



VANDEGRIFT HIGH SCHOOL

AGRICULTURE SCIENCE PROJECT CENTER

RULES, FEES AND GUIDELINES

2024-2025

Read the following rules and print the last 2 pages. Read, fill out, print and sign - submit a check with the signed agreement at the bottom. If you have any questions, please email any FFA Advisor.

All items in **RED have been updated for this calendar year.**

The purpose of the Vandegrift High School Agriculture Science Project Center is to provide an extension to the classroom instruction and maximize learning for FFA members who utilize the facility for their Supervised Agriculture Experience Programs (SAE, SAEP).

In order for all parties to best utilize the Project Center, there are rules and guidelines, which must be observed and complied with. To ensure compliance, Leander I.S.D. employees including agriculture science teachers and administrators will monitor and manage the facility.

Based on respect for each school's traditions, standards and expectations, the rules and guidelines have been established by Leander I.S.D. Due to the uniqueness of the individual schools and the needs of the individual students, the individual Agriculture Science teachers may make decisions based on the best interests of the district, the school, the student and the animal(s).

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA

1. Scope

The Agriculture Science Project Center (Ag Facility) is a part of the Leander I.S.D. and therefore, all rules and regulations found in the student handbook and code of conduct apply.

2. Liability disclaimer

Neither Leander I.S.D., its employees, volunteers, nor the FFA are responsible for damage of loss to personal property, injury of members, animal projects, guests, or family of participants.

3. Eligibility

Only FFA members in good standing may utilize the agriculture facility. FFA members must attend monthly FFA meetings and not miss more than 1 meeting in the fall semester and 1 in the spring semester.

4. Guests

Only one guest under 18 years of age may accompany a FFA member with an animal project to the facility unless a parent or legal guardian accompanies the student.

5. Sequence of events

A student must complete the following items before bringing any animal onto the project center grounds:

- a. Obtain permission from an agriculture science teacher
- b. Attend a meeting with their parent/guardian and agriculture teacher
- c. Read, understand, and sign the facility agreement
- d. Pay all relevant fees in advance
- e. Obtain a gate access key

6. Facility Hours and location

Gates and doors are to remain closed and locked at all times. No unauthorized personnel shall feed or be at the facility for any reason during hours of non-operation without expressed permission from an agriculture teacher or school administrator. Our ag facility is located on the grounds of Grandview Hills Elementary, school zone speed limits are enforced. During active school zone times, speed will not exceed 10mph in driveway leading to Ag facility from Vista Parke Dr. As well, speed will not exceed 20mph while on Vista Parke/ Wilson Parke during active zone. The project center hours are 5 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. daily.

7. Access Cards (Gate Cards)

One access card will be issued to each exhibitor upon full payment of all fees. Additional access cards are available for rent @ \$5.00 each with a family max of 3 cards. If an

access card is lost for any reason, the replacement cost is \$25.00 each. At the conclusion of spring clean-up from animal projects, all access cards will be returned to advisor. Access cards remain the property of Leander I.S.D. and are to be considered a privilege to access the facility.

8. Animal purchase costs

The exhibitor is responsible for the initial cost of the animal as well as all expenses incurred while feeding, caring for and exhibiting the animal during the feeding period. This includes any animal bedding (sand, shavings), veterinary trips including major medical expenses (example: surgery, specific vet bills, etc.).

9. Care of the animal(s)

The exhibitor is responsible for the proper care of his/her animal(s). This includes adequate nutrition and hydration for proper growth, the show ring development of the animal, cleaning the pen(s) and surrounding area, and cleaning the respective areas of the project center. Animals are to be washed in designated areas only. No person is to feed another person's animal, unless doing so as requested. Any concern about the care, or lack of care, of an animal should be addressed to the proper FFA advisor. Animals may be under specific dietary concerns as show times near and incorrect feeding may influence that specific concern.

10. Stalls, pens and bedding

The pen is to be maintained with adequate approved bedding and needs to be tended to daily. Bedding material should be changed on a regular basis to ensure the health and well-being of the animal project. All soiled bedding must be promptly and properly disposed in designated areas. Exhibitors/ Parents are responsible for providing all bedding throughout the duration of the project, including livestock shows. No sand, shavings or other bedding will be purchased by LISD or Vandegrift FFA. All wheelbarrows MUST be emptied after each use. Failure to clean and maintain pens will result in referral to AP's office, removal of project and loss of use of the project center.

