



# 4-H ANIMAL EXHIBITOR HANDBOOK

2018



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## **SECTION I: GENERAL COUNTY INFORMATION:**

### **A. Ethics**

Nebraska 4-H livestock programs strive to create an atmosphere that encourages good character, accountability and ethical decision making. The International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) National Code of Show ring (see State Fair Premium

Book, General Livestock Rules) outlines a number of specific guidelines for all exhibitors and others involved with 4-H livestock projects. In summary, these guidelines expect the following:

- 1. Exhibitors:** Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Exhibitors' conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show. In addition to the "IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics," fairs and livestock shows may have rules and regulations that they impose on the local, county, state, provincial and national levels
- 2. Leaders:** All leaders working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example. Parents, owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and absolutely responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit awards and auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the respective fairs and livestock shows. Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from further competition.

#### **B. Establishing a System:**

The County Extension staff is responsible for establishing a system to assist families in completing the livestock animal identification/nomination process, Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training, and examination for horsemanship levels in the county and maintaining an accurate record in 4HOnline. The County Extension staff is also responsible for certifying the animals being entered in 4-H shows are properly identified and listed on identification and nomination records.

#### **C. Certifying Eligibility:**

The County Extension staff is also responsible for certifying the eligibility (age, 4-H membership, YQCA training) of 4-H members for exhibiting at Extension sponsored shows

#### **D. Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA):**

As indicated in B, county Extension staff are responsible for establishing a system for livestock quality assurance training in the county utilizing the YQCA program (through either online, face-to-face, or a hybrid of both). Training should be tracked using 4HOnline as outlined by the State 4-H Office. YQCA programs are designed to help youth understand the responsibilities involved in raising livestock for food, and are encouraged to implement good management practices by the youth and/or family members to be consistent with YQCA practices. YQCA training is mandatory for all exhibitors of livestock, or food-producing livestock animal projects (beef, sheep, swine, goat, dairy cattle, dairy goat, poultry, and rabbit) at county and state level events. This applies for youth in classic 4-H programs (ages 8 – 19) and for State Fair/AKSARBEN exhibitors.

- 1. Testing of Animals:** Through YQCA training and awareness of ethical standards, all exhibitors, families and leaders should recognize the potential consequences to the food chain and to the image of youth livestock programs should an animal exhibit be presented with any type of residue or tampering. Thus, animals shall be presented to show events where they will enter the food chain free of volatile drug residues. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show gives of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer and/or responsible person for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. Animals entered in an event which does not culminate with the animal entering the food chain shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event.
- 2. Ethic Affidavits and Statements of Disclosure:** To comply with federal guidelines and/or requirements of specific livestock processing facilities, exhibitors at shows which are terminal (i.e. the animals enter the food chain at the conclusion of the show) must complete a statement of disclosure or ethics affidavit. This ethics affidavit indicates that (1) if animal health products have been used, it has been done in accordance with all USDA and FDA rules, (2) other federal regulations regarding specific feeds (i.e. use of ruminant derived byproducts) have been followed, and (3) the exhibitors agree that entries may be screened for any violation of these rules. Some livestock processing facilities

may require additional documentation of adherence to these rules. Completion of an ethics affidavit or statement of disclosure is also highly recommended for animals entered in shows that are not terminal, including breeding and dairy animals.

#### **E. Clover Kids (County Level Only):**

The purpose of the 4-H Clover Kids program is to foster the development of life skills that are essential for the cognitive, social, emotional and physical maturation of younger children. Children may join 4-H Clover Kids when their 4-H age is five to seven. Children of this age are a distinct audience for 4-H with unique learning characteristics and developmental needs that are different from older children and youth served through 4-H membership. As a result, the 4-H Clover Kids program is designed with specific educational objectives and program policies. 4-H Clover Kids programs and curriculum will include activities and learning opportunities that are developmentally appropriate for this age youth. Participation, safety, personal development, learning and fun are the highest priorities in providing 4-H Clover Kid programs.

Animals and animal subject matter can contribute to Clover Kids objectives. However, for safety, liability, and competitive reasons often associated with livestock shows, some restrictions are necessary to maintain Clover Kids program objectives.

