MCLEOD COUNTY 4-H

Getting Started in a 4-H Animal Science Project

4-H Animal Science Projects are a lot of work, but even more fun! They are a great tool for teaching youth responsibility, decision-making, record keeping, and so much more. Perhaps you already own animals and wondering how to exhibit them in 4-H. Maybe you don’t have animals and aren’t sure if you want to commit to caring for an animal year-round. Good news! 4-H Animal Science Projects can be adapted to fit any family’s situation – even if you live in town, you can participate in any of the 4-H Animal Science Projects!

ANIMAL SCIENCE PROJECTS
4-H Animal Science Projects have options for beef, dairy, dairy goats, dogs, meat goats, horses, llamas, poultry, rabbits, sheep, and swine. Until you can get an animal, be sure to check out some of the other animal science projects where owning an animal isn’t required, like veterinary science, horseless horse, and exploring animals.

 Helpful Hint  Small animals like goats, rabbits, and poultry make great Animal Science projects for those just getting started.

WHERE CAN I GET ANIMALS?
One place to start finding animals is by doing an internet search of breed associations in Minnesota. Several of their sites have breeders listed, so you can contact them to see what they might have available. Many breeders and breed associations also have pages on social media sites like Facebook, so search there too. The Extension Office also keeps a file of sales that they hear of, so you can ask 4-H Staff as well.

Market animals can be acquired at local sale barns – The Minnesota Board of Animal Health has reputable sale barns listed on their website at https://www.bah.state.mn.us/Animal Science-auction-markets/

LEASING If you can’t purchase an animal, there is always the option to “lease” a breeding animal from a breeder or even another 4-Her! Leasing is essentially borrowing the animal, but a great way to get started in a project. For more details on leasing, check out http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/docs/Lease-Fact-Sheet.pdf
ANIMAL OWNERSHIP DEADLINES

- **February 15:** Market Beef (beef steers, market heifers & dairy steers)
- **May 15:** Breeding beef, dairy, dairy goats, dog, horse, lama, meat goat, poultry, rabbit, sheep, swine. Fryer rabbits (should be 70 days old at show) 4-H’er must own the doe of fryer rabbits and doe must be identified by May 15.
- **June 1:** Jr. Meat Does
- **July 1:** Jr. Doe Kid Dairy Goats

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Projects in Minnesota may be started at any time during the year. However, if the project is to be shown at a county or state event, certain requirements must be met. Each of the requirements listed pertain specifically to state events. Identification worksheets are available in most species for use by families to gather data needed to complete 4HOnline Identification process. Please keep ID worksheets for records. A letter outlining identification requirements and how to complete identification is mailed to all project members in early April. They will also be posted online at http://www.extension.umn.edu/county/mcleod

To see birthdates for animals and specific identification requirements, you can go to http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/docs/id-requirements-table.pdf

ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Some species have additional requirements **in addition to a 4-H tag** that are needed in order to be shown at the McLeod County Fair and Minnesota State Fair.

**BEEF and DAIRY** – All cattle at exhibitions must be officially identified. For complete 2018 Exhibition Entry Requirements and acceptable official ID, visit this link: http://mn.gov/bah/official-id.html. A MN 4-H ear tag does qualify as an official form of ID.

**GOATS** - ALL goats, including wethers, must be identified with official identification approved for use in the scrapie eradication program.

**HORSES** - All horses must be negative to an official test for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) within 12 months prior to the opening date of the exhibition. A test is not required for suckling foals accompanying a negative dam.

All horses must also have a copy of a negative Coggins Test must be on file at the Extension Office prior to your unloading a horse at any County 4-H sponsored event or activity. The Coggins test must be repeated each year.
POULTRY - All poultry, except waterfowl, need to be pullorum tested. Turn in a copy of your pullorum papers to the Extension Office. Turkeys must be negative for Salmonella typhirium, Mycoplasma gallisepticum and Mycoplasma synoviae. Waterfowl and Pigeons have no health certificate required. Shipping labels are NOT an acceptable Statement of Origin.

SHEEP - ALL sheep must have Scrapie or NAIS tags (with unique serial number and individual number).

SWINE - Have a negative official Pseudorabies test conducted within 30 days prior to the opening date of the exhibition; OR Originate directly from a qualified Pseudorabies-negative herd; OR Originate (born) directly from a Stage IV or V county or area. Swine which must be tested must be individually identified by ear tag number, tattoo number, registry number, or other identification satisfactory to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health.

