

# **USD 407 Agriculture Farm Policies**

## **I. Introduction**

Russell High School's agriculture department encourages the appropriate and safe inclusion of animals in our instructional program. Therefore, these regulations provide information and guidance to school administrators, teachers, staff members, students, and parents/guardians that will promote a healthy and safe learning environment for students to be exposed to livestock.

The USD 407 School Farm will be used for FFA and 4-H student livestock projects. It is the intent of the Russell school district to furnish this facility for the FFA and 4-H members to keep their livestock for Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects.

Due to the limited size of the school farm, this facility will be limited to those on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Listed below are rules and regulations to be followed by all students using the Russell Agriculture School Farm. The school farm is an extension of the Russell Agricultural Education program; all policies of the USD 407 District Handbook will be enforced.

All matters concerning the rules of the Russell Agriculture Farm will be enforced by a four (4) member committee consisting of the Ag Instructor, High School Principal, Superintendent of Schools, and the Midway District Agriculture Extension Agent.

## **II. Eligibility**

- Students will submit a completed Livestock contract.
- Students must pay the full cost for housing the animal(s) to the USD 407 Central Office before bringing the animal to the farm.
- Students must be enrolled in the USD 407 school district, and either a member of the Russell FFA Chapter and/or Russell County 4-H.

## **III. General Policies and Guidelines**

- Cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, and horses are allowed to be housed at the RHS Farm.
- All school rules stated in the USD 407 District Handbook apply at the School Farm.
- Animals must always be treated humanely and appropriately.
- Only students with projects that are housed at the school farm are allowed on the premises.
- The FFA advisor/Ag Instructor will assign all pens at the Russell School Farm. Students and parents will not build pens unless they have permission. If livestock leave the school premises, the FFA advisor/Ag Instructor must be notified.
- Students are encouraged spend at least 30 minutes per day with their animals for the purposes of feeding, health maintenance, and exercise.
- Pens must be kept clean and neat; students should clean pens for all species more than once a week.

- Tack should be kept out of the main entranceways. USD 407 and the Russell FFA are not responsible for any damage or loss of owner's tack. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure all personal items are properly stored.
- The school farm's speed limit is 5 MPH; there shall be no reckless driving or excessive speeds in the parking lot or inside the gates of the farm.
- Students will latch their pens and shut the barn door when leaving.
- Students shall not give the barn code to students/friends who do not house animals at the school farm.
- Feed resources must be provided by the owner for any animal that is not the property of the Russell FFA or RHS Ag program. Feed can be stored in the building on the farm but must be bagged and cleaned up after. Students are encouraged to keep feed in an enclosed storage container to assist with keeping feed from being damaged or contaminated. USD 407 and the Russell FFA are not responsible for any feed stored on the property that may become damaged, contaminated, or eaten by rodents.
- Students may perform shearing, clipping, or fitting of livestock provided that the student cleans up immediately afterward.
- Students who fail to take proper care of their animals or neglect their animal (i.e. – not feeding or watering animals, no cleaning pen/animals, etc.) will be given a written warning by the Agriculture Instructor/School Administrator. If a second notice is given, the owner will be required to remove the animal(s) from the school property. No fees will be refunded to the owner. Animal owners are encouraged to utilize the FFA Advisor/Ag Instructor to help find alternative resources if they are asked to remove the animal(s).
- Prior to animals being admitted to the RHS Farm, students must supply the Ag Instructor/FFA Advisor and USD 407 with a certificate of vaccination noting all vaccines that have been administered.
- Animal owners are required to maintain the animal's general health such as vaccines, dewormers, vitamins, and other medications under the direction of the Ag Instructor/FFA Advisor, Extension Agent, or Veterinarian.
- In the event of sickness, animals shall be treated as prescribed by a veterinarian. The advisor and/or extension agent may assist in the prescribed treatment.
- Students need to be aware of feed labels. It is illegal to feed a medicated feed without a veterinarian's direction. Any student/family found using illegal drugs or unethical fitting practices will be required to remove their animal(s) from the facility. No fees will be refunded to the owner.
- Senior students housing individual projects at the RHS Farm must have their animals removed from the premises by August 1 following their graduation. Underclassmen may continue the use of the facility throughout the calendar year per the RHS Student Agriculture Farm Policy Agreement.
- Students will be responsible for cleaning out their entire area after the completion of their SAE program. Failure to clean facilities at the end of their project will result in a \$50.00 fine and possible suspension from using the school farm for the next year.
- In the event of an animal emergency, students should contact a local veterinarian to provide service. In some instances, veterinary service may also be done without the owner's knowledge; however, every effort will be made to contact owners before veterinary contact.

- It is highly recommended but not required that the students get livestock insurance on their livestock.

*Students and parents will be expected to follow all rules listed in this contract. Failure to follow the guidelines will result in immediate removal (48 hours' notice). If you have been asked to remove your species and have not done so in 48 hours, the FFA advisor/Ag Instructor will sell the livestock and the money will be held in the school farm account.*

#### IV. **Semester**

If you plan on keeping livestock on the school premises anytime during the school year, it will fall into a three-semester option.

- ***Fall Semester:*** Entry onto or presence at the farm from August 15 – December 31
- ***Spring Semester:*** Entry onto or presence at the farm from January 1 – May 15
- ***Summer Semester:*** Entry onto or presence at the farm from May 16 – August 14

#### V. **Fees**

A farm usage fee will cover the cost of farm maintenance (water, electrical, etc.) and is to be paid before the animal arrives at the farm.

If the livestock are onsite any time of a semester running, you will be required to pay for the fee for that entire semester. Students will be required to pay a fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per head for cattle or horses per semester; ten dollars (\$10.00) per head for swine, sheep, and/or goats per semester; and two dollars (\$2.00) per head for poultry per semester. This fee will not be pro-rated based on time.

#### VI. **Protocol for Animal-Related Injuries**

In the case of injury, all bites, scratches, or other injuries acquired by individuals at the School Farm must be immediately washed well with soap and warm water for at least one minute and reported to the FFA Advisor/Ag Instructor or Extension Agent for first aid and recommendation for further medical evaluation. Administrators will be notified immediately of the injury and an incident/accident report will be completed by the staff member responsible at the time of the injury and forwarded to the school administration.

## **Russell High School Farm Contract Signature Page**

*I have read, understand, and agree to follow and abide by all the policies, rules, and conditions that are addressed in this contract. I am fully aware of my responsibilities and the guidelines and policies I must adhere to while keeping livestock at the Russell School District Farm. I understand that the RHS Farm is an educational opportunity that is a privilege to have available. If I fail to meet any of the obligations provided above, I understand that this privilege may be revoked. I agree to release the liability of the Russell School District, USD 407, Russell High School, the Midway Extension District, the Agricultural Science Teacher, and guests in case of accident or injury.*

Student Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell-Phone Number (in case of emergency): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Cell-Phone Number (in case of emergency): \_\_\_\_\_

RHS Ag. Teacher or Extension Agent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Veterinarian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Veterinarian's Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_