



# Iowa 4-H Animal and Poultry Identification, Weighing, and Exhibiting Requirements for County, State, and Interstate Shows

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Many 4-H'ers enroll in projects that involve animals. 4-H'ers can share what they have learned by their involvement in animal projects in a number of ways. Many choose to share at a fair. Counties and the Iowa State Fair Board have established an animal science class in which 4-H'ers can create an exhibit highlighting some aspect of learning through an animal project. The 4-H'er need not own or care for an animal to select this form of participation. A 4-H'er also can choose to exhibit an animal. If 4-H'ers select this method of participation, they must meet uniform state 4-H regulations as outlined in this publication. These guidelines apply only to animals 4-H'ers wish to exhibit. 4-H members may have additional animals that they care for and maintain records on but do not exhibit as part of their animal projects.

This publication has two purposes: (1) to summarize regulations relating to exhibiting animals at 4-H shows, and (2) to provide additional suggestions for staff members and county program committees as they plan 4-H shows. It is the expectation that all 4-H shows will comply with the regulations in this publication. Shows may have rules that are more restrictive but not less restrictive than state rules.

## General Exhibiting Requirements

In order for staff members to certify entries in state or interstate shows, 4-H'ers and animals must meet the following general requirements.

To be eligible for a state or interstate show (including Ak-Sar-Ben), a 4-H'er must have completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade and be at least 10 years old. A 4-H'er is eligible through 12<sup>th</sup> grade (or that equivalent). These age and grade requirements apply unless a particular show is more restrictive. A 4-H'er becomes ineligible to exhibit beyond the county level upon completion of the calendar year of high school graduation. Note: In the event that a 4-H'er has dropped out of high school, the 4-H'er is only eligible to exhibit livestock through the calendar year that his/her class graduated. 4-H'ers must meet any additional county requirements and be in good standing within their county to make entry to a state or interstate show.

**Animals must meet the following general requirements.**

**Animals changing ownership** after being identified for a project are ineligible to be exhibited as 4-H animals for that 4-H year.

**Animals offered for sale** in an animal auction are considered to have changed ownership even though 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.**

**Animals identified as part of a 4-H project** cannot also be identified or exhibited as an FFA project or vice versa.

**All animals must meet health requirements** as outlined by the state veterinarian.

All animals may be identified by only one 4-H'er.

## Important Deadlines

**February 1:** All market steers and market heifers must be weighed and tagged with an official 4-H tag by February 1. By the time of the weigh-in, the animal(s) must be owned and cared for by the 4-H'er. Committees should consider potential weather problems when scheduling both the weigh-in and snow date prior to February 1.

**Late April:** All swine—derby, market, and breeding—must be owned and identified by the time of the state verification process in late April. Verification dates will be announced each year.

**May 15:** All other animals, with the exception of pets, rabbits, and poultry, must be owned and identified by May 15. All market lambs and meat goats must be weighed and identified using an official 4-H tag. At the time of the weigh-in and through the project, the lambs and meat goats must be owned and cared for by the 4-H'er. The specific state verification process must be followed for these animals.

**June 15:** Additional market lambs, pigs, and meat goats can be identified on a livestock verification form submitted to the county extension office by June 15 and be eligible to show at fairs and shows held after September 1. These animals are ineligible to show at 4-H shows held before September 1.

**Entry Deadline:** Rabbits, poultry, and pets must be owned and cared for by the 4-H'er before the entry deadline of a show. The 4-H'er must provide requested identification on the entry form.

## Ownership Requirements

All animals and birds must be owned by the 4-H'er, and identified with an individual 4-H'er. When registration papers are involved, the papers must be in the 4-H'er'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.

All animals may be identified by only one 4-H'er.

**Exceptions to ownership:** In classes in which the primary emphasis of evaluation is the skill level of the 4-H'er, ownership of the animal is not required; however, the 4-H'er should take an active role in a majority of care activities for the animal (e.g., horse classes with the exception of conformation classes, and dog obedience classes when the 4-H'er is the trainer). Animals in this category still must be identified on the appropriate form.

**Exception to individual identification:** If a family includes more 4-H'ers than horses, more than one 4-H'er may identify a horse; however, in this situation a 4-H'er cannot identify more than one horse.

## Weighing and Tagging

Weighing and tagging should be conducted under the supervision of volunteer leaders and/or the County 4-H Program Development Committee. Extension staff are responsible for maintaining an accurate record in the county Extension office. Ear tags must be ordered through the State 4-H Office. Each year the color of the tag will change. Market animals must be tagged with the prior year or current year tags.

