

ANIMALS: Cows are high risk because they are expensive

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14 goats, five turkeys, two rabbits and one chicken that will be up for auction Saturday, according to Marie Linnel, the livestock sales superintendent.

The reasons for why a youth chooses to raise one animal over another vary as widely as the species on exhibit.

Claire Sponseller is the 4-H agent with the OSU Extension office out of Pendleton. She said kids use a variety of factors when choosing the animal that's right for them.

"For some, it's personal taste, for others it's the ease of the animal," she said.

Hogs take less preparation to get ready for fair, Sponseller explained, but because of their size many can't keep them at home. Lambs take more work, she said, but take up less space. Theoretically they, along with goats, can be kept in a back yard. Some people love the personality of hogs, but they take longer to grow to size. Sheep and goats are easier to find in the Umatilla County area, as are cows.

Hermiston 4-H member Landon Vandehey, 14, is showing his black Australorp hen for the second year in a row. He chose a chicken because it is smaller and easier to raise. Landon said he makes sure she has feed and water every day, along with an occasional strawberry treat.

Inquiring minds might wonder how a chicken is



Mekayla Loper, 18, of Hermiston cleans one of the hooves of her Nubian dairy goat, Nickers, on Tuesday at the Umatilla County Fairgrounds in Hermiston.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris



Rachel Dynes, left, and Jimena Puerta, both members of the Hermiston Herders 4-H group, feed their market hogs Tuesday at the Umatilla County Fair.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

actually shown at the fair. Vandehey said the judges do a "vet check," looking for mites or signs of disease.

Then the judge may ask the exhibitor to extend the bird's legs or spread one of its wings. The judge assesses

each part of the chicken from its wattle — the red "beard" that hangs from a chicken's neck — to its eyes and claws.

Dalton Harris, 16, is a member of the Pendleton FFA and is showing a hog for his second year at the fair. He said that raising a hog is "just fun" and good money. He takes his Hampshire cross, Oinkers, on a daily walk so the hog will be easier to control at show time. He uses a cane to help guide Oinkers where he wants him to go.

Hogs eat a lot of food. Oinkers plows through a 50-pound bag of feed almost every day. Harris is looking forward to the auction — he just bought a truck and is anxious to pay it off.

Jayda Hoston, 14, a Herm-

iston 4-H member, is showing goats this year and has been doing so for almost 10 years. The choice to raise goats was an easy one; her grandma has had goats since before Hoston was born. Jayda's favorite part of raising goats is the showmanship part.

"I like just getting out there in the ring," she said. "Showing 'em what you've got."

She brought three Nubian goats to this year's show. Aside from feeding and watering, Hoston also checks the goats' udders to make sure they're balanced, stretching them when needed.

Brady Linnel is finishing up his last year with the Hermiston FFA. He brought three cows to this year's fair, all of them Red Angus. He chose cows in part because his family members are "beef people." Linnel takes tedious care of his cows, combing, washing and blow drying their hair every day of the year, not just during fair, to give them a fine coat.

In Linnel's opinion, cows are the highest risk animals because they are expensive, and raising a cow for fair is a year-long process where anything can happen. But, he also said that cows have the highest reward, because they are the heaviest animals and can bring in the most money — money that will come in handy as he heads off to Colorado State University to study animal science.

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Trump: Gun backers might stop Clinton

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP) — Donald Trump ignited a fresh political firestorm Tuesday by declaring gun rights supporters might still find a way to stop Hillary Clinton, even if she should defeat him and then name anti-gun Supreme Court justices. Democrats pounced, accusing him of openly encouraging violence against his opponent.

First, he falsely claimed that Clinton, his Democratic opponent, wants to "essentially abolish the Second Amendment." She has said repeatedly that she supports the Second Amendment right to own guns, though she does back some stricter gun control measures.

Trump then noted the power Clinton would have to nominate justices to the high court.

"By the way, if she gets to pick her judges, nothing you can do, folks. Although the Second Amendment people — maybe there is, I don't know," Trump told supporters at a rally in Wilmington, North Carolina. "But I'll tell you what. That will be a horrible day."

The reaction from Democrats was immediate. Said her campaign manager, Robby Mook: "This is simple — what Trump is saying is dangerous."

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