

4-H LIVESTOCK EXHIBITS

Superintendent - Celine Beggs-Shoemaker, Ames

ENTRY DEADLINE - JULY 1 through FairEntry (4hOnline)

RULES

1. Iowa State Fair Livestock general rules, regulations and health requirements apply in the 4-H Livestock Departments. Should general and special rules conflict, the latter will govern. Exhibitors failing to comply with any of the rules are subject to all premium cancellations, disqualification from future participation in the Iowa State Fair 4-H Show and potential submission to the North American Livestock Show and Rodeo Managers' Rule Infraction Database. Interpretation of rules, when necessary, shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent and other appropriate committees.
2. Unless otherwise specified, entries in this division are limited to youth who will have completed 5th through 12th grade (or that equivalent) during the 2025-2026 school year.
3. Only livestock projects, which have been enrolled by the exhibitor and listed in the 4hOnline enrollment program on or before May 15, (February 1 for Market Beef, July 1 for Rabbits) may be entered. (This applies to all animals with exception of Poultry which have less restrictive identification rules.) All 4-H livestock must meet ownership/possession identifications and requirements outlined in 4-H 202, <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/194>. Joint member entries will not be accepted with the exception of horses and dogs as outlined in 4-H 202. Animals **may NOT** be identified as both a 4-H and FFA project.
4. Animals offered for sale in an auction are considered to have changed ownership even if bought back by the original owner or if the owner refuses a bid or says, "No Sale!" All animals offered for sale are terminated as 4-H projects. An **animal** should not enter an auction ring, even if only the ribbon is being sold.
5. The responsibility for making proper entry rests upon the exhibitor. Online entry is available at www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/statefair/livestock.htm. All entries must be submitted online by **July 1** through the FairEntry software program. Late entries will be accepted July 2-8 with a \$250 late entry fee per exhibitor plus department fees. No entries accepted after July 8.
6. **4-H and Open Class entries are two separate processes.** Entry in Open Class Departments must be made on Open Class entry forms accompanied by Open Class entry fees. See entry deadlines, rules and fees in the Open Class Livestock sections of the Premium Book available online at <https://www.iowastatefair.org/>.
7. ENTRY FEES must be paid online at time of entry or by cash/check/money order sent to the Iowa State Fair. **ALL EXHIBITOR CHECKS MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE IOWA STATE FAIR. Entries will not be accepted without fees. Payment must be postmarked by July 1.** No other forms of payment will be accepted, including purchase orders, etc. No refunds will be made. See Department rules for information on fees.
8. First and second place winners in individual classes are eligible to compete for Championships and Reserve Championships, provided they received a purple or blue award.
9. Exhibitors in 4-H divisions are not eligible to exhibit in a similar division of FFA or vice-versa, with the following exceptions and clarifications:
 - A. AGRICULTURE MECHANICS - Exhibitors entered in the 4-H Science, Mechanics and Engineering classes may not enter in similar FFA Ag Mechanics classes or vice-versa.
 - B. BEEF - 4-H members who exhibit 4-H Market Beef but do not exhibit in 4-H Breeding Beef classes, may, if eligible, exhibit in the FFA Breeding Beef classes. Likewise, 4-H members who exhibit in 4-H Breeding Beef classes but not in 4-H Market Beef classes may, if eligible, exhibit in the FFA Performance Beef classes. Exhibitors in 4-H Market Beef classes may, if eligible, exhibit in the FFA Breeding Beef and/or FFA Performance Beef classes. Exception: Exhibitors in 4-H Breeding Heifer classes may, if eligible, exhibit in the FFA Cow/Calf and/or FFA Breeding Bull classes.
 - C. DAIRY CATTLE - Exhibitors entered in the Youth Dairy Cattle Show may show animals in either FFA or 4-H, but not both.
 - D. DAIRY GOATS - Exhibitors entered in the Youth Dairy Goat Show may show animals in either FFA or 4-H, but not both.
 - E. HORSES - Exhibitors in the 4-H Horse Department are not eligible to exhibit in the FFA Horse Department or vice-versa.
 - F. MEAT GOATS - 4-H members who exhibit 4-H Market Meat Goats, may, if eligible, exhibit in the FFA Breeding Meat Goat classes or vice-versa. 4-H members are not permitted to show Market Meat Goats in both 4-H and FFA classes. 4-H members who exhibit 4-H Breeding Meat Goats, may, if eligible, exhibit in the FFA Market Meat Goat classes.
 - G. PHOTOGRAPHY - Exhibitors entered in 4-H Photography are not eligible to exhibit in the FFA Photography Show or vice-versa.
 - H. POULTRY - Exhibitors in the 4-H Poultry Department are not eligible to exhibit in the FFA Poultry Department or vice-versa.
 - I. RABBITS - Exhibitors in the 4-H Rabbit Department are not eligible to exhibit in the FFA Rabbit Department or vice-versa.
 - J. SHEEP - 4-H members who exhibit Breeding Sheep in 4-H classes may, if eligible, exhibit Market Lambs in FFA classes or vice versa. However, 4-H members are not permitted to show Breeding Sheep in both 4-H and FFA classes even though the young person may have separate breeds for 4-H and FFA. 4-H members are not permitted to show Market Lambs in both 4-H and FFA classes. Carcass/Performance Lambs will be considered the same as Market Lambs. Exception: Exhibitors in 4-H Breeding Ewe classes may, if eligible, exhibit in the FFA Breeding Ram classes.
 - K. SWINE - 4-H members who exhibit Breeding Swine in 4-H classes may, if eligible, exhibit Market Swine in FFA classes or vice versa. However, 4-H members are not permitted to show Breeding Swine in 4-H and FFA classes even though the young person may have separate breeds for 4-H and FFA. 4-H members are not permitted to show Market Swine in both 4-H and FFA classes.
 - L. Individual animals must be identified as either a 4-H OR FFA project, not both.
 - M. Exhibitors in 4-H divisions may not exhibit 4-H or FFA exhibits in the same department in any other state fair.
10. It is the intent that the 4-H member take responsibility for caring for and grooming his/her own animals. If assistance is needed it must be done by a family member and/or another Iowa 4-H member. Family members include and are limited to: parent/legal guardian, brother, sister or step-siblings.
11. **All 4-H beef, dairy cattle, dairy goat, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, and swine exhibitors must be certified through the YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) program by July 1.**
12. Any animal that becomes wild or uncontrollable causing a safety concern during the show may be declared ineligible by the division superintendent.
13. **Substitute Showman:** Excusing a member from personally exhibiting their animal(s) is generally discouraged, as it defeats one of the most important objectives of 4-H. However, the Management recognizes the need for accommodations in certain circumstances to ensure fairness and inclusivity for all participants, including members with disabilities.