The Clover Kids program will be developmentally appropriate and involve the following components:

- Encourage involvement of parent or significant adult
- Focus on self-esteem and provide positive feedback
- Foster the development of life skills that are essential for the cognitive, social, emotional and physical maturation of youth by providing a unique educational opportunity
- Share through cooperative learning
- Noncompetitive - emphasizing fun and success of every child
- Programs are activity-focused and not project focused
- Recognize individuals for participation
- Present recognition and incentives without rank or placing

Specific reasons for being cautious with direct large animal involvement are as follows

- Children eight and under often lack the mental and physical skills for controlling and understanding the strength of large animals (Livestock Conservation Institute, 1994).
- Young children may lack the strength, balance, and attention span to adequately manage large animals (American Medical Equestrian Association, 1993).
- Because of these reasons, Clover Kids programs involving live animals must adhere to the following:

Because of these reasons, Clover Kids programs involving live animals must adhere to the following:

- Exhibition includes discussions with youth based on their knowledge of the care and raising of the animal.
- Exhibitors show in a non-competitive setting for participation only.
- Age, size, and temperament of animal projects must be appropriate for the exhibitor's age and size.
- Horse projects are not allowed or appropriate. Beef animals weighing more than 350 pounds at time of show are not allowed or appropriate for this age group either.
- Animals that are appropriate for this age group include bucket calf, sheep, swine, goat, dog, poultry, rabbit, cat, and companion animals.
- There will be one adult/teen volunteer present for every Clover Kid member that is handling or exhibiting animals. This applies to all animal projects.
- Allowable animals should be no more than six months of age and no more than 350 pounds at time of show.
- a. Exhibitors in this age group are not allowed to sell their animal through a livestock sale or premium auction.

#### **F. Equine Limited Liability Law:**

4-H horse activities should only be conducted in compliance with the Equine Limited Liability Law. All horse events should post the following sign:

WARNING! Under Nebraska law, an equine professional is not liable for an injury to, or death of participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities pursuant to Sections 25-21, 249 to 25-21, 253.

## **G. Progress Shows:**

The Livestock Show Regulations provided apply for state and interstate shows, not for progress shows. However, additional information for Extension staff regarding progress shows is provided in the 4-H Policy Handbook; including:

### *Open Shows/Non-4-H Competitive Events*

Participation is encouraged in other organizational activities. However, it is not appropriate to identify other organization activities as 4-H. Participation in these activities by Extension staff does not qualify the activity as a 4-H event. Only activities meeting all the criteria in 14.3.2 will be identified as a 4-H event.

Field days, fairs, and other events not promoted or identified as 4-H and not identifying University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension as the sponsor are not classified as 4-H events. 4-H assumes no responsibility for these events, nor will the awards from these events be considered as 4-H awards. Please note, non- 4-H Competitive Events are not eligible for 4-H accident and liability insurance. The 4-H name and emblem should not be used to publicize these events.

Progress or Prospect shows should follow the guidelines presented above to be considered a 4-H event. To help staff assess whether a show should be advertised as 4-H, "Progress/Prospect- Tips for Staff" is available at:  
<https://4h.unl.edu/documents/progressshowtips.pdf>

## **SECTION II – IDENTIFICATION AND NOMINATION OF PROJECT ANIMALS**

- A.** Participation in all competitive events related to specific projects shall be in the county of project enrollment.
- B.** An animal (beef, sheep, swine, market goat, dairy, dairy goat, or rabbit) may be identified in 4-H, in only one county. The same animal cannot be identified in FFA in another county and exhibited at another county fair.
- C.** Exhibitors are encouraged to be active members of both 4-H and FFA and can nominate separate animals in both organizations for exhibition at separate county or state fairs.
- D.** An animal (beef, sheep, swine, market goat, dairy, dairy goat, rabbit, poultry, dog or cat) cannot be shown in more than one county fair.

