

Maryland 4-H Animal Science Program Guidebook

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Dehorning and Tipping Policy

Cattle:

Market steers, breeding heifers, and cows need to be dehorned and healed prior to any gathering of 4-H animals for tagging, showing, health inspections, or workshops. In addition, beef animals should show no secondary horn growth in excess of one inch. Dehorning should be carried out in a safe and humane manner.

This policy is for the protection of the 4-Her, other participants, family members, and other animals.

At the present time we do not have state classes for horned cattle, however, if an animal is entered and horns are a breed characteristic (horned Herefords, Commercial Brahma, etc.) then the following rule can be imposed:

“Registered horned breeding animals may be allowed to show if, in the opinion of the Department Superintendents, they are not dangerous to other animals, exhibitors, or spectators. Questions concerning the exhibition of horned breeding cattle should be resolved in consultation with the Superintendent at least 2 weeks prior to entry.”

Goats:

Goat horns need to be tipped for any 4-H show. Horns can be easily tipped without causing much stress to the goat. Horns should be tipped 4 to 6 weeks before the show to allow the horns to heal properly. Dehorning or tipping rules are made strictly for the safety of the exhibitors.