



# 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

**January 15:** All market steers and market heifers must be weighed and tagged with an official 4-H tag by January 15. At 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 January 15.

**May 15:** All other animals, with the exception of pets, rabbits, and poultry, must be owned and identified by May 15. All market swine, market lambs, and meat goats must be weighed and identified using either an official 4-H tag or ear notches by May 15. At the time of the weigh-in, the hogs and lambs 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, market pigs, and meat goats can be identified on a livestock identification 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**

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 with 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 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 changes. 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. 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 nose prints from market beef or 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.**

## ***County 4-H Shows***

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

#### **Requirements**

Official Iowa 4-H tag.

Beginning weight.

Listed on 4-H 106bi 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 required for Iowa State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben verification.)*

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### **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.

Listed on 4-H 106b by May 15.

### 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 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.*

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Dog

### Requirements

Name, rabies vaccination number, information on training.

Listed on 4-H 106e by May 15.

Rabies vaccination must be current.

### 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.**

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## 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 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 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 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 required for Iowa State Fair and 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.

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## Commercial breeding ewes

### Requirements

Flock eartags.

Birthdate.

Face color (black, white, speckled).

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 age.

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## Purebred breeding gilt

### Requirements

Earnotched.

Registration papers required.

Birthdate.

Listed on 4-H 106f by May 15.

### Suggestions (optional)

Maximum of 10 head to be identified.

Divide classes by breed and then by age.

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## Commercial breeding gilt

### Requirements

Earnotched.

Birthdate.

Listed on 4-H 106f by May 15.

### Suggestions (optional)

Maximum of 10 head to be identified.

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## Market swine

### Requirements

Earnotched or tagged with Iowa 4-H eartags.

Listed on 4-H 106f by May 15.

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

*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.)*

### Suggestions (optional)

Maximum 15 to be identified.

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

Farrowed after Feb. 1 of current year.

## 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.

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

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### Suggestions (optional)

Maximum 10 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 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

tandards 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.

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## 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, noseprint, DNA hair follicle sample, 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, noseprint, DNA hair follicle sample, 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, noseprint, DNA hair follicle sample, and a Meat Goat Verification form by May 15 at an approved verification site. Maximum of 10 goats may be verified.

### **Market swine**

All market swine must have completed the verification process including a tag, tattoo, notches, hair sample, and a Market 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 and 20 crossbred market pigs may be verified

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

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

**Market beef**—must be noseprinted, 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 eartag to show as feeder calves, and tattooed with registration papers to be shown as breeding heifer calves.

**Horses**—must qualify to participate at an official Ak-Sar-Ben qualifying show.

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

**Market 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.

### **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, 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/nwss/home/index.asp>.

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Original version prepared by Deb Hall, former state 4-H youth development specialist, and 4-H 202 task force. Revisions by Denise Schwab, former state 4-H youth development specialist, and Mary Clancy, former 4-H Ag 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. Stanley R. Johnson, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.