A 4-H member may request the use of a substitute showman if they are unable to participate due to injury, illness or a disability that prevents them from showing at the scheduled time. If a 4-H member is involved in another Iowa State Fair activity that has a non-flexible schedule, such as another 4-H livestock show, the State Fair queen Contest, Awardrobe, or 4-H Communication Events, and their presence is mandatory, they may also request a substitute. Requests related to school, school activities or athletics will not be considered.

The substitute showman must be a 4-H member eligible to exhibit at the State Fair and must receive approval from the department superintendent prior to the show. Application forms may be found online (<https://go.iastate.edu/RGNVAZ>). These forms must be completed at least 12 hours prior to the show. In the case where an exhibitor has more than one animal in a class, they do not need to obtain approval for another eligible showman to exhibit one of their animals. However, it is expected that this situation will be brought to the attention of the clerk checking animals into the check-in area or show ring.

14. **CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS** - Youth are expected to be sincere, honest and act in sportsmanlike ways at all times. Youth represent the entire program and their behavior reflects on their parents, leaders, club and the entire youth program. All adults involved with the youth program, leaders as well as parents, are expected to set positive examples and serve as positive role models by what they say and do. Any youth who breaks the Code of Ethics or allows another person (adult or peer) to talk them into violating the Code of Ethics agrees to forfeit all prizes, awards and premiums. The youth may also be prohibited from exhibiting at this and future exhibitions including the Iowa State Fair and other county, state or regional exhibitions. Youth agree to follow these guidelines:
- A. I will do my own work, appropriate for my age and physical and mental development. This includes research and writing of exhibit explanations, preparing exhibits (such as sewing, cooking, refinishing, etc), care and grooming of animals, etc. Adult assistance should help guide and support me, not do it for me.
 - B. All exhibits will be true representations of my work. Any attempt to take credit for other's work, alter the conformation of animals, or alter their performance is prohibited. Copyright violation or allowing others to complete my exhibit is considered misrepresentation and is prohibited.
 - C. I will treat all people and animals with respect. I will provide appropriate care for animals.
 - D. I will present exhibits that are safe for consumption. All food exhibits will be safe to exhibit and for judges to evaluate. Other exhibits will be safe for judges to evaluate and for exhibition.
 - E. All food animals that may be harvested immediately following the show shall be safe for consumers, and shall have met all withdrawal times for all medications (including topicals), and be free of violative drug residue.
 - F. If any animal requires medical treatment while at the Fair, only an official Iowa State Fair Veterinarian may administer the treatment. All medications that are administered shall be done according to the label instructions of the medication used.
 - G. My animal's appearance or performance shall not be altered by any means, including medications, external applications and surgical procedures. Any animal that is found to have changed its appearance or its performance shall be disqualified from the show, and have penalties assessed against me, my parent(s) and/or guardian by the Management of the Iowa State Fair.
 - H. I will follow all ownership and possession rules and, if requested, will provide the necessary documentation.
 - I. I will follow all livestock health requirements for the Iowa State Fair, according to the state health requirements posted online at www.iowastatefair.org. I will provide animal health certificates from a licensed veterinarian upon request from the Management of the Iowa State Fair.
