

4H 202 ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND EXHIBITING REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTY, STATE AND INTERSTATE SHOWS

GENERAL 4-H AGE REQUIREMENTS

- County Fair – Must have completed 4th grade.
- State Fair – Must have completed 5th grade.
- Interstate and National Shows – Follow specific show requirements.

A 4-H member is eligible through 12th grade (or that equivalent). These grade requirements apply unless a particular show is more restrictive. A 4-H member becomes ineligible to exhibit beyond the county level upon completion of the calendar year of high school graduation. In the event that a 4-H member has dropped out of high school, they are only eligible to exhibit livestock through the calendar year that his or her class graduated.

4-H members must be in good standing in their county to make entry to a state or interstate show. Any 4-H member who violates the code of ethics or other fair rule may be denied entry and exhibition at a county, state, or interstate show.

QUALITY ASSURANCE CERTIFICATION

- 4-H members exhibiting livestock at both county fairs and Iowa State Fair in beef, dairy, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, or swine are required to be certified.
- Youth must receive certification in YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals).
- County offices implement quality assurance certification, contact yours for training and testing details.

GENERAL ANIMAL REQUIREMENTS

- An animal may be identified by only one 4-H member. See "Ownership Requirements" section for exceptions involving horses and dogs.
- Animals identified as part of a 4-H project cannot also be identified or exhibited as an FFA project. Youth however may identify separate animals in the same division. For example, a youth may ID market lambs A, B and C in 4-H, and market lambs D, E and F in FFA, or horses A and B in 4-H and horses C and D in FFA.
- Animals offered for sale in an animal auction, whether live or online, are considered to have changed ownership. This applies even if bought back by the original owner or if the owner refuses a bid or says, "No Sale." Exhibitors may participate in a ribbon auction as long as they don't sell the project animal.
- All animals must meet health requirements as outlined by the state veterinarian.

OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- All animals must be identified by an individual 4-H member. When registration papers are involved, the papers must be in the 4-H member's name or show a logical family relationship. For example, Jones Family Farms shows a logical family relationship to Emily Jones, but B&G Farms does not. For specific beef registration requirements, refer to Iowa Junior Beef Breeds rules as many beef breed associations require registration papers solely in the individual's name.
- All animals are to be owned by the 4-H member. Counties may have sharing or leasing options for certain species and may require a leasing form (i.e. horse) or other paperwork. Check with your county extension office for these alternatives.
- Animals changing ownership or leasing after being identified for a project are ineligible to be exhibited as 4-H animals for that 4-H year.

*EXCEPTIONS TO INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICATION: Horse and dog project animals can be identified by more than one 4-H member provided the members are all 4-H members and are siblings. Sibling definition includes brother, sister or step-siblings with one common parent/guardian. The same animal(s) cannot be identified by one sibling in 4-H and another sibling in FFA.

ANIMAL CARE & HOUSING

4-H animal projects are required to be in the personal possession and regular care of the 4-H member who owns or leases them. Under certain circumstances, animals can be physically housed at a nearby location and within a reasonable distance to the 4-H member's place of residence, but the 4-H member must take an active and majority role in the daily care of the project animal(s). 4-H county and/or state staff reserve the right to acquire housing location addresses at the beginning of the 4-H project year and make location visits as deemed necessary to ensure involvement of the 4-H member.

WEIGHING AND TAGGING

Weighing and tagging must be conducted under the direction of state or county 4-H program staff. Weigh-in information may be collected on paper identification forms. 4-H families are responsible for entering animal identification information (i.e. tag, weight, etc.) into 4-H Online by the designated deadlines. County 4-H staff will

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review identification data, but ultimate responsibility for accuracy and completeness rests upon the 4-H family. Animals are not required to weigh-in at the county of residence, but county 4-H staff must be aware and approve animals attending a weigh-in outside the county. Official 4-H approved ear tags must be used for all designated species.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SHOWS

- This publication states only Iowa 4-H requirements regarding age of the exhibitor and animal identification and weighing requirements for county and state shows. Each livestock show prints a premium book outlining rules and regulations for that particular show. Most regional and national shows post premium book and entry information on their website.
- Youth are responsible for knowing the rules contained in the premium book.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

FEBRUARY 1: All market steers and market heifers must be owned and identified in 4-H Online by February 1. By the time of the weigh-in, the animal(s) must be cared for by the 4-H member. In addition to having an official 4-H tag and beginning weight collected, all Iowa State Fair market beef must have retinal images collected.

