

FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES AT THE GERALD D. YOUNG AGRICULTURAL FACILITY

Each year, directives have been issued on fire prevention precautions at the agricultural facility during extended cold weather (weather below freezing for over 24 hours). These directives have included:

- No heaters which have a flame or burn fuel (no propane or similar heaters);
- No space heaters;
- Heat lamps must be placed so that they do not contact wood, fabric (tarps), or other combustible materials;
- Heat lamps should be installed securely above the reach of the animals so that the lamp cannot fall into the bedding material;
- Only grounded (three prong) heavy gauge (rated for 15 to 20 amps) extension cords approved for outdoor use should be used.

As a result of a small fire on December 26th, 2011, additional protective measures are now in place. The new minimum safety standards for heat lamp usage include:

1. In addition to the shroud on the back side of the lamp, any heat lamp used in the facility must have a guard over the face of the lamp. These are usually metal wire mesh guards that allow the infrared light (heat) to radiate but prevent accidental contact with the bulb.
2. Lamps must be placed high on the side fence of the pen or on the gate or gate post. Lamps may not be placed on the pens adjoining the outer wall of the barn.
3. Lamps must have two independent anchor points. Mount a clip on wherever they are installed. In addition to the clamp, the lamp must be wire, chain, metal carabineer, or heavy gauge zip-tie to the pen rail. If the lamp is not clamped onto the rail, it must have two anchor points (for example: two zip-ties, or a zip-tie and carabineer).
4. Lamps must be plugged directly into the outlet (no use of extension cords). Any exception allowing an extension cord, will be based on review by the agricultural science teacher's review and the use of an orange or yellow grounded heavy gauge approved for outdoor use extension cord.

Heat lamps should be used only when weather forecasts indicate freezing weather. If there is a need for the heat lamp when temperatures are over 32 degrees, the student should explain the need in the text of the permit application. Lamps may remain installed during mild temperatures, but should be unplugged to reduce electrical power use and control expenses.

LAMP PERMIT SYSTEM

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recommends the use of permit systems when an identified hazard cannot be reasonably engineered out of the workplace. There is no reasonable (cost effective) engineering solution to the fire hazard situation in the agricultural barns. Animal bedding material is usually straw or wood chips, which are combustible. The barns are normal barn construction with timber and wood framing. Therefore, administrative control over heat sources in the barn is a prudent alternative control measure.

Any student wishing to use a heat lamp must obtain a permit for the lamp from the agricultural science teacher. The permit will be issued based on the lamp and lamp installation meeting all

the above requirements. Students will inspect the lamps to ensure they are safe each time they visit the barn to care for their animal, they will record their inspections by weekly initialing the heat lamp log book kept on site at each barn. Failure to inspect and verify that the lamps are and remain compliant with the standards will result in the removal of the lamp until all safety violations are corrected.

The documents needed for the lamp permit system are attached. (please scroll down)

**KATY ISD STUDENT APPLICATION FOR USE OF A HEAT LAMP
TO ENSURE THE HEALTH OF AN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE PROJECT ANIMAL
DURING COLD WEATHER**

Student Name :			
Project Animal:		Assigned Pen:	
Need for heat lamp:			
I, the undersigned student agree to inspect the lamp each time I visit the barn. I also agree that I will sign the lamp permit log each week to show that I have inspected the lamp and found it to be in a safe condition and installed according to the standards.			
Student's Signature			
Student Responsibilities Use this checklist during inspection of the lamp and lamp installation			
	Initial		Initial
Lamp cord in good condition		Lamp shroud in good condition	
Lamp bulb guard in place		Bulb guard in good condition	
Lamp plugged directly into outlet (the use of a timer is allowed)		Lamp installed on gate or side of pen	
Lamp installed out of animal's reach		Lamp installed with two anchor points	
Lamp separated from wood, fabric, or other combustible material			
Agricultural Science Approval (Teacher Name)			
Teacher's Signature			
Permit Start Date		Permit End Date	
Teacher's Inspection			
	Date		Date
Lamp in good condition		Lamp properly installed	

Example completed forms

Student Name :	<i>Perfect Student</i>		
Project Animal:	<i>Hog</i>	Assigned Pen:	<i>Pen 6</i>
<p>Need for heat lamp:</p> <p><i>Pigs are subject to swine flu and my pig is young and not yet immune by vaccination. Therefore I want to keep my pig warm when the temperature falls below freezing.</i></p>			
<p>I, the undersigned student agree to inspect the lamp each time I visit the barn. I also agree that I will sign the lamp permit log each week to show that I have inspected the lamp and found it to be in a safe condition and installed according to the standards.</p>			
Student's Signature	<i>Perfect Student</i>		
<p>Student Responsibilities</p> <p>Use this checklist during inspection of the lamp and lamp installation</p>			
	Initial		Initial
Lamp cord in good condition	<i>PS</i>	Lamp shroud in good condition	<i>PS</i>
Lamp bulb guard in place	<i>PS</i>	Bulb guard in good condition	<i>PS</i>
Lamp plugged directly into outlet (the use of a timer is allowed)	<i>PS</i>	Lamp installed on gate or side of pen	<i>PS</i>
Lamp installed out of animal's reach	<i>PS</i>	Lamp installed with two anchor points	<i>PS</i>
Lamp separated from wood, fabric, or other combustible material	<i>PS</i>		
Agricultural Science Approval (Teacher Name)	<i>Ed Ucater</i>		
Teacher's Signature	<i>Edward Ucater</i>		
Permit Start Date	<i>1/2/2012</i>	Permit End Date	<i>3/30/2012</i>
Teacher's Inspection			
	Date		Date
Lamp in good condition	<i>1/2/2012</i>	Lamp properly installed	<i>1/2/2012</i>

LOG BOOK INSTRUCTIONS

The log book should include a copy of the permit issued to each student (the original permit should be filed in the teacher's records at the school). The log book should be kept in the feed storage room in the barn accessible for students so that they can verify they have inspected their lamps and lamp installation each week.

There should be a page in the log book for each week that animals are kept at the barn. If at any time the student determines that the lamp is no longer needed they may remove the lamp and make a notation in the log book of when they removed the lamp.

Dirk Goldsmith

Director, Career & Technical Education

DirkAGoldsmith@KATYISD.ORG

