



WASECA COUNTY 4-H

Getting Started in a 4-H Livestock Project

4-H Livestock Projects are a lot of work, but even more fun! They are a great tool for teaching youth responsibility, decision-making, record keeping, and so much more. Perhaps you already own animals and wondering how to exhibit them in 4-H. Maybe you don't have animals and aren't sure if you want to commit to caring for an animal year-round. Good news! 4-H Livestock Projects can be adapted to fit any family's situation - even if you live in town, you can participate in any of the 4-H Livestock Projects!



ANIMAL SCIENCE PROJECTS

4-H Livestock/Animal Science Projects have options for beef, dairy, dairy goats, dogs, meat goats, horses, llamas, poultry, rabbits, sheep, swine, pets, and cats. Until you can get an animal, be sure to check out some of the other animal science projects where owning an animal isn't required, like veterinary science, horseless horse, and exploring animals.

***Helpful Hint *** *Small animals like goats, rabbits, and poultry make great livestock projects for those just getting started.*

WHERE CAN I GET ANIMALS?

One place to start finding animals is by doing an internet search of breed associations in Minnesota. Several of their sites have breeders listed, so you can contact them to see what they might have available. Many breeders and breed associations also have pages on social media sites like Facebook, so search there too. The Extension Office also keeps a file of sales that they hear of, so be sure to ask 4-H Staff as well.

Market animals can be acquired at local sale barns - The Minnesota Board of Animal Health has reputable sale barns listed on their website at <https://www.bah.state.mn.us/livestock-auction-markets/>

LEASING If you can't purchase an animal, there is always the option to "lease" a breeding animal from a breeder or even another 4-Her! Leasing is essentially borrowing the animal, but a great way to get started in a project. For more details on leasing, check out <https://extension.umn.edu/projects-and-more/leasing-animal>

ANIMAL OWNERSHIP DEADLINES

- **February 18***: Market Beef (beef steers, market heifers & dairy steers) (**February 18 in 2020 ONLY; All other years is February 15*)
- **May 15**: Breeding beef, dairy, dairy goats, dog, horse, lama, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, swine.
 - Fryer rabbits (should be 70 days old at show) 4-Her must own the doe of fryer rabbits and doe must be identified by May 15.
- **June 1**: Jr. Meat Does
- **July 1**: Jr. Doe Kid Dairy Goats



Helpful Hint

4-H Ear Tags can be purchased from the Waseca County Extension Office for \$2.50 a tag.

There are also tag applicators to borrow that fit the tags.

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Projects in Minnesota may be started at any time during the year. However, if the project is to be shown at a county or state event, certain requirements must be met. Each of the requirements listed pertain specifically to state events. Identification worksheets are available in most species for use by families to gather data needed to complete 4HOnline Identification process. Please keep ID worksheets for records. A letter outlining identification requirements and how to complete identification is mailed to all project members after April 1. They will also be posted online at www.extension.umn.edu/Waseca

To see birthdates for animals and specific identification requirements, you can go to <https://extension.umn.edu/projects-and-more/4-h-animal-id>

ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Some species have additional requirements in addition to a 4-H tag that are needed in order to be shown at the Waseca County Fair and Minnesota State Fair.

BEEF and DAIRY - All cattle at exhibitions must be officially identified. For complete 2020 Exhibition Entry Requirements and acceptable official ID, visit this link:

<https://www.bah.state.mn.us/official-id/>. A MN 4-H ear tag does qualify as an official form of ID.

GOATS - ALL goats, including wethers, must be identified with official identification approved for use in the scrapie eradication program.

HORSES - All horses must be negative to an official test for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) within 12 months prior to the opening date of the exhibition. A test is not required for suckling foals accompanying a negative dam.

All horses must also have a copy of a negative Coggins Test must be on file at the Extension Office prior to your unloading a horse at any County 4-H sponsored event or activity. The Coggins test must be repeated each year.

POULTRY - All poultry, except waterfowl, need to be pullorum tested. Turn in a copy of your pullorum papers to the Extension Office. Turkeys must be negative for Salmonella typhirium, Mycoplasma gallisepticum and Mycoplasma synoviae. Waterfowl and Pigeons have no health certificate required. *Shipping labels are NOT an acceptable Statement of Origin.*





SHEEP - ALL goats, including wethers, must be identified with official identification approved for use in the scrapie eradication program. ALL sheep must have Scrapie or NAIS tags (with unique serial number and individual number).

SWINE - Have a negative official Pseudorabies test conducted within 30 days prior to the opening date of the exhibition; OR Originate directly from a qualified Pseudorabies-negative herd; OR Originate (born) directly from a Stage IV or V county or area. Swine which must be tested must be individually identified by ear tag number, tattoo number, registry number, or other identification satisfactory to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health.

SHEEP and SWINE - Premise ID Numbers on 4-H Identification paperwork are required for sheep and/or swine. To obtain a number, contact the **MN Board of Animal Health at (651) 201-6816**.

