

BEEF & DAIRY STEER

PLEASE NOTE: Any changes/updates from the previous year will be *BOLDED and ITALICIZED*! Pay special attention to any projects with *BOLD, ITALICIZED WORDS* because they have changed from last year.

The educational 4-H Beef program and related activities (such as workshops and tours) provide youth with a fun and hands-on learning experience which develops both beef subject skills (such as nutrition, housing, and health care) and life skills (such as responsibility, decision-making, nurturing, and communications).

Completion, exhibition participation, and State Fair information for Beef and Dairy Steer			
Division/Level	Grades	Completion Activities Needed	Maximum State Fair Entries
Level 1	Grades 3-5	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	Check IN State Fair Website
Level 2	Grades 6-8	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	Check IN State Fair Website
Level 3	Grades 9-12	EXHIBITION –or– RECORD SHEET	Check IN State Fair Website

SUGGESTED REFERENCE MATERIALS (available for purchase in Extension Office or shop4-h.org)

- Level 1: Bite Into Beef
- Level 2: Here's the Beef
- Level 3: Leading the Charge

GUIDELINES

1. Refer to the Hendricks County 4-H Livestock and Animal Section for General Guidelines related to all livestock projects. See 4-H Policies, Entry & Exhibit Guidelines for poster and general display guidelines.
2. Be sure to enroll in the project on 4-HOnline and enter exhibit information into FairEntry by designated date.
2025 designated FairEntry Deadline is Tuesday, July 1st at 11:59 p.m.
3. Complete the Record Sheet (if not exhibiting at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair).
4. For 4-H Animal Ownership, Possession and Exhibition Guidelines relative to Hendricks County Fair Exhibition, see 4-H ANIMAL OWNERSHIP/POSSESSION AND EXHIBITION GENERAL TERMS SECTION. Tags will be done under the supervision of Hendricks County 4-H Beef director and/or designated representative.
5. 4-H exhibitors may enroll a maximum of ten (10) market steers, (10) commercial heifers, (10) registered heifers and (10) Beef/Dairy Feeder Calves.
6. A 4-H beef exhibitor may enter and show up to six (6) market steers and ten (10) breeding heifers. These animals may be of the same or different breeds. Entries are tracked by the online FairEntry system and must be entered by specified due date every year.
7. If wanting to exhibit a poster/display/notebook related to this species, 4-H members may do so under the "Animal Education" Project. (see page 24 for details)

The Indiana State Fair Board is requiring all Indiana Exhibitors to provide the Indiana State Board of Animal Health required Premises ID number on all entry forms for beef cattle. To obtain a Premise ID #, please contact the Indiana State Board of Animal Health at (317) 544-2381. Information can be found on the Indiana State Board of Animal Health website at <http://www.in.gov/boah/2328.htm>

4-H BEEF EXHIBITION: Terms and Conditions

1. Read official health terms and conditions, general terms and conditions and official ownership terms and conditions located in the front of the 4-H Handbook.
2. Dehorning of 4-H animals is required for safety. All beef cattle must be dehorned and healed and have no more than 3-inch scurs. Regrowth of horns may be subject to disqualification if greater than 3 inches. Freshly dehorned cattle will not be allowed to show.
3. All steers must be castrated prior to the Fair. Freshly castrated steers will not be allowed to show.
4. Animals MUST have a readable ear tattoo identical to the one recorded on their registration certificate. Only one (1) number sequence per ear will be permitted. At check-in, any animal which does not have a legible tattoo corresponding to its registration certificate is ineligible to show in breed classes. Once disqualified from breed classes due to an incorrect or illegible tattoo, animals cannot be re-tattooed and rechecked at the show. Likewise, new registration papers being sent by a breed association will not change the status of the disqualified animal.

5. All breeds recognized by a certified breed registry are required to provide registration papers for their animals at the recognized time at check-in.
6. A beef steer or heifer enrolled in a particular breed may be changed to the crossbred section before final entries are made at the County fair check-in as long as they met ID qualifications for that animal (i.e. enrolled animal in 4-HOnline). Animals that are disqualified for failing animal enrollment ID guidelines (e.g. RFID tag, registration numbers, tattoos, birthdates, etc.), will not be allowed to show. A beef steer or heifer enrolled as a commercial or crossbred animal will *not* be allowed to switch to a purebred classification after 4-HOnline ID Deadline.
7. Hendricks county born and raised must be declared on 4HOnline by designated ID date.
8. Only county issued, five (5) digit ear tags or fifteen (15) digit RFID tags will be permitted.
9. Classes will be offered per State Fair Breed guidelines.
10. For all other breeds, for a breed to have a separate class, there must be two (2) market animals and/or two (2) breeding animals in order to offer breed classes. Breeds that have fewer than two (2) market and/or breeding animals will show in an AOB class. The breed will have the option of showing the animals in crossbred/commercial classes, but breed must be declared at the time of check in. Please note, all commercial and market heifers **MUST** be tagged at county tagging date.
11. Class sizes will be determined at the discretion of the Barn director.
12. Only natural hair growing in its original location will be permitted.
13. If the National Weather Service issues a Heat Advisory at 7:00 a.m. on show day, then no fitting of animals will be allowed.

