



Beef

Description:

The 4-H Beef program provides youth with educational information and experiences about different beef species.

Decatur County Expectations

Failure to meet the expectations outlined below will result in the ineligibility to show, participate in the livestock auction, and forfeit any winnings. Participating 4-H members may enroll a maximum of ten (10) steers, ten (10) market heifers, ten (10) breeding heifers, six (6) dairy steers, six (6) starter calves, and four (4) cow/calf pairs. No more than two (2) animals per exhibitor may be entered into any one class.

Enrollment Deadline: All 4-H beef animals must be properly enrolled in 4-H Online by May 15th. Animals not enrolled correctly will be ineligible to show at the county and state fair. Lease agreements must be submitted by May 15th. For more information on lease agreements, refer to the website or contact your project leader(s). Steers, market heifers, and crossbred heifers must be fed/cared for and in possession of by weigh-in/tag day.

Possession/Ownership: 4-H animals exhibited after May 15th by anyone other than the participating 4-H member, sibling or parent, will not be eligible to show at the at county level. The term sibling is defined as any youth member who shares the same 4-H family profile information.

Animal Care Expectations: All exhibitors are responsible for timely feedings, watering throughout the day, and keeping stalls clean at all times. Failure to meet these expectations will result in a documented written warning from the project leader and 4-H Extension Educator. Along with forfeiting your right to show, participate in the livestock auction, and removal of your animal from the barn.

Indiana 4-H Livestock Quality Care/YQCA: In order to exhibit livestock, the county and state require that all 4-H Livestock exhibitors must be certified through the YQCA or Indiana 4-H Livestock Quality Care programs.

State Fair Entries

An animal does not need to be shown locally in order to be shown at the state fair. If you do not show at the county level, the animal must still be registered by May 15th in 4-H Online. 4-H members must have completed the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care program or YQCA and have a printed certificate.

All Market Animals (Beef Steers, Market Heifers, and Dairy Steers) and Crossbred Heifers must have an 840-RIFD tag, 5-digit county tag, and DNA hair sample. DNA hair sample must be submitted to the Extension Office by May 15th.

All registered breeding heifers must have an 840-RFID tag, original registration paper with matching tattoo, and DNA hair sample. DNA hair sample must be submitted to the Extension Office by May 15th.

Any animal that wishes to participate at the Indiana State Fair CAN NOT participate in the county 4-H auction in any capacity.

Exhibit Guidelines

Tag and Tattoo Requirements: All steers, market heifers, commercial heifers, breeding heifers, cow-calf pairs and starter calves must be 840-RFID tagged. The 840-RFID tags may be obtained from the Extension Office, at weigh-in, or purchased from a vet supply company. The 5-digit county tag must be obtained at Beef weigh-in for steers, market heifers, commercial heifers. The 5-digit county tag must be obtained from the extension office for cow/calf and starter calves. Only 840-RFID tag or 5-digit county tags will be permitted, all other ear tags will be removed. Animals must wear a halter during the weigh-in/tag day for safety purposes. The tagging information must be accurately listed in the 4-H Online System. It might be helpful to take a photo of the tag before placing it in the animal's ear or to write down so that you have a record of it.

Registered animals must have legible tattoos that correspond to their registration papers. Check to make sure that the correct tattoo is in the animal's ear prior to fair and that it is clearly legible. A copy of the registration paper(s) must be brought to the Extension Office on or before May 15th. Original registration papers must be brought to the county fair check in day for the animal to show in a breed class. 4-H ownership should be listed on these registration papers in one of the following approved methods:

In the 4-H member's name

John Smith and Sons

John Smith, Sons and Daughters

John Smith and Family

Mark Smith (brother) and Mary Smith (sister)

Family Corporations (the 4-H members' name appears as a holder of the stock in the corporation)

Family Partnerships (the 4-H members' name appears on legal, notarized partnership)

If additional paperwork is needed to validate nomenclature (corporation or partnership documentation), it should be on file at the Extension Office prior to the May 15th deadline.

