

2025 General Rules for Animals Housed at the LaGrange County 4-H Fair

General Rules for ALL animal exhibitors:

All 4-H General Rules and County and State 4-H Livestock Rules apply. The 4-Her and the parent/guardian are responsible for understanding the rules of each project they are participating in, as each species has its own rules and requirements to abide by.

Quality Assurance Training Requirement:

- To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, meat goats, dairy goats, poultry, and/or rabbits, 4-H members must be certified through quality assurance training.
- Youth now have the option to take Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care or YQCA. Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care program is an in-person quality assurance training.
- YQCA is the online alternative for quality assurance training and will not be available in person. Youth can choose whichever option works best for them.
- These training sessions will be required annually to show the animals mentioned above. In-person training dates will be communicated to all 4-H members and their families through the LaGrange County Extension Office by the newsletter, email, postcards, and/or Facebook posts.
- All 4-H members exhibiting the species listed above must be certified in one of the quality assurance training by noon on Saturday of animal check in.
- Youth who choose to take YQCA must present certificates to the 4-H Educator and Livestock Superintendent by noon on Saturday of animal check-in. YQCA certificate can be emailed to bgilger@purdue.edu, at the time of completion.
- Any member unable to present the required proof of YQCA certification or QLC training by noon on Saturday of animal check-in will not be eligible to show at the 4-H Fair.

Animal Check-in:

- All animal projects housed at the fair must arrive at the designated time, as determined by the species project committee, pending approval by the 4-H Association by the March meeting, for check-in for the 4-H fair.
- All animal projects housed at the fair must be penned from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. by the first Saturday of the fair, with the exemption of horse and pony, which can start

entering from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. Friday and resume at 6:00 a.m. Saturday morning and must be stalled by noon on Saturday. Failure to do so will result in your animals being unable to unload.

- The animals checked in by noon on Saturday are expected to stay the duration of the fair unless properly documented to be a State Fair Exhibit. See the **State Fair Exemption** section of this document for further clarification.

Animal Identification:

All exhibition animals must be permanently identified by an acceptable method. Official ear tags are tags approved by the USDA. Official ear tags must bear the US shield to be considered official identification. Official identification is acceptable for specific species of livestock exhibited in Indiana and required for 4-H Online:

- Beef: All steers and heifers must be identified, tagged, and weighed on the date the 4-H Beef Committee designated. Cattle will be identified and tagged with a conventional 5-digit plastic ear tag and an electronic Radio Frequency Identification tag (RFID tag). Registered heifers will also supply a tattoo.
- Dairy: 840 RFID, C tag. Registered stock supply animals registered name and registration number.
- Dairy Beef & Started Calf: 840 tags RFID, Radio Frequency Identification tag, and/or 5-digit county tag
- Dairy & Pygmy Goats: scrapie program flock tags; electronic implant for breed registered animals only when noted on registration paperwork; tattoo if accompanied by registration papers with tattoo noted; tattoo of scrapie flock ID number along with an individual animal ID number; wethers must have a 5-digit County tag.
- Horse & Pony and Draft Horse: Two Colored Pictures including all 4 feet and head
- Meat Goats: 840 RFID tag, and/or 5-digit County Tag, and/or Breed Registry Tattoo and/or Scrapies tag
- Poultry: Exhibition Form, NPIP number, or Negative Pullorum Test within 90 days of the show
- Rabbit: must be tattooed
- Sheep: 840 RFID tag and/or 5-digit County tag and/or Scrapies
- Swine: official 840 RFID, Radio Frequency Identification tag, 5-digit county tag, official premises ID number ("PIN") tag, ear notch, or tattoo if the tattoo is registered with a swine registry association.

For additional clarification and State Fair identification rules, see the Indiana 4-H Animal Identification sheet and individual species rules.

Any livestock shown at the 4-H fair must be identified in 4HOnline and must include the Premise ID# of the location of where the animals are housed. This must be done by May 15th to be eligible to show. **NO** changes to the animal identification are allowed after the May 15th deadline.

IN BOAH requires premise registration of all sites associated with the sale, purchase, and/or exhibition of cattle, swine, sheep, and goats. Rabbits and poultry should be registered with their respective project committees and the Extension Office by the May 15th deadline.

All animals listed in a family profile may be exhibited by any siblings in that family's 4-H Online profile. Animals going to the fair need to be entered in FairEntry by June 24. Animals will need only to be entered one time on FairEntry. Animals that are not entered into FairEntry by midnight on June 24 will be shown in an exhibition-only class. They will not have an opportunity to be placed in their class but will receive feedback from the judge. Youth may still compete in their showmanship class. Animals will need to be assigned to the specific youth in their family by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the weigh-in.

