

Tab 1



2025 Beef information sheet

Prepared by the 4-H State Fair Beef Show Committee and the Department of Youth Development.

This information sheet gives details on the rules for this year's Minnesota 4-H Beef Project. Although some counties may follow slightly different guidelines, these rules will apply at the state level and at the Minnesota State Fair 4-H Show.

Animal ID deadline for 2025 - February 18, 2025 for market beef and dairy steers and May 15, 2025 for breeding beef, dairy, dairy goat, dog, horse, llama - alpaca, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep and swine. Contact [your local 4-H office](#) for more information.

Ownership requirements

Ownership Requirements for all 4-H Animal Science Projects are uniform for 4-H Beef, Cats/Pets, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Dog, Horse, Llama - Alpaca, Meat Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep and Swine Projects. Animals must be owned solely by the 4-H'er or the 4-H'ers family. The family includes the 4-H'ers parents/guardians and siblings living together as a family unit. The definition of family includes an extended family where the animal may be owned by grandparents as long as the 4-H'ers parents are actively involved with and working on the farm. Animals owned in partnership with non-family members (as defined above) must be leased and follow lease guidelines. All information must be submitted by May 15 with 4-H Online data (Market Beef and Dairy Steer information must be submitted by February 18). Market animals (with the exception of prospect calves) cannot be leased.

All Animal Ownership and Identification Deadlines:

- February 18: Market beef (beef steers, market heifers and dairy steers).
- May 15: Breeding beef, dairy, dairy goats, dog, horse, llama - alpaca, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, swine. Fryer rabbits (should be 70 days old at show); 4-H'er must own the doe of fryer rabbits and the doe must be identified by May 15.
- NOTE: Families will not be able to self identify the following project animals after May 15th in 4-H Online. To meet the ID deadline for the following animals, a paper copy of the Dairy, Dairy Goat, and/or Meat Goat ID Worksheet must be submitted to your local county Extension Office no later than the set deadline:
 - June 1: Jr. meat goat doe kids
 - June 1: Dairy spring calves
 - July 1: Jr. doe kid dairy goats

Ownership Clarifications

Leasing program

- Market beef and dairy steers cannot be leased.
- Beef breeding heifers, cow/calf pairs, and prospect market calves are eligible to be leased.
- Leased animals must follow the guidelines in the Minnesota 4-H Animal Science Lease Program Fact Sheet. All ID information and the Minnesota 4-H Animal Science Lease Information Form must be submitted by May 15 with 4-H Online data.
- Registration papers on leased animals may be in the animal owner's name.
- **The same animal cannot be identified/leased by more than one 4-H family unit.**

Minnesota Board of Animal Health requirements for exhibition, county and state fairs

Birthdates

Breeding Heifer – Spring calf	January 1 – May 15, 2025
Breeding Heifer – Fall calf	September 1 – December 31, 2024
Breeding Heifer – Summer Yearling	May 1 – August 31, 2024
Breeding Heifer – Junior Yearling	January 1 – April 30, 2024
Breeding Heifer – Senior Yearling	September 1 - December 31, 2023
Cow/Calf	Calves must be born between January 1 - May 15, 2025
Prospect Market Calves	January 1 – May 15, 2025
Market Beef	January 1 – August 31, 2024
Dairy Steers	January 1 – August 31, 2024

Identification details, forms and deadlines

Also refer to your [county ID letter and Animal ID online \(z.umn.edu/MN4hanimalID\)](https://z.umn.edu/MN4hanimalID).

ID Deadlines:

- Market Beef (market heifers, market steers, dairy steers) must be tagged by February 18 and their ID information entered online or the ID worksheet submitted to your county extension office by February 18.
- Breeding Beef (including breeding heifers, cow calf pairs and prospect calves) must be tagged by May 15 and their ID information entered online or the ID worksheet submitted to your county extension office by May 15.

New for 2025: [Identification Requirements:](#)

- **All beef animals identified after November 5, 2024 must have a Minnesota 4-H RFID Ear Tag.**
 - Exception: If an **animal is already tagged** with a RFID tag, do not remove that tag; that will be accepted in place of a 4-H tag. You must list all 15 digits of non-4-H tags on the ID.
 - Exception: **Cows and heifers** identified with official ID prior to November 5, 2024 will be grandfathered in for 2025 with previous official ID of a 4-H green tag or a registration paper and matching tattoo.
 - Exception: **Market Beef** (market heifers, market steers, dairy steers) identified with a 4-H green tag prior to November 5, 2024, will be grandfathered in for 2025 with the 4-H green tag.
- **All registered animals must have registration papers AND must be identified** with the approved breed association designated ID (ear tattoo, brand, EID) that is recorded and matches the ID on the registration paper by May 15. Animals registered after November 5, 2024 must also have a Minnesota 4-H RFID ear tag.
- **Exhibitors are responsible to ensure that registered animals have a legible tattoo prior to animal verification at county fair and state fair.**
- Exhibitors may not switch divisions once they have crossed the scale on entry day.
- All identification and breed division designations are final once an animal leaves the check-in area for identification and weigh-in, unless changed by beef show management.

