

## 4H 202 ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTY, STATE AND INTERSTATE SHOW

### 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 state or interstate show.

### YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS (YQCA)

- 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. Current certification number must be submitted to your county by May 15. Additionally, State Fair Exhibitors will submit their certification at the time of entry.
- Youth must receive certification in YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals), either virtually or in-person (where available) Find local training and online testing information [here](#).

### 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. Check your local premium book for additional rules regarding 4-H and FFA exhibition.
- 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, with the exception of horses and dairy cattle. Counties may have sharing or leasing options for certain species and may require a leasing form (i.e. horse or dairy cattle) 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. Check local premium book for class restrictions.

### 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. Approved 4-H or official USDA EID (840) ear tags must be used for all designated species. \*\*NOTE - Official USDA Tags are unlawful to remove.

### 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 approved 4-H or official USDA EID (840) 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. State Fair 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.
- Approved Iowa 4-H or Official USDA 840 tag and weighed at a county weigh-in.
- 4-H Online ID required by February 1.
  - Purebred animals must enter a breed in 4-H Online by February 1. Registration number may be added by May 15.
- ALL State Fair Market Beef must have an approved 4-H tag, weighed and retinal images collected at a county weigh-in by February 1.
- Animals can only be identified under ONE 4-H member, and cannot be identified as both 4-H and FFA.

#### FEEDER CALF

- Maximum of 6 head can be identified.
- Must be identified properly for county fair requirements (tag, sex, birth date, etc.).
- 4-H Online ID required by May 15.
- Animals can only be identified under ONE 4-H member, and cannot be identified as both 4-H and FFA.

#### DAIRY CATTLE

- Maximum of 20 head can be identified.
- Two forms of identification are required to be entered in 4-H Online by May 15:
  1. Tag/Ear tattoo
  2. Registration Number
  3. DHIA metal tag ID
- 4-H Online ID required by May 15.
- Animals can only be identified under ONE 4-H member and cannot be identified as both 4-H and FFA.

#### 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.
  - ◇ All animals MUST have two forms of identification. Tattoos are required as the primary form of identification.
    1. Tattoo (Both registered and commercial); calfhood vaccination tattoo is not an acceptable primary ID.
    2. Calfhood vaccination number, approved 4-H ear tag, or registration number.
- Purebred animals must enter a breed in 4-H Online by May 15. Breed registration number may be added up to the time of fair check-in.
- Animals can only be identified under ONE 4-H member, and cannot be identified as both 4-H and FFA.

#### DAIRY GOAT

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

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- Animals can only be identified under ONE 4-H member, and cannot be identified as both 4-H and FFA.
  - All state fair dairy goats must be identified with an official scrapies ID tag or an official tattoo registered with the USDA.

### DOG

- Maximum of 4 head can be identified.
- 4-H Online ID required by May 15.
- Rabies vaccination date and information required to be uploaded into 4-H Online by May 15 (for both county and state fair)
- 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.
- 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).
- 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.

### MEAT GOAT

- Maximum of 20 head can be identified in 4-H Online.
- 4-H Online ID required by May 15.
  - ALL State Fair meat goats (market animals and breeding does) must have an approved Iowa 4-H or Official USDA 840 tag, or official tattoo for does, and retinal images collected by May 15.
- Birth date required for breeding does in 4-H Online by May 15.
- Intact meat goats (does and bucks) must have a scrapies tag.
- Animals can only be identified under ONE 4-H member, and cannot be identified as both 4-H and FFA.

### 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 requirements at the county level.
- State Fair market broilers must make special entry by May 1.
- Pullorum-Typhoid (PT) tests are required for all birds (except pigeons) in order to exhibit.

### RABBIT

- Maximum ID of 40 animals can be identified. Refer to your local premium book for ID requirement at the county level.
- 4-H Online ID required by July 1 (State Fair).

### SHEEP

- Maximum of 30 head can be identified in 4-H Online.
- 4-H Online ID required by May 15.
  - ALL State Fair sheep (market, commercial, and purebred breeding) must have an approved Iowa 4-H or Official USDA 840 tag, weighed and retinal images collected at a county weigh-in by May 15.
- Commercial and purebred ewe lambs should be born on or after January 1.
- Intact sheep (ewes and rams) must have a scrapies tag.
- Animals can only be identified under ONE 4-H member, and cannot be identified as both 4-H and FFA.

### SWINE

- Maximum of 40 head can be identified in 4-H Online.
- Swine must have ear notches indicated on 4-H Online by May 15.
- 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, and have an approved Iowa 4-H or Official USDA 840 tag.
- Breeding gilts should be farrowed on or after January 1.
- Animals can only be identified under ONE 4-H member, and cannot be identified as both 4-H And FFA

Reviewed in 2024 by Celine Beggs-Shoemaker, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach 4-H, Animal Science Program Specialist

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