



2024 Dairy information sheet

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

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

Animal ID deadline for 2024 - May 15, 2024 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 15). Market animals (with the exception of prospect calves) cannot be leased.

All Animal Ownership and Identification Deadlines:

- February 15: 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 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

- Dairy animals 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.
- The Animal Science Lease Information Form only has to be submitted the first year for each dairy animal. It becomes a permanent document in this animals' identification record and does not need to be renewed each year the dairy animal is carried as a 4-H project. All that is required in subsequent years is to reactivate the dairy animal by May 15.
- Assume responsibility for the care and management of the leased animal when the animal is in lessee possession.
- The leased animal must be exhibited only by the lessee at any show while the lease is in effect.

- 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 4-H State Fair Grooming/Fitting Rule

- **All grooming** of livestock at the fair, including clipping, trimming and manipulation of the hair/wool (such as blocking on sheep, pulling up hair on beef and working up top lines on dairy) 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. (Note: County level 4-H exhibitions may have adaptations to this rule. Check with your local Extension Educator for county level grooming rules).

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

Cloverbuds

Cloverbuds interested in exploring the dairy project DO NOT identify animals in 4-H Online. The year after being a Cloverbud, youth in grade 3 are only eligible to show animals in calf, yearling and 2 year old classes. The animals in these classes must meet all Minnesota 4-H dairy project identification requirements.

Birthdates

Spring Calf	March 1, 2024 - May 31, 2024
Winter calf	December 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024
Fall calf	September 1 – November 30, 2023
Summer yearling	June 1 – August 31, 2023
Spring yearling	March 1 – May 31, 2023
Winter yearling	December 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023
Fall yearling	September 1 – November 30, 2022
Milking Yearling	Born Sept 1, 2022 or later that has freshened & in milking form
Junior two year old	March 1 – August 31, 2022
Senior two year old	September 1, 2021 – February 28, 2022
Three year old cows	September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021
Four year old cows	September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020
Aged cow	Born before September 1, 2019
Dry cow	Dry cow of any age

Identification dates, details and forms

- Also refer to your [county ID letter online](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID) (www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID).
- All dairy animals must be identified with an **official form of identification: Official Breed Assn. Eartag, Official Breed Assn. tattoo, Minnesota 4-H ear tag, USDA tag (7 or 9 digit), Copy of the Breed Assn. ID paper by May 15. NOTE: Pictures of animals as the only form of ID WILL NOT be accepted as pictures do not meet BAH requirements for exhibition.**
- Registered animals must provide breed association information by May 15.
- If registration for the animal being ID'd is pending, it is your responsibility once you receive the official registration to contact your local county Extension office. Request that the registration number be entered for the correct animal in 4-H Online to replace "pending." This should be done before your county fair.
- Cows no longer need to be identified before first freshening. However, no family member or other 4-H'er will be allowed to show an animal that has been shown by another 4-H'er after the animal's first freshening.
- All dairy ID data must be entered online or the dairy ID data submitted to your county extension office by May 15.
- Current dairy animals on ID need to be reactivated by May 15.

- Leased animals must follow lease guidelines. All information must be submitted by May 15 with 4-H Online data.

Registered/grade Holsteins

Registered Holsteins are classified as animals that have 87% or more Registered Holstein Ancestry (RHA-NA) as recorded with the Holstein Association. Animals ID'd with Holstein USA and found to be 87% or more RHA; will automatically be placed in the Registered Holstein class.

Clarification of breed ancestry

Animals identified as Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein or Jersey, must be 87% (7/8) or more of any one breed. Milking Shorthorn must be 75% (3/4) or more Milking Shorthorn. If breed parentage does not meet these rules, the animal will be shown in the Crossbred and Other Breeds class.

Red and White show

- Red and Whites may be either registered or grade.
- Must be true red with no black or brindle. Show management reserves the right to deny any animal with a questionable hair coat.
- Red and Whites may show in either the Red and White or the Holstein show, however, when registering for the State Fair, one breed designation must be made. No changes can be made after the State Fair registration.

Crossbred and other breeds class

If an animal is less than 87% (7/8) (Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein or Jersey) or 75% (3/4) Milking Shorthorn of any one breed, it must be exhibited in the "crossbred and other breeds" class. In addition, any grade animal not showing the predominant characteristics of one breed at verification by the show committee will show in the "crossbred and other breeds" class.

Milking Yearling Class

Has been added to show classes at the MN 4-H State Fair dairy show. Class is for yearlings (Born September 1, 2022 or later) that have freshened and in milking form. Discuss with county 4-H Extension staff and/or Regional Animal Science Educator before offering at the local level

Dry cow definition

Any cow that has been fresh for 280 days or more, prior to the day of the show, may be shown (at the option of the exhibitor) in either the dry or milking cow class, if the show offers a dry cow class. A cow milked less than 280 days must show in the milking class, unless she is recorded dry on the official DHI (or comparable computer) report. This report must accompany animals to be shown in a dry cow class at ID Verification. To show as a dry cow, she must be milked out for the show. Class designation must be made no later than the time of county final registration prior to state fair, with exception for animals that freshen after check-in, and must be transferred to their respective milking class.

Registration papers

If you are exhibiting a registered animal, you must present a photocopy of the registration certificate at the time of verification. An electronic copy is acceptable.

NOTE: If the registration certificate is not presented by the time of the show, the animal is ineligible for any awards beyond a blue ribbon.