



Sabinal ISD
Junior FFA Program Handbook
2022-2023

Sabinal High School
409 W. CULLINS,
SABINAL, TX 78881

Agriculture Science teacher and FFA Advisor

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OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURE SCIENCE STUDENTS AND FFA MEMBERS

As a student enrolled in the Sabinal Independent School District Grades 3-8, your child has the opportunity to become a Junior Member of the Sabinal FFA chapter. This is a group of young people who use agriculture to learn leadership, speaking and communication skills, teamwork, responsibility, and technical skills. The Junior FFA Membership is limited to exhibiting projects at the Uvalde County and Major Livestock Shows.

We are looking forward to a great year!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Warren Beard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'W' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'd'.

Warren Beard

GENERAL RULES

Junior FFA Dues are \$15 and must be paid by **November 19th at the end of the school day.** **Make checks payable to Sabinal FFA or bring EXACT cash.**

Students must be University Interscholastic League eligible to compete in any component of the Sabinal FFA (**AKA- NO PASS NO PLAY- EVEN IF YOUR STUDENT HAS ALREADY PRE-PAID FOR THE EVENT**).

LIVESTOCK PROJECTS

Students enrolled in the Junior FFA are eligible to participate in the livestock project program. Students may purchase animal projects to care for during the school year and exhibit those animals at stock shows. Students may keep the projects at our school project center on campus or in most cases the animal can be kept at home. These projects allow students to take on responsibility while having the opportunity to practice the skills learned in class and maybe earn a little money.

The Texas FFA Validation and Compliance Board requires that ANY animal being shown under Sabinal FFA, MUST notify in writing to the Ag teacher where this animal will be held on a daily basis. If the animal is moved, the Ag teacher MUST be made aware BEFORE the animal departs its location. The Ag teacher MUST also know the extent of the trip.

The following questions should be considered when determining if a student will participate in the animal project part of the program:

- Can the student or parent afford the project?
 - Examples include, but are not limited to: purchase price, feed, vet care, show supplies, etc.
- Where will the project be kept?
 - If keeping at the school project center, refer to the school project center handbook and contract
- Will the student have transportation to and from the animal for care?
 - If keeping the animal at the school project center, the animals **MUST** be fed twice a day
- Does the student have means of transporting the animal(s) to and from events?
 - The ag department teacher will provide transportation to the following 2022-2023 shows:
 - Uvalde County Junior Livestock Show
 - San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo
- Is the student able to care for the animal the entire length of the project? Holidays? Weekends?
 - Refer to the school project center handbook for expectations of animal care.

Please keep in mind animal projects are a gamble and can become a total monetary loss. Animals can be hurt, killed or become sick and not recover. The risk can be reduced by hard work and desire to learn and apply knowledge.

OTHER PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

1. Animals kept at the school project center are raised for market purposes – this means all animals will eventually be removed and sold for food. The Sabinal FFA facilities are not a permanent home for animals.
 - Refer to the school project center for more information
2. Family domestic animals do not meet the required project criteria.
3. Only sheep, goats, & swine can be housed at the Sabinal FFA school project center.
 - Steers, Heifers, Rabbits and poultry may be exhibited through the Sabinal FFA, but must be kept at home.

PURCHASING OF LIVESTOCK PROJECTS

1. The selection and purchase of an animal project is a cooperative effort involving the student, parent, and teacher. The agriculture teacher's role is to help you find the best animal possible in the price range set. The teacher will not dictate what to buy, how much to spend, or where to purchase from.
2. The purchase of projects should be coordinated with the teacher before projects are selected and purchased.
 - Refer to the school project center handbook for more information
3. The student and parent are responsible for the cost of the animal as well as all costs associated with showing and the well being of the animal.
 - Refer to the school project center handbook for more information
4. Projects purchased must meet the requirements of the show intended. The teacher will assist in providing the necessary information regarding the care and grooming of projects for each show.
 - Refer to the school project center handbook for more information
5. The student is responsible for payment for validations and entries at all shows. There are fees involved with validation and the entering of each show. They are not part of the feed or animal purchase cost.
 - Refer to the school project center handbook for more information
6. When at all possible, the student and/or student parent will be present when choosing and paying for all animal projects.

The student and parent is responsible for: ***Refer to the school project center for more information***

1. The daily care of their project.
2. Informing the teacher regarding any problems and/or progress of the project.
3. The entry fees needed for all stock shows.
4. The payment of feed and animal costs.
5. Attendance at all mandatory barn clean ups from start to finish.
6. Cleanliness of individual pen and barn.
7. Any veterinary bills the animal may require.

