

STONY POINT HIGH SCHOOL

FFA
2014 – 2015



FARM FACILITY RULES &
FEEDERS CONTRACT

Introduction

The Stony Point Agricultural Facility is located on the property of Stony Point High School in Round Rock, TX. The purpose of the Farm Facility is to provide an extension to classroom instruction to maximize learning and to allow FFA members to utilize the complex for their Supervised Agriculture Experience Program (SAEP).

In order for all parties to best utilize the Farm Facility, there are rules and regulations, which must be observed. To ensure compliance, Round Rock Independent School District employees including agriculture science teachers, and administrators will monitor and manage the facility both physically and via security cameras.

It is our goal as a district to set, monitor, and continuously improve a strict set of rules and guidelines to be followed. This in turn should provide a safe, educational, and rewarding atmosphere that is conducive to learning.

Facility Rules:

1. As a Round Rock ISD facility supporting school-related activities, all school district and campus policies must be followed by everyone (students, family, guests, etc.). Please refer to the most current **RRISD Student Parent Handbook** and **Code of Conduct** for these policies.
2. Students are expected to act in a responsible manner at all times at the Farm Facility. Any activities that endanger the health or physical well-being of students, parents, faculty, staff, visitors, facilities, or animals will not be permitted. **Loitering, or other activities not directly related to the furtherance of the students' SAEP, will not be tolerated.**
3. The Farm Facility is accessible only between the hours of **6:00 am to 10:00 pm** daily.
4. The student must be a paid Stony Point FFA member in good standing to utilize the Farm Facility. Guests of the student must have prior permission to enter the facility. The student is responsible for his/her family and guests at all times on the complex. If the family or guests violate the rules of the Farm Facility it will be treated as an offense by the student.
5. The student and their guests are to respect the value of the Farm Facility. Any malicious or negligent behavior will result in the immediate dismissal from the facility.
6. The speed limit on the Farm Facility is 10 mph. All participants must drive and park in the designated areas only. No parking behind the facility gates without written permission, unpermitted parking in handicap spots, or in other designated spots. Any violation of parking rules will be treated as an offense.
7. No pets are allowed on the Farm Facility unless for the purpose of classroom instruction and prior approval is granted by a Stony Point staff member.
8. The Round Rock ISD, Booster Club, district employees, or volunteers will assume **NO** responsibility for accidents or injuries to students, parents, visitors or livestock resulting from the use of the facilities or equipment, as well as, livestock owned by other persons.
9. When a problem or concern arises, the method to resolve it is by following a set "chain-of-command." Always begin with the supervising teacher then Stony Point Principal, and finally District Officials.

Visitor Policy Statement

The following guidelines have been developed in order to maintain the safety and security of the Farm Facility and the FFA students. The Farm Facility is comprised of two components, (1) the livestock project centers and (2) the instructional facilities and grounds.

All visitors to the Farm Facility must obtain a visitor badge identification and background clearance through the attendance office of Stony Point High School during the regular hours of the school day. All non-school hour visitors must obtain prior written permission through a member of the SPHS staff or the administration of Stony Point High School. Any violator of this policy will be reported to the Round Rock Police Department and will be subject to a criminal trespass charge. Security cameras are in place to monitor compliance with this policy.

A visitor is any person that does not meet the following descriptions:

1. Livestock Project Centers
 - A. Stony Point FFA and Junior FFA members (and their immediate family members) that are actively participating in an approved SAEP on the Farm Facility.
 - B. Any invited guest of the Stony Point staff or administration of the Stony Point High School.
 - C. An invited guest of a FFA member that is actively participating in an approved SAEP and has received written approval from the supervising teacher of the livestock project center.
2. Instructional Facilities and Grounds
 - A. All students enrolled in an agriculture science class and their immediate family members.
 - B. Any invited guest of the SPHS staff or administration of the Stony Point High School.

Livestock Feeding Regulations:

1. Introduction

The raising of livestock as a project is the most popular SAEP that is conducted at the Farm Facility. The project is a cooperative effort of the student, parent and advisor. It is designed as a training instrument to allow students the opportunity to apply information acquired in the classroom. However, there are several areas that need clarification before the student undertakes a livestock project.

