January 27, 2014

Dear 4-H/FFA Henry County market steer project participant and parents:

I hope all of you are looking forward to raising your steer this year! Please note below the qualifications to show and sell at the fair. The weigh-in will be held on Saturday, March 29, from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at the Henry County Fairgrounds. The following are mandatory for all participants:

1. Exhibitors must register with the UT Extension Office by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 7. You may do this by calling 642-2941, or e-mail at sfoy@utk.edu.
2. Exhibitors must attend weigh-in on Saturday, March 29.
3. Exhibitors must attend one of two informational meetings to be held before fair time.

Participants who fail to participate in the above listed activities will not be able to show and sell their steer at the Henry County Fair.

As a reminder, junior livestock exhibitors may show more than one species, i.e. hog and steer, but will be limited to sell only one of their choice.

If you have not called the UT Extension office to confirm your participation in this year’s project, please do so now. We need an accurate count of the number of steers being weighed-in so that we can make plans for ear tags, vaccines, implants, etc.

If you are planning on showing a steer or heifer at the Regional or State Junior Livestock Expo, please notify the Extension office of the gender and number of animals you will be showing by Friday, March 7. Steers that are going to be exhibited at Expo will be tagged on Saturday with an Expo tag. Your Henry County Fair tag will be recorded and retained by the Extension office to be placed in your steer’s ear at the fair. Heifers exhibited at Expo will be entered in May.

The date for the Regional Expo will be Tuesday, July 1, at UT Martin. State Beef Expo will be held at MTSU July 7 through 9. Entry fees for the Junior Livestock Expo will be $9 for Regional Expo and $10 for State Expo.
Procedure for weighing in your steer:
Enter the fairgrounds at the back gate off of Fairgrounds Road. Trailers should line up and circle counter clockwise around the arena to unload steers. Trailers may exit back through the same gate onto Fairgrounds Road. Be mindful of the trucks needing to exit back through the small interior gate connected to the north of the grandstands.

Before unloading, please register and pay your fees. There will be a form to fill out and some books to pick up. Doing this before unloading your steer will help cut down on confusion.

Rowdy steers can be dangerous at the weigh-in. Please start halter breaking your steer now if you have not already done so. Steers should weigh between 600 and 1000 pounds at weigh-in.

Most of the health care products and ear tags needed for that day have been sponsored or donated. However, there may be a small charge for those items that are not sponsored.

A fee will be collected by the fair board members to offset expenses for the grounds and facility maintenance, awards and other fair expenses. The tie fee will be $50 for steers.

State veterinary officials will pay particular attention to animal health regulations at fairs and shows. If your steer has warts or ringworm, these symptoms must be cleared up and inactive well before the fair. If your steer needs attention, you should contact your veterinarian. Workers can assist with any prescription vaccines brought to the fairgrounds that day.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 642-2941 or sfoy@utk.edu.

Sincerely,

Staci D. Foy
Extension Agent

cc: Vic Adams
    Larry Gregson
    Laura Moss
    Zach Pressley