The agriculture science teacher is available to assist with:

1. Any problems that may occur with the animal project during normal working hours Monday through Friday (8AM - 4PM). This does not include school holidays. The teacher is not required to make emergency calls after hours for the purpose of treating sick or injured animals. However, the teacher will make every effort to assist when needed with those problems.

2. The teacher will visit all projects in accordance with Texas Education Agency guidelines. This includes projects housed at student homes.

3. Recommending feeding programs for each animal project area.

4. State livestock show participation is not a requirement of the program, therefore it cannot be guaranteed that teacher supervision will be available at every show.

- The ag department teacher will provide transportation to the following 2022-2023 shows:
 - Uvalde County Livestock Show
 - San Antonio Livestock Show

5. The teacher will oversee the student owner of the project in giving medications. The teacher will not be held liable for injury to livestock while overseeing the student with their project. This includes giving medication, castration, dehorning, docking, worming, trimming or any other activity directly involving the teacher. Students are encouraged to seek professional veterinary assistance with any livestock injury or surgical procedure.

Chain of Command: All questions and concerns regarding animals and the FFA should first be addressed with the supervising advisor. If that does not satisfy the issue then a meeting may be scheduled with an administrator. Please communicate with your agriculture science teacher.

LIVESTOCK SHOW PARTICIPATION

1. To show an animal project a student must be a paid member for the current school year of the Sabinal FFA. Payment is **DUE** November 19th by the end of the school day.

2. In order to participate in a county or state livestock show, students must be passing all courses as determined by Sabinal ISD.

- Grade checks will be determined by the eligibility procedure outlined by Sabinal ISD.
 - Uvalde County Grade Check- January 15th, 2023
 - All State Livestock Show Grade Check- February 5th, 2023
 - Students who are not passing ALL classes with at least a 70% will not be transported to the show by the ag teacher OR will have the ag teacher sign off on their entry to the livestock show.

3. Students whose projects are not ready or are not of sufficient quality to participate in a show will not be allowed to show. This decision will be made by the ag teacher.

- Refer to the school project center handbook for more information

4. A list of eligible students will be prepared by the teacher to authorize attendance at the show. Any student that attends on an unassigned day will be reported as truant.

5. The parents and students will make arrangements with the teacher for supervision at major shows.

- The Ag teacher will only be attending the approved stockshows

6. Students and parents are responsible for transportation, supervision, lodging, and costs at ALL major stock shows (With Exceptions at the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo).

7. School policies will be enforced and discipline will be according to school policies at all livestock and FFA events.

8. Students who fail to follow rules at shows, FFA events, or contests will be removed from the eligibility list and barred from future participation.

9. School dress code will be enforced at all times at shows, FFA events, or contests.

10. All exhibitors at the Uvalde County Junior Livestock Show and Sale must attend a minimum of 3 respective FFA meetings, prior to the show/sale to be eligible to participate. (Refer to the Uvalde County Junior Livestock Show Rule book for questions). In order to get credit for a meeting attendance, the student **MUST** sign the sign-in sheet at the meeting.

CODE OF ETHICS

Agriculture science students will honor the FFA Code of Ethics. Failure to comply with the code of ethics will result in removal from the FFA chapter. Students will conduct themselves at all times in a manner befitting their organization, chapter, school and community by:

1. Dressing neatly and appropriately for the occasion.
2. Showing respect for the rights of others and being courteous.
3. Being honest and not taking unfair advantage of others.
4. Respecting the property of others.
5. Refraining from loud, boisterous talk, swearing, and other unbecoming conduct including social media slander.
6. Demonstrating sportsmanship in the show ring, judging contests, and meetings.
7. Attending meetings promptly and respecting the opinion of others in discussions.
8. Taking pride in the Sabinal FFA, its members, and advisor.

GUIDELINES FOR THE SABINAL FFA AGRICULTURE SCIENCE FACILITIES

*** Refer to the school project center contract for more information***

1. All policies of Sabinal ISD governing students' conduct apply to all students. Policies governing smoking illegal weapons, and alcohol for any person on school property will also apply at all times. Violation forms will be issued for students failing to comply with project center rules. Guests of students who violate rules will also result in the student receiving a violation notice. Three violation notices, verbal or written, will result in the removal of the project from the Sabinal FFA facilities.

- All parents and visitors MUST check in at the front office for a visitor pass.

2. Students and parents are responsible for transportation to and from the facilities. Unless prior arrangements have been made with the teacher. Arrangements are up to the student to make prior to leaving or being unable to care for their animal. It is NOT the ag teacher responsibility to feed projects over the weekends, holidays or other feeding times without any prior notice.