 - J. By my entering an animal in this Fair, I am giving consent to the Management of the Iowa State Fair to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. If the laboratory report on the analysis of any sample indicates a presence of forbidden drugs, this shall be evidence such substance has been administered to the animal(s) either internally or externally. It is presumed that the sample tested by the laboratory to which it is sent is the one taken from the animal in question, its integrity is preserved and all procedures of said collection and preservation, transfer to the laboratory and analysis of the sample are correct and accurate and the report received from the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with the burden on me, my parent(s) and/or guardian to prove otherwise.
 - K. I am responsible for my exhibit and I will not allow others to violate this code on my behalf. By my entering an exhibit in this Fair I will accept any disciplinary action taken by the Management of the Iowa State Fair for any violation of this Code of Ethics and any other rules of competition of the Fair without recourse against the Iowa State Fair.
 - L. I want my exhibit to be an example of how to accept what life has to offer, both good and not so good, and how to live with and learn from the outcome.
 - M. I will not be involved in any illegal activities while participating in 4-H events, including but not limited to alcohol, tobacco or drug use. I agree to conduct myself in an honest, ethical, and upstanding manner and I understand that disciplinary actions will result if these rules are violated. I understand that I am expected to represent the program in a positive manner. I have read, understand and agree to follow this Code of Ethics, and any other rules of competition of the Iowa State Fair listed in its Premium Book and other exhibitor material.
15. Any attempt to misrepresent an animal in any way will be considered fraud and deception, and can result in disqualification and barring from the Iowa State Fair. In addition, any exhibiting family whose animals are found suspect of using illegal drugs or barring for any other reason at any fair or livestock show holding membership in the International Association of Fairs and Expositions will be barred indefinitely from showing at the Iowa State Fair.
- A. SHOULD FRAUD OR DECEPTION, AND PROOF, AS DETERMINED BY THE IOWA STATE FAIR BOARD BE DISCOVERED AFTER THE ANIMAL OR ANIMALS HAVE BEEN SHOWN AND PRIOR TO THE SALE; such animal shall not be permitted to sell. If the Grand Champion is disqualified, at the discretion of the Iowa State Fair Board, the Reserve Grand Champion will become the Grand Champion. If a third place animal was identified it may be moved up to Reserve Grand Champion at the discretion of the Iowa State Fair Board. No other animals will be advanced.
SHOULD VIOLATION BE DISCOVERED AFTER THE SALE, all sale money shall be returned to the buyer and the animal, carcass or carcass value (established by the USDA market for dressed meat as of day of sale) shall be returned to the exhibitor. All placings in the show will stand. No animals will be advanced.
Any carcass suspected of being tampered with or suspected of containing drugs will be detained until the investigation is complete.
 - B. In the case of 4-H Market animals - beef, meat goat, sheep and swine - random samples of DNA/retinal images will be collected during check-in. First and second place animals in each market beef, market meat goat and market sheep class will have retinal images taken. In the case of market swine, DNA samples will be collected on all division and reserve division champions. In addition, all re-tagged animals are subject to have DNA/retinal images collected. Any discrepancies in the comparisons will result in immediate disqualification, forfeiture of all awards, prizes and premiums, barring of the entire family for a period of time to be determined by the Iowa State Fair Board and submission to the Rule Infraction Database.
 - C. TAMPERING AND/OR MISREPRESENTATION as to breeding, age, ownership and any other irregularity in showing will be considered fraud and deception.
 - D. To maintain a high degree of confidence and integrity in the livestock shows, the Iowa State Fair Board reserves the right to disqualify any animal fitted in an unethical manner and disqualify the exhibitor and the exhibitor's assistants who fitted the animal involved.