## Identification Forms

Identification forms are available through the 4-H publication order process. Special Iowa State Fair Verification Forms will be used for all market animals verified (nominated) to participate in the Iowa State Fair. These forms will be completed at the time of market animal verification.

## Special Show Requirements

This publication states only Iowa 4-H requirements regarding age of the exhibitor and animal identification and weighing requirements for county, state, and interstate shows. Specific identification rules for the Iowa State Fair are included at the end of this publication. Each livestock show prints a premium list outlining rules and regulations for that particular show. In some cases, show rules require advance knowledge and action in order to be eligible to exhibit at that show. Ak-Sar-Ben and the National Western Stock Show are examples; they require DNA samples. (See National Western Stock Show and Ak-Sar-Ben Premium Lists for more specifics.) Ak-Sar-Ben premium lists generally are sent to each County Extension office, and the County Extension staff are responsible for seeing that premium lists and entry forms are available to 4-H'ers entering these shows. 4-H'ers must request premium books directly from the management of all other major shows.

4-H'ers exhibiting in shows beyond the county should have the premium lists. They are responsible for knowing the rules contained in the premium list. However, Extension staff are required to certify entries for most shows, so staff should be sufficiently familiar with the rules to be sure they are certifying entries that meet both the show requirements as well as the Iowa 4-H requirements contained in this publication.

## Certifying Eligibility for State and Interstate Shows

County Extension staff are asked to certify entries for 4-H'ers who wish to participate in 4-H events beyond the county level.

When a 4-H'er completes an entry form to exhibit 4-H livestock beyond the county and submits the form for the signature of a county Extension staff person, the staff person should check the following before signing.

Check the grade and age of the 4-H'er. The youth must have completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade and be at least 10 years old. A 4-H'er is eligible through 12<sup>th</sup> grade (or that equivalent). These age and grade requirements apply unless a particular show is more restrictive.

**Remember:** A 4-H'er becomes ineligible to exhibit beyond the county level at the end of the calendar year of high school graduation or when the person normally would have graduated if the person dropped out of school. Also, check ownership requirements to be sure animals have not been offered for sale in an auction.

Check identification information on the entry form against information on the identification form.

For State Fair entries, check to ensure that the market animals entered are on the Verification Form. Only market animals that have been previously verified are eligible to exhibit at the Iowa State Fair.

Check that the entry is complete.

**After** checking the above information and finding no discrepancies, **the Extension staff member should sign the entry** and mail it. (Follow instructions in the premium list for mailing address, deadline date, and payment of entry fees.) **It is highly recommended that the county Extension office keep a file copy of the entry form or other adequate record of the entry information.**

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## **County 4-H Shows**

### **Market beef (market steers and market heifers)**

#### **Requirements**

Official Iowa 4-H tag.

Maximum of 6 head to be identified.

Beginning weight.

Listed on 4H 106BI by February 1.

#### **Suggestions** (optional)

Use final weight or frame size to establish classes.

Incorporate rate-of-gain into the evaluation process.

*(Retinal images required for Iowa State Fair; DNA required for Ak-Sar-Ben verification.)*

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### **Purebred beef breeding heifer**

#### **Requirements**

Identified with an ear tattoo.

Maximum of 6 head to be identified.

Birthdate.

The tattoo must match the tattoo on the registration papers.

Must have registration papers. Registration information must be included on the ID sheet.

Listed on 4H 106B by May 15.

#### **Suggestions** (optional)

Within breed divisions, divide classes by heifer age.

Incorporate weight-per-day-of-age into the evaluation process.

Heifers should be born between January 1 and December 31 of the year prior to the show.

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### **Commercial beef breeding heifer**

#### **Requirements**

Identified with an ear tattoo.

Maximum of 6 head to be identified.

Calfhood vaccination tattoo is not acceptable as identification.

Birthdate.

Listed on 4H 106B by May 15.

#### **Suggestions** (optional)

Classes can be divided either by age or frame size.

If age is used, weight-per-day-of-age can be incorporated into the evaluation process.

Heifers should be born between January 1 and December 31 of the year prior to the show.

*Note: A 4-H'er **cannot** identify a heifer as both a market heifer and breeding heifer.*

## **Feeder calf**

### **Requirements**

Identified with an official 4-H ear tag.

Maximum of 6 head to be identified.

The tattoo must match the tattoo on the registration papers.

Known birthdate.

Listed on 4H 106B by May 15.

*(DNA required for Ak-Sar-Ben verification.)*

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### **Suggestions** (optional)

Classes should be divided by sex and by age.

Weigh calf at birth, and calculate adjusted weaning weight to use in the evaluation process.

