



DATE: January 3, 2024
TO: Polk County 4-H/FFA Beef Project Members
FROM: Colleen Pallas
Extension Associate
RE: 2024 Polk County 4-H/FFA Market Beef Identification

4-H/FFA Beef Weigh Day
Saturday, February 3rd 2024
9:00-10:30 a.m.
Osceola Veterinary Hospital

According to the Polk County 4-H Program records, one or more members of your family were enrolled in the 4-H beef project and/or have identified at least one 4-H/FFA project beef animal (market, breeding, feeder calf and/or bucket calf) in 2023 and/or 2024. Because of your past involvement, we are notifying you of important market beef identification updates for 2024. There are always a few changes made each year, therefore, **please closely review the enclosed information.**

Important STATE FAIR Highlights for 2024 - Reminders

- **DNA for All Nominations**
 - All 4-H/FFA **BREEDING livestock, market livestock and FEEDER CALVES** will again be required to submit a DNA sample/envelope to be eligible to exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair.
- **Age of Eligibility**
 - The age of eligibility in 2024 is now 8 years of age before January 1 (of the current year) for all in-person events (livestock, contests, fashion shows)

BEEF - MARKET BEEF

- ALL 4-H/FFA market beef are required to be identified with:
 - State Fair/AKSARBEN with a 4-H/FFA EID tag **(\$3.00 EID Tag Fee)**. (NOTE: Animals may use existing official EID "840" tags that are currently in the animal's ear)
 - OR County Fair only 4-H/FFA Market Beef with a county only tag **(\$1.00 County Tag Fee)**
- Market Beef identification limit is 10 animals per exhibitor (regardless of 4-H or FFA).
- 4-H/FFA animals to be eligible for Nebraska State Fair/AKSARBEN:
 - Required to be identified with an official 4-H/FFA EID tag **(\$3.00 EID Tag Fee.)**.
 - Required to complete and submit a DNA sample envelope by JUNE 15th.
 - \$7.00/envelope Fee will be collected online when 4-H member/FFA student enters information into ASKSARBEN DATABASE just like last year. The database information and link is included on a separate page.
 - **4-H members/FFA students using an EID tag will NOT be required to complete an additional county identification form as long as they have completed the information on the DNA envelope.**
 - As exhibitors enter their 4-H/FFA animals for the Nebraska State Fair (online system by August 10), they will be required to designate 4-H OR FFA entry.
- The State Fair EID tag is considered as both 4-H and FFA. Therefore.
 - if the owner is a 4-H member, the animal is considered 4-H,
 - if the owner is a FFA student, the animal is considered FFA, and
 - if the owner is both a 4-H member and a FFA student, the animal is considered both 4-H and FFA.
 - **HOWEVER, an animal may only be exhibited at ONE county fair.** Once the animal exhibits at a county fair it will NOT be eligible to exhibit at another county fair.

- 4-H/FFA animals that are exhibiting COUNTY ONLY:
 - Required to be identified with an official Polk County 4-H/FFA ID tag **(\$1 Animal Tag Fee)**.
 - Required to complete and submit a county identification form.
- **ALL MARKET BEEF PAPERWORK** – DNA envelopes and county identification forms are due by the **JUNE 15th DEADLINE** to the Extension Office in Polk County. DNA Nomination information MUST be entered in the AKSARBEN ONLINE DATA BASE AND FEE PAID by **JUNE 15th**.
- **4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION DEADLINE: All tagging, tattooing, ear notching and DNA sampling MUST be completed by the DEADLINE DATE (Market Beef – JUNE 15 for both State and County)**. In other words, 4-H/ FFA livestock projects are **NOT** to be tagged, tattooed, ear notched and/or DNA sampled **AFTER** the deadline date. All identification procedures are to be completed by the set deadline. **Any 4-H livestock identified AFTER the DEADLINE DATE will NOT be ELIGIBLE** to exhibit in the 2024 livestock shows (Polk County Fair, Nebraska State Fair 4-H Shows, and AKSARBEN 4-H Stock Show).
- A heifer that is identified as a market heifer by JUNE 15 can be also be identified as breeding by the June 15 deadline.
 - ✓ To be eligible for state fair and/or AKSARBEN, the heifer must be nominated on the AKSARBEN ONLINE DATA BASE with a DNA Sample and Tattoo and submitted by **June 15**.
 - ✓ To be eligible for the county fair, the heifer must have a Nebraska 4-H and FFA Breeding Beef Ownership Affidavits completed and submitted to our office by **June 15**.
 - ✓ All breeding heifers must have a tattoo for State Shows but may have a Polk County Tag for County Show only.
- **RATE OF GAIN/MARKET BEEF WEIGH DAY:**
 - ✓ Since State Fair and AKSARBEN have eliminated their rate of gain contests, it is no longer required for counties to hold weigh days. Therefore 4-H/FFA families may tag, identify and/or DNA sample on their own if they choose.
 - ✓ If 4-H/FFA families are unable to attend the 4-H/FFA Market Beef Weigh Day (**Saturday, February 3rd/ Osceola Veterinarian Hospital**) OR plan to identify on their own, they will be responsible for obtaining the official 4-H/FFA EID or Polk County 4-H tags and paperwork (DNA envelopes and/or county identification forms) from our office. **ALL PAPERWORK AND PAYMENTS** must be completed and submitted by **JUNE 15 DEADLINE** to the AKSARBEN ONLINE DATA BASE for EID or for County to the Polk County Extension Office by closing at 4:30 p.m. (June 15th is a Saturday, so all information can be placed in Courthouse Drop Box by 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 17th and still be eligible)
 - ✓ To be eligible for Rate of Gain at County fair animals must be weighed in within 7 days prior to or after the February 3rd event. Contact Colleen for more information.