11. Pen Assignments and set up.

Students will be assigned pens prior to bringing a project into the facility. Animals must reside in assigned pens, unless an agriculture teacher approves a change. Pens MAY NOT be moved, modified, or expanded for any reason, unless approved by an agriculture teacher. No mechanical, wooden, electrical, metal structures or additions may be placed in pens without agriculture science teachers' approval. ALL items placed in pens must be approved prior to placement and removed immediately after the project is complete.

12. Removal of animals after shows

The exhibitor is to remove all personal equipment, tack and supplies from the project center within two weeks after their final show unless otherwise directed by an agriculture teacher. All leftover items after the move out window will be discarded. This applies to ALL animal species.

13. Animal death

In the event an animal dies for any reason, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to remove the carcass within two hours of being notified of death. If the carcass is not removed within two hours, this service will be provided at the expense of the owner of the animal project.

14. Project responsibility

The animal project is the student's project and responsibility. All animal project management decisions will be made by the student/parent. Agriculture teachers are available to assist and aid a student when a student requests assistance. Agriculture

teachers will closely monitor animals, but all show rules must be followed by the exhibitor. Ethical treatment of animals is required at all times and rule violations will not be tolerated.

15. Student behavior

The Project Center is an extension of the classroom and LISD property, therefore all rules and regulations from LISD student manual are in effect. Students are expected to act in a mature, professional manner at all times at the project center. The primary responsibility for discipline and supervision rest with the student and his\her parents when the FFA advisor or his\her designee is not present after school hours. Students will be held financially accountable for willful vandalism or destruction of any property on the part of the student(s) commits the act. Loitering or other activities not directly related to the furtherance of the SAE will not be permitted on school grounds. In the event an exhibitor is sent to LEO for any period of time, they are NOT allowed on ag facility grounds. Therefore, a parent must assume all responsibility of taking care of the animal(s). If the LEO term overlaps the final livestock show, the animal must be removed within 2 weeks of LEO placement.

16. Feed and tack areas

- The safety, sanitation and the appearance of the project center are a priority.
- Feed and tack areas are to be clean and free of loose hay and open feed. Hay is not to be stored in the feed area, but in the designated hay storage area.
- A lockable container with lid will be used by each student to store feed.
- Lockers are available for check out, but it needs to be locked.
- No show boxes are allowed without permission.
- Valuables should be brought to and from home, not remaining at the project center.
- Leander I.S.D. and its employees are not responsible for the theft or damage of any personal items.
- Feed and tack areas are to be kept clean and neat.
- Students will not be permitted to bring in tack not approved by the agricultural science teacher.

17. Barn clean ups

- The appearance of the project center is a priority; there will be periodic “Barn clean-ups”, which are mandatory for students with animal projects housed at the agriculture facility. If a student cannot attend for any reason, they are responsible for finding a suitable replacement.
- Each student who uses the agriculture project center is expected to attend all announced workdays held at the project center unless given prior absence permission by the FFA advisor of at least 48 hours.
- Students who do not attend project center workdays will need to schedule jobs/ duties to be completed thereafter for the same amount of time.

18. Agriculture Teachers use of animals

- Student projects may be used by the agriculture teachers for livestock judging practice or to teach livestock management skills such as weighing, leading, or vaccination.

19. Student eligibility for livestock shows

In order to participate in any livestock show as an FFA member, the following requirements must be met:

- Be enrolled in an agriculture science class.
- Have approval of supervising ag teacher.

- Attend monthly FFA meetings and not miss more than 1 meeting in the fall semester and 1 in the spring semester.
- Be an active member in good standing of the Vandegrift FFA Chapter.
- Attend all mandatory livestock meetings for the specific livestock project.
- Be passing ALL classes at the time that eligibility is determined per UIL guidelines. If a student is ineligible to show due to grades, the animal is ineligible to show unless eligibility is defined differently at that show.
- Have paid entry fees on time and meet show requirements.

20. Problems and chain of command

When a problem or concern arises, the best and most efficient way to resolve it is by following the established “chain-of-command.” Always begin with the supervising teacher.