E. Methods of Identification and Nomination:

**1. Market Beef, Beef Feeder Calves, Market Swine, Market Lambs and Market Goats**

- a) All market beef, feeder calves, and market swine, must be identified with a federally-accepted 840 electronic identification (EID) tag. Market lambs and market goats must be identified with a federally-accepted Scrapie tag.
  - b) It is recommended, but not mandatory, to tag 4-H market beef, feeder calf, market goat and market lamb project animals with the supervision of the Extension staff or by someone else designated by the Extension staff and/or the 4-H Council.
  - c) All market animal exhibitors must have completed the online nomination process by the appropriate deadline (April 15 for market beef, June 15 for others) to be eligible for exhibition at State Fair/AKSARBEN. Paper ID sheets are acceptable for county records **ONLY** and **WILL NOT** be accepted as a form of nomination for State Fair/AKSARBEN.
  - d) All market beef should be tagged and have all required information submitted, and payment received in the online nomination system by April 15. All other market animals should be tagged and identification information verified in the online nomination system by June 15. The nomination process is not complete without full payment. Market beef must have a signed and sealed official envelope with hair samples for DNA animal nomination to the AKSARBEN office by April 20 to be eligible for exhibition at State Fair and AKSARBEN. DNA animal nomination envelopes must be in the county office by **April 15** to be eligible for exhibition at either show. The nomination process is not complete without full payment.
  - e) Market swine must have a signed and sealed official envelope with hair samples for DNA animal nomination to the AKSARBEN office by **June 20** to be eligible for exhibition at State Fair and AKSARBEN. DNA animal nomination envelopes must be in the county office by **June 15** to be eligible for exhibition at either show. The nomination process is not complete without full payment.
- 1. Market swine to be exhibited at AKSARBEN must be identified by either ear notches in both ears or with an EID tag and must match with the exhibitor's swine DNA animal nomination envelope**
- f) Market lambs and market goats must have a signed and sealed official envelope with hair samples for DNA animal nomination to the AKSARBEN office by **June 20** to be eligible for exhibition at State Fair and AKSARBEN.



DNA animal nomination envelopes must be in the county office by **June 15** to be eligible for exhibition at either show. The nomination process is not complete without full payment.

1. Female market lambs and goats may be identified as both breeding and market, provided the appropriate online nominations have been selected and completed (both breeding and market) and DNA samples have been collected and submitted according to the deadlines above.
  2. Determination of final breeding or market designation for the above animals will be determined at check-in during Nebraska State Fair.
  3. Double identification DOES NOT allow the animal to be shown as both breeding and market at the same show.
  4. Once an animal has been selected as market or breeding for show at State Fair, it can only be shown in that same designation at AKSARBEN.
  5. AKSARBEN Challenge Calves & Lambs have had hair collected by AKSARBEN staff for DNA testing therefore do not need to be recollected at the county level
- g) Additional show rules may apply for identification and nominations of animals in special classes (i.e. breed classes of steers). See specific show rules for details.

## **2. All Registered Breeding Beef Heifers**

- a. Must be identified by ear tattoos according to the regulations set by the various national beef breed associations. Calf hood brucellosis (Bang's) tattoos are not considered as an identification tattoo.
- b. Registration papers must be in the hands of exhibitors at state and interstate shows

1. To exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair, original registration papers or electronic papers presented using a tablet or smart phone will be accepted if pulled up or downloaded from their respective breed website. **NO PRINTED PAPER COPIES ACCEPTED.** Original papers or electronic versions only.
2. For the State Fair and AKSARBEN, 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 an immediate member of the exhibitor's family, or
  - c. the family farm or ranch name or parent's name. \*Immediate family is defined as members of a household including parents, brothers, sisters and youth in the care of the head of the household.
  - d. Must be identified in the online nomination system by June 15.
  - e. A heifer that is identified as a market heifer by April 15 can also be nominated as a breeding heifer by June 15. The exhibitor will need to submit a new breeding nomination in the online system by June 15 or have checked breeding beef during the market beef nomination along with inputting the required information necessary for a breeding heifer.