Decatur County Born and Raised Forms: To be eligible for the Decatur County Born and Raised classes, 4-H members must turn in the County Born and Raised form by May 15th. These forms must be picked up at beef weigh-in/tag day or obtained from the Decatur County Extension Office.

Cow/Calf Pairs and Starter Calf Forms: To be eligible for Cow/Calf pair and Starter calf classes, 4-H members must turn in the appropriate forms by May 15th. These forms must be picked up at beef weigh-in/tag day or obtained from the Decatur County Extension Office.

Placing Expectations: In the event a participating 4-H member does not wish to compete for Reserve Grand Champion, their animal may be removed immediately following the selection of the

Grand Champion. The Reserve to that animal that is being removed will take that animal's place. If a member has more than one (1) animal in a class or cannot exhibit their animal in a class, another participating Decatur County 4-H member may exhibit for the member.

Grounds Fee/Stalling: Members must complete the grounds fee form and return it to the Decatur County Extension Office with payment by the specified date in order to reserve stalling space. Corrections to grounds fee forms must be made to the Project Leader(s) by June 15th. All exhibitors will be permitted one tie space for each animal they indicate on their grounds fee form, plus one additional tack space per family. If the 4-H member's animal becomes sick or dies, there must be a written statement presented during check in, and signed by a licensed veterinarian to excuse the animal from being exhibited at the fair. All other animals indicated on the grounds fee form that do not arrive during check-in time will be fined \$100.00 per head, due prior to unloading, for misusing barn space. Members must specify on the grounds fee form if they want to be stalled next to another member. Stalling requests are not guaranteed, but efforts will be made to honor requests.

Barn set-up will be announced by the Project Leader(s) prior to the start of the 4-H exhibition. Mulch will be provided. Fans will blow west to east, no exceptions. If you prefer your fans to blow on a specific side of your animal you must note it in your Grounds fee form. Fans cannot be larger than twenty-four (24) inches in diameter, butt fans will also not be allowed.

Tie Outs: Tie outs are optional, if requested, this must be marked on the exhibitor's grounds fee form. Cattle will be permitted to go to tie outs at 8:00pm each night and must return to the barn and in their stalls by 8:00 am each morning. All tie out bedding must be provided and cleaned up, at the end of the fair, by the exhibitor. The safety of the exhibitor and their animal(s) going to and from tie outs is the exhibitor's responsibility. Please beware of your surroundings.

Arrival and Release: All beef animals must arrive during the designated check-in time. Animals will only be weighed once upon check-in for official weight. All animals must wear neck ties while at the fair. All animals must have a visual inspection by a veterinarian or approved project leader upon arrival and check-in. Any animal deemed unfit (ex. sick or uncontrollable) by veterinarian and/or 4-H project leader(s), it may be asked to transport animal off of the fairgrounds. Any animal with an abscess, ringworm, etc., will not be permitted to exhibit or show unless a written clearance is presented and signed by a licensed veterinarian.

Any beef animals that are not participating in the 4-H auction, will be released at the conclusion of the Tom Swain Memorial Showmanship Competition. Any special circumstances that may result in early release will be determined by the Project Leader(s) and the 4-H Youth Educator.

Breed Participation Policy/All Other Breeds (AOB): If there is a breed that is registered but not currently listed in the entry book, and that animal has matching registration papers, they will be eligible to exhibit in AOB. If a breed is a recognized breed, they will be exhibiting as that recognized breed. This included representing the breed in Grand or Supreme Drive, if applicable.

Grooming: Exhibitors shall be responsible for the continuous care, grooming, and preparation of their own animals entered in the 4-H exhibition. An exhibitor may receive assistance in the care, grooming and preparation of the livestock entered in the 4-H exhibition, provided that the assistance shall be limited to explanation or demonstration and that the exhibitor be involved with the care, grooming, and preparation of their animals.

