(sign)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

**Administrator**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(sign)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

## **IX. Vaccination/Medication Release**

I \_\_\_\_\_ give the FFA Advisor/AST permission to vaccinate and/or medicate my animal as needed. By giving the FFA Advisor/AST permission, I understand that in rare instances animals can have reactions that may cause other illnesses or death. The FFA Advisor/AST will not be held liable for any damages or death that the animal might incur.

I \_\_\_\_\_ do NOT give the FFA Advisor/AST permission to vaccinate and/or medicate my animal as needed. I will be responsible for paying the travel cost for the veterinarian to give any injections to the animal that the FFA Advisor/AST requires monthly.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





Taft FFA Equipment Rental Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to the following terms in regards to the rental of Taft FFA's equipment, listed below.

1. All equipment should be returned on or before the due date. Failure to do so will result in a fine of \$5 for every day late.
2. All equipment should be returned clean in the same or better condition than when it was checked out. Failure to do so will result in a fine of \$30 to cover the cost of shipping and cleaning services through Sullivan Supply.
3. Any issues or problems should be reported to FFA Advisor immediately via text or phone call.

Equipment to be rented:

\_\_\_\_\_

Condition of Equipment (List all visible issues):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date Rented: \_\_\_\_\_ Date to be returned to Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Renter: \_\_\_\_\_

Date returned: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials of Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials of Renter: \_\_\_\_\_