



Beef

Description:

The 4-H Beef program provides youth with educational information and experiences about different beef species.

Decatur County Expectations

One (1) or more animals fed and cared for by member by May 15th. Steers, market heifers, and crossbred heifers must be fed and cared for by Weigh-In/Tag Day in January. Beef animal livestock forms should be completed and returned at Beef check-in.

State Fair Entries

An animal does not need to be shown locally in order to be shown at the state fair. If you do not show at the county level, the animal must still be registered by May 15th in 4-H Online. Steers, market heifers, and crossbred heifers must be fed/cared for and in possession by Weigh-In/Tag Day in January.

Exhibit Guidelines

Tag and Tattoo Requirements: All steers, market heifers, commercial heifers, breeding heifers, cow-calf pairs and starter calves must be 840-RFID tagged. The 840-RFID tags may be obtained from the Extension Office, at weigh-in, or purchased from a vet supply company. The 5-digit county tag must be obtained at Beef weigh-in for steers, market heifers, commercial heifers. The 5-digit county tag must be obtained from the extension office for cow/calf and starter calves. Only 840-RFID tag or 5-digit county tags will be permitted, all other ear tags will be removed. Animals must wear a halter during the January weigh-in/tag day. The tagging information must be accurately listed in the 4-H Online System. It might be helpful to take a photo of the tag before placing it in the animal's ear or to write down so that you have a record of it.

Registered animals must have legible tattoos that correspond to their papers. Check to make sure that the correct tattoo is in the animal's ear prior to fair and that it is clearly legible. Registration papers must be brought to the county exhibition in order for the animal to show in a breed class. Any animal not officially enrolled by May 15th is not eligible to show at the county or state exhibition.

Hard Copy Paper Requirements: Paperwork and registration papers (if applicable) for steers, market heifers, and commercial heifers, breeding heifers, cow/calf pairs, and starter calves are due no later than May 15th. The following forms may be downloaded from the Decatur County Extension website, or picked up from the Decatur County Extension Office and are due by May 15th: County Bred and Owned Animals, Cow/Calf Pairs, and Starter Calves.

General Beef Rules: Participating 4-H members may enroll a maximum of ten (10) steers, ten (10) market heifers, ten (10) breeding heifers, six (6) dairy steers, six (6) starter calves, and four (4)

cow/calf pairs. No more than two (2) animals per exhibitor may be entered into any one class. Follow the General Livestock Requirements for care, ownership deadlines, and Indiana 4-H Online entry dates. For information on YQCA or Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care or grooming rules, please refer to the general livestock rules listed on the website. Additional questions and situations will be handled by the Beef Project Leaders, 4-H & Youth Development Extension Educator and the 4-H Council President.

Placing Expectations: In the event a participating 4-H member does not wish to compete for Reserve Grand Champion, their animal may be removed immediately following the selection of the Grand Champion. The Reserve to that animal that is being removed will take that animal's place. If a member has more than one (1) animal in a class or cannot exhibit their animal in a class, another participating Decatur County 4-H member may exhibit for the member.

Grounds Fee/Stalling: Members must complete the Grounds fee form and return it to the Decatur County Extension Office with payment by the specified date in order to reserve stalling space. Members must specify on the Grounds fee form if they want to be staled next to another member. Stalling requests are not guaranteed, but efforts will be made to honor requests.

Barn set-up will be announced by the Project Leader(s) prior to the start of the 4-H exhibition. Mulch will be provided. Fans will blow east to west, no exceptions. If you prefer your fans to blow on a specific side of your animal you must note it in your Grounds fee form. Fans cannot be larger than twenty-four (24) inches in diameter, butt fans will also not be allowed.

Tie Outs: Tie outs are optional, if requested, this must be marked on the exhibitor's Grounds fee form. Cattel will be permitted to go to tie outs at 8:00pm each night and must return to the barn by 8:00 am each morning. All tie out bedding must be provided and cleaned up, at the end of the fair, by the exhibitor. The safety of the exhibitor and their animal(s) going to and from tie outs is the exhibitor's responsibility. Please beware of your surroundings.

Arrival and Release: Animals will only be weighed once upon check-in for official weight. All animals must wear neck ties while at the fair. During check-in if any animal is deemed unfit by vet or 4-H leaders, it may be asked to transport animal off of the fairgrounds.

Any Beef animals that are not participating in the 4-H auction, will be released at the conclusion of the Tom Swain Memorial Showmanship Competition. Any special circumstances that may result in early release will be determined by the Project Leader(s) and the 4-H Youth Educator.

Breed Participation Policy/All Other Breeds (AOB): if there is a breed that is registered but not currently listed in the entry book, they will be eligible to exhibit in AOB. If a breed is a recognized breed, they will be exhibiting as that recognized breed. This included representing the breed in Grand or Supreme Drive, if applicable.

Exhibit Class Guidelines:

4-H Steer

Steers must be born on or after January 1, 2024.