## **Dairy**

### **Requirements**

Identified by drawing, freeze brand, tattoo, or state-coded ear tag.

For animals registered with respective breed association, use that as identification, reporting the registration number on the paper.

Birthdate.

Breed.

Grade/registered.

Listed on 4H 106A by May 15.

### **Suggestions** (optional)

Maximum 10 head to be identified.

Use age categories, as set by the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association, to develop age categories.

When numbers are limited, a minimum of the following age classes should be shown: calves, yearlings, and cows.

Registered and grade animals can be shown in the same class.

Emphasize milk production yield in milking animals and potential genetic ability in younger animals.

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## **Dairy Goat**

### **Requirements**

Identification by tattoo or ear tag.

Maximum 12 head to be identified.

Birthdate.

Listed on 4H 106A by May 15.

### **Suggestions** (optional)

Counties with large number of entries may wish to consider qualifying as a Grade/Registered “sanctioned” show.

Contact the American Dairy Goat Association for more information at <http://www.adga.org>.

Age classes should be patterned after state fair in nonsanctioned shows.

Grades, identified grades, and registered animals may show together.

Maximum of 2 head per exhibitor per class.

Animals should be 3 months or older at the time of the show.

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## **Dog**

### **Requirements**

Name, rabies vaccination number, information on training.

Listed on 4H 106E by May 15.

### **Suggestions** (optional)

Maximum of 3 dogs to be identified.

Offer obedience and handling classes. Dogs that have not been obedience-trained may be entered in the pet division.

## Horse and pony

### Requirements

Name, sketch of color markings or photo, sex, height, and age of the horse.

Listed on 4H 106C by May 15.

If leased, must complete an Iowa 4-H Horse Lease agreement 4H 106C1 and attach to the Horse Identification form, 4H 106C.

### Suggestions (optional)

Maximum of 4 horses to be identified.

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## Market sheep

### Requirements

Official Iowa 4-H ear tag.

Maximum 15 head to be identified during each period.

Beginning weight.

Listed on 4H 106D by May 15.

Additional lambs may be identified with Iowa 4-H eartag by June 15 for shows after September 1.

*(Retinal images required for Iowa State Fair; DNA required for Ak-Sar-Ben verification.)*

### Suggestions (optional)

Incorporate average-daily-gain information into the evaluation process.

Lambs must be born on or after February 1 of the current year.

Break classes by weight.

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## Commercial breeding ewes

### Requirements

Flock ear tags.

Maximum of 10 head to be identified.

Birthdate on or after January 1.

Face color (black, white, speckled).

Listed on 4H 106D by May 15.

*Note: Lambs shown in breeding ewe classes may not be shown in market classes.*

### Suggestions (optional)

Divide classes by face color and age.

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## Purebred breeding ewes

### Requirements

Flock ear tags.

Maximum of 10 head to be identified.

Birthdate on or after January 1.

Registration papers required.

Listed on 4H 106D by May 15.

### Suggestions (optional)

In blackface ewe breeds, incorporate weight-per-day-of-age in the evaluation process.

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## Purebred breeding gilt

### Requirements

Earnotched, tattooed, and tagged with Iowa 4-H eartag.

Maximum of 10 head to be identified.

Registration papers required.

Birthdate on or after January 1.

Listed on 4H 106F by May 15.

### Suggestions (optional)

Divide classes by breed and then by age.

*(DNA required for Iowa State Fair verification.)*

## Commercial breeding gilt

### Requirements

Earnotched and tagged with Iowa 4-H eartag.  
Maximum of 10 head to be identified.  
Birthdate on or after January 1.  
Listed on 4H 106F by April verification period.  
Additional breeding swine may be identified by  
June 15 for shows after September 1.

*(DNA required for Iowa State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben verification.)*

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### Suggestions (optional)

## Market swine

### Requirements

Earnotched and tagged with Iowa 4-H ear tags.  
Maximum 20 purebred market, 20 crossbred market,  
20 purebred derby and 20 crossbred derby to be identified.  
Listed on 4H 106F by April verification period.  
Additional market swine may be identified  
by June 15 for shows held after September 1.  
Farrowed after February 1 of current year.

**Note:** *Gilts shown in breeding classes may not be shown in market classes.  
(DNA required for Iowa State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben verification for both market and derby swine.)*

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### Suggestions (optional)

Incorporate average-daily-gain information into the  
evaluation process.

## Meat Goat

### Requirements

Official Iowa 4-H ear tag.  
Maximum 10 head to be identified during each period.  
Beginning weight.  
Listed on 4H 106G by May 15.  
Additional goats may be identified with Iowa 4-H  
eartag by June 15 for shows after September 1.