- The raising of livestock on the Farm Facility is a student's privilege, **not** a student's right! Feeding rules, regulations and guidelines must be strictly followed in order to reap the benefits of this privilege.
- Not all animals are of suitable quality for exhibition purposes. Most animals are of commercial quality and therefore rarely suited for exhibition in the show ring. Only those animals of superior confirmation should be selected. Therefore, the agriculture science teacher should assist in the selection and ultimately approve the animal purchased and housed at the Farm Facility.
- Only a small percentage of those animals exhibited in the show ring will actually realize a profit. **Do not be misled; this is not an easy money making proposition.** Only the best of the best will fall into this category. The ultimate purpose of the livestock project is to have the student learn and understand those approved practices that will allow an animal to reach its full genetic potential. Learning the true meaning of responsibility is another outcome of the project program.

2. **Eligible Livestock Projects**

Only the following livestock projects are allowed to be raised on the Farm Facility: Market Steers, Commercial Steers, breeding heifers, Market Sheep, Market Goats, Market Swine, Breeding Swine, Market Broilers, and Market Broilers. Livestock projects may not be moved to the Farm Facility without the notification and approval of the supervising teacher.

Space is limited in every livestock project area and it is the task of the SPHS staff to ensure that the largest population of students can have the privilege of raising a livestock project. Therefore, a priority system has been established and will be the guideline used to determine student participation in raising a livestock project (refer to item #12 on page 6).

3. **Requirements to Participate in Livestock Shows**

To be eligible to participate in any livestock show, students must abide by the following requirements:

- ❑ Be enrolled in an agriculture science class.
- ❑ Be a member in good standing of the Stony Point FFA Chapter. Livestock feeders must have their FFA dues paid in full within two weeks after the start of school.
- ❑ Attends a minimum of 80% of the Stony Point High School FFA Chapter meetings each semester. These meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month from September-April. Written notification must signed by a parent and given to the Ag teachers at least 7 days in advance of a meeting if an absence must occur. The supervising teachers ultimately have the final say on whether the absence will be excused.
- ❑ Attend all mandatory livestock meetings for the specific livestock project.
- ❑ Be passing **ALL** subjects at the time that eligibility is determined. If a student is ineligible to show due to grades, the animal is ineligible to show as well.
- ❑ Have paid entry fees on time and meet show requirements.
- ❑ Livestock in poor condition due to disease, injury or neglect will not be allowed to participate in livestock shows. The final decision will rest with the supervising teacher.
- ❑ Students will be allowed to participate in only those shows approved by the supervising teacher.
- ❑ Students will be responsible for all personal travel to and from all livestock shows. This may include the transporting of their livestock project.
- ❑ Exhibit the proper conduct while in attendance at livestock shows.
- ❑ The student will be responsible for all feeding, care and grooming of his/her livestock project while it is at the livestock show.
- ❑ It is the sole responsibility of the student to be familiar with all rules pertaining to his/her livestock project (i.e.: weight limits, entry requirements, age, etc.). This information may be obtained from the supervising teacher.

4. **Animal Cost**

The student is responsible for the initial cost of the animal as well as any expenses incurred while feeding and caring for the animal during the feeding period. This includes, but not limited to, feed costs, facility usage fees, entry fees, validation fees, transportation fees, and medical expenses.

5. **Facility Usage Fees**

Each livestock project that will be raised on the Farm Facility must pay a facility usage fee prior to the animal being housed on the complex. The facility usage fees are evaluated on a yearly basis. The facility usage fee for each livestock species can be found in their respective Livestock Feeder Manual available from the project supervisor. This year the pen fee is \$75 and lock fee is \$10.

6. **Care of Livestock Projects**

Students will assume the full responsibility for the proper care of his/her livestock project. The student must provide good treatment, fresh and clean water and feed, and a clean pen for their livestock project on a **daily** basis. The **NEGLECT** of animals will **NOT** be tolerated and it will result in the student's immediate dismissal from the facility.

