

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Effective March 2022

Between

WASHINGTON FFA Association

And

WSU EXTENSION 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT Program

Concerning

FFA and 4-H PROGRAM OPERATIONS IN WASHINGTON STATE

FFA and the 4-H Youth Development Program in Washington State exist to promote the maximum leadership, citizenship and personal development of participants. This is in accordance with RCW 15.76. To achieve this and avoid program duplication, guiding principles must be understood and used by all professional and volunteer leaders. We recommend that the following principles be used in carrying out the two programs in the counties in Washington State:

1. FFA Advisors should encourage students to enroll or re-enroll in the 4-H program.
2. Extension staff and adult volunteer leaders should encourage youth to enroll in Agriculture Education classes available at the local secondary schools and become members of the Washington State FFA Association.
3. A member may participate in all judging or bowl division activities in FFA and 4-H unless contests are held simultaneously. In that case, the member must choose one organization to represent in the event.
4. Members simultaneously enrolled in FFA and 4-H must have separate projects or animals for each program. Since 4-H and FFA have different program years, a 4-H project animal may not be changed or rolled to an FFA project at the start of the FFA School year. The 4-H program year is defined as October 1 through September 30th. The FFA program year is defined as August 1 – July 31st. 4-H projects may not be changed when a student becomes eligible for FFA Membership or chooses to only have 4-H membership after having started FFA. This means members cannot exhibit the same project animal in both FFA and 4-H in one program year.
EXAMPLE: A 4-H member acquires a Dairy cow in February. Starting August 1, the 4-H member is age eligible to join FFA and does so. The 4-H member may not change Dairy Cow A to an FFA project. The youth, now a 4-H and FFA member, may acquire Dairy Cow B as their FFA project and retain Cow A as the 4-H project.
5. For the benefit of both 4-H and FFA, separate divisions should be provided in all fairs in the state to eliminate competition between the members of the two organizations. Champions representing the two organization will not compete against each other.
EXAMPLE: Due to low number of exhibitors, a “class of champions” might be used to streamline time efficiency. The top FFA and 4-H exhibitors may be in a single class, however they are evaluated and awarded separately. From the single “class of champions” there would be a Grand FFA and a Grand 4-H.

If a situation at a particular show or fair indicates that the creation of a youth division (without the 4-H or FFA identification) is desirable, a single division may be organized provided there is a written agreement between the local FFA Advisors, Extension 4-H staff and approved by the fair/show management to establish special rules and regulations to manage that event. Any and all special rules/regulations must still be in accordance with this memorandum. This agreement would be distributed in the fair premium book.

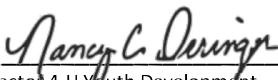
6. Members should have the opportunity to show their separate project animals in the appropriate 4-H and FFA categories at the same fair/show/exhibit. After the opportunity to show the separate project animals for premium points, then the ability to market sell the animals defaults to the local sale/market rules which may state only one animal may be sold.

EXAMPLE: A member may have a market goat project for both 4-H and FFA – different animals with separate project records – and may show both in the appropriate 4-H and FFA market and fitting-showing classes in order to accrue premium points. Once results are determined, the ability to sell the animal(s) would default to the local show/fair rule (which might state only one animal may be sold).

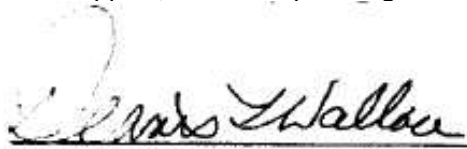
Statements 1-6 will be used to govern policy for state 4-H and FFA members in the future. The policies should also be followed at any district, county, regional or community shows/fairs where “4-H” and “FFA” divisions are used.

7. Publicity should reflect total contribution of both organizations.
8. Other cooperative programs, such as summer training programs, can be jointly planned and administered by representative of 4-H and FFA. When practical, members in 4-H and FFA shall be encouraged to work together in their home communities. In these cases, both FFA and 4-H should receive proper recognition.
9. The existing agreement concerning youth shows and fairs is terminated. The provisions of that agreement of April 1962 as amended in April 1970, 1973, 1976, 1983, 1995 and 2018 are either no longer applicable or are covered by Washington State Department of Agriculture regulations.

It is recommended that district or county meetings be held between Extension staff and the area FFA advisors periodically to discuss the roles and ensure this MOU is being upheld. Frequent contact between the Extension staff and FFA advisors for mutual support, as well as planning of leadership development programs, is encouraged.

 5/4/2022

Director 4-H Youth Development DATE
WSU Extension
Washington State University
Spokane, WA 99202

 5-25-2022

Program Director, Agriculture Education/State FFA Adviser DATE
Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
Old Capitol Building/PO Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200

 5/2/2022

Heather Davison DATE
Associate Manager
Real Estate and Business Operations
Washington State University

 5-25-2022

Executive Director DATE
Washington FFA Association
PO Box 185
Electric City, WA 99123