- Supervising Ag teacher
- Lead Agriculture Teacher
- Your alpha -Assistant Principal
- Principal

21. Terms, conditions and consequences

The Agriculture Program reserves the right to remove any animal from the facility if any 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 program
- Animals housed at the project center are not shown under Vandegrift FFA

If the student fails to abide by any of the above-mentioned rules or guidelines, actions can be taken to remove the animal or ban any future agriculture facility privileges. The student is subject to disciplinary action or fines for failure to comply with these rules/guidelines.

22. Notice of eviction will proceed as follows

- Verbal Warnings to take care of animal. No more than 3 verbal's will be given.
- Written warning issued by an agriculture teacher
- Teacher/Student conference
- Teacher/Student/Parent conference
- Discipline referral to school administrator for disciplinary action
- Immediate removal of project from the agriculture facility
- Major infractions of school, facility or student code of conduct rules while at agriculture facility may result in immediate eviction, as deemed appropriate by Leander I.S.D. administration.

23. Transportation of projects

Students and parents must arrange transportation to and from the Agriculture Project Center. Typically, Ag Teachers will provide transportation, but numbers dictate this. Parents must be able to transport animals themselves to major livestock shows (San Antonio, Houston, Austin) when there are no more than 2 animals in that species housed in our ag facility during the respective show.

24. Prohibited substances

Being an extension of the classroom- all substances prohibited on LISD campuses, are also prohibited at our ag facility. Alcohol, tobacco, vapes, etc. are always prohibited on the premises.

25. Trespassing

Only FFA members who are raising animal projects are allowed at the ag facility. A student shall not be in another student's pen unless the agriculture teacher, responsible parent or student whose project is to be looked after gives permission.

Any student should not be in another student's pen unless the FFA advisor, responsible parent, or student whose project is to be looked after gives permission.

26. Firearms

NO FIREARMS will be allowed on the premises of the project center at any time.

27. Pets

No pets, dogs, or other domestic non-farm animals will be allowed on the premises of the project center WITHOUT THE EXPRESSED PERMISSION OF THE AG TEACHERS.

28. Pen Rent Fees

A \$50 initial fee will be required at the beginning of the feeding period (first year animal raiser). Rental fees will be assessed at the rate of \$100 per head (sheep, goats, pigs) and \$200 per head on cattle. (Example: 1st year lamb raiser - \$50 initial fee + \$100 /head = \$150, for a 2nd year lamb raiser pen rent is \$100/ head)

The rental fees will be calculated at the beginning of the feeding period for each animal and the total rent must be paid in advance of arrival and penning at the project center.

Rental fees are non-refundable and not pro-rated for partial months housing at the project center.

29. Removal of Project

If it becomes necessary to remove an animal project, the owner will have 3 days to remove it. If the animal is not removed by this time, it will be taken by the authorized agent of the school administration and marketed at the owner's expense at the nearest commercial livestock market. The remainder of the money from the sale of the animal will be sent to the owner after deductions for any outstanding balance owed to the FFA chapter.

31. Vandalism

The student is expected to respect the value of the project center. Any defacing of property or equipment will mean dismissal from the facility immediately. Students will be held financially accountable for willful vandalism or destruction of any property on the part of the student(s) who commits the act.

32. Equipment and Fixtures- take care of our equipment!

a. Livestock management equipment (scales, trim tables/ chutes, clippers, blowers, etc.) will be provided for student use for sanctioned shows only but must be treated with care and respect. All broken or stolen equipment is to be reported immediately. All equipment is to be cleaned and returned to the proper storage area after each use. Willful misuse or damage may result in fines or loss of use privileges as well as replacement of broken equipment. Students wishing to attend jackpot shows with a project(s) are encouraged to obtain their own equipment. Truck cages are available for use, but need to be checked out prior to use.

b. Students will use the equipment as demonstrated by the ag teachers over their species. Some equipment may not be used unless a supervising ag teacher is present **OR** the ag teacher has deemed an exhibitor(s) qualified to use equipment without the teacher being present (i.e., treadmill, squeeze chute, scales, blower, clippers, etc.)

c. Watering devices and plumbing will not be tampered with or modified at all. In the event of freezing conditions, the water will be shut off completely and will be the exhibitor's responsibility to bring water from home to their animals. Any tampering to water lines will be grounds for immediate removal.

d. Electrical receptacles will not be overloaded. A maximum of 2 devices (i.e. heat lamp, fan, blower, etc.) will be plugged in at one duplex receptacle.

