



# 4-H ANIMAL EXHIBIT HANDBOOK



## DISCOVER 4-H

## 2014

Contact Name:	Area(s):	Email	Address
Kate Pittack	General Questions	<a href="mailto:kpittack2@unl.edu">kpittack2@unl.edu</a>	114 Ag Hall University of Nebraska Lincoln, NE 68583-0700
Brad Bennett	Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat, Dairy	<a href="mailto:bbennett8@unl.edu">bbennett8@unl.edu</a>	C204 Animal Science University of Nebraska Lincoln, NE 68583-0908
Lena Cottle	Horse	<a href="mailto:lcottle2@unl.edu">lcottle2@unl.edu</a>	C204 Animal Science University of Nebraska Lincoln, NE 68583-0908
Lisa Karr-Lilienthal	Small Animal	<a href="mailto:lkarr-lilienthal2@unl.edu">lkarr-lilienthal2@unl.edu</a>	

4-H project animals must be identified and certified in accordance with the following regulations to be eligible for district, state and interstate shows.

- Section I: General County Extension Staff Responsibilities (pg. 2)
- Section II: Identification of Project Animals (pg. 7)
- Section III: Handling of Animal Identification Forms (pg. 12)
- Section IV: Ownership and Management Requirements and Expectations (pg. 17)
- Section V: Miscellaneous Rules (pg. 18)

## **SECTION 1 – GENERAL COUNTY EXTENSION STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES:**

### **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:

**Exhibitors:** Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times deport 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 which they impose on the local, county, state, provincial and national levels.

**Youth Leaders:** All youth 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 ethic 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 for livestock identification, quality assurance training, and examination for horsemanship levels in the county and maintaining an accurate record in the County Extension Office.

**C. Certifying Entries:**

The County Extension staff is also responsible for certifying the animals being entered in 4-H shows are properly identified and listed on identification records in the County Extension Office before entries are submitted.

**D. Certifying Eligibility:**

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

**E. Quality Assurance:**

As indicated in 2, county Extension staff is responsible for establishing a system for quality assurance training in the county. Quality assurance programs are designed to help youth understand the responsibilities involved in raising livestock for food, and to change management practices of the youth and/or family members to be consistent with quality assurance practices. Quality assurance training has been mandatory for all exhibitors of livestock (beef, sheep, swine, dairy and dairy goat) at state level events for a number of years. Quality assurance training will be required for all food-producing animal or livestock project members. Food-producing and livestock projects include beef, sheep, swine, dairy cattle, dairy goat, meat goat, poultry and rabbit. This applies for youth in classic 4-H programs (ages 8 – 19).

- 1. Testing of Animals:** Through quality assurance training and awareness of ethical standards, all exhibitors, families and youth 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 violative drug residues. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer and/or absolutely 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. 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 affidavit. This 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 affidavit or statement of disclosure is also highly recommended for animals entered in shows that are not terminal, including breeding and dairy animals.

#### **F. Clover Kids:**

Children may join Clover Kids when they turn six to eight during the calendar year. This program will assist youth in developing emotional, physical, intellectual, and social skills. Clover Kids programming is designed with activities and learning opportunities that are developmentally appropriate for six to eight year-old children. Youth within this age are not yet ready for competition.

The Clover Kids program is developmentally appropriate and involves the following components:

- Encourage involvement of parent or significant adult
- Focus on self-esteem and provide positive feedback
- Share through cooperative learning
- **Non-competitive:** Emphasize fun and success of every child
- Recognize individuals for participation
- Recognize and give incentives without rank or placing

Livestock Show Regulations apply for members in the traditional ages (9 to 19) for 4-H participation, not for Clover Kids. County Extension staff is responsible for adhering to guidelines in the 4-H Policy Manual, which provides the following information regarding animal exhibits for Clover Kids:

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, as described in the 4-H Policy Handbook. Additionally, specific reasons for being cautious with direct large animal involvement include that children 8 and under often lack the mental and physical skills for controlling and understanding the strength of large animals (Livestock Conservation Institute, 1994) and 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 guidelines:

- 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 exhibitors 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 two Clover Kids that are 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.
- Exhibitors in this age group are not allowed to sell their animal through a livestock sale or premium auction.

