

Welcome to 4-H/FFA Beef Project Letter: (FFA exhibitor Check with FFA advisor for Animal Requirements)

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

- **Age Requirements for 4-H** (Check with FFA advisor for Age Requirements): County Fair – Must have completed 4th grade. For State Fair – Must have completed 5th grade.
- A 4-H or FFA member is eligible through 12th grade (or that equivalent) to show at the Linn County Fair. A 4-H or FFA 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 or FFA member has dropped out of high school, they are only eligible to exhibit livestock through the calendar year that his or her class graduated.
- Animals must be designated as either a 4-H or FFA project. Animals identified as part of a 4-H project **cannot** also be identified or exhibited as an FFA project. Exhibitors in 4-H are not eligible to exhibit in a similar department of FFA departments or vice versa, with the following exceptions and clarifications:
 - **BEEF** - FFA members who exhibit FFA Market Beef but do not exhibit in FFA Breeding Beef classes may, if eligible, exhibit in the 4-H Breeding Beef classes. Likewise FFA members who exhibit in FFA Breeding Beef classes but not in FFA Market Beef classes may, if eligible, exhibit in the 4-H Market Beef.
- **For the FFA members;** if you wish to exhibit at the **State Fair Level**, check with your advisor to see what you will need. You need to ask your advisor so they can supply you with all the necessary supplies for your State Fair Animal as we do not have them.
- Animals offered for sale in an animal auction, whether live or online, are considered to have changed ownership. All animals offered for sale are terminated as 4-H projects. This applies even if bought back by the original owner or if the owner refuses a bid or says, “No Sale.”
- All animals must meet health requirements as outlined by the state veterinarian. All Animals will be Vet Checked off the trailers at county fair. They will be inspecting your calves as they arrive at the fairgrounds. “Evidence of warts, ringworm, foot rot, pink eye, draining abscesses or any other contagious infectious condition will eliminate the animal from showing.”
- **OWNERSHIP**- All animals must be identified by an individual 4-H or FFA member. When registration papers are involved, the papers must be in the 4-H or FFA 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.
- Ownership is required of the 4-H or FFA animal.
- Animals changing ownership after being identified for a project are ineligible to be exhibited as 4-H animals for that 4-H year.
- **ANIMAL CARE & HOUSING** 4-H or FFA animal projects are required to be in the personal possession and regular care of the 4-H member who owns them. Under certain circumstances, animals can be physically housed at a nearby location and within a reasonable distance to the 4-H or FFA member’s place of residence, but the 4-H or FFA 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.

QUALITY ASSURANCE CERTIFICATION

- 4-H or FFA 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). All members who show a live animal that can end up in the food chain must take YQCA Training. YQCA certification must be completed by May 15th!
- County offices implement quality assurance certification; contact yours for training and testing details.

Components of the Beef Cattle Project

- **Market Steer/Heifer**-a category of show animals that are raised and fed to market weight to show and then harvested for consumption.
- **Commercial Heifer** –Breeding heifer selected that will eventually be placed in your herd for breeding purposes
- **Registered Beef Cattle** – Registered cattle are either Steers or Breeding Heifers that are recorded with a registration paper from a breed association. Ex... Angus, Red Angus, Hereford, Simmental, Gelbvieh, etc...

SPECIES ID REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTY and STATE MARKET BEEF [STEERS AND HEIFERS] (FFA exhibitor Check with FFA advisor for Breeding Heifer Requirements)

- Maximum of 10 head can be identified, weighed in. **Only 3 will be able to show at the Linn County Fair and only 2 will be able to be sold at the Auction on Monday.** (Numbers are subject to change watch for announcements)
- Official Iowa 4-H tag and weighed at a county weigh-in.
- Retinal images (required for State Fair).
- 4HOnline ID required by February 1.

