



**To:** Polk County 4-H Animal Exhibitor  
**From:** Colleen Pallas, Extension Associate  
**Date:** April 10, 2024  
**Subject:** 2024 Animal Exhibitor Information

Wow, another 4-H year is here and moving along quickly! There have been some changes with 4-H livestock projects on the state and local levels that you need to be aware of as you plan your livestock projects for 2024. The Polk County 4-H Council **County 4-H Policy & Procedure for Animal Exhibits Guide** has been updated for 2024 and is enclosed with this letter. It will also be included in the fairbook, which will be mailed to you in Mid-May. 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 it accessible to answer your questions now and in the future. It can also be found here: <https://go.unl.edu/polk4hanimals>

All exhibitors of animals (except for horses, llamas, small pets, cats, and dogs) must complete Youth Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training each year. This process is the same as last year and can be completed online or in-person (F2F). There is a fee that you must pay before taking the course either way. More information is included about how to complete this course.

As per **Nebraska 4-H Policy**, all animals for **COUNTY FAIR** that need to be tagged or ID'd by **June 15** but must be recorded on the official Identification Form found at <http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/polk/livestockpage/>. Any animal that is nominated for State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben on the <https://www.showstockmgr.com/> web site to be is eligible to be shown at the at the county fair also using their nomination process. All animal deadlines are JUNE 15 this year.

- **GROOMING** - All beef, swine, sheep, and goats (showmanship, market, and breeding) will be shown Blow & Go. Animals may be clipped, blown, brushed, or combed to enhance their appearance. Guidelines for the Blow & Go show are found in the **Polk County 4-H Policy & Procedure for Animal Exhibits. ONLY WATER TO BE USED ON PIGS!**
- **REPLACEMENT OF TAGS** – Polk County Extension Staff will keep a record of re-tags. Re-tags (beef, swine, sheep, and goats) will require the damaged tag to be brought into the Extension Office for verification and then a new tag will be issued.

**REMEMBER** --Tags and I.D. sheets are available in the Extension Office. I.D. sheets may also be printed off our website listed above. An information sheet is included with instructions. County tags are \$1.00 per tag and EID tags are \$3.00 per tag. They may be picked up in the office.

**SPECIFIC ANIMAL HIGHLIGHTS** (Please read the Policy handbook for all the details)

- **HORSE** – All exhibitors in **State Shows** must have their I.D. forms and Level Testing completed by June 1st. **All Level Testing must be done by 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 15<sup>th</sup>. All exhibitors at the county fair must have completed their Level 1.
- **BUCKET/FEEDER CALF**- All bucket and feeder calves must be born by June 1, 2024. They must also have ear tags in their ears and I.D. sheets filed in the Extension office by June 15<sup>th</sup>. **JUNIORS** only for Bucket Calf which means only 8-10 4-H age are eligible.



# EXTENSION



- **MARKET BEEF** - All market beef that was weighed and tagged on Market Beef Weight Day or DNA submitted to the office is ready for fair. No other information is needed unless planning on attending the state fair, then follow the appropriate guidelines.
- **SWINE - Still 6 total per person.** County Fair Tags must be placed in the animal's ears for County Fair Only, anyone interested in State Fair please read the enclosed Polk County Animal Identification Guidelines for more information. Remember – limit of 1 breeding.
- **BREEDING BEEF** –Tags must be placed in the animal's ears if the animal does NOT have a tattoo, the appropriate ID sheet must be completed with ID tag or tattoo by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in the State Fair please read the enclosed Polk County Animal Identification Guidelines for more information. Purebred Animals must have a copy of Breed Papers with the exhibitors/family name on them and a copy turned in to the Extension office by/during County Fair and shown to superintendents at State Fair.  
**REMINDER- All breeding beef must have DNA taken and submitted to show at State Fair & AkSarBen.**
- **MARKET SHEEP & GOATS - Market Lamb & Goats Weigh Day for Rate of Gain Contest** will be held this year on **Sunday, May 5 at 3:00 p.m.** ID form must be submitted to the office by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Scrapie's tag will be the official 4-H tag used for county and state fairs. **Please have your SCRAPIES Tags in place by weigh in!!**
- **MARKET BEEF, FEEDER CALF, MARKET GOAT, SHEEP & SWINE DNA SAMPLES** - All animals must have DNA samples on file to be eligible for the State Fair and AK-SAR-BEN. There is a \$7.00 fee per sample. Market Sheep, Goat, and Swine DNA sampling can be done by the 4-Her or a family member. **YOU MUST NOMINATE YOUR ANIMAL ONLINE PRIOR TO TURNING DNA ENVELOPES INTO THE OFFICE** if not done at weigh in. Refer to the enclosed information sheet for detailed directions. And envelopes **MUST** be in our office by June 15<sup>th</sup> as our office will submit the envelopes to AKSARBEN!
- **BREEDING BEEF, SHEEP & GOAT Nominations for SF and AK-Sar-Ben**– All animals must follow the Identification Guideline as given (Tattoo or Scrapies tag) **YOU MUST NOMINATE YOUR ANIMAL ONLINE.** Please refer to the enclosed information sheet with detailed directions on how to nominate your animals. (Animals may be nominated for Breeding and Market Animals as long as the Identification method and nomination deadline are met for both categories) The decision to show these animals as either breeding or Market can be made at show registration time. **DNA SAMPLE IS REQUIRED THIS YEAR FOR ALL BREEDING ANIMALS TO BE SHOWN AT STATE FAIR OR AKSARBEN.**
- **RABBITS & POULTRY** –**Five Rabbits and Eight Poultry Exhibits total with no more than three exhibits in each class.** Exhibitors may use the cages available. If you are planning to bring large poultry or fowl that do not fit in the cages, it is your responsibility to bring adequate cages for your animals during the fair, please plan ahead.

Please visit the following Web page for Nebraska 4-H Livestock Show regulations for more information. <https://4h.unl.edu/state-fair/live-animal-exhibitor>

All Horse I.D. sheets are due on **JUNE 15<sup>th</sup> or June 1st for the State.** All other animal I.D. sheets (All beef, swine, sheep, meat goat) are due on **JUNE 15<sup>th</sup>.** **All late I.D. sheets projects will be accepted after the deadline with a \$15 fee per family for COUNTY ONLY. After 7 days no late ID sheets will be accepted.**