

## **Mt. Baker FFA Rotation Animal Agreement**

**FFA Advisors:** Todd Rightmire and Tamara Whitcomb

### ***Aim and Purpose:***

The rotation animal program has been established by the booster club to help Mt. Baker FFA members begin and continue a SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) project. This project is to help students establish and learn responsibility in working with animals and the record keeping of an FFA project. It is the intent of this program to provide students that may not have the financial ability of beginning a project, the option of getting involved in SAE as an FFA experience.

### ***Terms of the Agreement:***

1. The recipient of a rotation animal will need to show an earnest interest in the development of an FFA project. Offspring and the rotation animal itself that are still in possession or care of the FFA member must be shown at the Northwest Washington Fair (if space is available) by the person who enters into this agreement. Failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of all offspring and the rotation animal. No reimbursement will be given to the FFA member. Emergency situations will be dealt with on an individual basis by the booster club officers.
  
2. The member will need to provide proof of an area to keep the animal that is suitable for its safety and well being.
  
3. The student will need to present a plan of how the animal will be cared for with proper feeding, vaccination, breeding, and housekeeping. *The student and parent(s) will need to meet with the rotation animal committee to explain how the animal will be cared for and to review all aspects of this agreement. The advisor(s) and rotation committee may visit the animal to ensure it is being taken care of properly.*
  
4. It is the financial responsibility of the student to have the animal bred to an approved sire. The Booster Club will pay for breeding expenses for the offspring being used at either PSJLS or LJLSS market sales. The member must consult his/her advisors before breeding occurs to validate sire quality. The rotation animal should be bred at the correct time to prevent loss of financial status because of lack of pregnancies.

### **Swine Breeding Timeline:**

<b>Date to Breed</b>	<b>Gestation period</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Livestock Sale</b>
Lynden Fair	114 days	Mid-December	Puget Sound Jr.
Mid-October	114 Days	Mid-February	Lynden Jr. Sale

5. The rotation animal should be under the sole care of the FFA member. In order to be a learning experience a student needs to take responsibility in the welfare of the animal.
  
6. The rotation animal's offspring is the sole property of the FFA member. The rotation agreement is as follows.
  
7. The member and parents must recognize that there is financial risk involved with raising any animal. Reimbursement is not available.

**Beef:**

If the offspring is male, the calf should be castrated and shown at the appropriate fair for its particular age and weight (Marysville, Lynden, Puyallup, etc.). The FFA member can also retain the cow for other gestation periods.

If the offspring is female, the rotation cow and calf are to be kept by the member until the heifer calf is proven pregnant. At that time, the rotation cow will be up for new ownership by a different FFA member. If there is no valid interest or approval of a new owner, the original owner may retain the cow and its calf.

If twins occur where one or both twins are determined to be sterile (i.e. free martin heifer), the ownership of the cow remains in the hands of the original owner. No Mt. Baker FFA member may retain ownership of a rotation animal longer than the first September past their high school graduation.

**Sheep:**

All offspring are owned by the FFA member. The rotation ewe will remain the property of the FFA member for one year or until the first September past his/her high school graduation.

**Swine:**

The student can retain the rotation sow for two litters providing that they breed the animal during the first heat after farrowing. The weaning age should be 3-4 weeks. The student may keep the top pick of each litter and sell the rest of the offspring. Breeding should be done keeping the market sale dates in mind. The sow is to remain the property of the Mt. Baker Vo-Ag/FFA Boosters.

***Animals must be bred and offspring sold for either Marysville or Lynden market sales. Offspring must be sold to Mt. Baker FFA members first and other parties second. Students must follow the advice of Mr. Rightmire for breeding of the animals. Each year, the Booster Club will receive free of charge the second pick gilt (female piglet) at weaning. This will be done on an as needed basis. The Mt. Baker FFA Boosters will pay for breeding costs for either the Lynden Fair or Puget Sound Jr. Livestock auction animals (passed 11/14/2007)***

7. If a rotation animal dies and it is found that the FFA member has lost the animal because of neglect such as starvation or physical abuse, the FFA member is required to pay for the animals replacement in full.

I am entering an agreement with the Mount Baker Vo/Ag Booster Club for a rotation animal (pig/sheep/cow). I agree to fulfill the obligations above and provide the proper care. The Mount Baker Vo-Ag/FFA Booster Club or Advisors reserve the right to take the animal away for reasons stated above.

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Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tamara Whitcomb or Todd Rightmire

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Booster Club Officer