Weight Guidelines

- The recommended state fair minimum market weight for market beef and dairy steers is 1,000 pounds.
- The recommended maximum market weight for market beef is 1,500 pounds and dairy steers is 1,600 pounds.
- These recommended weights are for show purposes only. The meat processors determine the minimum and maximum weights for marketing of Market Beef and Dairy Steers.

Registration Papers

- All required registration papers must be presented at the time of verification or weigh-in on entry day and must match the approved breed association designated ID (ear tattoo, brand, EID) that is recorded on the registration paper. Any beef exhibit entered in a registered class or division without a registration paper (where required) can not receive a purple ribbon and is not eligible for championship awards or the MLBA 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction.
- Registered beef animals without registration papers will be placed in an appropriate division.

4-H BEEF SHOW BREED DIVISION REQUIREMENTS

Breed	Breeding Heifer Requirements	Cow/Calf Requirements	Market Beef Requirements
Black Angus	Purebred	Purebred	Must be out of a purebred sire and purebred dam and have a registration paper.
Red Angus	Purebred	Purebred	** Will show in the AOB division. Must be 50% or greater from one registered parent and must have a registration paper.
Charolais	Purebred	** Will Show AOB	Must be a minimum of 50% Charolais parentage and must have a registration certification paper from the AICA.
Chianina	All percentages, must have a registration paper from the American Chianina Association	** Will Show AOB	May be any percentage and must have a registration paper from the American Chianina Association
Hereford	Purebred	Purebred	Must be out of a purebred registered Hereford bull and a purebred registered Hereford cow, and must have a registration paper from the American Hereford Assn (AHA).
Limousin/Lim-Flex	Must be 75% or greater with an orange NALF registration certificate or be a 25% or greater Lim-Flex heifer with a purple-papered NALF registration certificate.	** Will Show AOB	**Will show AOB. Must be 12.5% or greater according to the NALF percentage and must have registration papers from the NALF. Limousin Steers will show in the AOB Division.
Shorthorn	Purebred	** Will Show AOB	Must be out of a purebred sire and purebred dam and have registration papers.
Shorthorn Plus	½ or more	** Will Show AOB	Must have a registration paper and must be 25% or greater
Simmental	Purebred	Purebred	Must be half-blood or more and must have a registration paper from the American Simmental Association
Foundation Simmental	½, ⅝, or ¾	** Will show with Simmental	** Will show in the Simmental steer division.
Maine Anjou	¾ or more	** Will Show AOB	Must be 1/4 blood concentration or more, and must have a registration paper.

4-H BEEF SHOW BREED DIVISION REQUIREMENTS

Breed	Breeding Heifer Requirements	Cow/Calf Requirements	Market Beef Requirements
Maintainer	¼ or more	** Will show AOB	** Will show in the Maine Anjou steer division.
All Other Breeds	Must have a registration paper & meet the breed registration requirements of their recognized national beef breed association criteria for a 'purebred' heifer. Heifers in the class cannot exhibit in this class if they qualify for one of the other breeds listed above.	Must have a registration paper and meet criteria for a breed that is not listed.	Limousin, Gelbvieh, Balancer, Red Angus, Salers, Galloway, Belted Galloway, Scottish Highlander, Aberdeen, White Park, British White, South Devon, Mini Hereford
Composite AOB	Must have a registration paper, must be a lower percentage than the purebred heifer criteria and must meet the criteria of their recognized national beef breed association. Heifers in the class cannot exhibit in this class if they qualify for one of the other breeds listed above. All Composite Charolais Heifers will show in the Composite AOB Division.	** Will show AOB	** Will show in the Crossbred steer division.
Crossbred or Commercial	Commercial: must be identified with a Minnesota 4-H RFID tag or USDA RFID ear tag and Breed ID with registration papers. See ID Exceptions on page 2.	Commercial: must be identified with a Minnesota 4-H RFID tag or USDA RFID ear tag and Breed ID with registration papers. See ID Exceptions on page 2.	Must be identified with a 4-H RFID ear tag; no registration papers required. See ID Exceptions on page 2.
British Slick-Shorn			Must meet the slick-shorn requirements and be identified with a 4-H RFID ear tag; no registration papers required. See ID Exceptions on page 2. Eligible breeds include Black Angus, Red Angus, Shorthorn, Hereford, Salers, Galloway, Belted Galloway, Scottish Highlander, Aberdeen, White Park, British White, South Devon or any other recognized British, as well as any crosses including these breeds.
Slick-Shorn			Must meet the slick-shorn requirements and be identified with a 4-H RFID ear tag; no registration papers required. See ID Exceptions on page 2.