### **3. Commercial Beef Breeding Heifers**

- a. Must be identified by ear tattoos to be shown at State Fair and AKSARBEN. Calf hood brucellosis (Bang's) tattoos are not considered acceptable for permanent identification.
- b. Must be identified in the online nomination system by June 15.
- c. A heifer that is identified as a market heifer by April 15 can also be nominated as a breeding heifer by June 15. The exhibitor will need to submit a new breeding nomination in the online system by June 15 or have checked breeding beef during the market beef nomination along with inputting the required information necessary for a breeding heifer.

### **4. Registered and Commercial Breeding Ewes**

- a. Registered ewes must be identified with the tag/tattoo required by the various national sheep breed associations
- b. Registration paper must be in the hands of exhibitors at state and interstate shows.

1. To exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair, original registration papers or electronic papers presented using a tablet or smart phone will be

accepted if pulled up or downloaded from their respective breed website. NO PRINTED PAPER COPIES ACCEPTED. Original papers or electronic versions only.

2. For the State Fair and AKSARBEN, 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 an immediate member of the exhibitor's family, or
  - c. the family farm or ranch name or parent's name. \*Immediate family is defined as members of a household including parents, brothers, sisters and youth in the care of the head of the household.

c. All ewes (registered and commercial) must have an official USDA scrapie tag.

d. All ewes (registered and commercial) must be identified in the online nomination system by June 15.

1. Female market lambs and goats may be identified as both breeding and market, provided the appropriate online nominations have been selected and completed (both breeding and market) and DNA samples have been collected and submitted according to the deadlines above.
2. Determination of final breeding or market designation for the above animals will be determined at check-in during Nebraska State Fair.
3. Double identification DOES NOT allow the animal to be shown as both breeding and market at the same show.
4. Once an animal has been selected as market or breeding for show at State Fair, it can only be shown in that same designation at AKSARBEN.
5. AKSARBEN Challenge Calves & Lambs have had hair collected by AKSARBEN staff for DNA testing therefore do not need to be recollected at the county level.

## **5. Registered and Commercial Breeding Does**

- a. Registered does must be identified with the tag/tattoo required by the various breed associations.
- b. Registration paper must be in the hands of exhibitors at state and interstate shows.
  1. To exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair, original registration papers or electronic papers presented using a tablet or smart phone will be accepted if pulled up or downloaded from their respective breed

website. NO PRINTED PAPER COPIES ACCEPTED. Original papers or electronic versions only.

2. For the State Fair and AKSARBEN, 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 an immediate member of the exhibitor's family, or
  - c. the family farm or ranch name or parent's name. \*Immediate family is defined as members of a household including parents, brothers, sisters and youth in the care of the head of the household.
- c. All does (registered and commercial) must be identified with an official USDA scrapie tag.
- d. All does (registered and commercial) must be identified in the online nomination system by June 15. The nomination process is not complete without full payment.
  1. Female market lambs and goats may be identified as both breeding and market, provided the appropriate online nominations have been selected and completed (both breeding and market) and DNA samples have been collected and submitted according to the deadlines above.
  2. Determination of final breeding or market designation for the above animals will be determined at check-in during Nebraska State Fair.
  3. Double identification DOES NOT allow the animal to be shown as both breeding and market at the same show.
  4. Once an animal has been selected as market or breeding for show at State Fair, it can only be shown in that same designation at AKSARBEN.
  5. AKSARBEN Challenge Calves & Lambs have had hair collected by AKSARBEN staff for DNA testing therefore do not need to be recollected at the county level.

#### **6. Dairy Heifers, Dairy Cows and Dairy Goats (County Fair Only)**

- a. Must be identified on the paper ownership affidavit by photograph, a sketch or by ear tattoo. Dairy cow paper ownership affidavits must be turned in to the county office by June 15
- b. All dairy cow paper ownership affidavits must be turned in to the State 4-H office by June 22 to be eligible for exhibition at the State Fair.

#### **7. Horses**

- a. Must be identified by description on form F2-97-77 as to color, markings, brands,

etc., or clear visible colored photos (front view, left side, right side of the horse)

## **8. Rabbits**

- a. State Fair Only: Must be identified by the State Fair pre-entry date of August 10 in ShoWorks
- b. County Fair identification process may vary, county by county

## **9. Bucket Calf (County Fair Only)**

- a. Must be identified on the paper ownership affidavit by ear tag. These paper ownership affidavits must be turned in to the county office by the county assigned deadline.

