



2025 Lancaster County 4-H & FFA Livestock Checklist

DEADLINES & EVENTS

- ☐ **March 3, 6–7 p.m.** — Market beef weigh-in at Sandhills Global Event Center – EquineMarket Pavilion, 84th & Havelock, Lincoln.
- ☐ **May 5, 6–7 p.m.** — Sheep and goat weigh-in & tag day at Sandhills Global Event Center – Currency Pavilion, 84th & Havelock.
- ☐ **May 22 & June 5, 6–7 p.m.** — Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Face-to-Face Training for Livestock Animals at Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County conference rooms, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A, Lincoln.
- ☐ **June 15** — No late entries accepted (note: last day to receive assistance from 4-H staff is Friday, June 13)
 - 4-H enrollment due online at <https://4honline.com>.
 - Youth for Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training must be completed, and certificates due to the Extension office or emailed to lanaster4H@unl.edu.
 - Super Fair identification certificates/affidavits for beef, bucket calves, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats and rabbits are due to Extension office or emailed to lanaster4H@unl.edu.
 - State Fair breeding and market livestock nominations must be entered and paid at <https://showstockmgr.com> (step-by-step instructions are online at <https://go.unl.edu/lcsf-animal-entries>). DNA envelopes due to Extension office for State Fair.
- ☐ **June 18–July 1** — Animal entries and stall/pen reservations for the Lancaster County Super Fair must be submitted online at <https://go.unl.edu/lcsf-animal-entries> between June 18 and July 1, 11:59 p.m. No late entries accepted.
- ☐ **August 10 by 8 p.m.** — State Fair animal entries due online at <https://nebr.fairwire.com>. Select whether showing in 4-H or FFA.

ID REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPER FAIR

Pick up tags and ID forms from the Extension office M–F, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (forms are also at <https://lanaster.unl.edu/4h/fair/animals>). You can email lanaster4H@unl.edu or call 402-441-7180 to request tags be placed in the drop-off box for pick up after-hours. Mail ID forms by June 15 to Lancaster County Extension, 444 Cherrycreek Rd., Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528; email to lanaster4H@unl.edu or drop off at Extension (after hours, use drop-off box).

MARKET BEEF, FEEDER CALVES

- ☐ Tagged with a 4-H ear tag*
- ☐ Submit Market ID Certificate (market beef)
- ☐ Submit Breeding ID Certificate (feeder calf)

BREEDING BEEF

- ☐ Breeding beef tattoo is their ID number*
- ☐ Submit Breeding ID Certificate

*FFA members can use an EID tag for breeding beef and feeder calves.

BUCKET CALVES (requires a record book)

- ☐ Tagged with a 4-H ear tag
- ☐ Submit Bucket Calf Ownership Affidavit

SHEEP, MEAT GOATS

- ☐ Tagged with a USDA scrapie tag (for more info, call 1-866-USDA-TAG)
- ☐ Submit Market or Breeding ID Certificate

SWINE

- ☐ Tagged with a 4-H ear tag
- ☐ Submit Market or Breeding ID Certificate

DAIRY CATTLE, DAIRY GOATS & PYGMY GOATS

- ☐ Submit Dairy Cattle or Dairy Goat ID Affidavit

RABBITS

- ☐ All rabbits must have a permanent, **legible ID (tattoo)** in the left ear.
- ☐ Submit Rabbit Ownership Affidavit (ID form)

ID REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE FAIR

Each livestock project must have a DNA envelope submitted and a \$7 nomination fee paid on Show Stock Manager (<https://showstockmgr.com>) by June 15. This includes feeder calves, and all market and breeding livestock for ALL SPECIES (excluding rabbits and poultry).

Pick up tags and DNA envelopes from the Extension office M–F, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. You can email lanaster4H@unl.edu or call 402-441-7180 to request tags and/or DNA envelopes be placed in the drop-off box for pick up after-hours. Submit completed DNA envelopes by June 15 to the Extension office (after hours, use the drop-off box — place in the locked, silver mailbox within).

