



January 22, 2024

Dear 4-H Beef Member:

This letter contains important dates and information about the beef project so please read through the entire letter and keep it for future reference. Important Dates:

Feb. 20th | Tagging Date | 1:00 – 4:00 PM (by appointment) | LaPorte County Fairgrounds
Feb. 21st | Tagging Date | 8:00 – 11:00 AM | LaPorte County Fairgrounds
April 25th | Dairy Feeder Weigh-In Date | 8:00 – 10:00 AM | LaPorte County Fairgrounds
May 15th | ALL livestock must be entered and identified in 4HOnline
May 15th | DNA hair sample due for State Fair (turn in at the Extension Office)
June 12th | All Livestock entered in Fair Entry (these are the specific animals you will be bringing to fair)
June 12th | Complete Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care or YQCA Online
July 1st | State Fair Entry Deadline
July 10th | Beef Arrival | 2:00 – 5:00 PM | Cattle Barn
July 11th | Beef Check-In | By 10:00 AM | Cattle Barn
July 11th | Beef Weigh-In | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Cattle Barn
July 11th to 18th | LAPORTE COUNTY FAIR
July 12th | Dairy Feeder Steer, Prospect, and cow calf arrival | 9:00 – 10:00 AM | Cattle Barn
July 12th | Dairy Feeder Steer & Prospect Weigh-In | 10:00 – 11:00 AM | Cattle Barn
July 12th | 4-H Cow/Calf Show, Prospects, County Bred Steer Class (by breed), & Dairy Feeder Steer Shows
| 4:30 pm | Livestock Arena Show
July 14th | 4-H Beef Steer & Dairy Steer Show | 8:00 AM | Livestock Show Arena
July 16th | Release of ALL Non-Sale Beef | After Concert Traffic show until 11 PM
July 17th | ALL DAY 4-H LIVESTOCK AUCTION
July 18th | Release of Auctioned Beef | 12:00 PM | Cattle Barn
July 18th | Release of Non-Auction Beef | 1:00 PM | Beef Barn
July 19th | Beef Barn Clean Up | 9 AM | Beef Barn
August 7th to 23rd | Indiana State Fair (closed Mondays)

Animal ID Requirements

- ID Days will be held on:
 - **Friday, February 20th** – By appointment only, families will need to call or text Jason DeMeyer at 219-608-1055 by February 15, 2026.
 - **Saturday, February 21st from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00AM. CST for Beef, Dairy Beef and Market Heifers.**
 - **Saturday, April 25th from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. for Dairy Feeder Steers.**
- Enter the fairgrounds at the Horse & Pony Arena off Ziegler Road (Grandstand Drive).
- **ALL BEEF animals** (market steers and market heifers, dairy beef steers, dairy feeder steers, prospects, commercial heifers and registered heifers) must have a Radio Frequency Identification tag (840 RFID tags). A LaPorte county tag will be placed in market steers, market heifers, commercial heifers and dairy feeder steers. Any animal that loses the RFID and/or County Tag must have a new tag issued. If the animal is going to State Fair the DNA envelope must also be updated. The Extension Office must be notified if any tag is lost or removed or the animal will not be allowed to show at the LaPorte County or State Fair.

Beef ID Worksheet

Enclosed is a Beef ID Worksheet for your record keeping and assisting you while enrolling your animals in 4HOnline. This is **NOT** an animal enrollment form and does not count as enrolling your animal online. You must still ID your animals through 4-H Online. The worksheet is simply to assist you with inputting the information into the computer. You do not need to turn in the worksheet, nor do you need to bring it with you to the fairgrounds on ID Day unless you want to fill it out for your records.

Animal Enrollment Requirements (4-H Online): Deadline May 15th

- Any youth that plans on exhibiting livestock this year at the county and/or State Fair will need to enroll their animals in 4-H Online (<https://v2.4honline.com>) by **May 15th**. **This date is a deadline that cannot be missed.**
- Animals will need to be enrolled online by the 4-Her or family member. Extension Office Staff is happy to help but cannot enter animals for you, you can come into the office, and we can set up a computer for you, but we cannot ID the animals for you. We are happy to verify if the animals are active.
- Siblings may show each other's animals. All the possible animals that may be shared amongst siblings must be enrolled by a 4-H member of that family. Please do not enter all the animals under each child, the animal will automatically co-enroll.

Fair Entry: Deadline is June 12th by 4:00 PM

- Fair Entry is the second step in being able to exhibit animals at the LaPorte County Fair.
- Declare the breed that you plan to show as on fair entry, these will be final and not changed at weigh in. For those that have registered animals as dual breeds, selection must be made on fair entry by June 12th.
- If there are questions about breed guidelines visit the state fair website specific to your breed, which is what we will be using if there are any questions at the fair.
- You will use the same email and password that is used with your 4-H Online account when visiting <https://fairentry.com> to enter classes.

YQCA or Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care (I4HQLC) Requirements

Each 4-H member who participates in Beef or Dairy Feeder, Sheep, Goat, Swine, and Poultry projects will need to complete a quality assurance program.

- The Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care program. These trainings will all be held in-person for the upcoming year and dates, times, and locations can be found in the monthly Tidbit.
- YQCA certification (online only) will be accepted. Please visit yqcaprogram.org to take the online training. Once completed it is your responsibility to send a copy of your certificate to the Extension Office, so they have record of completion. Those certificates can be sent directly to

County Fair

- LaPorte County Fair dates for 2026 are July 11th – 18th.
- Check in will be on Friday, July 10th from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm & Saturday, July 11th by 10:00 AM
- Check in for Prospects, dairy feeder steers and cow/calves is Sunday, July 12th by 9:00 AM
- 4-H Beef shows will be held on Sunday, July 12th and Tuesday, July 14th.

State Fair: The following table is what is required for a 4-H member to be eligible to show in the 4-H livestock shows at the Indiana State Fair.

	For State Fair	Max # to Enroll	Deadline
Beef and Dairy Beef Steers	840-RFID Tag and 5-digit County Tag and DNA Hair Sample	10 Total steers	May 15
Commercial and Market Heifers and Dairy Feeder	840-RFID Tag and 5-digit County Tag and DNA Hair Sample	10 Total	May 15
Beef, Registered Heifers	840-RFID tag and Tattoo and DNA Hair Sample	10 Total heifers	May 15

Regards, Jason DeMeyer, 4-H Beef Superintendent & Kelsey Guadarrama, 4-H Youth Development Educator