The Nevada 4-H Program follows the National 4-H Cloverbud Policy and that policy states the age of 4-H Cloverbuds shall be 5 to 8 years old. The age of the child is based on their age on January 1 of the 4-H Club Year (October 1 to September 30).

The National 4-H Cloverbud Policy states that 4-H Cloverbuds should participate in educationally-appropriate activities and developmentally-appropriate activities. The focus of the 4-H Cloverbud Program is the positive growth of young children through their exploration of a variety of project areas because it is developmentally-appropriate for their young age. The National 4-H Cloverbud Policy also specifically states that they are not allowed to participate in competitions with their projects (animals, art, baking, nature, etc) because it is not developmentally-appropriate for their age.

However, it is also known that children of 4-H Cloverbud Age have an attraction to animals and this attraction serves an educational purpose. Therefore, 4-H Cloverbuds can have an educational experience with animals if it is done in the following manner:

1. If it is a one-time and non-competitive event such as Cloverbud Showmanship (no formal judging such as contestant ranking, age classes, etc). If the same award such as colorful rosettes, rainbow ribbons, or similar award is received by all participants.

2. If it is an educationally-appropriate experience and a developmentally-appropriate experience. For example, the youth learn about animals in a fun, safe, and entertaining way that does not involve competition.

3. If it is supervised by an adult and/or teen leader in a one-on-one ratio - including the adult/teen leader leading the animal with appropriate safety equipment/gear (based on the animal species). For example, a lamb should wear a halter and a child should wear appropriate clothing/equipment when necessary for safety.

4. If a waiver (permission form) is signed by a parent/guardian for the Cloverbud to participate.

5. If no large animals (such as horses, beef, dairy, and/or swine) are used in event.

If a Local 4-H Club or County 4-H Program meets the above criteria, it can sponsor 4-H Cloverbud Showmanship. Any Local 4-H Club or County 4-H Program that do not meet these criteria must discontinue the activity until the proper adjustments are made to their guidelines. This policy must be adhered to if a club or county wishes to continue using the 4-H Name and Emblem.