## **F. Animal Identification and Nomination Process for State Fair and AKSARBEN**

- 1. All 4-H livestock (beef, dairy cattle, dairy & market goats, horses, sheep and swine) must be certified by the processes stated below to be eligible for State Fair or AKSARBEN.
  - a. Market Beef, Market Swine, Market Lamb, Market Goat, and Feeder calves will be entered in the online nomination system and have DNA Animal Nomination Envelopes turned into the county office by the appropriate deadline with full payment.
  - b. Breeding Beef, Breeding Sheep and Breeding Does will be entered in the online nomination system by the appropriate deadline. Validation by a county Extension staff member (or appropriate designee) will be required to complete this process.
- 2. Dairy Cattle, Bucket Calf, and Horse will utilize species specific paper affidavits.
  - a. Dairy Cattle Ownership Affidavit  
<https://4h.unl.edu/county-fair/affidavits>
  - b. Bucket Calf Ownership Affidavit (County Fair Only):  
<https://4h.unl.edu/county-fair/affidavits>
  - c. Horse, form F2 97 77:  
<https://4h.unl.edu/horse/district-shows>

## **G. Required Information for Each Species for State Fair and AKSARBEN Animal Nominations**

### **MARKET BEEF:**

- a. Breed/description, if applicable
- b. Sex
- c. Official EID tag number (full 15-digit number)

- d. Brand, if applicable
- e. Above information inputted online and DNA sample submitted by April 15

**BREEDING BEEF:**

- a. Breed/description
- b. Date of birth
- c. Tattoo (required for both commercial and purebred)
- d. Indicate if animal is registered
- e. \* Registration number (for purebred)
- f. Above information inputted online by June 15

**FEEDER CALF (AKSARBEN only):**

- a. Breed/description
- b. Sex
- c. Date of birth
- d. Official EID tag number (full 15-digit number)
- e. Above information inputted online and DNA sample submitted by June 15

**DAIRY CATTLE:**

- a. Tag, tattoo or vaccination tag for animals without distinct markings.
- b. Drawing or photo for animals with distinct markings.
- c. Registration if purebred
- d. Date of birth
- e. Back of form completed and signed for leases.

**MARKET LAMBS:**

- a. Sex
- b. Official USDA Scrapie tag information. State abbreviation, flock ID, and animal ID are all required.
- c. Above information inputted online and DNA sample submitted by June 15.

**BREEDING EWES:**

- a. Breed, if applicable
- b. Date of birth
- c. Official USDA Scrapie tag information. State abbreviation, flock ID, animal ID, and tattoo (if applicable) are all required.
- d. Indicate if animal is registered

- e. Registration number (for purebred)
- f. Above information inputted online by June 15

**MARKET GOATS:**

- a. Sex
- b. Official USDA Scrapie tag information. State abbreviation, flock ID, and animal ID are all required.
- c. Above information inputted online and DNA sample submitted by June 15.

**BREEDING DOES:**

- a. Breed, if applicable
- b. Date of birth
- c. Official USDA Scrapie tag information. State abbreviation, flock ID, animal ID, and tattoo (if applicable) are all required.
- d. Indicate if animal is registered
  - Registration number (for purebred)
- e. Above information inputted online by June 15.

**MARKET SWINE:**

- a. Official EID tag number (full 15-digit number)
- b. Notch number for both ears (optional form of ID at AKSARBEN only)
- c. Sex
- d. Above information inputted online and DNA sample submitted by June 15

**RABBITS:** No animal nomination required

**POULTRY:** No animal nomination required

**H. Identification and Nomination Deadline Dates:**

Following is a list of dates on which 4-H exhibitors must have their project animals identified and nominated certified for various district, state and interstate livestock shows. All animal nominations must be submitted by these dates. Counties may set earlier deadlines if they wish. Ear tags, notches and tattoos must be inserted by the deadline.