3. The primary responsibility for discipline and supervision rests with the student or parents when the instructor is not present after hours.

4. Students will be held financially accountable for willful acts of vandalism.

5. Use of tobacco or alcohol by students or parents on the premises will result in immediate removal of the student and project.

6. Each student is responsible for keeping his/her pen and the surrounding area clean. Pens must be cleaned on a daily basis.

7. Each student is responsible for feeding and general care of his/her project. Students may not feed animals that do not belong to them unless prior arrangements have been made with the owner or agriculture science teacher.

8. Any student failing to properly care for their animal may be turned in to the campus police for animal cruelty and criminal charges.

9. Each and every student who uses Sabinal facilities is expected to attend 4 hours at the designated work days; in which 1 of these hours **MUST** be done at the final work day. Failure to do so will result in the lack of privilege to keep the animal at the school project center the following school year.

- To earn back privileges the student **MUST** attend every clean up day the following school year for the entirety of the clean up day.

10. A student should not be in another student's pen unless permission is given by the teacher, owner, or parent.

11. Firearms are prohibited.

12. Pets and dogs are prohibited.

13. Projects are considered complete within 14 days of the student's last show and must be removed from the facilities.

- See the contract for pen clean up once the animal is removed.

14. Only students currently enrolled in the Sabinal FFA or the Sabinal High School Agriculture Science Program are eligible to use the Sabinal FFA facilities. Students not enrolled in the program should not loiter or be inside of the facilities.

15. Visitors with any member must have approval with the agriscience teacher and visit the front office for a visitors pass prior to visit. Any unapproved visitor can be cited for trespassing by the Uvalde County Sheriff's Department. Agriculture science teacher have the right to remove and ban any visitors from the facilities. This includes parents and family members. All family members are considered guests and **MUST** see the front office for a visitors pass before entering the facilities.

16. Animal pens must be cleaned within 14 days after the project is completed. All students using the facilities must complete all workday hours as determined by the teacher. Failure to attend all workdays or clean pens could result in checks being held and/or being denied the privilege of using the facilities in the future.

- To earn back privileges the student **MUST** attend every clean up day the following school year.

17. No mechanical, wooden, electrical or metal structures may be placed in pens without the teacher's approval.

18. Loitering at the facilities will not be allowed. Students who are present must be working with their animal or cleaning pens. Students should **NOT** be with their

projects during school hours unless they have a written permission note from either the ag teacher or Sabinal administration. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the student being written up.

19. Students and parents must observe opening and closing times for the facilities. Anyone entering the facilities before/after hours will be issued a violation notice unless approved by the teacher. The hours are 6:00 am to 10:00pm.

20. Fighting will not be tolerated. Both parties involved will be immediately removed from the facilities – no excuses!

- Students involved will be written up by the agricultural teacher. All student projects will be removed from the facility.

21. It is possible that projects will need to be penned two per pen to provide enough space for all livestock. The FFA advisors will use their best discretion to plan accordingly.

- Refer to the school project facilities contract for more information on pen choices.

ANIMAL PROJECTS AT HOMES

When the facilities are adequate, some students may decide to raise livestock projects at home. When making this decision, consider the following:

1. It is highly recommended that only experienced feeders keep their animals at home.

2. Students must be able to provide transportation for animals to shows, validations, and veterinary visits. Unless arrangements have been made with the agriculture teacher.

3. Selection is the most important part of your animal project. Please communicate with your agriculture science teacher.

4. As a part of the validation process, the project animal can be visited at any time by the State and/or County Validation Compliance team with or without notice. The ag teacher **MUST** be made aware if the animal is moved from the location before the animal moves location.

SABINAL AGRICULTURE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT FORMS

The following forms (if applicable) must be returned by November 1st, 2022 with payment for FFA dues if membership is desired. Please attach payment to the form if applicable. Checks can be made payable to the Sabinal FFA. Money should be placed in an envelope with the student's name written on it and attached to its respective form. Please write FFA membership in the memo if paying with a check.

JUNIOR FFA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION - GRADES 3-8 ONLY

Student's Information

Student's Name: _____ ID#: _____

Address: _____ City and Zip Code: _____

Parents Name and Phone Number: _____

Student's Email Address: _____

Grade: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

T Shirt Size: _____

If you are planning to join the Sabinal Junior FFA, please complete other necessary forms found in the handbook and attach \$15 for your FFA dues. Your FFA dues and membership forms are due by November 19th by the end of the school day.

If interested in exhibiting livestock, it is crucial that you notify your FFA advisor immediately.