SHEEP and SWINE - Premise ID Numbers on 4-H Identification paperwork are required for sheep and/or swine. To obtain a number, contact the MN Board of Animal Health at (651) 201–6816.

REQUIRED TRAINING FOR STATE FAIR (GRADES 6 & UP)
An important part of any animal science/Animal Science project is learning about responsible and ethical care practices. Minnesota 4-H offers training to educate participants on proper handling techniques, animal nutrition and ethics around caring for and showing animals. There are two options to complete the training. The training is required for any youth who wish to exhibit beef, dairy, dairy goats, lama, meat goats, poultry, rabbit, sheep, or swine at the Minnesota State Fair.

Animal Science Quality Assurance & Ethics (LQA&E)
Animal Science Quality Assurance & Ethics refers to the in-person, face to face training. This training is 3 hours and offered in various locations across the state. Certification is good for three fair seasons. The level of training required is determined by the grade of the youth at the time the training takes place. Depending on location of training, there may be a cost to attend.

Helpful Hint To see when LQA&E trainings are held, there is a list and map available at http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/lqae/

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)
Youth for the Quality Care of Animals refers to the online training. The online training is one hour long and must be taken using a desktop computer or laptop - it is not available with iPads or on other mobile devices. The Youth for the Quality Care of Animals training is one hour long and can be accessed through members’ 4Honline account. There is a cost of $12 that must be paid by credit card. A copy of the member’s certificate of completion should be turned in to the Extension Office. Visit http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/lqae/docs/LQA-YQCA-steps.pdf for more information.

COUNTY FAIR
County Fair is the culmination of months of hard work with your animal science project. This is when you will show your animal and have it evaluated by a judge. There are also showmanship classes where your handling, knowledge, and showing skills are judged and animal science interviews for you to share your knowledge.
Information on registering which classes you will show in and what exhibits you are bringing to the fair will be mailed to you by early June. County Fair exhibit registrations must be done by July 15.

**Helpful Hint** Be sure to read the McLeod County 4-H Premium Book as dates, times, deadlines, rules, and lots of other helpful information is covered in it! Also, sign up for all potential projects you might bring. Just because you sign up for them, doesn't mean you have to bring them.

**RESOURCES FOR LEARNING MORE**
- [http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/animal-science.aspx](http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/animal-science.aspx) - This is where you will find “workbooks” to purchase that youth can do independently or with an adult mentor. They allow youth to go at their own pace and achieve hands-on learning independently. We also have some of this curriculum available at the McLeod County Extension Office if you want to look at it before you purchase.
- [http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/](http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/)
- [http://www.ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/Animal%20Science/Animal%20Science-resources](http://www.ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/animal-sciences/Animal%20Science/Animal%20Science-resources)
- [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/4_h_animal_science_anywhere](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/4_h_animal_science_anywhere)

**PROJECT LEADERS/SUPERINTENDENTS**
Each animal science project species is led by volunteers who set up project learning opportunities, help organize the county fair, and have a lot of knowledge about raising and caring for their respective species. They are great to talk to get more information about getting started in a animal science project.

**Beef:** Paula Frick - 320-587-3525, cowdoc@hotmail.com  
**Dairy:** Paul Wright - 320-587-7332, phwright@hutchtel.net  
Kari Swanson - 320-587-5725, swanson5@hutchtel.net  
**Goats:** Brad Quast - 320-395-2075, oakhillfarm5.brd@gmail.com  
Mary Zavoral - 320-583-4080, mlz13189@gmail.com  
**Horse:** Susan Goebel - 612-245-1298, goebelgang@hotmail.com  
Jeff Liestman - 320-583-4111, jeffliestman@gmail.com  
**Poultry:** Koreen Lemke - 320-587-5984, koreen.lemke@syngenta.com  
**Rabbits:** Mary Zavoral - 320-583-4080, mlz13189@gmail.com  
**Sheep:** Ted Frick - 320-587-3525, cowdoc@hotmail.com  
DeAnn Morton - 507-237-2335, deann.morton@sibleyeast.org  
**Swine:** Dan Wanous - 320-328-9977, auburnviewfarms@yahoo.com

**HAVE FUN AS YOU EXPLORE LEARNING LIFE SKILLS THROUGH 4-H ANIMAL SCIENCE PROJECTS!**

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*Adapted from Amy Nelson, Waseca County 4-H Program Coordinator*