**G. 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.

**H. 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 organizational 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:

[http://4h.unl.edu/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?uuid=c53ba91e-e4ad-4129-b0e9-e426067eaf68&groupId=466759&pdf](http://4h.unl.edu/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=c53ba91e-e4ad-4129-b0e9-e426067eaf68&groupId=466759&pdf)

**SECTION II – IDENTIFICATION 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, meat goat, dairy, dairy goat, or rabbit) may be identified in only one county.
- C. An animal (beef, sheep, swine, meat goat, dairy, dairy goat, rabbit, poultry, dog or cat) cannot be shown in more than one county fair.
- D. Methods of Identification:

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

- a. Must be identified with specially designed official Nebraska 4-H ear tags.
- b. Market beef must have a signed and sealed official envelope with hair samples for DNA verification turned in to the Ak-Sar-Ben office by April 22 to be eligible for exhibition at State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben. DNA envelopes must be in the county office by April 15. Ak-sar-ben Calf Challenge DNA must also be collected at the county level and marked as such on the envelope. The Calf Challenge ear tag is sufficient identification for the State Fair; official 4-H tags will not be required for State Fair. No charge for the Calf Challenge DNA samples collected at the county.
- c. Tagging of 4-H market beef, feeder calf, goat and lamb project animals must be done with the supervision of the Extension staff or by someone else designated by the Extension staff and/or the 4-H Council.
- d. Mandatory check-ins or identification verification by a county extension staff will be required for feeder calves, market goats and lambs. Counties should have a check-in or tagging day, when exhibitor families are expected to bring their animals to a central location for tagging and submission of affidavit. An alternative is that families bring animals to the Extension office for tagging and submission of Affidavit. Tags are not to be distributed to exhibitors or family members without a follow-up verification before June 15. Verification means seeing the animals with the tags in the ears and knowing that all tags are accounted for.
- e. Market lambs and market goats must have signed and sealed official envelopes with hair samples for DNA verification turned in to the Ak-Sar-Ben office by June 20 to be eligible for exhibition at State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben. DNA envelopes must be in the county office by June 15. Ak-sar-ben Challenge Lambs have had hair collected by Ak-sar-ben staff for DNA testing therefore do not need to be recollected at the county level.
- f. All lambs and goats must be identified with an official 4-H eartag and be listed on the appropriate ownership affidavit. All female market lambs & goats must be identified with an USDA Official Identification (scrapies tag). All lambs or goats nominated with hair samples in the county office by June 15 will be eligible for exhibition at either show.
- g. All beef, lambs and goats nominated for State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben should be indicated by a mark in the appropriate column on revised ownership affidavits.