2024 POLK COUNTY LIVESTOCK PROJECT MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

ONLINE 4-H ENROLLMENT

Polk County 4-H online enrollment completed by
MANDATORY RE-ENROLLMENT DEADLINE: JUNE 15, 2024

4-H livestock (except horse – **June 1 (State)/June 15 (County)**) and all other project member enrollments are required by **JUNE 15, 2024**. **4-H members enrolling AFTER the June 15 deadline will NOT be ELIGIBLE to exhibit in the 2024 fairs/shows.**

2024: An annual \$5 enrollment fee per 4-H member (5-18 years old BEFORE January 1, 2024) will be implemented if re-enrolled by **JUNE 15, 2024**. 4-H organizational and project leaders will continue to have no enrollment fee.

MARKET BEEF IDENTIFICATION

4-H/FFA Market Beef to be eligible for Nebraska State Fair/AKSARBEN:

- ✓ Required to be identified with an official 4-H/FFA EID tag (**\$3.00 each**).
- ✓ Required to complete and submit a DNA sample envelope (\$7 each paid when information is entered online).

4-H/FFA Market Beef that are COUNTY ONLY:

- Required to be identified with an official Polk County 4-H tag (**\$1 each**).
- Required to complete and submit a county identification form.

ALL MARKET BEEF PAPERWORK – DNA envelopes and county identification forms are due by the **JUNE 15 DEADLINE** to the Nebraska Extension Office in Polk County. And all DNA & EID tags must be entered in the AKSARBEN database online.

4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION

For all other 4-H/FFA livestock (except horses) - DNA envelopes, Breeding Nomination Forms, county identification forms, and copies of registration sheets are due by the **JUNE 15 DEADLINE** to the Polk County Extension Office. And all DNA & EID/TATOO information must be entered in the ASKSARBEN database online.

LIVESTOCK QUALITY ASSURANCE (QA) CERTIFICATION

The Nebraska 4-H Program is REQUIRING 4-H and FFA members (8-18 years old) exhibiting beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, goats, poultry and rabbits to be certified in Quality Assurance. This program is mandated by the Nebraska 4-H program and is implemented into the Polk County 4-H Program. Therefore, youth exhibiting BEEF, SHEEP, SWINE, DAIRY CATTLE, GOATS, POULTRY and/or RABBITS at the Polk County Fair, Nebraska State Fair and AKSARBEN 4-H Stock Show are required to be QA certified by June 15 OF THE CURRENT YEAR to be eligible to exhibit.

Youth Quality Care of Animals (QA) in 2024

The Nebraska 4-H Program will be using the YQCA Certification to a national based online program that was introduced last year.

REMINDERS & INFORMATION FOR 2024:

- YQCA information can be found at: <https://4h.unl.edu/yqca>
- Or directly at <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- You may take your YQCA course online for a \$12 fee. OR
- I will offer in person YQCA training opportunities this year. The total cost for the in-person training is \$5. Please watch for dates and times to be published in the Smore and on FB.
- There will be an option to test out of YQCA at different levels. Testing out can be done online at the YQCA website. <https://4h.unl.edu/yqca>