7. **Livestock Project Management**

Management Information: After a livestock project has been selected and put on feed, the supervising teacher will make available more detailed information on feeding, caring, grooming, and exercising of specific types of livestock. The student must attend mandatory livestock feeders meetings for information and education on their specific livestock project.

Pen Assignments: Students will be assigned pens upon bringing a project into the facility. Students may not move, or expand pens for any reason, unless approved by the supervising teacher.

Daily Care: It is the responsibility of the student to provide the following for their livestock project and the facilities every day (including weekends, holidays, etc.):

- Fresh feed for the livestock project (minimum of twice daily for most livestock projects)
- Fresh water for the livestock project (clean water buckets or watering areas)
- Removal of manure, soiled areas, and debris from the pen
- Grooming of the livestock project
- Exercise of the livestock project
- Monitor the well-being of the livestock project
- Clean feed areas, alley ways, exercise areas (arena), wash racks, and grooming areas after each use
- Return all equipment to its proper storage place

Feed Areas: Each student will be provided with a space to utilize as a feed area. It is expected that the student keep their feed area clean, organized (free from clutter), and secure (locked). The RRISD is not responsible for theft or damage of student property. All feed areas are subject to inspection at any time and combination codes or keys must be provided if requested by the supervising teacher.

Medications / Additives: It is prohibited to administer any type of off-label or extra-label vaccine, medication, spray, feed additive or other substance internally or externally to any livestock project without veterinarian approval **and** awareness of the supervising teacher. All established withdrawal times for any administered product must be strictly followed.

Use of Livestock Equipment: Arrangements must be made prior to the use of any livestock equipment belonging to the RRISD. Any equipment lost, stolen, or destroyed

while in the possession of a student or parent will be replaced at their expense. Use of livestock trailers and livestock transport cages may ***only*** be granted to parents that assist the SPHS staff in transporting livestock to designated events. Parents must have completed a Department of Public Safety background check with Round Rock ISD and provide proof of insurance to cover any damages that may occur while using a livestock trailer.

Records: The student will keep a system of records on all livestock projects that they raise. Students will receive instruction on an approved computerized record keeping system acknowledged by the FFA.

Disposition of Livestock: All livestock must be removed from the Farm Facility within two weeks from the end of the feeding period or per the guidelines set by the supervising teacher. All poultry will be processed after the show unless otherwise specified by the feeder. The feeder is responsible for all costs incurred for the processing of their poultry.

Non-Returning Students: Graduating seniors and/or students not intending to feed a livestock project for the following school year must remove all personal belongings (feed, storage containers, etc.) from the Farm Facility within two weeks from the last livestock show that they participated in. Failure to comply will result in the forfeiture of personal belongings to the SPHS FFA and the student may be charged for the removal of the items.

Removal of Livestock: The SPHS Supervising Teachers reserves the right to remove any animal from the complex 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.
- Animals not being fed for show purposes.
- Student is no longer involved in the program.

Due Process for Removal of Livestock: The following process will be used if any conditions listed above warrant so:

1. Teacher / Student conference.
2. Teacher / Student / Parent conference.
3. Recommendation for action by the administration.
4. Removal of livestock from the facility at the student's expense.

Livestock Surgical Procedures: At times it may be necessary to perform surgical procedures on livestock. Whenever possible, a veterinarian will be used to perform the procedures. However, regardless of who does the procedure, the student and parent must realize there is always the possibility for complications. The owner must accept all risk of illness or death of the livestock project.

Removal of Deceased Livestock: Any cattle, swine, sheep, or goat projects that die while on the facility during the feeding period, will be removed by a professional rendering company. The cost of this removal will be the responsibility of the student.

Prohibited Practices: The following practices will not be allowed by students, parents, or guests to the Farm Facility:

- ❑ The use of electrical shock devices
- ❑ The use of any motorized vehicle to exercise livestock projects

8. **Invoices for Payment**

Students will be invoiced from the FFA chapter for expenses incurred for their livestock project during the feeding period. Invoices will be issued periodically and it is expected to be reconciled within thirty days from the invoice date.