- h. Additional show rules may apply for identification of animals in special classes (i.e. breed classes of steers). See specific show rules for details.
2. **Registered Beef Breeding Heifers**
    - a. Must be identified by ear tattoos according to the regulations set by the various national beef breed associations.
    - b. Registration papers must be in the hands of exhibitors at state and interstate shows.
    - c. Calf hood brucellosis (Bang's) tattoos are not considered as an identification tattoo.
    - d. Must be identified on the revised ownership affidavit and turned in to the county office by June 15.
  3. **Feeder Calf/ Bucket Calf**
    - a. Must be identified by Official 4-H ear tag.
    - b. Feeder calves must have a signed and sealed official envelope with hair samples for DNA verification turned in to the Ak-Sar-Ben office by June 20 to be eligible for exhibition at Ak-Sar-Ben.
    - c. Must be properly identified on the revised ownership affidavit. Affidavits and hair samples for DNA (feeder calves) must be turned in to the county office by June 15.
  4. **Commercial Beef Breeding Heifers**
    - a. Must be identified by ear tattoos to be shown at State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben. Calf hood brucellosis (Bang's) tattoos are not considered acceptable for permanent identification.
    - b. Must be identified on the revised ownership affidavit and turned in to the county office by June 15.
  5. **Breeding Ewes**
    - a. Must be identified with the tag/tattoo required by the various national sheep breed associations.
    - b. Must have an official USDA scrapies tag.
    - c. Registration paper must be in the hands of exhibitors at state and interstate shows.
    - d. Commercial breeding ewes must have official 4-H commercial breeding sheep ear tags (pink strip tags) and be identified on the revised ownership affidavit.
    - e. Must be identified on the revised ownership affidavit and turned in to the county office by June 15.
  6. **Breeding Does** (There will not be separate commercial and registered breeding doe classes at the 2014 State Fair.)
    - a. Must have an official USDA scrapies tag.
    - b. Commercial breeding does must have official 4-H commercial breeding goat ear tags (pink strip tags) and be identified on the revised ownership affidavit.



- c. Must be identified on the revised ownership affidavit and turned in to the county office by June 15.

**7. Swine**

- a. Market swine to be exhibited at Ak-Sar-Ben and State Fair must be identified by ear notches in both ears and must agree with the member’s swine ownership affidavit
- b. Market swine must have signed and sealed official envelopes with hair samples for DNA verification turned in to the Ak-Sar-Ben office by June 20 to be eligible for exhibition at State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben.
- c. All swine must be identified with ear notches and on the revised ownership affidavit. All pigs nominated for State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben should be indicated by a mark in the appropriate column on the affidavit. These affidavits and hair samples for DNA must be turned in to the county office by June 15 to be eligible for exhibition at either show.

**8. Dairy Heifers, Dairy Cows and Dairy Goats**

- a. Must be identified on the revised ownership affidavit by photograph, a sketch or by ear tattoo. These affidavits must be turned in to the county office by June 15 to be eligible to show.

**9. Horses**

Must be identified by description on form F2-97-77 as to color, markings, brands, etc., or colored photo.

**10. Rabbits**

- a. Must be identified by a tattoo.
- b. Must be properly identified on the revised ownership affidavit and turned in to the county office by June 15.

**E. Identification Forms to Use (Ownership Affidavits):**

All 4-H livestock (beef, dairy cattle, dairy & market goats, horses, rabbits, sheep and swine) must be certified on identification forms as listed below:

Form	Kind of Animal	Form Number	Kind of Animal
Rabbit Ownership Affidavit	Rabbit	Breeding Ewe Ownership Affidavit	Breeding Ewe
Market Goat Identification Affidavit	Market Goat	Market Lamb Ownership Affidavit	Market Lamb
Breeding Doe Ownership Affidavit	Breeding Doe	Market Swine Ownership Affidavit	Market Swine
Market Beef Ownership Affidavit	Market Beef	Dairy Ownership Affidavit	Dairy Cattle
Breeding Heifer Ownership Affidavit	Breeding Heifer	Dairy Goat Ownership Affidavit	Dairy Goat

Feeder Calf Ownership Affidavit	Feeder Calf	F2-97-77	Horse
Bucket Calf Ownership Affidavit	Bucket Calf		

**F. Identification Deadline Dates:**

Following is a list of dates on which 4-H exhibitors must have their project animals identified and certified on ownership affidavits for various district, state and interstate livestock shows. **Affidavits must be on file in the county Extension office on these dates.** Counties may set earlier deadlines if they wish. Ear tags, notches and tattoos must be inserted by the deadline.