MARKET & BREEDING: BEEF, FEEDER CALVES, SHEEP, SWINE, MEAT GOATS

- ☐ Obtain a Premises ID from NE Dept. of Ag and submit it to the Extension office.
- ☐ All market beef, feeder calves, breeding and market swine must be tagged with an official 840 USDA EID tag.
- ☐ Registered breeding heifers MUST have legible tattoo OR identification type that is accepted by the breed association that matches online nomination. Commercial heifers may have a legible tattoo OR an EID tag that matches online nomination.
- ☐ All breeding and market sheep and meat goats must be tagged with a USDA official scrapie ID. For more info on obtaining USDA official scrapie ID, call 1-866-USDA-TAG.
- ☐ DNA envelopes with hair samples for all livestock nominations (breeding, market and feeder calves) submitted to Extension office by June 15.
- ☐ All livestock nomination(s) must be entered and paid at <https://showstockmgr.com> by June 15. More information and step-by-step instructions are at <https://4h.unl.edu/state-fair-livestock-id>. \$7 per head for all livestock nominations.

DAIRY CATTLE

- ☐ Paper ID affidavit is no longer required, but the same information will need entered in ShoWorks.

RABBITS

- ☐ Nebraska State Fair does not require a separate ID form, however, tattoo must be listed during the online entry process.

DNA envelopes from 2024 and 2025 are valid. Older envelopes are NO LONGER VALID.

4-H & FFA Animal Requirements for Super Fair and State Fair

Animal identification requirements

- All livestock and rabbit identifications — as well as **DNA envelopes** — are due by **JUNE 15**. See **Livestock Checklist on previous page**.
- Horse identifications are due **JUNE 1** for the Lancaster County Super Fair.
- 4-H poultry, dogs, cats and household pets do not require identification forms.

Premises ID requirement for market animals

All 4-H & FFA market animals carrying an EID tag are required to have a Premises ID (this includes any that may show at only the county level). Note: Market rabbits do not need a Premises ID. In order to show at the Nebraska State Fair, a Premises ID must be on file for a market animal exhibitor.

A Premises ID number can be obtained through the Nebraska Department of Agriculture by calling 402-471-2351 or 1-800-572-2437. Only one Premises ID is necessary for a family with multiple exhibitors (provided livestock are housed at the same location). Only one Premises ID is necessary for an exhibitor that shows multiple species (provided livestock are housed at the same location). The Premises ID number should correlate to the location in which livestock are kept/housed permanently. For more information, go to <https://nda.nebraska.gov/ad/premises.html>.

The Premises ID number must be recorded on all livestock identifications.

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals requirements for 4-H & FFA members exhibiting **ANY livestock project** at the Lancaster County Super Fair and/or Nebraska State Fair

4-H & FFA youth enrolled in any of the following animal projects will need to complete Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training:

- Beef (bucket calf, feeder calf, breeding beef, market beef)
- Dairy cattle
- Goat (breeding meat goat, market meat goat, bottle meat goat, dairy/pygmy goat)
- Poultry
- Rabbit
- Sheep (breeding sheep, market sheep)
- Swine (breeding swine, market swine)

Youth must be currently enrolled in 4-H Online at <https://4honline.com>. Only parents/guardians may enroll 4-H members. In Lancaster County, youth may choose one of two options to complete their YQCA requirements:

- Complete online training at <https://yqcaprogram.org>. Cost is \$12. For directions and more information, visit <https://4h.unl.edu/yqca>.
- Attend an in-person training held Thursday, May 22 or Thursday, June 5, 6–7 p.m. at the Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County conference rooms, 444 Cherrycreek Rd., Suite A, Lincoln. To sign up for in-person trainings, you must go to <https://yqcaprogram.org> before the training. The training will cost \$3, payable by credit or debit card on the website. We cannot take payments in person; all families must register and pay online. You must sign in as proof of attendance — certificates will be available online. **Note: You will need to take a 5-question pre-test at <https://yqcaprogram.org> before attending.**

Deadline to complete YQCA and submit certificates of completion is **JUNE 15**. Send completed certificates to lancaster4H@unl.edu or Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County, 444 Cherrycreek Rd., Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68528. If certificates are not submitted, 4-H staff have no way of knowing if trainings have been completed.

If you have further questions, contact the Extension office at 402-441-7180 or lancaster4H@unl.edu.

