

4-H and FFA Animal Exhibitor and Animal Project Regulations

Age of Exhibitor

4-H – A 4-H animal owner/exhibitor 8 to 18 years old on Jan. 1 of the current calendar show year is eligible in 4-H-sponsored events. Exhibitors who are 8 as of Jan. 1 may exhibit at the State Fair and at the Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Exposition. 4-H members may be certified for state and interstate shows if they meet age requirements for the event and have properly enrolled animals.

FFA – Only bona fide Nebraska FFA members aged 12-21 shall be eligible for FFA Division entries.

Animal Ownership

All beef, swine and sheep project animals must be owned:

- a) Solely by the 4-H exhibitor, or
- b) The exhibitor in partnership with other member(s) of his or her immediate family. Only the name of the showman can be on the show entry. Immediate family is defined as members of a household, including parents, brothers and sisters, and youth in the care of the head of the household.

Registration Papers

For State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben (4-H only), registration papers must show one of the following:

- a) The member's name as owner, or
- b) The name of the exhibitor and/or a co-owner who is a member of the exhibitor's immediate family (see immediate family definition above), or
- c) The family farm or ranch name or parent's name.

Species	COUNTY Number of Animals	COUNTY Identification Deadline	STATE Nomination Limit	STATE Identification Deadline
Beef	5	June 15	20	June 15
Sheep	5 (max 3 market or 3 breeding)	June 15	40	June 15
Swine	8 (max 4 market and 4 breeding)	June 15	20	June 15
Dairy Goat	5	June 15	N/A	June 15
Meat Goat	5 (max 3 market or 3 breeding)	June 15	20	June 15

*All livestock in connection to exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair will be required to submit a DNA nomination. This includes all 4-H and FFA breeding livestock, market livestock, and feeder calves. **NEW IN 2026 – NE State Fair and Aksarben nomination processes are separate. Any DNA nomination submitted through Show Stock Manager will only be eligible for the NE State Fair.** All animals will automatically be eligible for both breeding and market – no additional fees or double payments will be required. DNA nominations for the Nebraska State Fair are due on June 15, 2026.

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln is committed to providing accommodations necessary to allow individuals with disabilities to function effectively and safely while participating in 4-H events. If you believe you may need accommodation, please contact Faculty/Staff Disability Services at access@unl.edu or call 402-472-3417.

Nebraska Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture. The 4-H Youth Development program abides with the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the United States Department of Agriculture. © 2023