<b>Deadline Dates</b>	<b>Livestock Show</b>
April 15, 2018	Market Beef for State Fair and AKSARBEN
May 11, 2018	ID and entries for Horse for District and State Shows
June 15, 2018	Beef Breeding Heifers, <i>All Shows</i> Dairy Heifers & Cows, <i>All Shows</i> Goats, <i>All Shows</i> Sheep, <i>All Shows</i> Swine, <i>All Shows</i> Feeder Calves, <i>AKSARBEN Only</i>

### **I. Limitations on Number of Market Animals Nominated for State Fair and AKSARBEN**

1. Market Beef
  - a. Each exhibitor may nominate a total, between 4-H and FFA, a maximum number of 10 market beef animals for State Fair and AKSARBEN
2. Feeder Calves
  - b. Each exhibitor may nominate a total, between 4-H and FFA, a maximum of 20 head for AKSARBEN
3. Market Lambs
  - c. Each exhibitor may nominate a total, between 4-H and FFA, a maximum number of 20 market lambs for State Fair and AKSARBEN
4. Market Swine
  - d. Each exhibitor may nominate a total, between 4-H and FFA, a maximum number of 40 market swine for State Fair and AKSARBEN
5. Market Goat
  - e. Each exhibitor may nominate a total, between 4-H and FFA, a maximum number of 20 market goats for State Fair and AKSARBEN

### **J. 4-H/FFA Exhibits**

1. Training offered by agricultural education/FFA and Nebraska Extension/4-H contributes to youth's preparation for a future in agricultural production, agribusiness, and other areas. Simultaneous participation in both programs is acceptable and encouraged, if the youth choose to do so.
2. By nominating any Market Beef, Market Lamb, Market Hog, Market Goat, Breeding Heifer, Breeding Ewe, or Breeding Doe by the appropriate deadline, that animal is eligible for exhibition in either 4-H or FFA shows prior to August 10.



On August 10, when final State Fair Livestock Entries are made via ShoWorks, the exhibitor will be required to designate whether the animal will show 4-H or FFA. Physical exhibition of the animal in the FFA show at State Fair will prohibit entry to AKSARBEN. Pre-entering an animal in the FFA show, but not exhibiting the animal at State Fair, will still allow the animal to be shown at AKSARBEN.

### **SECTION III – HANDLING OF THE ANIMAL NOMINATION PROCESS**

The responsibilities outlined here are applicable for the 4-H Shows at the Nebraska State Fair and AKSARBEN 4-H Livestock Exposition.

#### **A. Family Responsibilities:**

1. Exhibitors will be required to enroll in 4-H and the required projects by the county deadline in 4H Online.
2. Exhibitors showing market animals at State Fair or AKSARBEN must have a signed and sealed official DNA envelope with hair samples for DNA verification turned into their county office and have completed the online nomination along with submitting payment online by the appropriate deadline listed in the table. Any animal carrying an 840 EID tag will require the exhibitor to obtain a Premises ID. Contact the local Extension Office for details. (It is recommended that you make a copy or a photo image of completed envelope you turn into your county.)
3. Exhibitors showing breeding beef, breeding sheep and breeding goats at State Fair or AKSARBEN will need to complete an online nomination by the June 15 deadline.
4. Exhibitors will be required to complete Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) for the enrolled livestock projects by the county deadline.
5. Exhibitors will notify the County Extension Staff of any retags that may occur up to time of check-in at either the State Fair or AKSARBEN show.
6. Exhibitors will select which animal entries they have chosen to show at State Fair on the State Fair entry website. All nominated and validated animals will be automatically listed as a choice option for entry registration.
7. 4-H and FFA youth participants will declare which youth organization they will show their animal projects by August 10 in ShoWorks.
8. If an animal is shown in FFA at the State Fair, it is no longer eligible for AKSARBEN. If an animal is entered online by August 10 in FFA, but is not exhibited, that animal will still be eligible to be exhibited at AKSARBEN.
9. Exhibitors will be required to bring the breed registration association paperwork to check-in at State Fair for animals wanting to show in a breed class. The exhibitors name should be identified on the registration paper.