Aksarben Stock Show

The Aksarben Stock Show is a junior livestock show format. Youth from 9–19 years of age are eligible for the competition with no prerequisite of youth organization affiliation. The Aksarben Stock Show will be held Sept. 25–28, 2025 in Grand Island. **Youth must submit nominations online in addition to State Fair nomination.** The Aksarben Stock Show online nomination system will be different than Show Stock Manager. Link will be at <https://aksarbenstockshow.com>. Nomination deadline is July 1, 5 p.m. Entry window will be Aug. 1–Sept. 5. For more information, go to <https://aksarbenstockshow.com> or contact the show office at info@showaksarben.com or 308-382-1620.

SUPER FAIR

General rules for animals at the Lancaster County Super Fair are listed in the Fair Book, pages 53–55. Animal-specific rules are listed by breeds in the Fair Book, pages 56–77. Following are more rules and/or information.

Beef Cow-calf pairs

- See livestock animal identification and Youth for the Quality Care of Animals requirements for all beef.
- Cows must be a past 4-H project.
- Must be tattooed and identified on “Breeding ID Certificate” by June 15.
- Calves shown only as a cow-calf pair need to be placed on the same card as the cow.

Horse

- Horse exhibitors **MUST BE ACTIVELY ENROLLED IN THE 4-H HORSE PROJECT.**
- Each horse shown at county fair and state horse shows must be identified on a “4-H Horse Identification Certificate.” Sketch markings showing both sides and face on the form are preferred instead of photos. Horse ID form is available at the Extension office as a carbon copy form. If you use the online form, make a copy for yourself before sending it to the Extension office. Deadline is June 1 for the Super Fair and State Expo.
- Horse exhibitors must pass Horsemanship Advancement Levels for many classes at county fair and state horse shows. For Super Fair level requirements, see Fair Book class descriptions. Deadline is June 1 for the State Expo, and July 1 for the Super Fair. For more information about group testings, see the 4-H enews, NEBLINE or contact Kate Pulec at kpulec3@unl.edu or 402-441-7180.
- Horse ID certificates and Horsemanship Level requirements are due to the Extension office, lancaster4H@unl.edu or kpulec3@unl.edu.
- For the Fonner Park State 4-H Horse Expo, youth must be ages 8–18 (by Jan. 1 of the current year). For more information and link for online entries, go to <https://4h.unl.edu/horse-expo>. Entry deadline is June 1 by 5 p.m.
- For the Super Fair, health certificates are not required, but if a horse exhibits symptoms, exhibitor will be asked to remove horse from the fairgrounds.
- For the State Expo, horses must follow all health requirements (including 14-day health certificate and proof of a negative Coggins test).

Rabbits

- ALL rabbit exhibitors must complete Youth for the Quality Care of Animals training.
- Rabbits being shown at the Lancaster County Super Fair must be identified on the “Nebraska 4-H Rabbit Ownership Affidavit” form by June 15. Nebraska State Fair does not require a separate ID form, however, tattoo numbers must be listed during the online entry process.
- Rabbits must have permanent, **legible ID (tattoo)** in left ear before coming to the Lancaster County Super Fair.
No tattooing allowed on fairgrounds. The tattoo must be entered during the animal online entry process (due by July 1) and on the completed comment card that is handed in at fair check-in. The tattoo will be verified with online entries and completed comment card at the time of fair check-in.

Poultry

- Poultry do not require an identification form.
- Poultry exhibitors must complete Youth for the Quality Care of Animals training.
- Any bird with visible signs of disease or parasitism will be removed from the exhibition area and rendered ineligible to show.

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Super Fair animal entries must be submitted online

All 4-H & FFA animal entries for the Lancaster County Super Fair must be entered online in ShoWorks at <https://go.unl.edu/lcsf-animal-entries> (this includes stall/pen requests and livestock/poultry exhibitor T-shirt sizes). 4-H families and youth may submit entries. Youth must be enrolled at 4-H Online at <https://4honline.com> by June 15.

Animal entries **may be submitted online starting on Wednesday, June 18. Deadline is Tuesday, July 1, 11:59 p.m.** No late entries will be accepted! A handout, “Online Animal Entry Instructions” with step-by-step instructions and screenshots is at <https://go.unl.edu/lcsf-animal-entry-instructions>. If you have questions about the process, call 402-441-7180 or email lancaster4H@unl.edu.