Exhibit Class Guidelines:

4-H Market Animal Requirements

Market Steers and Market Heifers must be born on or after January 1, 2025. All market steers (purebred and crossbred) and market heifers must attend beef weigh-in/tag day. Purebred market steers will be shown by breed and weight. Purebred market steers must have registration papers from their breed association, along with a legible tattoo that matches both the registration and the 4-H Online enrollment. Original registration papers must be presented at beef check-in to confirm the animal's ownership against their 4-H Online enrollment.

Purebred market steers that do not meet the standards stated above, can only show as a crossbred market steer if their tattoos, 5-digit county tag, and 840-RFID tag match their 4-H animal enrollment at the county level. Purebred market steers will have the option of showing as a crossbred steer with legible tattoos, a 5-digit county tag, and an 840-RFID tag that matches their registration papers and their 4-H Online enrollment at the county level. This must be declared at Beef Check-in.

Crossbred market steers must have an 840-RFID tag, a 5-digit county tag, (if applicable) a legible tattoo that matches their registration paper, and 4-H animal enrollment at the county level. Crossbred market steers will be shown by weight only.

Market heifers will be shown by weight only. Market heifers must have an 840-RFID tag, a 5-digit county tag, (if applicable) a legible tattoo that matches their registration paper (must be provided at Beef Check-in), and 4-H animal enrollment at the county level.

All market animals (market steers and heifers) will show against each other.

4-H Breeding Heifer Requirements

4-H breeding heifers must be born on or after September 1, 2024. Purebred breeding heifers will be shown by breed and age. Purebred breeding heifers must have registration papers from their breed association and a legible tattoo that matches both the registration paper and the 4-H Online enrollment. Original registration papers must be present at Beef Check-in to confirm the animal's ownership against their 4-H Online enrollment.

Purebred breeding heifers that do not have registration papers will show as a crossbred heifer, if their tattoos and 840-RFID tag match their 4-H animal enrollment at the county level. Purebred breeding heifers will have the option of showing as a crossbred heifer with legible tattoos and an 840-RFID tag that matches their registration papers and their 4-H animal enrollment at the county level. This must be declared at Beef Check-in.

Crossbred breeding heifers must attend beef weigh-in/tag day, have an 840-RFID tag, a 5-digit county tag, and (if applicable) a legible tattoo that matches their registration paper and 4-H animal enrollment at the county level. Crossbred breeding heifers will be shown by weight only.

4-H Cow/Calf Pair Requirements

Cow/calf pairs will be shown by the age of the cow. Cows can be of any age; calves must be born after January 1st and no later than May 15th of the current year. All cows and calves must have an 840-RFID tag. Registered cows and calves must have a legible tattoo that matches the animal's registration

paper and 4-H animal enrollment at the county level. All cow/calf pairs must be nursing, no weaned pairs. All cow/calf pairs must check in during Beef Check-in.

Crossbred cows and crossbred calves must have a 5-digit county tag that matches the animal's 4-H animal enrollment at the county level.

4-H Starter Calves Requirements

Starter calves will be shown by sex and weight. Calves must be born on or after January 1st and no later than May 15th of the current year. All calves must have an 840-RFID tag and be owned by May 15th. Registered calves must have a legible tattoo that matches the animal's registration paper and 4-H animal enrollment at the county level. Original registration papers must be presented at beef check-in to confirm the animal's ownership against their 4-H online enrollment. All starter calves must check in during beef check-in.

Crossbred calves must have a 5-digit county tag that matches the animal's 4-H animal enrollment at the county level.

Decatur County Born & Raised Animal Requirements

All market animals (steers and heifers) and breeding heifers are eligible to participate. Market animals (steers and heifers) and breeding heifers must be born in Decatur County and raised by a participating Decatur County 4-H member. There will be Decatur County born and raised breed champions selected for each breed that has a county born and raised representative. An overall Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Decatur County Born and Raised animal will be selected for market animals (steers and heifers) and breeding heifers.

Rate of Gain Requirements

Market animals (steers and heifers) will be evaluated based on weight gained since the Beef Weigh-in date. A champion will be selected for each of the market steer breeds and for the market heifers. An overall Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Rate of Gain animal will be selected from the champions.

