

To: Polk County 4-H Animal Exhibitor
From: Colleen Pallas, Extension Associate
Date: April 19, 2016
Subject: 2016 Animal Exhibitor Information

Wow, another 4-H year is here and moving along quickly! There have been some major changes with 4-H livestock projects on the state and local level that you need to be aware of as you plan your livestock projects for 2016. The Polk County 4-H Council **Polk County 4-H Policy & Procedure for Animal Exhibits** Guide has been updated for 2016 and is your information source as you work with your projects. This not only includes larger animals, but also small pets, dogs, rabbits and poultry projects. This resource will help you understand individual identification methods, forms needed to exhibit and important deadlines before the Polk County Fair. Please keep accessible to answer your questions now and in the future.

All exhibitors of animals (except for horse, llama, small pets, cats and dogs) must complete Quality Assurance Training this year. This process will be the same as 2015 and be completed on line and there is a \$5.00 fee that you must pay before taking the course. More information will be mailed to those who must complete this training.

NEW THIS YEAR: As per **Nebraska 4-H Policy**, all animals that need to be tagged **DO NOT NEED to be** seen with tags in their ears **by June 15** but must be recorded on the official Identification Form found at <http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/polk/livestockpage/>. DNA samples and Breeding Nomination cards may be completed by family members and submitted to the office by June 15 to be eligible for State Fair and AkSarBen.

There will be no Animal Care and Housing Form this year! Following suggestions from the NE 4-H Livestock Identification Policy.

REMEMBER --Tags and I.D. sheets are available in the Extension Office. I.D. sheets may also be printed off our web site listed above. An information sheet is included with instructions. All tags are \$1.00 per tag.

- **HORSE** – All exhibitors in **District and State Shows** must have their I.D. forms and Level Testing completed by May 13th. **NEW-** All Level Testing must be done someone certified by UNL Extension Horse Program. Please contact the office for a list of those eligible. **All County Exhibitors** must have their I.D. forms completed by June 1.
- **BUCKET/FEEDER CALF**- All bucket and feeder calves must be born by June 1, 2016. They must also have ear tags in their ears and I.D. sheets filed in the Extension office by June 15th. **NEW AGE CHANGES FOR JUNIORS SO ONLY THOSE 8-10 4-H age are eligible.**
- **MARKET BEEF** - All market beef that were weighed and tagged on Market Beef Weight Day or DNA submitted to the office are ready for fair, no other information is needed.
- **SWINE** – County Fair Tags must be placed in the animals ears for County Fair Only, anyone interested in State Fair or AKSARBEN please read the enclosed Polk County Animal Identification Guidelines for more information
- **BREEDING BEEF** – County Fair Tags must be placed in the animals ears if the animal does NOT have a tattoo, the appropriate ID sheet must be completed with ID tag or tattoo before June 15th. Breeding beef to be shown at State Fair **MUST** have a legible tattoo. Breeding Nomination Cards available in our office or on our website must be completed by June 15 with a \$2 fee and returned to our office. Purebred Animals must have a copy of Breed Papers turned in with I.D. sheets for County and State Fair.
- **MARKET BEEF, FEEDER CALF, MARKET GOAT, SHEEP & SWINE DNA SAMPLES** - All animals must have DNA samples on file to be eligible for State Fair and AK-SAR-BEN. There is a \$6.00 fee per sample. Market Sheep, Goat and Swine DNA sampling can be done by the 4-Her or a family member this year. Due to our office by June 15th.

- **MARKET SHEEP - Market Lamb Weigh Day for Rate of Gain Contest** will be held on Sunday, May 1st from 3-4 p.m. (Same time as Meat Goats) Rate of Gain contest is optional and tagging and can be completed at home this year, but ID form must be submitted to the office by June 15th. Tags are \$1.00 each; please bring your money.
- **MEAT GOATS – Market Goat Weigh Day for Rate of Gain Contest** will be held on Sunday, May 1st from 3-4 p.m. (Same time as Market Lamb) Rate of Gain contest is optional and tagging and can be completed at home this year, but ID form must be submitted to the office by June 15th. Tags are \$1.00 each; please bring your money.

RABBITS & POULTRY – Five Rabbits and Eight Poultry Exhibits total, this includes Open Class.

2016 Rabbit Guidelines for State Fair

State Fair pre-entry deadline is August 10th. Rabbit exhibitors will have the option to enter up to 10 rabbit entries in to ShoWorks. Rabbit exhibitors will only be allowed to show 5 rabbits at the State Fair. Any rabbit that was pre-entered in to ShoWorks by August 10th will be eligible as a substitution. The family would incur a \$3 fee per rabbit. There will be no refunds for rabbit entries in to ShoWorks. Families are not required to pre-enter more than five rabbits but will not be able to make substitutions at check-in. There will be no identification of rabbits prior to the August 10th pre-entry deadline.

DOGS & CATS – Must have required vaccinations and show proof prior to showing at county fair, if requested.

Please visit the following Web page for Nebraska 4-H Livestock Show regulations for more information. Downloadable I.D. forms are also available. Refer to: 4h.unl.edu/programs/anisci/livestockshow.htm

All Horse I.D. sheets are due **JUNE 1st**. All other animal I.D. sheets (All beef, swine, sheep, dairy and meat goat) are due on **JUNE 15th**. **All late I.D. sheets projects will be lowered a ribbon placing at fair per 4-H Council Policy.**