4-H Market Steer Requirements

Purebred market steers will be shown by breed and weight. Purebred market steers must have registration papers from their breed association, along with a legible tattoo that matches both the registration and the 4-H Online enrollment. Registration papers must be presented at beef check-in to confirm the animal's ownership against their 4-H Online enrollment.

Purebred market steers that do not meet the standards stated above, can only show as a crossbred steer if their tattoos, 5-digit county tag, and 840-RFID tag match their 4-H animal enrollment at the county level. Purebred market steers will have the option of showing as a crossbred steer with legible tattoos, a 5-digit county tag, and an 840-RFID tag that matches their registration papers and their 4-H Online enrollment at the county level. This must be declared at Beef Check-in.

Crossbred market steers must have an 840-RFID tag, a 5-digit county tag, (if applicable) a legible tattoo that matches their registration paper, and 4-H animal enrollment at the county level. Crossbred market steers will be shown by weight only.

4-H Heifer Age Requirements

Heifers must be born on or after September 1, 2023

4-H Market Heifer Requirements

Market heifers will be shown by weight only. Market heifers must have an 840-RFID tag, a 5-digit county tag, (if applicable) a legible tattoo that matches their registration paper (must be provided at Beef Check-in), and 4-H animal enrollment at the county level.

4-H Breeding Heifer Requirements

Purebred breeding heifers will be shown by breed and age. Purebred breeding heifers must have registration papers from their breed association and a legible tattoo that matches both the registration paper and the 4-H Online enrollment. Registration papers must be present at Beef Check-in to confirm the animal's ownership against their 4-H Online enrollment.

Purebred breeding heifers that do not have registration papers will show as a commercial heifer, if their tattoos and 840-RFID tag match their 4-H animal enrollment at the county level. Purebred breeding heifers will have the option of showing as a commercial heifer with legible tattoos and an 840-RFID tag that matches their registration papers and their 4-H animal enrollment at the county level. This must be declared at Beef Check-in.

Crossbred breeding heifers must have an 840-RFID tag, a 5-digit county tag, and (if applicable) a legible tattoo that matches their registration paper and 4-H animal enrollment at the county level. Commercial breeding heifers will be shown by weight only.

4-H Cow/Calf Pair Requirements

Cow/calf pairs will be shown by the age of the cow. Cows can be of any age; calves must be born after January 1st and no later than May 15th of the current year. All cows and calves must have an 840-RFID tag. Registered cows and calves must have a legible tattoo that matches the animal's registration paper and 4-H animal enrollment at the county level. All cow/calf pairs must be nursing, no weaned pairs. All cow/calf pairs must check in during Beef Check-in.

Commercial cows and commercial/crossbred calves must have a 5-digit county tag that matches the animal's 4-H animal enrollment at the county level.

4-H Starter Calves Requirements

Starter calves will be shown by sex and weight. Calves must be born on or after January 1st and no later than May 15th of the current year. All calves must have an 840-RFID tag and be owned by May 15th. Registered calves must have a legible tattoo that matches the animal's registration paper and 4-H animal enrollment at the county level. All starter calves must check in during Beef Check-in.

Commercial/crossbred calves must have a 5-digit county tag that matches the animal's 4-H animal enrollment at the county level.

Decatur County Born & Raised Steer and Heifer Requirements

All market steers, market heifers, and breeding heifers are eligible to participate. Market steers, market heifers, and breeding heifers must be born in Decatur County and raised by a participating Decatur County 4-H member. There will be Decatur County Born and Raised Bred Champions selected for each breed that has a county born and raised representative. An overall Grand Champion and Reserve Champion Decatur County Born and Raised animal will be selected for market steers, market heifers, and breeding heifers.

Rate of Gain Requirements

Market steers and market heifers will be evaluated based on weight gained since the Beef Weigh-in date in January. A champion will be selected for each of the market steer breeds and for the market heifers. A Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Rate of Gain animal will be selected from the champions.

Showmanship

Showmanship will be shown at the conclusion of the beef show. Divisions are for the grade completed by the member. After winning a division, the member must decide to either advance to the next division then or advance the following year. Showmanship divisions are as follows:

Beginner: Grades 3-5

Intermediate: Grades 6-8

Senior: Grades 9-12

Expert: Previous winners of senior showmanship

Mini 4-H Requirements

To be eligible to show in any Mini 4-H animal show, the participating Mini 4-H member must be enrolled in 4-H Online by May 15th. Weight limit for any animal shown by a Mini 4-H member will not exceed 300 lbs. Minis can use a calf that has been entered in 4-H Online and is properly tagged. The calf used by a Mini 4-H member can be their own animal, a family member's animal, or a borrowed animal as long as the animal is entered on 4-H Online and tagged properly. If the Mini 4-H member's animal's weight exceeds 300 lbs., a parent or guardian must enter the show ring with the Mini 4-H member.

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