*(Retinal images required for Iowa State Fair; DNA required for Ak-Sar-Ben verification.)*

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### Suggestions (optional)

Incorporate average-daily-gain information into  
the evaluation process.  
Goats must be born on or after February 1  
of current year.  
Break classes by weight.

## Pets

### Requirements

Provide information requested on entry.

### Suggestions (optional)

Conference judging.  
Kittens should be at least 4 months.

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## Rabbit

### Requirements

Provide information requested on entry form including  
breed, tattoo, sex, and age of animal.

### Suggestions (optional)

Breeding classes should be divided by sex, breed,  
variety, and age. Age groups of senior (8 months and  
over), intermediate (6-8 months), and junior.  
Breeding rabbits should be evaluated on breed  
standards established by the American Rabbit  
Breeders Association, Inc. (Standards of Perfection  
found at <http://www.arba.net>)  
A meat pen should be made up of three rabbits weighing  
3-5 pounds and not over 10 weeks old the day of the show.  
Enter rabbits kept as pets in the pet division.

## **Poultry**

### **Requirements**

Provide information requested on entry.

### **Suggestions** (optional)

Leg or wing bands as identification.

Offer divisions for breeding birds and commercial birds.

Breeding birds should be evaluated on breed standards outlined in the American Poultry Association Standard of Perfections found at <http://www.amerpoultryassn.com/>.

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## **Additional requirements for Iowa State Fair 4-H Shows**

### **Market beef (market steers and market heifers)**

All market steers and market heifers must have completed the identification process including an official 4-H tag, retinal image taken, and a Market Beef Verification form by February 1 at an approved verification site. A maximum of six market beef may be verified.

### **Dairy**

Only registered or recorded grade dairy heifers/cows can be shown at the Iowa State Fair.

### **Market sheep and commercial ewes**

All market lambs and commercial ewes must have completed the verification process including an official 4-H tag, retinal images taken (market lambs only), and a Market Sheep Verification form by May 15 at an approved verification site. Maximum of 15 market sheep may be verified.

### **Meat goat**

All goats must have completed the verification process including an official 4-H tag, retinal images taken, and a Meat Goat Verification form by May 15 at an approved verification site. Maximum of 10 goats may be verified.

### **Market and breeding swine**

All market and breeding swine must have completed the verification process including an official 4-H tag, ear notches, DNA sample, and a Swine Verification form during the designated 7-day weigh-in period at an approved verification site. Maximum of 20 purebred derby, 20 crossbred derby, 20 purebred market, 20 crossbred market, 10 purebred breeding gilts, and 10 commercial breeding gilts may be verified.

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## **Additional requirements for Interstate 4-H Shows**

### **Ak-Sar-Ben**

**Market beef**—must be tagged and identified on the 4H 106BI form by February 1, and have DNA samples submitted along with paperwork by April 1.

**Feeder calves**—must be tagged with an official 4-H eartag to show as feeder calves, and tattooed with registration papers to be shown as breeding heifer calves.

**Horses**—must have passed Level III in 600 level classes.

**Meat goat**—additional meat goats may be identified with Iowa 4-H ear tags and a completed meat goat verification process, including a DNA hair sample taken and identified on Form 4H 106G, which must be to the county Extension office by June 15 for shows held after September 1.

**Market sheep**—additional lambs may be identified with Iowa 4-H eartags and a completed sheep verification process including a DNA hair sample taken and identified on Form 4H 106D, which must be to the county Extension office by June 15 for shows held after September 1.

**Swine**—additional pigs may be identified with Iowa 4-H eartags and completed swine verification process including a DNA hair follicle sample taken and identified on Form 4H 106f, which must be to the county Extension office by June 15 for shows held after September 1.

**More Information**—questions and information regarding Ak-Sar-Ben can be found at <http://www.aksarben.org>.

## **American Royal**

Must complete the DNA nomination materials by August 1, with entries due September 30. Entry information at <http://www.americanroyal.com/> or by contacting the American Royal at 1701 American Royal Ct., Kansas City, Missouri 64102, phone (816) 221-9800, FAX (816) 221-8189.

## **National Western**

Must complete the DNA nomination materials by July 1, with entries due November 1. Entry information is available from the National Western Stock Show, Attn: Livestock Office, Denver, Colorado 80216-2818, (303) 297-1166 or at <http://www.nationalwestern.com/>.

Original version prepared by former Iowa State University (ISU) Extension 4-H youth development specialists, and 4H 202 task force. Revised by Mike Anderson, ISU Extension 4-H agriculture program specialist.

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914 in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jack M. Payne, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.