Showmanship

A 4-H livestock member must show their own animal during showmanship in their enrolled species if present at the fair. However, a species member may borrow a non-state fair animal that is registered in 4-H Online to compete in their division of showmanship in the case that their own animal has died, gone lame, deemed unsafe or was rejected during check-in. The project leader(s) and 4-H Extension Educator will work with the family and 4-H member to determine the best solution for the 4-H member and family.

Divisions are for the grade completed by the member. After winning a division, the member must decide to either advance to the next division then or advance the following year. Showmanship divisions are as follows:

Beginner: Grades 3-5

Intermediate: Grades 6-8

Senior: Grades 9-12

Expert: Previous winners of senior showmanship

Mini 4-H Requirements

To be eligible to show in any Mini 4-H animal show, the participating Mini 4-H member must be enrolled in 4-H Online by May 15th. Weight limit for any animal shown by a Mini 4-H member will not exceed 300 lbs. Minis can use a calf that has been entered in 4-H Online and is properly tagged. The calf used by a Mini 4-H member can be a family member's animal or a borrowed animal as long as the animal is entered on 4-H Online and tagged properly. If the Mini 4-H member's animal's weight exceeds 300 lbs., a parent or guardian must enter the show ring with the Mini 4-H member. The mini 4-H show will be with the showmanship portion of the beef show.

Fraud and Deception

Fraud and/or deception will not be allowed relative to the 4-H exhibits. Fraud and/or deception being defined as including, but not limited to, the following terms:

-Tampering (altering) and/or misrepresentation relative to an animal's breeding, age, ownership, and/or method of preparation or completion.

-Artificial enhancements of adding, removing and/or remedying physical filling under the skin, use of artificial heels, methods to give appearance of hair in locations where it is not grown naturally and false swatches.

-Unethical fitting of animal exhibits considered as consisting of administration of any substance (this includes but is not limited to, carbonated beverages, alcoholic beverages, forced consumption of water, etc.) or performance of any surgical procedure, altering the animal's conformation and/or rendering its tissue unfit for human consumption at the time of exhibition or subsequent slaughter. Exceptions include hoof trimming, dehorning, removal of hair, manipulation of normally attached hair, and treatments or surgical procedures applied to relieve pain and suffering of sick or injured animals, providing such treatments do not render the animal's tissue unfit for human consumption.

Determination of Fraud and Deception

Beef project leader(s), Extension youth educator, 4-H council president, and 4-H livestock committee president will determine if fraud and deception have occurred. Any suspected animals may be required, upon conclusion of judging, to submit to examination or tests as prescribed by the 4-H Council. If project leader(s) determines that fraud and deception have occurred, the result may be disqualification.

Penalty: upon determination that fraud and/or deception has occurred prior to, during, or after judging, any one or more of the following penalties may be imposed:

The exhibit in question may be immediately disqualified.

The exhibit may not be allowed to be sold in the livestock auction.

In the case of an exhibit has already sold at the livestock auction, the exhibitor may be required to refund/return all sale money in excess of the market value to the Decatur County 4-H Council; at the discretion of the Decatur County Livestock Committee, the money will be returned to the buyer (placings of other exhibits will not be adjusted as a result of the imposition of this penalty). Any or all premiums, trophies, and awards won by the exhibitor in any or all fair departments may be withdrawn and required to be refunded or returned to the beef project leader(s). The 4-H exhibitor may be barred from the competition at the Decatur County 4-H Exhibition shows in the project where fraud or deception occurred for up to three years.

Due Process

The assessment of any or all penalties for fraud and/or deception, excepting immediate disqualification, shall follow the below listed processes:

- The director in charge of the department will determine which penalties to impose.
- The exhibitor will be notified in writing of the penalties imposed.
- Within 15 days of receiving written notification, the exhibitor may appeal the decision in writing to the Decatur County 4-H Council.
- A date will be set for the hearing by the 4-H council, and the exhibitor will be notified in writing.

Any additional questions and situations regarding the above-mentioned rules and responsibilities will be handled by the Beef Project Leader(s), 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator, the 4-H Council President, and the 4-H Livestock Committee President.