REQUIRED TRAINING FOR STATE FAIR

An important part of any animal science/livestock project is learning about responsible and ethical care practices. Minnesota 4-H offers training to educate participants on proper handling techniques, animal nutrition and ethics around caring for and showing animals. There are two options to complete the training. The training is required for any youth who wish to exhibit beef, dairy, dairy goats, lama, meat goats, poultry, rabbit, sheep, or swine at the Minnesota State Fair.

Livestock Quality Assurance & Ethics (LQA & E)

Livestock Quality Assurance & Ethics refers to the in-person, face to face training. This training is **3 hours** and offered in various locations across the state. Certification is **good for three fair seasons**. The level of training required is determined by the grade of the youth at the time the training takes place. Depending on location of training, there may be a cost to attend.

***Helpful Hint *** To see when LQA&E trainings are held, there is a list and map available at <https://extension.umn.edu/4-h-events/4-h-livestock-quality-assurance-training-lqa>

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals refers to the online training. The online training is one hour long and must be taken using a desktop computer or laptop - it is not available with ipads or on other mobile devices. The Youth for the Quality Care of Animals training is one hour long and can be accessed through members' 4Honline account. There is a cost of \$12 that must be paid by credit card. A copy of the member's certificate of completion should be turned in to the Extension Office.

***Helpful Hint *** Ask the Extension Office for information on how to access the online Youth for the Quality Care of Animals training.



COUNTY FAIR

County Fair is the cummulation of months of hard work with your livestock project. This is when you will show your animal and have it evaluated by a judge. There are also showmanship classes where your handling, knowledge, and showing skills are judged, and livestock interviews for you to share your knowledge.

Information on registering which classes you will show in and what exhibits you are bringing to the fair will be mailed to you in mid-April/beginning of May. County Fair exhibit registrations must be done by June 5. There is a small fee associated with bringing your animal to the fair which is due when you register - these fees go to help with costs like stalling equipment, show ring and barn maintenance, show expenses, and more.

***Helpful Hint *** Be sure to read the Waseca County 4-H Premium Book when it is mailed to you as dates, times, deadlines, rules, and lots of other helpful information is covered in it!

RESOURCES FOR LEARNING MORE

- <https://extension.umn.edu/projects-and-more/4-h-animal-science-projects>
- <http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/animal-science.aspx> - This is where you will find "workbooks" to purchase that youth can do independently or with an adult mentor. They allow youth to go at their own pace and achieve hands-on learning independently. We also have some of this curriculum available at the Waseca County Extension Office if you want to look at it before you purchase.
- <https://extension.umn.edu/animals-and-livestock>
- <http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/>
- <http://www.ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/livestock/livestock-resources>
- http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/4_h_animal_science_anywhere

PROJECT LEADERS/SUPERINTENDENTS

Each livestock project species is led by a team of youth and adult volunteers who set up project learning opportunities, help organize the county fair, and have a lot of knowledge about raising and caring for their respective species. They are great to talk to get more information about getting started in a livestock project.

Beef

Trent Gunsolus - tguns07@gmail.com, 507-327-3925

Beth Hoffman - bethffc@aol.com, 507-837-9420

Abbi Miller - abbim03@gmail.com, 507-461-2422

Dairy

Brenda Harguth - 507-521-0716

Brooke Jahr - 507-340-1179, brookejahr@gmail.com

Joyce Jahr - 507-340-9692, joyce.jahr@yahoo.com

Laura Jahr - 507-521-0111, laurajahr123@gmail.com



Dog

Sarah Frederick - 507-317-9092, sarah_5693@hotmail.com (Showmanship, Obedience)

Sara Lewer - 507-521-1090, lewer.sara@mayo.edu (Agility, Rally)

Shawn Stoley - 507-340-0672, stoleysm@hotmail.com (Agility, Rally)

Mattea Dann - 507-461-3082, travisdann@hickorytech.net

Dairy Goat

Alexis Myers - 612-723-9945, kim.jung.la.7@gmail.com

Meat Goat

Eliza Sankovitz - 507-461-9758, Elizasank@gmail.com
Gretchen Sankovitz - 507-363-1564, gsankovitz@hotmail.com

Horse

Eliza Sankovitz - 507-461-9758, Elizasank@gmail.com
Summer Vagts - 507-461-5004, summerv2020@gmail.com

Poultry

Holly Walechka - 507-779-1476, walelife@frontiernet.net
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Ben Walechka - 507-420-9198, 22bwalechka@stclaircyclones.org



Rabbit

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Jennifer Hamilton - 507-837-2509, jengoleft@gmail.com
Karley Hamilton - 507-363-4413, lolapeanutpistol@gmail.com

Sheep

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Dave Hodgkins - 507-461-1611, Hodgkins.nr410@yahoo.com
Traci Hodgkins - 507-461-3574, traci7786@gmail.com
Bailey Hodgkins - 507-461-9520
Caroline Scheffert - 507-461-6088, horsechi30@gmail.com

Swine

None selected yet

HAVE FUN AS YOU EXPLORE LEARNING LIFE SKILLS THROUGH 4-H LIVESTOCK PROJECTS!



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