SPECIES ID REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTY and STATE BREEDING BEEF HEIFERS for 4-H (FFA exhibitor Check with FFA advisor for Breeding Heifer Requirements)

- Maximum of 10 head can be identified (total for purebred and commercial). **Only 3 can be shown at The Linn County Fair.**
- 4HOnline ID required by May 15, including: All heifers **MUST** have Date of Birth, Tattoo number, Location of tattoo, Breed and Registration number of animals listed; if any of this information is missing the animal will be shown as a commercial heifer. Applied for registration will not be accepted!!
- Iowa State Fair-eligible animals **MUST** have a tattoo listed (both registered and commercial); calf hood vaccination is not acceptable identification as the primary tattoo. Secondary method of identification for ALL breeding beef is needed. This can be a calf hood vaccination number or an official 4-H ear tag if the animal is not registered. If you are planning on showing a commercial heifer at state fair and need an official 4-h tag as an identification bring it to the beef weigh in in December.

Market Animal Categories offered at The Linn County Fair: Returning Bucket Bottle, Home Raised Market Steer, Home Raised Market Heifer, Angus, Belted Galloway, Charolais, Chianina Gelbvieh Hereford, Limousine, Maine Anjou, Miniature Hereford Steer, Red Angus, Saler, Shorthorn Plus, Shorthorn Purebred, Simmental, Waygu, All Other Breeds, Crossbred Market Steer, Market Beef Heifer

Breeding Heifer Categories offered at The Linn County Fair: Breeding Returning Bucket Bottle Heifer, Home Raised Breeding Heifer, Angus, Charolais, Charolais Composite, Chianina, Gelbvieh, Hereford, Limousin, Lim-Flex, Maine Anjou-

Maintainer, Maine Anjou High %, Miniature Hereford, Red Angus, Red Angus Foundation, Saler, Shorthorn Plus, Shorthorn Purebred, Simmental Foundation, Simmental High %, All Other Breeds, Commercial Heifer

Market Beef Weigh-in-Traditionally Market Beef Weigh-In is held in December. The Weigh-In is usually the weekend after the Badger Kick off that is held in Wisconsin. **Watch your 4 H calendar for Date, Time, and Location as this may change due to circumstances out of the control of the Linn County Beef Committee.** Once you arrive at the weigh in facility and get in line, you need to get your paper work to fill it out before you can back up to unload your animal(s)!! **There is no alternate weigh-in place. If there is a conflict with the date and you can't make it you need to make arrangements for someone else to bring your calves to weigh in that day. You will also need to contact the extension office to find out what paper work you will need to have with the calf during the weigh-in process if you cannot attend. Make sure the person that is bringing your calf knows this information as well.**

If you want to declare your calf as "Home Raised": Home raised calves must be raised from birth on the family farm. There is no "Home Raised" Class at State fair level so it will have to be signed up as a crossbred, breed steer, or market heifer for State Fair. If you want to declare your calf as "Home Raised" for county fair make sure you indicate that on your paper work at weigh in.

Remember that May 15th is the deadline to enter all your breeding heifers projects on 4-H on line. Purebred breeding heifers are required to have registration papers for the county fair. **They must have the original registration papers for the county fair. Registered Breeding Heifers** will need Date of Birth, Tattoo number, Location of tattoo, Breed and Registration number for all animals listed on 4-H on line entries; if any of this information is missing the animal will be shown as a commercial heifer. Applied for registration will not be accepted!! This is not only a county fair dead line, but it is also the state fair dead line.

If you want to declare your calf as "Home Raised": Home raised calves must be raised from birth on the family farm. There is no "Home Raised" Class at State fair level so it will have to be signed up as a Commercial or Breed Heifer for State Fair. Simply marking Homeraised on the form will not insure that it will be put in the Homeraised class. **This is the time to indicate that the animal is home raised on 4-H online, if you want it in the Homeraised Class offered at County Fair, make sure to mark this class as well. When you bring your animals to the fair weigh-in/check in Home Raised and Commercial Heifers have to be weighed. Make sure to tell someone that your calf is in the Homeraised class so it can be weighed.**

New for the 2020 Fair: Performance Beef on the Halter and Ultrasound classes will be offered this year!! Details to come!