STALL/PEN RESERVATIONS: For beef, bucket calves, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, meat goats, dairy & pygmy goats and horse entries, you must submit stall/pen requests during the online entry process or you will be assigned stalls/pens (requests are subject to space and availability). During online entry, look for ‘_Stalls and Pens_’ as the first option under division (species). Please submit 1 ‘_Stalls and Pens_’ item per animal species. Rabbits, poultry and cats are assigned cages based on entry numbers.

LIVESTOCK/POULTRY EXHIBITOR T-SHIRT SIZES: Livestock and poultry exhibitors will each receive a free T-shirt at Super Fair courtesy of sponsors. During animal entry online, T-shirt sizes will be required for livestock and poultry exhibitors prior to check out. T-shirts will be available for pickup during the Lancaster County Super Fair at the livestock office.

BEDDING FEE: Exhibitors who enter the following species will be charged a bedding fee:

- Beef and dairy cattle — \$12 per head.
- Bucket calves — \$9 per head.

Fill out the form at <https://go.unl.edu/lcsf-livestock>. Print and submit with payment (cash or check) to the Extension office by Monday, July 7.

HORSE ROPING/WORKING RANCH SHOW LIVESTOCK FEE: Several Roping/Working Ranch classes require a livestock fee of \$15 per class. The Horse Roping/Working Ranch Show Livestock Fee Worksheet is available at <https://go.unl.edu/lcsf-horse>. Submit with payment (cash or check) to the Extension office by Monday, July 7.

TIPS:

- For rabbits, notice there are 4 rabbit divisions. If you can’t find the class you are looking for, try the other rabbit divisions. If you plan to enter 15 rabbits, you will need to submit 15 entries.
- If you plan to enter 12 horse classes, you will need to submit 12 entries plus 1 for stalls and pens.

Note: Do not use feedback through ShoWorks for comments or questions about entries — feedback is not seen by Extension staff until AFTER the Super Fair.

LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H & FFA PURPLE RIBBON MARKET LIVESTOCK PREMIUM AUCTION

Sale committee: Julia Plugge, Scott Heinrich, Ben Walbrecht, Tom Mueller and Mike Lockee

Ag Society Board Members: John Cooper, Ron Dowding and Kendra Ronnau

**Auction: Saturday, Aug. 2, 6 p.m.
(Currency Pavilion – Arena, West Side)**

4-H & FFA Market entries in Beef, Sheep, Meat Goat and Swine are eligible for the auction. Exhibitors will sell the premium only. Ownership does not change hands as the exhibitor will retain ownership of the animal for future shows, i.e. State Fair. Exhibitors will sell one unit in the auction. A unit is described as:

- 1 Market Beef (steer or heifer)
- 1 Sheep or Pen of Three
- 1 Meat Goat or Pen of Three
- 1 Swine or Pen of Three

In the event of an exhibitor having one or more qualifying exhibit, the exhibitor can elect to combine the units into one sellable lot/unit (example: champion swine and champion sheep).

Auction is dependent on donations and buyers; help is needed to secure funding. For more information, email Auction Committee Chair Julia Plugge at Julia.Plugge@gmail.com or 402-450-0706.

Eligible units are defined as follows:

Beef:

- Champion and Reserve Champion Market Steers
 - Champion and Reserve Champion Market Heifers
 - Champion and Reserve Champion Market Animals
 - Champion and Reserve Champion Lancaster Co. Born & Raised
 - Champion and Reserve Champion Second-Year Bucket Calves*
 - Purple ribbon placings are eligible to sell beyond the champions.
- *(stated as a market animal in record book)

Sheep:

- Champion and Reserve Champion Market Sheep
- Champion and Reserve Champion Division
- Champion and Reserve Champion Lancaster Co. Born & Raised
- Champion and Reserve Champion Pen of Three ^{NEW!}
- Purple ribbon placings are eligible to sell beyond the champions.