4-H MARKET ANIMAL QUALIFICATIONS

1. 4-H MARKET STEER QUALIFICATIONS:
 - a. Beef steers will be shown by breed and according to weight.
 - b. The champion dairy steer will not be shown in the grand champion market steer drive.
 - c. Slick Steers will be offered as an individual breed at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair. Indiana Slick is different than what most people would typically think of when picturing Slick Steers and is not the same as "Texas" style Slick Steers. Indiana Slick means: all steers must be clipped to hair length of less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch from the knee on front legs and the hock on rear legs, up, and throughout the shoulders, front, body, top, and hind-end. Indiana Slick Steers are allowed to have hair at the tail head, ears, and belly line. Hair length will be inspected and measured at check-in and weigh-in. Slick Steers are required to have same identification information as listed above.
2. 4-H MARKET HEIFER QUALIFICATIONS
 - a. Market Heifers will be shown by weight. 4-H Market Heifers will be subject to all the same rules as a market steer with regards to identification tag guidelines. They will show during the steer show.

4-H DAIRY STEER QUALIFICATIONS

1. All dairy feeder steers must be 100% dairy blood but do not have to be registered animals. Crosses of beef and dairy breeds will not be allowed. All dairy steers must be properly dehorned and castrated prior to the County Tagging day.
2. Dairy Steers will be shown according to weight and breed or all other breeds.
3. Dairy Steers shown at the fair must have their milk teeth on the day of the show.

4-H HEIFER QUALIFICATIONS

1. Purebred heifers will be shown by age.
2. Purebred heifers must have registration papers from their respective breed association and be identified by registration papers, birthdate and legible tattoo number. These numbers must match at time of check in. Registered heifers that do not meet these standards can only show as a commercial heifer.
3. It is recommended that 4-H Members purchase their own RFID tags for purebred heifers or bring them to be tagged at the county tag in.
4. No more than two (2) heifers may be entered and shown per breed in the same age class. Age classes are:
 - a. Junior heifer calves born January 1 to March 31, 2025
 - b. Winter heifer calves born November 1 to December 31, 2024
 - c. Senior heifer calves born September 1 to October 31, 2024
 - d. Late summer yearling heifers born July 1 to August 31, 2024
 - e. Early summer yearling heifers born May 1 to June 30, 2024
 - f. Spring yearling heifers born March 1 to April 30, 2024
 - g. Junior yearling heifers born January 1 to February 28, 2024
 - h. Senior yearling heifers born September 1 to December 31, 2023

5. Commercial heifers must have a fifteen (15) digit RFID tag and be individually identified with a five (5) digit ear tag on the county tagging date.
6. Heifers in the commercial heifer show will be divided into groups by weight rather than by age.

4-H Beef Feeder Calf Qualifications

1. All starter beef animals must be in possession of the exhibitor by Beef Feeder Steer ID date and officially enrolled, weighed, scanned, and ear tagged to be eligible to show.
2. No more than six (6) feeder calves may be shown per exhibitor at the Hendricks County 4-H Fair. These calves may be purebred, crossbred, or combination of both, but must be 100% beef blood.
3. Starter beef animals must be calved in the current year.
4. Starter male and commercial heifers must weigh between 200 – 650 pounds at the July county fair Weigh-In.
5. Classes will be offered for male and commercial heifers. Registered heifers will be shown according to State Fair regulation.
6. Calves showing in the cow/calf class are eligible in both classes provided weight and age apply.
7. If a calf winning the Beef Starter Calf Show (Male Class or Female Class) returns to the following year's Fair and wins the 4-H Beef Show, the Hendricks County Beef Cattle Association will award \$250 to that exhibitor. Must be same owner as starter class or within same family (e.g., brother, sister) to apply. There will be a picture taken of each category winner to serve for future identification purposes.

4-H Dairy Feeder Steer Qualifications

1. All starter dairy steers must be in possession of the member by the May tag-in and officially enrolled, weighed and ear- tagged with an RFID tag to be eligible for exhibition.
2. 4-H exhibitors may show a maximum of six (6) dairy feeder steers.
3. Starter calves must be calved in the current year.
4. Must be castrated and dehorned before the ID day.
5. Dairy Feeder Steers will be shown by weight, breeds or all other breeds.
6. Dairy Feeder Steers must be 100% dairy blood.
7. Dairy Feeder Steers must weigh between 300 – 700 at the July county fair weigh-in.

Cow/Calf Class

1. Only 4-H members may participate in this class. Only one class will be offered. (If numbers warrant, the class will be divided by the age of the cow).
2. Pairs must be owned by the 4-H member and show proof of ownership (registration papers or proof of ownership).
3. Cow can be of any age - calf must be no older than January 1 of the current year. Both the Cow and Calf must have an 840-RFID Tag entered on 4-HOnline by May 15th.
4. The 4-H member making the entry must show one of the animals; another 4-H member must show the other animal.
5. Cow and calf may be fitted at owner's discretion.
6. Cow/Calf pairs will be allowed to leave the fair early *per the release time of the State Fair Animals*.

Beef and Dairy Beef Showmanship

- See Page 134