- E. Unethical fitting shall include any cutting or tearing of the hide, cutting or tearing underneath the hide or removal of tissue in any attempt to alter the shape or appearance. It shall also include attempts to disrupt or change normal dental development: dyeing or coloring hair; adding artificial tailheads, switches, polls, hair and heels; as well as any attempt to change the conformation and degree of firmness by administration of fluids internally or externally in a liquid or solid state. Transparent grooming materials only may be used.
 - F. Any artificial means of removing or remedying physical defects or conformation in exhibition animals (i.e. lifting or filling under the skin) will be considered fraud and deception. No unnatural means of providing an animal feed, water or other fluids (i.e. stomach pump, IV) will be allowed. All exhibitors whose animals give evidence of such treatment will be barred indefinitely from exhibiting at the Iowa State Fair. All exhibitors, their immediate family and any other parties involved in the unethical fitting and showing of an animal will be barred from exhibiting or showing at the Iowa State Fair and will forfeit all premiums, prize monies and awards won in any division.
 - G. CARCASS CONDEMNATION at the packing plant due to unethical or illegal practices shall be grounds for disqualification in the on foot and carcass division of the show. Additionally, all premiums and sale money shall be forfeited and the loss of the animal be incurred by the exhibitor.
16. No drugs or medications or medical treatment of any kind may be administered except by the Official State Fair Veterinarian once an animal arrives on the Iowa State Fairgrounds. All animals are subject to a random drug test. All animals will be subject to chemical testing and analysis of saliva, urine, blood, other excretions or tissues to determine whether a substance or drug has been induced or whether a substance or drug has been introduced to interfere with the testing procedure. Positive tests will result in immediate disqualification of the animal, forfeiture of ribbons, trophies, premiums and sale prices. The exhibitor of that animal and the exhibitor's family may be barred from participation in future Iowa State Fairs. A re-test may be done at the exhibitor's expense. Information on this re-test policy is on file in the State Fair Manager's Office. Again this year, random drug testing will be conducted.

THE USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS AND THE PRESENCE OF DRUG RESIDUE IS PROHIBITED. Exhibitors may not use stimulants of food or beverage products that may contain stimulants such as caffeine.

- A. **Drug Testing Procedures** - Under the supervision of the Official State Fair Veterinarian, urine, blood, and other specimens shall be taken and tested from any animal. The samples shall be collected by the Official State Fair Veterinarian or other person designated by the Official State Fair Veterinarian. Each sample shall be marked or numbered and bear information essential to its proper analysis. The container of each sample shall be sealed as soon as the sample is placed therein.

During the taking of the sample from an animal, the exhibitor, owner or representative of the owner or exhibitor may be present and witness the taking of the sample and so signify in writing by signing the bottom of the bar code form in the appropriate location. Failure to be present and witness the collection of samples constitutes a waiver by the owner, exhibitor or representative of any objections to the source, documentation and chain of custody for the sample.

Until transported to the laboratory for analysis, samples shall be kept in a secure facility at the Iowa State Fairgrounds under the supervision of the State Fair Veterinarian. No unauthorized person shall be admitted at any time to this location.

The urine or blood sample secured by the Official State Fair Veterinarian or designee shall be split into two parts. Both portions shall be stored and shipped at the same range of temperatures and kept and transported in similar fashion. Urine will not be split if less than 40 ml are obtained. In this instance, a plasma or serum sample shall be taken. Plasma or serum samples shall initially be taken in a quantity to insure that ample portions are obtained, using two 8.5 - 10 ml blood tubes for the primary sample with one additional blood tube for split testing.

All bodily fluid samples taken under direction of the Official State Fair Veterinarian shall be delivered to the designated laboratory. The laboratory shall conduct individual tests on each sample, screening them for prohibited substances, and conducting other tests to detect and identify any prohibited substance or metabolic derivative thereof with specificity. The laboratory shall submit to the Fair a written report as to each sample tested indicating by sample tag identification number whether the sample was tested negative or positive for prohibited substances. In the event the laboratory finds a sample suspicious for a prohibited substance the test shall be confirmed on a second portion of the original sample, and the remaining portion, if available, of the sample shall be preserved and protected for two years.

A positive test means a test result that confirms the presence of drugs or drug metabolites at a level which equals or is greater than the lowest calibration standard for that substance. An amount below the lowest calibration standard is considered a non detectable amount. In reporting to the Fair a finding of a test positive for a prohibited substance, the laboratory shall present documentary evidence acceptable in the scientific community and admissible in court in support of the professional opinion as to the positive testing.