## **B. State 4-H Office Responsibilities:**

1. The State 4-H office will be available to answer any questions and communicate with counties about any concerns they may have about an exhibitor's animal nomination process.
2. State 4-H and AKSARBEN will keep record of re-tags. Re-tags (beef, swine, sheep and goats) will require an email (no phone calls) from county staff, which will be added to the file when it is received in the department. Emails should be sent to Brandy Wagner, ([bwagner5@unl.edu](mailto:bwagner5@unl.edu)), 114 Ag Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 68583-0700.
3. State 4-H Office will receive all dairy cattle affidavits and ship to the State Fair Youth Dairy Show Superintendent
4. State 4-H Office will upload all online livestock nominations to the State Fair entry database (ShoWorks).
5. State 4-H and AKSARBEN will announce to County Extension Staff that State Fair livestock nominations are now available in the State Fair entry database (ShoWorks) for State Fair entry registrations.
6. Show lists for each species/class will be forwarded to AKSARBEN management and superintendents after the State Fair.

## **C. County Staff Responsibilities:**

1. Submit an 840 EID tag order for beef and swine animal projects.
2. Schedule and publish weigh-in and/or tagging dates if offered in your county.
3. Request, distribute and collect DNA collectors for families. 840 EID tags should not be distributed without the premise ID being recorded in 4H Online. It is optional but recommended to record on the DNA envelope.
4. Inform families of the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training options available to them (in person and online).
5. Collect market beef DNA envelopes by April 15. Families will submit payment online. Copy all market beef DNA envelopes for your county records and mail all completed DNA envelopes to the AKSARBEN office by **April 20**.
6. Collect market swine, market lamb, and market goat DNA envelopes by June 15. Families will submit payment online. Copy all market DNA envelopes for your county records and mail all completed DNA envelopes to the AKSARBEN office by **June 20**.
7. Collect Premises ID numbers from exhibitors. Input those into 4H Online by the validation deadline for that respective species (April 15 or June 15) and report the premise ID file to Brandy Wagner [bwagner5@unl.edu](mailto:bwagner5@unl.edu).

8. Review and validate all online livestock entries for each exhibitor by **July 1**. Online validation is found at: [www.showstockmgr.com](http://www.showstockmgr.com)
9. Send all edits to AKSARBEN for any changes needed for their families' livestock entries. **Once all edits have been received and AKSARBEN perfects the database, no further edits will be allowed.** For retags, please email Brandy Wagner [bwagner5@unl.edu](mailto:bwagner5@unl.edu)
10. Inform families that all nominations have been validated and are available for entry at the Nebraska State Fair entry website <https://www.statefair.org/>.

## **SECTION IV – OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS**

### **A. All Species:**

Animal projects require care for an extended period of time. To grow in knowledge and experience, a 4-H member must be involved in the care of project animals throughout the project, thus it is expected that 4-H project members own and care for their animals according to these guidelines:

1. A beef, dairy, dairy goat (county fair only), market goat, horse, sheep, swine, rabbit, poultry or dog or companion animal (county fair only) project animal may be owned:
  - a. Solely by the 4-H exhibitor or
  - b. in partnership by the 4-H exhibitor and/or other members of his or her immediate family.
  - c. All exhibitor family member names may be on the animal nomination and will be eligible to show that animal.
  - d. Immediate family is defined as members of a household including parents, brothers, sisters and youth in the care of the head of the household.
2. When 4-H exhibitor(s) and parent(s) sign an animal nomination indicating the exhibitor(s) will feed and care for the animals, it is expected that the exhibitor(s) will have primary responsibility for the animals. In cases where the exhibitor may not have primary responsibility for the duration of the project (i.e. separation of parents and more than one residence, group homes, etc), it is recommended the exhibitor request exception from the local 4-H Council. The time the exhibitor will be able to care for the animals should be clearly defined in the request.