MAY 15: All other animals, with the exception of pets, poultry, and rabbits, must be owned and identified by May 15. Rabbits must be identified by July 1. By the time of the weigh-in, the animal(s) must be cared for by the 4-H member. All animals must be identified in 4-H Online. See below pages for specific weigh-in and identification requirements for each species.

SPECIES ID REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTY, STATE AND INTERSTATE SHOWS

MARKET BEEF [STEERS AND HEIFERS]

- Maximum of 10 head can be identified.
- Official Iowa 4-H tag and weighed at a county weigh-in.
- Retinal images (required for State Fair).
- 4-H Online ID required by February 1.

FEEDER CALF

- Maximum of 6 head can be identified.
- Must be identified properly for county fair requirements (tag, sex, birth date, etc.).

DAIRY CATTLE

- Maximum of 20 head can be identified.
- 4-H Online ID required by May 15.

BREEDING BEEF

- Maximum of 10 head can be identified (total for purebred and commercial).
- 4-H Online ID required by May 15, including:
 - ◊ All heifers MUST have birth date listed.
 - ◊ Iowa State Fair-eligible animals MUST have a tattoo listed (both registered and commercial); calfhood vaccination is not acceptable identification as the primary tattoo. Secondary method of identification for ALL breeding beef is needed. This can be a calfhood vaccination number or an official 4-H ear tag if the animal is not registered.

DAIRY GOAT

- Maximum of 20 head can be identified.
- 4-H Online ID required by May 15.

DOG

- Maximum of 4 head can be identified.
- 4-H Online ID required by May 15.
- Rabies vaccination date and information required.
- Animal can be identified by more than one 4-H member (immediate sibling or step-sibling only), but cannot be identified as 4-H under one sibling and FFA under another sibling.

HORSE

- Maximum of 5 head can be identified.
- Animal cannot be identified under both 4-H and FFA.
- Animal can be identified by more than one 4-H member (immediate sibling or step-sibling only), but cannot be identified as 4-H under one sibling and FFA under another sibling.
- 4-H Online ID required by May 15.
- ALL horses are required to have photos uploaded into 4-H Online by May 15 (both county and state fair).

MEAT GOAT

- Maximum of 20 head can be identified in 4-H Online.
- Animals can only be identified under ONE 4-H member, and cannot be identified as both 4-H and FFA.
- 4-H Online ID required by May 15.
- ALL State Fair meat goats (market animals and breeding does) must have a 4-H tag (or official tattoo for does).
- Retinal images required for all Iowa State Fair meat goats; both breeding and market.
- Birth date required for breeding does in 4-H Online by May 15.

PETS

- 4-H Online ID is optional; refer to your county fair rule requirements.

POULTRY

- 4-H Online ID is optional for county and/or State Fair; refer to your county for ID requirement at the county level.
- State Fair market broilers must make special entry by May 1.

RABBIT

- Maximum ID of 30 animals can be identified.
- 4-H Online ID required by July 1 (State Fair).

SHEEP

- Maximum of 30 head can be identified in 4-H Online.
- Animals can only be identified under ONE 4-H member, and cannot be identified as both 4-H and FFA.
- 4-H Online ID required by May 15.
- ALL State Fair sheep (market, commercial and purebred breeding) must have a 4-H tag, weighed and retinal images collected at a county weigh-in by May 15.
- Commercial and purebred ewe lambs must be born on or after January 1.

SWINE

- Maximum of 40 head can be identified in 4-H Online.
- Animals can only be identified under ONE 4-H member, and cannot be identified as both 4-H and FFA.
- 4-H Online ID required by May 15.
- ALL State Fair swine (breeding and market) must have a DNA collection sample on file by May 15.
- Breeding gilts must be farrowed on or after January 1.



Find this publication online at <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/194>.

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