- 17. Each exhibitor with market animals, beef, meat goats, sheep and swine, along with horse exhibitors will complete an Iowa 4-H Animal Care and Management Disclosure Statement. All drugs and medications administered to animals must meet the residue withdrawal period prior to exhibiting at the Iowa State Fair.
- 18. Any animal showing evidence of contagious diseases will be unable to be shown. Disqualified animals must be removed from the barn and Fairgrounds immediately. Any animal found to have external parasites, will be disqualified and exhibitor must remove it from the premises immediately.
- 19. Exhibitors are expected to care for their animals in an acceptable manner. Any abusive care including slapping or excessive modification of animal will be grounds for disqualification at the discretion of show officials.
- 20. Coaching from or near the ring is **STRONGLY** discouraged. This includes verbal or non-verbal coaching. If any individual becomes distracting or disruptive by their words or actions, they will be escorted from the barn/show area for the duration of the show. Please refer to the species-specific premium book sections for stricter requirements/limitations to the coaching of exhibitors.
- 21. Exhibitors will be required to keep their feed, hay, straw, equipment, etc., in the appropriate location(s) for each specific barn, based upon availability. The public alleyways must at all times be kept open and free from litter, equipment, feed, etc. Stalls, pens and alleyways must be cleaned and refuse deposited where instructed by the Superintendent no later than 8:00 a.m. each day. All kinds of feed may be purchased at reasonable rates from the Feed Barn on the Fairgrounds. The use of paper bedding will be prohibited in the barns. Anyone attempting to use paper bedding will be dismissed immediately from the grounds forfeiting any and all entry fees and charges.
- 22. 4-H PARTICIPATION T-SHIRTS - 4-H members participating in the 4-H Livestock Exhibit Department of the Iowa State Fair will be furnished a 4-H participation t-shirt. Each 4-H member will receive only one t-shirt. Members are expected to wear the appropriate t-shirt at the time of participation in the Fair. If the State Fair 4-H participation t-shirt becomes too soiled for wear, a regulation 4-H t-shirt or white blouse or shirt with a 4-H chevron should be worn. Additional t-shirts may be purchased from the 4-H Livestock Office in the 4-H Exhibit Building from 9-5 PM, if available.
- 23. 4-H HALL OF CHAMPIONS EXHIBIT - The following animals must remain in a special exhibit section for the entire State Fair period to be provided: Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market Steer; Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market Heifer; Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market Hog; Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb; Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Broiler (Special); Grand Champion Market Meat Goat.

Animals for the Hall of Champions must move promptly into the assigned area on instruction by show officials and must remain there. Any violation of these requirements can cause cancellation of premiums won. If a 4-H member's animal is chosen for the Hall of Champions Exhibit, it will be the responsibility of the 4-H member to care for that animal for the remainder of its stay at the Iowa State Fair.

24. The following champions must be sold in the Sale of Champions: Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market Steer; Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market Heifer; Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market Hog; Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb; Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Broiler (Special); Grand Champion Market Meat Goat.

Changes and additions may have been made to this list of Sale animals after this information has been posted to the Fair's website. If so, the information will be updated and notification will be sent to County Extension Offices and/or livestock exhibitors.

Champion exhibitors and their parent/guardian should attend the informational meeting prior to the Sale of Champions. This meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Saturday, August 22 and will be conducted in the Cattle Barn Penningroth Sale Ring.

Each animal sold in the Sale of Champions must be processed at a harvesting facility designated by the Iowa State Fair Authority. Weight for this sale will be weigh-in weight. If sold, the buyer must relinquish animal for carcass data. Various organs of the Grand and Reserve Grand Champion animals (excluding market broilers) will be collected at slaughter for tissue testing. There will be a percentage of the proceeds from the Sale of Champions deducted from the sale checks. These funds are retained by the Iowa Foundation for Agricultural Advancement for scholarships, awards and promotion of programs.

25. Necessary changes announced at the show by officials will supersede information in this Premium Book.
26. **Each cattle, goat, horse, sheep and swine exhibitor will receive one unload permit. This permit allows a maximum of 30 minutes to unload animals and tack but does not provide parking.**
27. The Exhibitor's Barbeque will be held Wednesday, August 12 at 5:00 p.m. east of the Livestock Pavilion in the picnic shelter. This annual event is sponsored by **KENT® Nutrition**, Muscatine.