



# Minnesota 4-H Animal Science Lease Program Fact Sheet

The Minnesota 4-H program recognizes the educational value of participating in animal science projects. Minnesota 4-H allows the leasing of animal science projects to encourage a greater number of members to have the opportunity to experience the showing of livestock projects. This program is designed to make it possible for a 4-H member to have a non-owned 4-H project that can be exhibited at county fairs, Minnesota State Fair 4-H show, and other youth or open exhibitions. The 4-H member will gain hands on experience in managing and showing the 4-H animal science projects through the cooperation and mentorship of local animal owners.

## General project requirements for leased animals

### Lease arrangement

The lease arrangement is between the 4-H member/family and the animal owner. The 4-H member/family is responsible for identifying the animal owner from whom they would like to lease the animal and making arrangements for use of the animal as a 4-H project. The 4-H family and animal owner may choose to enter a formal (written lease) agreement or a less formal (verbal) agreement. Minnesota 4-H recommends a lease agreement be completed by the family and kept as a personal record for the 4-H project; a sample written lease is provided for 4-H families to use, if desired.

### Choosing an animal

Market animals are not eligible for the lease program because they are a terminal project. The following animals may be leased; rules for exhibiting/showing vary and are outlined later in this document.

- Breeding animals: beef, dairy, goats, poultry, rabbits, sheep and swine.
- Prospect beef calves (heifers and steers)
- Lama
- Horses
- Dog

### Identification of a leased animal

The 4-H member/family is responsible for completing the 4-H identification process and uploading the Minnesota 4-H Animal Science Lease Information Form for the leased animal into [4HOnline](#), due by May 15. This process includes verifying that the lease requirements and rules for showing outlined in the lease information form are being followed.

## Housing

The animal may be housed at the owner's facility OR the 4-H member's facility; however, the 4-H member must have significant access to the project animal(s) and must assume a role for the care, training and feeding of the animal(s).

## Project learning

The 4-H member must participate in learning about the care, training, feeding and other management practices associated with the species of animal they are leasing. The lease program is designed to have 4-H members actively involved in the learning process throughout the entire length of the lease.

## Liability

Neither the animal owner nor their family members/employees are considered Minnesota 4-H Volunteers in their role of leasing animals. The University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development is not responsible for ensuring a safe environment except when the 4-H member(s) is on site at a scheduled Minnesota 4-H Program. The parent/guardians of the 4-H members are responsible for providing the appropriate supervision for their children.

## Exhibiting/Showing leased animals

### Breeding animals and prospect beef calves

#### Who may lease an animal

Animals may only be leased by one person (or, in the case of a "family lease," 4-H members in an immediate family) during the time of the lease. Individual "lease ownership" of an animal is determined at the county fair 4-H ID check-in process. After that point, only the 4-H member who identified a given animal at the county fair checkpoint is eligible to show that animal for further 4-H exhibition (Minnesota State Fair).

#### Showing of the animal

Once a lease agreement is in place, refrain from allowing any other individual—including the owner—to enter/exhibit the animal in any show/exhibition during the time this contract is in effect. If the lease is a "family lease" only the 4-H members in that immediate family are eligible to show the animal for the duration of the lease. Showing the animal encompasses any exhibition, including but not exclusive to: 4-H shows, open shows, FFA shows, junior breed shows, jackpot shows, expositions, etc. If, during the time of the lease agreement, the leased animal is shown by anyone other than the leasing 4-H member (or 4-H members in the immediate family in the case of a family lease), the leased animal is no longer eligible to be exhibited as a 4-H project animal.

## Lama

A lama may be leased by more than one 4-H member—from the same or different counties—and be used by all 4-H members at the county 4-H shows; but only one 4-H member may show that lama at the Minnesota State Fair 4-H Lama Show.

## Horse

A horse may be leased by more than one 4-H member, but the shared horse may be used only once in any event per show. Age, grade or type divisions are considered class divisions and not separate events. The horse may be used in an additional class that does not qualify (for the Minnesota State 4-H Horse Show). For example:

- If a member shows in Western Pleasure, another member may not use the same horse for Western Pleasure. The second member may use the horse in other events, such as Western Horsemanship or English Pleasure.
- If a member shows a horse in barrels, another member may not also use the same horse for a barrel class. The second member may use the horse for other games events, such as key race.
- If a member shows in English Pleasure another member that is too young to qualify for the Minnesota State 4-H Horse Show may also show in English Pleasure.

## Dog

Generally, a dog may only be leased by one person; the only exception is the brace class. A dog may be identified by more than one 4-H member for use in the brace class.

## Animal care and expenses

The Minnesota 4-H program recommends discussing the following questions with the owner of the animal before making a decision about the lease program.

### Housing

Where will the animal be housed?

### Feeding

Who will be responsible for purchasing feed and feeding the animal?

### Management

What are appropriate training techniques? What type of feed or housing facility is acceptable, etc.? How often do you expect to exercise, run, walk, tie and wash/rinse the animal? How often do you expect to meet to work together on project care and learning (i.e. clipping, showmanship training, animal husbandry experiences such as help vaccinate or tag/tattoo)? What other expectations do you have of each other?

## Veterinary expenses

Who will pay for the following: basic expenses for health and well-being of the animal such as worming, vaccinations, etc.? Show related veterinary expenses that must be done for showing or transporting animals? Additional vaccinations for moving animals in or out of state, health certificates, etc.?

## Hoof trimming/farrier expenses

Who will pay for this? It might depend on whether extra expenses are incurred as a result of showing an animal.

## Clipping

If the animal needs to be clipped/fitted prior to a show and someone to help you as you are learning, who pays for this service?

## Shearing

Who will pay the shearer? Who keeps the fleece?

## Breeding fees

If the animal is to be bred as part of the 4-H member's project (or needs to be bred during the term of the lease), who will pay for the breeding fees? Who makes the decision as to which sire the animal will be bred to? Who keeps the offspring?

## Show expenses

What show equipment (i.e. saddles, halters, blankets, cages, etc.) may be borrowed or used during the length of the lease? What if an item gets lost, stolen or broken? What supplies are you responsible for purchasing in order to show the animal? (i.e. clipper blades, sprays, foams, soap, fly sprays, show halters, leads, brushes/combs, feed pans/pails, show stick, etc.)

## Insurance

If a fair/show require entrants to show a certificate of liability insurance to protect themselves from damage or injury the animal might cause while at the event, parties should check with their personal or farm insurance agent to ensure appropriate coverage.

## Trucking

Who will transport the animal to and from trainings, shows and/or fairs? Will you be required to pay for fuel or to help with trucking expenses?

## Entry fees, premiums and awards

Who pays for entry fees to open shows entered? Who receives premiums and cash awards earned? Who keeps the awards, ribbons, plaques, trophies or winning banners?

## Unanticipated injury or death of animal

Who will be responsible for emergency veterinary care? Who is liable for the loss of an animal?

## Authors

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Fact sheet, information form and sample lease reviewed by Tamie Bremseth, Director of Youth Development Operations and Office of General Counsel, 1.31.19.