33. Adult Volunteers

Any adult who is not a school employee and plans to access the barn for any reason must complete the LISD Volunteer Process and receive clearance.

34. Penalties

Students who fail to abide by the above guidelines or fail to maintain a clean and healthy animal pen may be subject to discipline referral and may forfeit the privilege of keeping projects at the project center in the future.

35. GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING CLAIMS FOR STUDENT INJURIES, THIRD PARTY INJURIES, PERSONAL PROPERTY DAMAGE/THEFT:

Under the Texas Tort Claims Act, section 101.001 et seq. of the Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code, school districts have governmental immunity. The Texas Legislature has shielded school districts from most claims, under the rationale that while unfortunate injuries may occur at school, the best use of public education funds is for educational purposes rather than for litigation and the payment of damages. A school district may be held liable, under state law, for damages arising out of an employee's negligent operation or use of a motor vehicle.

If the reported injuries and/or property damages have not occurred as the result of the negligent use or operation of a vehicle by Leander ISD, there is no district liability. To pay any claim, for which the district has no liability is a gift of public funds which is forbidden by the State Constitution. For this reason, the Texas Education Code does not permit school districts to use public resources for individual purposes.

Leander ISD encourages individuals who experience property loss or injury to complete an incident form. LISD uses these reports for safety awareness and prevention purposes.

What your pen rent payment provides:

1. Secure facility to house your animal(s)
2. Pen and space
3. Tools needed for general care of animals (wheelbarrow, shovel, water hoses, etc)
4. Electrical needs for animals
5. Wash rack area
6. Show equipment use. (Trim chute, trim racks, blowers, clippers, etc)
7. Access to trailers/transport equipment

It is the policy of Leander ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its career & technology education programs, services, or activities. Leander ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational

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**VANDEGRIFT FFA
AGRICULTURE SCIENCE PROJECT CENTER AGREEMENT**

Date: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Contact Phone Number: _____

Animal Project(s): Write the number of animals that will be fed. Max of 3.

_____ Steer _____ Pig _____ Lamb _____ Goat

Sanctioned Livestock Show Participation (circle all that apply):

GLFFA (Jan- premium) TCYS (Jan- premium) San Antonio (Feb- terminal)

Austin (March) Other: _____

Instructions: Completely read and sign this agreement where indicated on the 2nd page. Return this page along with pen rent payment to the Ag Advisor – PRIOR TO ANIMAL ARRIVAL. Make checks payable to Vandegrift HS.

Directions for Agriculture Science Rules, Fees and Guidelines Agreement

1. Read the entire agreement completely for comprehension.
2. Fully complete the project information page
3. Sign and date the Facility Usage Agreement page.
4. Turn in the signed facility agreement and all fees to an Agriculture Science teacher. Student will receive a copy of the completed agreement.

I have read and agree to abide by the Vandegrift FFA Agriculture Project Center Guidelines Agreement. I have read and understand the Project Commitment Guidelines for my livestock project.

I agree to pay the following pen rental fees and this pen rent will be for the duration of the project term. Pen rent is not prorated for any time period during any month. This rental fee must be paid in advance for the expected duration of the project. Pen rent is not pro-rated (animal death or removal of animal).

- one-time fee for ALL first-year animal raisers - \$50
- Pigs, Lambs, Goats - \$100 per head
- Cattle - \$200 per head

(Example: 1st year pig raiser pays \$150 for pen rental fee, 2nd + year pig raiser pays \$100 per head)

I agree to comply with all posted project center hours of operations.

I agree to attend and participate at all announced project center workdays. In the event that I cannot attend, I understand that specific instructions for me will be followed at another date (you will clean up or complete a task at another day/time)

I agree to the following discipline management policy:

1. First and Second Offense – verbal warnings and/or parent contacted
2. Third Offense – written notice of failure to appropriately care for the animal and/or animal's pen, discipline referral to appropriate campus administrator
3. Fourth Offense- removal-warning letter to parents and campus administrator contacted.
4. Fifth Offense – Immediate removal of project animal to market auction, forfeiture of all project center fees and banning from future project center privileges.

Parent e-mail address

Student e-mail address

Parent/Guardian signature

Phone number

Date

Student signature

Phone number

Date

Advisor signature

Date

.....
For teacher use only

Project Species _____

Number of animals _____

Rental payments received? _____

Amount received \$ _____

Other Information:
