



TO: Dairy Project Members & Project Leaders
FROM: Stephanie Gay, 4-H Youth Development Educator
DATE: April 2026

It's that time of year...time to enroll your dairy animals for the county fair. This email has important information about enrolling animals. Make sure to read it all the way through.

All dairy animals must be permanently and individually identified by an acceptable method (BOAH). Official ear tags are tags approved by the USDA. Official ear tags must bear the US shield to be considered official identification.

Three different forms of USDA-approved identification are recognized by BOAH:

- 840 tags may or may not be RFID (radio frequency identification), 15 digits, beginning with 840
- NUES (brite) tags, steel or plastic
- Official USDA program tags, such as orange calfhood vaccination tags

If you are going to the INDIANA STATE FAIR then your ONLY option is to put in an 840 RFID Tag. The other options listed above will make you ineligible for 4-H show at the State Fair. 840 RFID tags can be purchased for \$3.00 each using the Tag Order Form attached and on the Dairy Project page of the Extension Website. This form is due by May 8th to the Extension Office and tags can be picked up when you drop your form and money off.

Dairy animals must be enrolled online through 4HOnline by May 15th at 11:59pm. Make sure to double check your information. Missing information can result in county and/or State Fair Disqualification.

DNA SAMPLES FOR STATE FAIR DAIRY ANIMALS

If you are planning to exhibit at the Indiana State Fair DNA samples of each animal you plan to bring will need to be **turned into the Extension Office by May 15th**. DNA collection has been used for several years at the ISF for swine, cattle, sheep and meat goats were added. The DNA sample is a backup if there is any issue with identification once you get to the ISF. I have personally seen this be a great thing in the Cattle Barn. We have been able to allow youth to show their animals even with a minor tag issue and just pull a hair sample that later confirms that animal is the one that was originally enrolled in 4HOnline. Tags do fall out, numbers get flipped or left off and the DNA sample is a way to assist in making sure that after you have put in all that work to get to the State Fair that you can actually show. Here are the step-by-step instructions on how to pull a DNA sample: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8q05B0vskzA>

You will order DNA envelopes on the same form for RFID Tags. Again, this form is attached and on the Dairy project page. It needs to be turned in by May 8th and we will fill those orders for you on the spot.

Dairy Leasing Program

Members leasing animals must turn in a completed lease agreement this can be done by uploading through 4HOnline when you enroll the animal or by bringing it into the Extension Office by May 15th. This form can be found on the Dairy Project webpage of the Purdue Extension

<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/boone/4-H-Youth-Development/dairy-lease-agreement.pdf>

If you will be exhibiting a leased dairy animal at the Indiana State Fair, then you will also need to complete the State 4-H Lease Agreement and upload it to 4HOnline by May 15th.

<https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/docs/projects/animal-lease-agreement.pdf>

Livestock Location Approval Form

If any of your livestock are not housed on your family's residence you **must complete a Livestock Location Approval Form. This can be done online at: <https://forms.gle/JEaL7uan8Rd8aPD36> by May 15th.** This paperwork will be reviewed and kept on file at the Extension Office. See General Livestock Rule #1 of the 4-H Handbook for specific details. This form can be found on each of the livestock project pages.

Entering Animals in 4HOnline

Livestock will be entered through 4HOnline. You will go to <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in> and login to the account you created when you enrolled in 4-H. **You will have until 11:59pm on May 15th to enroll the animals online. After that you will not be able to enter animals and you will not be able to show at the county and/or state fair.**

Don't have access to the computer or internet or just not that tech savvy? That is fine. The Purdue Extension Office is here to help you! Stop in the Extension Office during office hours (8am-4pm) Monday- Friday and use the computers we have just for enrolling animals.

If you plan to show at the Indiana State Fair you will still need to go through the State Fair registration process on their website as in years past. For more information on registering for the 4-H livestock shows at the Indiana State Fair go to <https://www.indianastatefair.com/>.

The first step to enrolling 4-H Livestock, DON'T WAIT TILL THE LAST MINUTE TO ENROLL ANIMALS. If you have problems with the online process at the last minute you might be out of luck and I can't help you after the deadline. Work on this as soon as you can. You can go in as many times as you like to add/delete animals prior to May 15th. If you see that the animal is enrolled on the screen that means I can see that the animal is on the screen.

Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care

To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, poultry and rabbits at the county fair and Indiana State Fair, 4-H members must be certified through the Indiana 4-H Livestock Quality Care training or the online Youth for the Quality Care of Animals program. Quality Assurance training must be completed by 4-H members annually.

The program is offered here at the Boone County Fairgrounds. There is a \$3.00 fee, which you pay at the door with either cash or check (made out to Purdue University). We are not able to accept card payments for this training.

You will need to pre-register at <https://2026BooneQLC.4honline.com>. Youth may also register by using the "event" tab on their 4-HOnline account. There are 3 training dates available. Each 4-H'er only needs to attend ONE of the three trainings.

Dates offered (you only need to attend 1 session)

March 16th @ 6:30pm

April 14th @ 6:30pm

May 4th @ 6:30pm

***All trainings will take place at the Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds**

***Please note- these trainings do not apply to Mini 4-H members (grades K-2)**

If you are unable to make the in-person trainings, you may also complete the online training through YQCA at www.yqcaprogram.org. The cost for this option is \$12. **If you choose to complete this training, you MUST email a copy of your certificate by June 15th. Please send the certificate to bvickery@purdue.edu.**

**Other important information you need to know
when it comes to enrolling livestock:**

Co-enrolling Animals: Animals may be co-enrolled within the same family (siblings and step-siblings). The animals may be listed under a single 4-H member or you may enroll each animal under each child. Either way the animals will be considered “co-enrolled” among the siblings in the family. At least 1 animal needs to be identified by each member enrolled in the project. Then at the fair each child will designate who will be showing each animal.

Ownership and Registration Requirements: 4-H animals must be registered in one of the following ownership methods:

- a. In the 4-H members’ name;
- b. John Smith and Sons;
- c. John Smith, Sons and Daughters;
- d. John Smith and Family (family includes sons, daughters, and legal guardian youth only);
- e. Mark Smith (brother) and Mary Smith (sister);
- f. Family corporations, where the 4-H members’ name appears as a holder of stock in the corporation, and proof of same must be supplied on or before the enrollment date;
- g. Family partnership where the 4-H members father, mother, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent, and/or legal guardian is also in the family partnership and the 4-H member's name appears on the legal, notarized partnership. A copy of the written document must be attached to the enrollment form before the enrollment deadline.

Premise ID (Premises Identification): Every property owner housing beef, boer goats, dairy cattle, dairy goats, meat goat wethers, pygmy goats, sheep, and swine should have a premise identification number for that property. The purpose is to be able to quickly notify livestock owners of a contagious disease outbreak in their vicinity, should that ever occur. Please contact the Indiana Board of Animal Health for more information and to obtain your premise ID number if you do not have one. The phone number for IBOAH is 317-544-2381. This process takes about 5 minutes over the phone.

Livestock Health Papers (CVD): The Boone County 4-H Fair Board will NOT be requiring exhibitors to present a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection when checking in their animals at the 4-H Fair. All animals will be inspected for contagious diseases, ringworm, fungus, etc prior to being allowed to unload from the trailer, as has been past practice.