## **B. Horses, Dairy Cattle and Dairy Goats:**

1. An exhibitor in a 4-H show of a horse, a dairy animal or dairy goat, may show an animal owned by someone outside of the immediate family provided:
  - a. He or she manages (cares for, feeds, trains, grooms, etc.) and has use of the animal as a 4-H project animal at least 75% of the time during the project year; and
  - b. Permission for use of the animal is certified by the owner on the 4-H member's ID sheet (ownership affidavit).
  - c. Exceptions may apply for youth in group homes that have the purpose of providing a mentoring atmosphere for at-risk youth.
  - d. It is recommended that the same ownership guidelines be used for county only projects (i.e. llamas, pygmy goats etc.).

## **C. How Change of Ownership (Sale) of Project Animals Makes Them Ineligible for Shows:**

Any 4-H project animal that has been offered for auction, where the intent of the auction is change of ownership, is ineligible to show at any further 4-H livestock shows. (See additional clarification on auctions in Section V.)

## **SECTION V – MISCELLANEOUS RULES**

### **A. Age of Exhibitors:**

1. Only 4-H members who are 10 years of age before January 1 of the current year or older may compete in district horse shows.
2. 4-H members who are 10 years of age before January 1 of the current year may exhibit at State Fair and AKSARBEN.
3. 4-H members may be certified for state or interstate shows when they meet the age requirements for the event and have properly enrolled projects at the County Extension office.
4. The last year of eligibility is 4-H age of eighteen (18).

### **B. Commercial Breeding Heifer Classes:**

1. To be eligible for the commercial beef breeding heifer classes at the

State Fair and AKSARBEN, a heifer must be:

- Born anytime during the previous calendar year.
- Of a known birth date.
- From an identifiable sire and dam.
- Identified by an ear tattoo (ear tags and calf hood vaccination tattoo are not acceptable).

### **C. Registered Junior Heifer Calves and Spring Heifer Calves – AKSARBEN**

To be eligible for these classes at AKSARBEN, see the AKSARBEN website for nomination processes and deadlines.

### **D. Registration Papers (certificates) for 4-H Shows Outside of Nebraska:**

1. For 4-H shows outside of Nebraska (such as American Royal, World Dairy Expo., National Western, etc.) registration papers (certificates) must carry the 4-H member's name as owner.

### **E. Terminal Status and Identification for County Swine Shows**

1. County swine shows could be terminal or non-terminal shows.
2. The State Fair Swine show will be terminal. AKSARBEN is a non-terminal show.

### **F. Auctions**

1. **Example Show Rules:** Because project ownership is an important part of a 4-H livestock project, most 4-H shows will have a rule regarding auctions, the same or similar to the following section from the Nebraska State Fair 4-H Premium Book: "Any 4-H project animal that has been offered for auction where the intent of the auction is change of ownership is ineligible for the 4-H livestock classes at the Nebraska State Fair..... A project animal that has been through a "premium only" auction is eligible to be exhibited at the Nebraska State Fair, provided it and its exhibitor meet all other ownership and eligibility requirements. A "premium only" auction is defined as an event in which change of ownership is never the intent; but the intent is only to provide a monetary premium to accompany the ribbon earned by the exhibit."

2. **Clarification of “premium only”:** Because county fairs have various types of auctions and there are many differences in how specific auctions are handled, the following will provide some clarification regarding “premium only” auctions. However, this is not meant to endorse the concept of auctions for fairs and 4-H projects.

To be a “**premium only**” auction, there can be absolutely NO change of ownership that occurs during the auction. All exhibitors and animals need to be treated the same in this process. In a premium only auction, exhibitors will receive a check that represents their premium and is in no way related to the market value of the animal.

If, in addition to the premium auction, a county wants to provide a service to exhibitors of having a packer bid on the animals as a group and then proceed to load those animals out for slaughter, this should be handled separately from the premium auction. One way to do this would be to provide a sign-up for individuals that want to sell their animals for slaughter and load these animals immediately following, or the day after the auction. Ideally, all financial procedures should be handled separately from the premium auction dollars and must represent only the value of the animal on a current industry-based bid. Youth selling their animals by packer bid and participating in the "premium auction" should receive two checks, one for the actual market value of the animal and one for the "premium auction" money.