Deadline Dates	Livestock Show
April 15, 2014	Market Beef for State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben
May 9, 2014	ID and entries for Horse for District and State Shows
June 1, 2014	Horses not entered in District or State Shows
June 15, 2014	Beef Breeding Heifers, All Shows Dairy Heifers & Cows, Dairy Goats, All Shows Meat Goats, All Shows Sheep, All Shows Swine, All Shows Feeder Calves, Ak-Sar-Ben

**G. Limitations on Number of Animals Identified for Shows:**

1. Market Beef  
A maximum number of 10 market beef animals may be identified by each 4-H member.
2. Feeder Calves  
A maximum of 20 head may be identified by each 4-H member for county shows.
3. Market Lambs  
A maximum number of 20 market lambs may be identified for state and interstate livestock shows by each 4-H member.
4. Market Swine  
A maximum number of 40 market swine may be identified for state and interstate livestock shows by each 4-H member.
5. Meat Goat  
A maximum number of 20 meat goats may be identified for state and interstate livestock shows by each 4-H member.

**H. 4-H/FFA Exhibits:**

1. Training offered by agricultural education/FFA and Extension Service/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. However, there will not be duplication of project animals or other production units.
2. For purposes of exhibition, this means an animal can only be nominated and shown in one organization or the other, not both.
3. Any animal shown as an FFA exhibit is ineligible for the show as a 4-H exhibit by any exhibitor. An animal can be nominated for show in either 4-H or FFA, but not both.

**SECTION III – HANDLING OF ANIMAL OWNERSHIP AFFIDAVIT FORMS:**

(Livestock/Animal Ownership Affidavits & Identification Procedures for Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Meat Goat and Rabbit).

The procedures outlined here are applicable for the 4-H Shows at the Nebraska State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Livestock Exposition. Counties are encouraged to use the same guidelines for county fairs.

**A. DEADLINES & COUNTY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. **Market beef** each must have a signed and sealed official envelope with hair samples for DNA verification turned in to the Ak-Sar-Ben office by April 15 to be eligible for exhibition at State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben; the DNA envelopes must be in the county office by April 15. If counties have market beef ownership affidavits completed, they can be sent to the State 4-H Office at any time after weigh-in but not later than June 15.
2. Ownership affidavits for all species except market beef are due to County Offices by the county deadline, but not later than June 15.
3. For **market swine, market lambs and market goats** each must have a signed and sealed official envelope with hair samples for DNA verification turned in to the Ak-Sar-Ben office by June 20 to be eligible for exhibition at State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben. All swine, lambs and goats to be exhibited at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben must have hair samples for DNA verification. Swine must be identified with ear notches listed on the Market Swine Ownership Affidavit. Lambs must be identified with an official 4-H ear tag and listed on the Market Lamb Ownership Affidavit. Goats must be identified with an official 4-H ear tag and listed on the Market Goat Ownership Affidavit. Swine, lambs and goats nominated for State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben should be indicated by a mark in the appropriate column on revised ownership affidavit. All swine, lambs and goats nominated with hair samples by June 15 will be eligible for exhibition at the shows.
4. County offices should send a copy of the revised ownership affidavit to the UNL State 4-H Office if the animals are eligible to show at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben. Copies must be received or postmarked no later than June 20 for the year 2014. **Affidavits containing eligible animals should be sent for market beef, breeding beef, feeder calf, market lamb, breeding sheep, market goat, breeding goat, market swine, dairy and rabbit.**

**\*\*Before sending to UNL, counties are responsible for the following items:**

- a. DNA Samples must be pulled and sent to Ak-sar-ben for an animal to be eligible for State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben (market beef, feeder calf, market goat, market lamb and market swine)
- b. Checking ownership affidavits for accuracy and completeness (see additional information below).