Care of Animals:

The 4-H'er is responsible for proper feed, water, and care of their animal(s) daily at the 4-H fair. If the species project committee finds that neglect is taking place, the following actions may be initiated:

Step 1: Verbal Warning

Step 2: Remove some/all awards received in that animal species.

Step 3: Ineligibility to participate in the current year's 4-H auction.

- All livestock must be owned by, in the possession of, or under the care of the 4-H member by the livestock identification deadline.
- During the 4-H fair, all livestock is to stay in provided housing except during the

show, exercising, grooming, and other scheduled 4-H activities. The livestock committee will designate all exercise areas and any other space needed.

- Any exhibitor or family member who abuses an animal will be eliminated from showing, and further disciplinary/legal action may be taken.

Expectations of Showmen:

- All animals must be shown by the 4-H member making the project enrollment, except when a member exhibits more than one animal in a particular class, in which case the additional animal(s) may be shown by another 4-H member (not a Mini 4-Her) enrolled in LaGrange County. Any other exceptions to this rule will be made only by the superintendent.
- All Exhibitors will show their animals without additional help showing or setting up an animal during livestock shows unless due to extenuating circumstances or disability. Additional help must be provided by a current LaGrange 4-H member and must be pre-arranged with the livestock species committee before the show begins.
- Not abiding by Youth Behavioral Expectations (signed when enrolled in 4-H) will result in being excused by the 4-H Educator from all 4-H fair activities for the remainder of the year.
- Mini 4-H Showmanship: Enrolled Mini 4-H'ers (grades K, 1, and 2) may partner with a 4-H animal mentor (current 4-H animal project members). Mini 4-H'ers will be allowed to exhibit/show in the Mini 4-H Animal Exhibition Classes with their assigned mentor during the LaGrange County 4-H Fair. Mini 4-H'ers will NOT be allowed to bring their own animals to the Fair.

Animal Release:

Animal exhibits release time will be 12:00 am on the fair's final Saturday until the auction's end on Saturday morning/afternoon. **No animal project of any species** shall be released before 12:00 am on the final Saturday of the fair unless they meet the following criteria:

- Production cows (milking cows) are exempt as they will do a show-and-go.
- Secondary horses/ponies registered with the Horse & Pony Committee as show-and-go exhibits for Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday shows are exempt from the release rule.
- The animal is determined to be too ill to remain at the fair.

- The animal poses a health risk to other animals at the fair.
- State Fair documentation is properly presented at weigh-in

See the **State Fair Exemption** section of this document for further clarification.

Animal health decisions must be made by the species superintendent, livestock committee president, fair association president, and the county 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator. No animal may be removed from the fairgrounds early without the consent of these individuals.

The consequences of animal removal before the animal release time are as follows:

If an exhibitor or a representative of the exhibitor removes an animal from the fairgrounds early without the consent of the species superintendent, livestock committee president, fair association president, and the county 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator, the following consequences will be assessed:

- The exhibitor will be removed from the current year's 4-H auction for all species.
- The exhibitor will be prohibited from exhibiting the species in question for the next project year.

Tack Removal:

Exhibitors may add or remove tack/feed with a vehicle/trailer for any/all of their livestock exhibits between 6:00 am and 8:00 am daily at their own discretion. At all other times, the tack **MUST** be walked out to the exhibitor's vehicle/trailer.

Vehicles and Trailers:

Vehicles may only be at the barns between 6:00 am and 8:00 am, Sunday through Friday. During the time frame of 6:00 am to 8:00 am, additional feed, bedding, or equipment needed for the proper care of the animal may be brought into or removed from the barns.

State Fair Livestock Projects may also be moved from the 6:00 am to 8:00 am time frame with proper State Fair documentation that has been provided to barn superintendents on the first Saturday of the fair. See the **State Fair Exemption** section of this document for any further clarification.

State Fair Exemption:

4-H Exhibitors that prove State Fair Show Entry, with state fair entry receipt, to their species superintendent at weigh-in will receive a release ticket that will allow the State Fair entered animal to leave the fairgrounds from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. following the day of their show.

If the State Fair eligible animal does not leave the following morning, it must stay until 12:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Tuesday Morning – Dairy Steer, Started Calf, Meat Goats, and Sheep

Wednesday Morning – Swine

Thursday Morning – Dairy and Beef

Friday Morning – Dairy Goat

AUCTION:

Per state fair rules, an animal that has been designated “sold” at a county fair will not be eligible for the state fair. The animal designated for the auction must stay until the release time of 12:00 a.m. on Saturday.

If an animal is removed from their designated area before the 12:00 a.m. release time, the exhibitors will NOT be allowed to participate in the current year's auction.

See this document's **Animal Release** section for all consequences and further clarification.