

January 14, 2026

Dear 4-H Beef and Dairy Beef Members and Families:

The 2026 4-H Beef & Dairy Beef Weigh-In and Identification period is quickly approaching. This letter explains the identification procedures you will need to follow for your 2026 4-H Beef and Dairy Beef animals. **READ CAREFULLY!**

Weigh-In Information

- ❖ All 4-H **Beef steers, crossbred breeding heifers, market heifers, and Dairy Beef Fat Steers** must be RFID tagged, weighed (if competing in rate of gain), and ear tagged with a county assigned number before midnight on **May 15th, 2026**.
- ❖ In 2026, Beef Weigh-In will be **OPTIONAL**. Only those who wish to participate in the Rate of Gain competition and/or need assistance tagging their animals should attend. Beef weigh-in will be held on **Saturday, February 28th** from 9-10 AM at the White County Fairgrounds.
- ❖ **Dairy Feeder Steers** should be brought to the weigh-in to be tagged and weighed. Dairy Feeder Steers not tagged at the 4-H Beef Weigh-in in March, **MUST** be tagged and animal verified by a Dairy Committee member by May 15th.
- ❖ **All State Fair Beef AND Dairy Beef:** must be identified by a DNA sample submitted to Extension Office by 4 p.m. May 15th. DNA sample envelopes are available from the Extension Office.
- ❖ All Beef and Dairy Beef animals (including heifers) need to be RFID tagged. Purebred breeding heifers with registration papers may be brought to the weigh-in to be RFID tagged.
- ❖ The 4-H Beef Committee reserves the right not to tag any unruly animal.
- ❖ Members will need to bring **\$5 per animal** to cover the cost of the tags. **CASH OR CHECK ONLY**
- ❖ Enclosed is a Beef ID Worksheet. The purpose of this worksheet will be to record your tag numbers for reference while completing the online Animal ID. To make Weigh-In day as efficient as possible, please complete as much of worksheet as possible before arriving.
- ❖ You will find information regarding required livestock quality assurance training in the March/April 4-H Newsletter
- ❖ There will be a snow date of March 7th, 2026

Completing Animal Identification

- ❖ We will be using the 4HOnline system, <https://v2.4honline.com> again this year to identify Beef and Dairy Beef animals. Following weigh-in, youth will be responsible for completing the online Animal ID process for their animals. Instructions for completing the online Animal ID are on the right side of the home page on 4HOnline under announcements and newsletters. If you are unable to complete your Animal ID online or need help, please contact the Extension Office for assistance. Any animals that a member may want to exhibit at either the White County Fair or the Indiana State Fair must be identified in 4HOnline by the required deadlines.

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- ❖ Cow-calf class cows do not need to be brought to the weigh-in. To qualify for the cow-calf class, the cow must be the heifer that the member entered in 4-H and identified in 4HOnline any previous year and its natural born 2025 calf. Use the registration number for a purebred cow or White County tag number of the crossbred cow. Be sure to identify cow/calf pairs in 4hOnline by **May 15th**. If you plan to also show the calf as a prospect animal, it should be identified as part of the Cow-Calf pair and also in the individual prospect steer or prospect heifer class.
- ❖ There is no State Fair entry in the Cow-calf class. Calves from a Cow/Calf pair can also be shown in the Prospect Heifer or Prospect Steer class at the White County Fair. There is no State Fair class for Prospect Steers.
- ❖ Beef Steers and Heifers born and bred in White County are eligible for the County Born and Bred classes at the 2026 White County 4-H Beef Show. **These animals must be identified by the deadlines and the County Born/Raised box must be checked while identifying the animal online. There will be no exceptions made.**
- ❖ Beef and Dairy Beef members will complete the **FairEntry** process between **June 1st and July 1st** to identify the specific animals that will be brought to the White County 4-H Fair. Instructions on this process will be made available at a later date.

Miscellaneous Notes

- ❖ Refer to the 2026 White County 4-H Handbook for additional information regarding the 4-H Beef and Dairy Beef Projects and classes offered. The Handbook will be found on the White County Extension webpage <https://purdue.link/wc4h>
- ❖ Cattle which lose ear tags will be retagged by the 4-H Beef Committee before the 4-H Fair Beef Show. Members should contact the Extension Office immediately if an ear tag is lost. All Beef will be required to have an RFID tag in place before showing at the Fair. Calves will not be shown without ear tags. RFID tags can be purchased from the Extension Office. **You must provide your Premise ID number at the time of purchase.**
- ❖ 4-H members, remember: you will need to enroll for 2026 and pay the enrollment fees to be eligible to complete the project and exhibit your 4-H Beef and Dairy Beef projects at the White County 4-H Fair.

Please help us to notify all first year 4-H Beef and Dairy Beef members, and others who were not enrolled in 4-H Beef and Dairy Beef last year.

If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Extension Office at (219) 984-5115. You can also email me at childer9@purdue.edu.



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Enc: 4-H Beef ID Worksheet