9. **Additional Duties**

The safety, sanitation, and appearance of the Farm Facility are a priority. Students may be assigned additional duties on specific days. These activities will be coordinated through the supervising teacher. Those students who do not cooperate must remove their livestock projects from the facility.

10. **Security**

The Farm Facility is supervised by the agriculture science teachers, high school administration, and Round Rock Police Department by physical monitoring and through the use of video surveillance. It is the responsibility of all participants to conduct themselves in a proper manner and to report any security concerns to any of the above parties immediately. Access to the Farm Facility is only available between the hours of 6:00 am and 10:00 pm daily.

11. **No-Grace Period Policy**

The Stony Point FFA will not recognize the holiday “grace” periods during the Christmas or Spring Break school holidays. This policy enhancement is (1) allowed by the UIL rules, (2) requested by the SPHS staff, (3) fully supported by the administration of the Round Rock ISD, and (4) complementary to our program, campus, and school district’s policies and objectives.

This policy applies to all Stony Point FFA activities during these two holiday periods. Any student or parent not in agreement with this policy must remove the student’s livestock project from the Farm Facility and make plans to exhibit under another governing body.

12. **Livestock Project Center Priority System**

Priority One:

- ❑ **Experienced feeder** that reserves a pen assignment by making a deposit and filing a signed feeder’s contract prior to the **initial project center deadline**.
- ❑ First year feeder that meets the **initial project center deadline** and criteria.

Priority Two:

- ❑ **Proficient feeder** wanting multiple livestock projects or multiple species.
- ❑ **Junior FFA member** meeting criteria.
- ❑ **Experienced feeder** that waits until the **final project center deadline** to commit.

Priority Three:

- ❑ **Experienced feeder** returning on a **livestock feeder’s probationary contract**.

Priority Four:

- Any student with grade, discipline, and/or school attendance issues.

Definitions:

Experienced feeder – a returning livestock feeder that has successfully completed a livestock project.

Initial project center deadline – the date established by the supervising teacher of a livestock project center by which students are given the opportunity to reserve a pen assignment.

Proficient feeder – an experienced feeder that has displayed consistent and appropriate animal husbandry techniques throughout an entire feeding period. The designation of proficient feeder is made by the supervising teacher of a livestock project center.

Junior FFA member – a 3rd through 8th grade Round Rock ISD student interested in developing a livestock project program prior to their enrollment in the Stony Point Agriculture Program. Teacher Choice Waivers apply.

Livestock feeder's probationary contract – standardized contract issued to experienced feeder that did not satisfy the criteria of the livestock feeder's contract.

Teacher Contact Information

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2014 – 2015 Livestock Feeder's Contract

By signing this document, the student and parent / legal guardian agree to the following terms:

Student: (Printed Name) _____

I agree to abide by the rules and guidelines set forth in the "Farm Facility Rules and Livestock Feeding Guidelines" that I have received, read, understood, and signed. I agree to pay all relevant fees associated with the expense and maintenance of my livestock project. I agree to conduct myself in a responsible manner at all times as a member of the Stony Point FFA. I understand that failure to comply with these criteria may result in forfeiting my privilege to participate in the livestock feeding program at the Farm Facility.

Parent / Legal Guardian: (Printed Name) _____

I agree to abide by the rules and guidelines set forth in the "Farm Facility Rules and Livestock Feeding Guidelines" that I have received, read, understood, and signed. I agree to pay all relevant fees associated with the expense and maintenance of my student's livestock project. I agree to indemnify the Round Rock ISD, school district employees, and its volunteers of liability for any injury that my student, my guests, or I may sustain by participation in activities at the Farm Facility. I agree to monitor my student for compliance with the "Farm Facility Rules and Livestock Feeding Guidelines". I understand that failure by my student to comply with these criteria may result in forfeiting their privilege to participate in the livestock feeding program at the Farm Facility

This document is binding and non-negotiable.

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of Parent / Legal Guardian

Date

Signature of Supervising Teacher

Date

The original contract is to stay on file with the AG office and the student is to receive a copy of the contract.