Show divisions and classes

Breeding heifers:

The following Breeding Heifer breed divisions will be offered in 2025 (see registration papers chart on pages 3-4 for more details)

Composite AOB	All Other Breeds (AOB) (Purebred)	Shorthorn (purebred)
Maine Anjou (3/4 or more)	Limousin/Lim-Flex (25% or more)	Hereford (purebred)
Maintainer (1/4 or more)	Red Angus (purebred)	Charolais (purebred)
Chianina (all percentages)	Black Angus (purebred)	Simmental (purebred)
Commercial (all other Heifers)	Shorthorn Plus (1/2 or more)	Foundation Simmental (1/2, 5/8, 3/4)

- **New:** All heifers **must have a Minnesota 4-H RFID Ear Tag**. Exception: those identified with official ID prior to November 5, 2024 will be grandfathered in for 2025 with previous official ID of a 4-H green tag or a registration paper and matching tattoo.
- Heifers without registration papers (when required) or proper identification can not win champion honors, and will be moved to an appropriate division.
- A spring calf class is available for all breed divisions. Spring calves do not have to be from a cow/calf project and must be weaned (no nurse cows) prior to the State Fair.
- All other animals will be in the "commercial" division, and must meet ID requirements.

Cow/calf pairs:

The following cow/calf pair breed divisions will be offered in 2025 (see registration papers chart on pages 3-4 for more details)

Black Angus (purebred)	Simmental (purebred & Foundation Simmental)
Red Angus (purebred)	All Other Breeds (AOB) (Purebred & Composite)
Hereford (purebred)	Commercial (all other cow/calf pairs)

- To show in the registered breed divisions, exhibitors must meet the registration requirements for that breed and present a registration paper for both the cow and the calf. NO EXCEPTIONS. Registered cow/calf exhibits must meet the same breed requirements that are listed for breeding heifers.
- In all cow/calf pairs both the cow and the calf must [meet ID and registration paper requirements](#).
- Cow/calf pairs without registration papers (when required) or proper identification, can not win champion honors, and will be moved to an appropriate division.
- For exhibitors in the cow/calf division: both cow and calf are brought to the show ring and the second animal must be shown by another eligible 4-H member.
- Calves in cow/calf pairs can be heifers, bulls or steers.
- Prospect calves and spring calves may be part of a cow/calf exhibit at the county level and still be state fair eligible in any of these divisions.
- Embryo transfer (ET) calves may not be part of a cow/calf pair, but may be shown as prospect calves or as spring heifer calves.

Prospect market calves:

- All prospect calves (including registered calves) must be ID'd with a 4-H RFID ear tag by May 15.
- Prospect calves will be weighed and shown in weight classes (no breed divisions).
- Classes for heifers and steers will be judged as market beef prospects.
- Prospect calves must be weaned and steer calves must be castrated (no bull calves).
- Prospect calves do not have to be part of a 4-H cow/calf project to be eligible for state fair.
- The 4-H leasing program is available for prospect market calves.

Dairy steers (pure breed and crossbred):

- Dairy steers must be ID'd with a 4-H RFID ear tag by February 18. Exception: if the animal was tagged with a green 4-H tag in 2024, it will be grandfathered in with that green 4-H tag.
- All pure breed and crossbred dairy steers will be verified for breed authenticity by a verification panel before they cross the weigh scale on Wednesday from 3:00-4:30 p.m.
- Any pure breed dairy steer that is not deemed to meet breed authenticity may be moved to the crossbred dairy steer division, provided that the steer is deemed to meet the characteristics for that division or it can stay in the pure bred dairy steer division and not be eligible for a purple ribbon, championship honors or the MLBA 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction.
- Any crossbred dairy steer that is not deemed to meet the characteristics for the crossbred division may be moved to another appropriate division in the market beef show or it can stay in the crossbred dairy steer division and not be eligible for a purple ribbon, championship honors or the 4-H auction.
- The verification panel and 4-H Beef Show Management will determine final eligibility for the pure breed and crossbred dairy steer divisions. That decision will be final. The decision is not subject to protests, and no blood tests or DNA sampling will be required and cannot be requested.
- Pure breed dairy steers must be 100% of one dairy breed. Exhibitors must identify what breed their dairy steer is when they pre-register with their county extension office at the time of state fair registration.
 - The following dairy breeds are accepted without registration papers: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, & Jersey.
 - Milking Shorthorn dairy steers must be registered with the American Milking Shorthorn Society. Any animal carrying the "S" suffix will not be eligible for the dairy steer show but will be eligible for the market beef steer show.
- Pure breed dairy steers will show in three divisions, with the Champion and the Reserve of each division being eligible for the MLBA 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction, provided that they receive a purple ribbon. The top three overall will be selected.
- Crossbred dairy steers will show in two divisions, with the Champion and Reserve steers of each division being eligible for the 4-H auction, provided there is a minimum of eight entries in the division, and the exhibits receive a purple ribbon. An overall Champion and Reserve Champion crossbred dairy steer will be selected.
- Crossbred Dairy Steers must be at least 50% from the acceptable breeds listed for the Pure Breed Dairy Steer division, with the balance being from any other beef or dairy breed; however, the steers must show adequate dairy steer characteristics, as determined by the screening committee. Exhibitors should be prepared to identify the breeds of their crossbred dairy steer.