- c. Removing affidavits for youth under age 10. These youth are not eligible to exhibit at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben, therefore the affidavits should remain in the county office. For families with multiple youth of 4-H age, those under age 10 may be included on affidavits for State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben eligibility.
  - d. Sorting affidavits by species. Send in ONLY the following species: Breeding & market beef, feeder calves, dairy cattle, breeding & market goats, breeding & market sheep, swine & rabbits.
  - e. Alphabetizing sheets within species.
5. **Counties have the option of removing ownership affidavits for families that will not be attending State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben**, however, only those individuals with affidavits on file in the State 4-H Office and DNA samples on file at Ak-sar-ben by the deadlines will be eligible to exhibit at State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben. If in doubt, send the affidavits in.
6. Separate copies of affidavits DO NOT NEED TO BE sent to Ak-Sar-Ben with Ak-Sar-Ben entries in August except for HORSE ID sheets. Ak-Sar-Ben entries and HORSE ID sheets must still be sent in August.
7. All applicable information on each form should be completed. There is some information common to all forms, this includes:
- a. Names and ages of exhibitors
  - b. County
  - c. Signature of at least one listed exhibitor
  - d. Signature of parent
  - e. Address of parent
  - f. Phone number of parent
  - g. Signature of Extension staff and date signed
- \*\*These items must be completed for the listed animals to be eligible for State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben.
8. Separate affidavits must be used for each species. FFA and 4-H animals should also be on separate ownership affidavits as they get sent to two different places. The only exception to this is dairy cattle affidavits as they all get sent to the State 4-H Office.
9. In addition, the following items must be completed for each species:
- MARKET BEEF:**
- a. Breed/description
  - b. Sex
  - c. Weight and weigh-in date (must be accurate!)
  - d. Ear tag number in correct column (right or left)
  - e. Brand, if applicable

**BREEDING BEEF:**

- a. Breed/description
- b. Date of birth
- c. Tattoo (required for both commercial and purebred)
- d. Registration (for purebred)
- e. Check column for Registered animals
- f. Name and Registration number of sire and dam are recommended to be completed for registered animals.

**FEEDER CALVES (Ak-Sar-Ben only):**

- a. Breed/description
- b. Sex
- c. Date of birth
- d. Ear tag number and in correct column
- e. Sire, dam and breeder information are recommended to be completed.

**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 born
- e. Back of form completed and signed for leases.

**DAIRY GOATS (no state sponsored shows):**

- a. Tag, tattoo or vaccination tag for animals without distinct markings.
- b. Drawing or photo
- c. Registration if purebred
- d. Date born
- e. Additional ID on all dairy goats may include USDA official (scrapie tags)

**MARKET LAMBS:**

- a. Sex
- b. Ear tag number
- c. Description and date born are recommended to be completed.
- d. Additional ID on market ewe lambs should include USDA official identification (scrapie tags), as these will be required for State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben; however, scrapie tag numbers are not required on affidavits.

**BREEDING EWES:**

- a. Breed
- b. Date born
- c. Ear tag OR tattoo
- d. Registration (for purebred)
- e. Check column for registered animals
- f. Name and Registration number of sire and dam are recommended to be completed for registered.

- g. Additional ID on ALL breeding ewes & lambs may include USDA official identification (scrapie tags), as these will be required for State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben; however, scrapie tag numbers are not required on affidavits.

**MEAT GOATS:**

- a. Sex
- b. Ear tag number
- c. Description and date born are recommended to be completed.
- d. Additional ID on does should include USDA official identification (scrapie tags), as these will be required for State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben; however, scrapie tag numbers are not required on affidavits.

**BREEDING DOES:**

- a. Breed
- b. Date born
- c. Ear tag OR tattoo
- d. Additional ID on ALL breeding ewes & lambs may include USDA official identification (scrapie tags), as these will be required for State Fair; however, scrapie tag numbers are not required on affidavits.

**MARKET SWINE:**

- a. Notch number for both ears  
 \*\*Notches should be **drawn** on the ears and written by numbers. If there are differences between the drawing and the written number, the drawing will be considered the official identification.
- b. Sex
- c. Description

**RABBITS:**

- a. Certificates and permanent tattoos are required for breeding rabbits. Tattoos must be made by an ink & needle tattoo gun.
- b. Fryers do not require tattoos or need to be listed on the certificate.
- c. Pets (shown in the small pet show) do not require tattoos or need to be listed on the certificate.
- d. Breed & color
- e. Sex & Birthdate

**POULTRY:** No ownership affidavit required.

**COMPANION**

**ANIMALS:** No ownership affidavit required in advance. Vaccination forms required with State Fair entries for dogs, cats & ferrets.

