



SHOW READY: LIVESTOCK STARTER GUIDE



Beef Cattle

Q How do I identify and enter my animal in the fair?

A All livestock species, except Poultry, must be identified in the 4-H Online system (<https://v2.4honline.com>) by May 15. Ensure that you are meeting the animal ID requirements listed in the 4-H handbook when entering your animal. Poultry exhibitors will identify their animals at <https://tinyurl.com/26Poultry>. Identify any animals you may want to show. By July 1, go to <http://vanderburghcountyin.fairentry.com> to enter what classes your animal(s) will be participating in. This is where you'll select which animals you will be bringing to the fair, what classes they will be in, and you can enter showmanship. To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, dairy goats, meat goats, poultry, pygmy goats, rabbits, sheep and swine, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care program by July 1. If you plan to exhibit at the Indiana State Fair, be sure to check out state guidelines and registration details at <https://indianastatefair.com>. Suggestion - if showing multiple animals/species, create a list of all ID information to help with animal ID entry. Enter all possible entries on May 15. Only animals entered by May 15 can be shown. Just because they are entered, does not mean they have to go to the fair; however, if they are not entered, they are not eligible.

Q How do I prepare for fair?

A Wash and groom your animals often starting in early summer or spring. Walk your animals and expose them to elements outside of their normal daily routine.

Q Where do I find set-up, check-in, check out, and clean up times for my species?

A You will find this in the handbook, in the summer LINK newsletters, and in a mailing that goes out before fair.

Q How does check-in work? What do I need to have with me?

A Contact the Beef superintendent when you arrive for instructions. Have animal ID info.

Q What supplies/equipment do I need to have at fair?

A Grooming supplies, fan, fly spray, manure bucket or wheelbarrow along with pitchfork, water and feed pans with feed and hay. Think about what you need for the daily care of your animal(s). Ensure you are using an approved extension cord. Think about what you use on a daily basis to care for your animals. You may want to have a sign that identifies each of your animals.

Q How do I care for my animal during fair?

A It is expected that the 4-H member provides regular care for their animal during the fair. This includes making sure your animal has access to clean water at all times and is fed regularly. The fair is often very hot so make sure you have a plan to keep your animal cool and to prevent overheating.

Q How does check out work? What do I need to do to clean up?

A Animals are released Friday evening at 10pm. All animals and equipment need to be removed by Saturday morning so the barn can be cleaned with equipment.

Q How do I participate in the livestock premium auction?

A To participate in the livestock premium auction, complete the auction card that will be mailed to you and return to the fair Extension Office by noon on Monday of the fair. If you decide to change the animal or species you plan to exhibit in the auction, let the Extension Office know by 5:00 pm on Thursday of fair week. Photos will be taken of you with your animal immediately after you take your animal in the ring. You will also be asked to write thank you notes to your auction buyers after you have exhibited in the auction. Exhibitors will be asked to pick up their auction check when available (typically about 1-2 months after the auction) and checks must be cashed/deposited within 90 days.

Q What do I wear on show day?

A Jeans, dress shirt, and closed-toed shoes or boots

Q What supplies do I need to show?

A Show halter, comb, and show stick.

Q How should my animal be prepped for the show?

A Prep can be as simple as washed and dried or fitting can be done if desired.

Q How do I make my animal look its best in the show ring?

A Fitting how to videos can be found online. YouTube is a great resource.

Q What does the judge expect of me?

A The judge will want you to always be in control of your animal. To have it set up and presented in a way that makes it look its best. To know simple things about your animal (birth date, what it is fed, how much it is fed, breed).

Q Who can I contact if I have questions?

A Your species superintendent or assistant superintendents can answer your questions. Their contact information can be found in the 4-H handbook in the livestock section. You can also reach out to the Purdue Extension Office at (812) 867-4935 with questions.

