



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

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'ers 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 5th grade and be at least 10 years old. A 4-H'er is eligible through 12th 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

January 15: All market steers and market heifers must be weighed and tagged with an official 4-H tag by January 15. By the time of the weigh-in and through completion of the project, the animal(s) must be owned and be cared for by the 4-H'er. Committees should consider potential weather problems when scheduling both the weigh-in and snow date prior to January 15.

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 be cared for by the 4-H'er. The specific state for

verification process must be followed for these animals.

June 15: Additional market lambs, market pigs, and meat goats can be identified on a livestock verification form submitted to their 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

With the following exceptions, all animals and birds must be owned by the 4-H'er, or in partnership with a family member, and identified to an individual 4-H'er. When registration papers are involved (*e.g., purebred beef heifer*) 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.

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 the care of 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.

Verification Forms

Identification forms are available through the 4-H publication order process. Some counties have developed other systems. County forms are acceptable for breeding animals, horse, dairy, dairy goat and small animals instead of state forms if the same information as required on the state forms is on file in the county Extension office by the date specified in this publication. Special Iowa State Fair Verification Forms will be required 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 good 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 is 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 5th grade and be at least 10 years old. A 4-H'er is eligible through 12th 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 would have normally 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 insure 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.**

County 4-H Shows

Market beef (market steers and market heifers)

Requirements

Official Iowa 4-H tag.

Beginning weight.

Listed on 4-H 106-bi by January 15.

Suggestions (optional)

Maximum of 6 head to be identified.

Use final weight or frame size to establish classes.

Incorporate rate-of-gain into the evaluation process.

(Noseprints and DNA or retinal images required for Iowa State Fair; DNA required for Ak-Sar-Ben verification)

Purebred beef breeding heifer

Requirements

Identified with an ear tattoo.

The tattoo must match the tattoo on the registration papers.

Birthdate.

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

Listed on 4-H 106b by May 15.

Suggestions (optional)

Maximum of 6 head to be identified.

Within breed divisions, divide classes by heifer age.

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

Heifers should be born between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31 of the year prior to the show.

Commercial beef breeding heifer

Requirements

Identified with an ear tattoo.

Calfhood vaccination tattoo is not acceptable as identification.

Birthdate.

Suggestions (optional)

Maximum of 6 head to be identified.

Classes can be divided either by age or frame size.

If age is used, weight-per-day-of-age can be

Listed on 4-H 106b by May 15.

incorporated into the evaluation process.

Heifers should be born between Jan. 1 and Dec. 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 eartag

The tattoo must match the tattoo on the registration papers.

Known birthdate.

Listed on 4-H 106b by May 15.

Suggestions (optional)

Maximum of 6 head to be identified.

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 eartag.

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

Birthdate

Breed

Grade/registered

Listed on 4-H 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.

Dairy Goat

Requirements

Identification by tattoo or eartag.

Birthdate.

Listed on 4-H 106a by May 15

Suggestions (optional)

Maximum 10 head to be identified.

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.)

Age classes should be patterned after state fair in non-sanctioned 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.

Dog

Requirements

Name, rabies vaccination number, information on training.

Listed on 4-H 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 color markings (or include a photo), sex, height, and age of the horse.

Listed on 4-H 106c by May 15.

If leased, must complete a 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.

Market sheep

Requirements

Official Iowa 4-H eartag.

Beginning weight.

Listed on 4-H 106d by May 15.

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

Suggestions (optional)

Maximum 15 head to be identified during each period.

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

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

Break classes by weight.

(Noseprints and DNA or retinal images required for Iowa State Fair; DNA required for Ak-Sar-Ben verification)

Purebred breeding ewes

Requirements

Flock eartags.

Birthdate.

Registration papers required.

Listed on 4-H 106d by May 15.

Suggestions (optional)

Maximum of 10 head to be identified.

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

Commercial breeding ewes

Requirements

Flock eartags.

Birthdate.

Face color (black, white, speckled face).

Listed on 4-H 106d by May 15.

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

Suggestions (optional)

Maximum of 10 head to be identified.

Divide by face color and by age.

Purebred breeding gilt

Requirements

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

Registration papers required

Birthdate.

Listed on 4-H 106f by April verification period.

(DNA required for Iowa State Fair verification)

Suggestions (optional)

Maximum of 10 head to be identified.

Divide classes by breed and then by age.

Commercial breeding gilt

Requirements

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

Birthdate.

Listed on 4-H 106f by April verification period.

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

Suggestions (optional)

Maximum of 10 head to be identified.

Market swine

Requirements

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

Listed on 4-H 106f by April verification period.

Additional market swine may be identified
by June 15 for shows after Sept. 1

Suggestions (optional)

Maximum 20 purebred market, 20 crossbred market,
20 purebred derby and 20 crossbred derby to be
identified.

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

Farrowed after Feb. 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.)

Meat Goat

Requirements

Official Iowa 4-H eartag.

Beginning weight.

Listed on 4-H 106g by May 15.

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

(DNA or retinal images required for Iowa State Fair; DNA required for Ak-Sar-Ben verification)

Suggestions (optional)

Maximum 15 head to be identified during each period.

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

Goats must be born on or after Feb. 1 of the current year.

Break classes by weight.

Pets

Requirements

Provide information requested on entry.

Suggestions (optional)

Conference judging.

Kittens should be at least 4 months.

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 that weigh 3-5 pounds, and are not over 10 weeks of age the day of the show.

Rabbits kept as pets should be entered 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.ampltya.com>

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 verification process including an official 4-H tag and either noseprint and DNA hair follicle sample or retinal images and a Market Beef Verification form by January 15, at an approved verification site. Maximum of 6 market beef may be verified.

Dairy

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

Market sheep

All market lambs must have completed the verification process including an official 4-H tag, and either a noseprint and DNA hair follicle sample or retinal images, 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, and either a DNA hair follicle sample or 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 a tag, ear notches, DNA sample, and a Swine Verification form during the designated 10-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

Additional requirements for Interstate 4-H Shows

Ak-Sar-Ben

Market beef – must have DNA samples taken and on file in the State 4-H Office by January 15.

Feeder Calves – must be tagged with an official 4-H ear tag, and a DNA sample 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.

Market sheep – additional lambs may be identified with Iowa 4-H ear tags and completed the sheep verification process including DNA hair follicle sample taken and identified on Form 4-H 106d forms to their county Extension office by June 15 for shows held after Sept. 1

Market swine – additional pigs may be identified with ear notches and 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 Sept. 1

American Royal

Must complete the DNA nomination materials by August 1, with entries due September 30. Entry information available from <http://www.americanroyal.com/s/static/livestock/index.htm> or by contacting the American Royal at 1701 American Royal Ct., Kansas City, MO 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/nwss/home/index.asp>

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. . . and justice for all

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