Swine:

- Champion and Reserve Champion Market Swine
 - Champion and Reserve Champion Heavy Weight Division
 - Champion and Reserve Champion Middle Weight Division
 - Champion and Reserve Champion Light Weight Division
 - Champion and Reserve Champion Pen of Three ^{NEW!}
 - Purple ribbon placings are eligible to sell beyond the champions.
 - Only Pick A Pig champion and reserve are eligible for the auction.
- Pick A Pig participants can elect to show in the regular show and receive a purple to be eligible for the auction.

Meat Goat:

- Champion and Reserve Champion Meat Goat
- Champion and Reserve Champion Lancaster Co. Born & Raised
- Champion and Reserve Champion Pen of Three
- Purple ribbon placings are eligible to sell beyond the champions.

Auction order is as follows for 2025: Beef, Sheep, Swine, Meat Goat. Future auctions will be in rotation of this order — 2026: Sheep, Swine, Meat Goat, Beef; 2027: Swine, Meat Goat, Beef, Sheep. The grand and reserve overall champions (beef, sheep, swine and meat goat) will sell first. Each species will sell all the remaining units in that species after the 6 champions are sold.

Grand Champion and Reserve Beef, Sheep, Swine and Meat Goat; as well as Champion Second-Year Bucket Calf Exhibitors will be invited to display their animal in the "purple row" near the auction arena 30 minutes prior to the auction. Auction supporters, including potential buyers, will be invited to visit with the 4-H & FFA youth and their projects.

To receive auction premiums, youth must submit a thank you to the premium sponsor of their project by Nov. 30. After Nov. 30, all money will be forfeit and returned to the Livestock Auction account. Instructions will be mailed to premium auction participants at the conclusion of the current year's fair.

Dogs

- Dogs do not require an identification form.
- Exhibitor may submit proof of immunizations (rabies, DHL and Parvo) to the Extension office prior to fair OR bring day of the show. Dogs will NOT be eligible to compete if proof is not provided.

Cats

- Cats do not require an identification form.
- See Fair Book page 65 for health requirements.
- Cats will have a health and immunization record check at the Lancaster County Super Fair. If a cat does not pass, it will be disqualified. All decisions at check-in are final.

Household pets

- Household pets do not require an identification form.
- All ferrets must have a copy of proof of rabies vaccination.

BAGGED SHAVINGS

All exhibitors must use shavings provided by the Sandhills Global Event Center (SGEC). Absolutely no outside shavings or straw is allowed since SGEC composts. Note: all stalls are disinfected with Nixall between each rental year-round.

Special discounted 4-H & FFA price of \$9 per bag (with sales tax included) will be honored for 4-H & FFA animal shows from Tuesday, July 29 through Saturday, Aug. 2 with self-pickup at the General Store in EquineMarket Pavilion.

4-H & FFA exhibitors may pay and pick up their shavings at the General Store on east end of EquineMarket Pavilion during these hours:

- Tuesday, July 29, 4–8 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 30, 7 a.m.–9 p.m.
- Thursday, July 31, 7 a.m.–9 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 1, 7 a.m.–3 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 2, 7 a.m.–1 p.m.

If you need shavings outside of these hours, please call SGEC office at 402-441-6545 or stop by (it is in front of Ag Society Hall on northwest corner of facility) daily 8 a.m.–10 p.m. with any form of valid payment accepted.

PREORDER SHAVINGS! Save time and prepay for shavings online to pick up at the General Store in EquineMarket Pavilion. On arrival, just check in quickly with cashier to sign for your shavings. Preorder at <https://bit.ly/3Kahqrr> no later than Monday, July 28, 4 p.m.



STATE FAIR

The Nebraska State Fair will be held Aug. 22–Sept. 1 at the State Fair Grounds (Fonner Park) in Grand Island.

To participate in the 4-H section of the State Fair, youth must be enrolled in 4-H by June 15 of the current year. 4-H members ages 8–18 (by Jan. 1 of the current year) are eligible to participate.

4-H & FFA livestock, rabbit and dog exhibitors are eligible to participate at the State Fair regardless of county placing. Animal entries are due online at <https://nebr.fairwire.com> and Youth Dairy Cattle entries are due online via the Nebraska State Fair Open Class entry site. Select whether showing in 4-H or FFA. Deadline is Aug. 10 by 8 p.m.

For more information about entering 4-H & FFA exhibits in the Nebraska State Fair, visit <https://4h.unl.edu/state-fair>.