Market beef:

The following market beef breed divisions will be offered for the 2025

(see registration papers chart on pages 3-4 for more details)

British-bred Slick Shorn	Shorthorn	AOB (All Other Breeds)
Standard Slick-Shorn	Shorthorn Plus	Maine Anjou
Market Heifer	Charolais	Chianina
Black Angus	Simmental	Crossbred
Hereford		

- All Market beef must be ID'd with a 4-H RFID ear tag by February 18 (including registered steers in breed divisions). Exception: if the animal was tagged with a green 4-H tag in 2024, it will be grandfathered in with that green 4-H tag.
- To show in the registered breed divisions & AOB Division, exhibitors must have a registration paper and meet the registration requirements for that breed. Steers without a registration paper can not receive a purple ribbon and cannot win Champion honors or be in the MLBA 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction and will be moved to the crossbred division.

- Any steer not meeting the requirements of a particular breed will be moved to the “crossbred” division. All decisions of the screening committee are final and are not subject to change.
- Any Breed Division with less than 5 head following market Beef weigh-in at State Fair will not be offered. Chianina and Maine steers would be moved to crossbred division and all other breeds would be moved to the AOB Division.
 - **Rules for the “slick-shorn” market steer division:**
 - Hair must be “slick shorn” to ¼ inch on the entire body of the steer with the exception of the switch, including the legs and the inside and outside of the ears.
 - Steers will be checked at time of weigh-In for compliance with the hair length requirement and can have hair no longer than ¼ inch uniform length at any location on the body, other than the tail switch.
 - The tail switch can be no more than 12 inches above the end of the cartilage of the tail, and the tail switch may be ratted and balled, or bobbed off.
 - Any steer found not to be in compliance with the hair length rule at the time of the market beef weigh-in will not be allowed to show in the “slick-shorn” division and will be placed in an appropriate division.
 - Any decisions on eligibility for the “slick-shorn” division that are made by the 4-H Beef Show Management will be final and those decisions will not be subject to protest.
 - British-bred Slick Shorn Steers will be continued as a Division in 2025.
 - Eligible breeds include Black Angus, Red Angus, Shorthorn, Hereford, Salers, Galloway, Belted Galloway, Scottish Highlander, Aberdeen, White Park, British White, South Devon or any other recognized British, as well as any crosses including these breeds.
 - Any steer deemed as not eligible for the British-bred Slick Shorn Division will be moved to the Standard Slick Shorn Steer Division.
 - All steers entered in this Division will be screened for Breed authenticity on Wednesday from 3-4:30 p.m.
 - Decisions of the screening committee are final and are not subject to protests or DNA testing.

State fair grooming rules

- All grooming of livestock, including clipping, trimming and blocking (all species) must be clearly done by the exhibitor, members of the immediate family or any other registered Minnesota 4-H member. Immediate family members are defined as being parents, step parents, legal guardians, grandparents, brothers or sisters. The 4-H'er exhibiting the animal should be present and involved in the fitting process at the fair.
- Any exhibitors found in violation of this rule will be eliminated from further competition in the show and will not be eligible for any awards or premiums — including championships, the auction and showmanship.
- All grooming chutes must be placed in designated areas and must be registered in the 4-H beef office with a registration fee. Any chute not meeting this requirement will be removed. Note special rules for grooming chutes and fans on the state fairgrounds.
- No use of adhesives or aerosol cans in the show ring or staging areas.
- Cable Halters: cable halters may only be used as show halters in the show ring. Cable halters may not be used to tie cattle in the barn or in tie-outs.
- **Color Pattern Rule:** All beef animals must be exhibited in their natural color pattern. Any alterations to the natural color pattern of an animal, other than the hooves or tail switch, will be viewed as a violation of the [International Association of Fairs and Expositions \(IAFE\) National Code of Show Ring Ethics](#) and could result in disqualification from eligibility for a purple ribbon and championship awards, as well as forfeiture of 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction premiums.