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

1. Review sheets: Within 3 weeks, will return to county any deficient sheets (i.e. missing signatures, etc)

- a. Any sheets returned to county for corrections must be corrected and returned to the State 4-H Office by July 31 to be eligible for State Fair or Ak-Sar-Ben.
- b. All sheets will remain in the State 4-H Office with no changes or additions being made (except retags, as below), until State Fair advance entries are received.
  - i. Re-tags (beef and sheep) will require a letter or email (no phone calls) from county staff, which will be added to the file when it is received in the department. Letter or email should be sent to Kate Pittack [kpittack2@unl.edu](mailto:kpittack2@unl.edu), 114 Ag Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 68583-0700) AND to Bud Beedle ([beedlep@aksarben.org](mailto:beedlep@aksarben.org)) ; 8707 West Center Rd., Suite 101, Omaha, NE 68124).
- c. Copies of affidavits corresponding to State Fair entries will be sorted and sent to State Fair Superintendents.
- d. Files of affidavits for each species/class will be forwarded to Ak-Sar-Ben management and superintendents.

**C. State Fair Superintendent Responsibilities:**

Check all discrepancies between affidavits and State Fair entries. As many as possible will be done prior to State Fair. Superintendents have the flexibility and the responsibility to accept or reject State Fair entries based on agreement with affidavits and county offices.



## **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, meat goat, horse, sheep, swine, rabbit, poultry, dog or companion animal 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 ownership affidavit, but only the name of the showman can be on the show entry.
  - 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 ownership affidavit, 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 Animals 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 on December 31 of the previous year or older may compete in district horse shows.
2. 4-H members who are 10 years of age on December 31 of the previous year may exhibit at State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben.
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.

**B. Commercial Breeding Heifer Classes:**

1. To be eligible for the commercial beef breeding heifer classes at the State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben, 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).
  - Not have been exhibited as a market heifer in county or state Extension 4-H sponsored show.
  - Animals exhibited as commercial breeding heifers at county or state Extension 4-H sponsored shows are not eligible to be shown as market heifers.

**C. Registered Junior Heifer Calves and Spring Heifer Calves – Ak-Sar-Ben**

1. To be eligible for these classes at Ak-Sar-Ben, heifers may be identified on either a Feeder Calf or Bucket Calf Ownership Affidavit or Breeding Heifer Ownership Affidavit, but must have a tattoo recorded on the affidavits and must indicate a registration number or that registration is pending with the breed association. Registration must be completed by exhibition. Ear tags alone are not acceptable identification for Junior or Spring Heifer Calves.
  - a. If using the feeder calf ownership affidavit, the tattoo number must be recorded and labeled as a tattoo. It is recommended to write this in one of the eartag columns and label it as a tattoo. Registration information should be written in the Breeder Information column.

**D. Registration Papers (certificates) for Beef, Dairy, Sheep and Swine:**

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.
2. For the State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben, 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.

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

1. County swine shows could be terminal or non-terminal shows.
2. State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben Swine shows will be terminal.  
\*Ear notching is the recommended form of identification for all 4-H pigs.

#### **F. Feeder Calf Division at Ak-Sar-Ben**

1. A calf in this division must:
  - a. Be a steer or heifer born before June 1 of the current year and out of an identifiable sire and dam. The sire and dam need not be registered.
  - b. Have a certified birth date enrolled on or before June 15.
  - c. Identified with an official Nebraska 4-H ear tag, certified on the Feeder Calf Ownership Affidavit and recorded with the local Extension Service on or before June 15.

#### **G. 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.

