

2024 Virginia 4-H Youth Livestock Ambassador Guide

Purpose Statement:

This guide serves to orient youth and families to the Virginia 4-H Youth Livestock Ambassador program. It serves to provide information about the program, such as eligibility, application information, requirements of ambassadors, and timeline of the program.

About the Ambassador Program:

The Virginia Youth Livestock Ambassador program strives to develop young leaders and advocates for the agriculture industry through hands-on, experiential learning. The Virginia Youth Livestock Ambassador program will be led by the Virginia Tech Youth Animal Science Extension Specialist team. The program will offer youth opportunities for formal leadership development, collegiate-level animal science education, and will promote the mission of serving and giving back to youth's communities. Ambassadors will be professional, positive role models, who serve others and advocate for the agriculture industry. Being accepted to serve as an ambassador is an honor and thus, ambassadors will be held to high standards. The ambassador term length is one year, during which ambassadors will attend training, ambassador meetings, and conduct service activities.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

Enrolled and active Virginia 4-H members, 15 years-old or older (as of January 1st of the current year) , are eligible to apply to be a youth livestock ambassador. Applicants must be in good standing with their primary 4-H club and county. County 4-H Extension Agents or Staff will be required to submit a reference form for the applicant.

What are the Requirements?

Ambassadors must:

- 1) Submit an application by the deadline.
- 2) Attend the Virginia Youth Livestock Ambassador Training course - Date to be determined
- 3) Attend all Virginia Youth Livestock Ambassador meetings and check-ins.
- 4) Submit at least 40 hours of service by the end of the ambassador term (September 30, 2025).
Service activities must involve the livestock and/or agriculture industry. Service activities can include but are not limited to:
 - a) Hosting educational workshops for other 4-H members.

- b) Assisting the county extension agent with shows, workshops, in-school and after-school programming, camps, etc.
- c) Assisting with district-wide and state-wide 4-H youth livestock events, such as livestock knowledge contests and youth livestock shows.
- d) Mentoring younger 4-H members with their livestock projects.
- e) Creating and publishing educational content, such as YouTube videos or blogs.
- f) Service activities **do not** include:
 - i) Merely participating in events, such as shows or contests.
- 5) Follow the Virginia 4-H Code of Conduct at all times and conduct themselves maturely and professionally while serving in an ambassador capacity.
- 6) Be a positive role model to other 4-H members.

Ambassador Program Dates/Events:

Ambassadors are required to attend orientation, to be held in September

Ambassadors will be expected to assist with the following events:

- State Fair of Virginia Youth Livestock Shows: October 3rd - 6th, 2024
- 4-H Day at the Capitol: January 22nd, 2025
- Block & Bridle Livestock Contests: February 21st - 22nd, 2025
- Virginia 4-H Congress: June 2025
- Virginia 4-H State Livestock Judging Contest: June 23rd, 2025

More dates and events will be announced as they are set.