



2009 Beef Information Sheet

Prepared by the 4-H State Fair Beef Show Committee and the Center for Youth Development

This information sheet gives details on the rules for this year's Minnesota State Fair 4-H Beef Show. Although some counties may follow slightly different guidelines, these rules will apply at the state level.

Ownership Requirements

- Animals exhibited must be owned solely by the member or member's family. The family includes the 4-Hers parents or guardians and siblings living together as a family unit. The definition of family includes an extended family where the animals may be owned by grandparents with the 4-Hers parents actively involved with and working on the farm.

Leasing Program

- 4-H Beef Heifers, Cow/Calf Pairs, and Prospect Market Calves may be leased.
- Market Beef and Dairy Steers cannot be leased.
- 4-Hers exhibiting leased animals at the State Fair must complete the required back side of the "Minnesota 4-H Breeding Beef and Cow/Calf Lease Agreement" (BBIDA).

Birthdates

- Breeding Heifer – Spring Calf January 1 – April 30, 2009
- Breeding Heifer – Fall Calf September 1 – December 31, 2008
- Breeding Heifer – Summer Yearling May 1 – August 31, 2008
- Breeding Heifer – Junior Yearling January 1 – April 30, 2008
- Breeding Heifer – Senior Yearling September 1 - December 31, 2007
- Cow/Calf & Feeder Calf Calves must be born on or after January 1, 2009
- Prospect Market Calves January 1 – April 30, 2009
- Market Beef January 1 – August 31, 2008
- Dairy Steers January 1 – August 31, 2008

Show Divisions and Classes

→ Heifers:

- **To show in the registered breed classes, exhibitors must meet the registration requirements for that breed and present an original registration paper, including Spring Calf Breeding Heifers. NO EXCEPTIONS. Heifers without the original registration papers (when required) can place no higher than a blue ribbon, and cannot win Champion honors and cannot be moved to the Commercial heifer division.**
- This year's show will include classes for the following registered breed divisions: Black Angus, Red Angus, Charolais, Hereford (Polled & Horned), Maine Anjou (1/4 or more), Limousin (3/4 or more), Shorthorn, Shorthorn Plus, **South Devon (1/2 or more) and Simmental (purebred), Foundation Simmental (registered but less than purebred) and "Registered All Other Breeds" (AOB) (must have registration paper).**
- All other animals will be in the "Commercial" division.
- A spring calf class is available for all breed divisions. **Spring calves do not have to be from a cow/calf project.**
- Spring Calves must be weaned (no nurse cows), and registered spring calves must have an original registration paper.

→ Cow/Calf Pairs:

- **To show in the registered breed divisions, exhibitors must meet the registration requirements for that breed and present an original registration paper. NO EXCEPTIONS. (See breeding heifer rule.)**
- This year's show will include classes for the following registered breed divisions: Black Angus, Red Angus, Hereford (Polled & Horned), Shorthorn (Registered & Shorthorn Plus), Simmental (Registered & Foundation), and "Registered All Other Breeds" (AOB).
- All other Cow/Calf pairs will be placed in the "Commercial" division.
- For exhibitors in the cow/calf division: both cow and calf are brought to the show ring (not for showmanship).
- Calves in Cow/Calf Pairs can be heifers, bulls, or steers.
- **Prospect Market Calves and Spring Calves no longer need to be from a cow/calf project.**
- **Prospect Calves and Spring Calves may be part of a cow/calf exhibit at the county level and still be State Fair eligible.**

→ Prospect Market Calf Exhibits:

- **Prospect Calves must be ID'd with a 4-H eartag by May 15, but do not have to be from a cow/calf project**
- Classes for heifers and steers will be judged as market beef prospects.
- Prospect market steers must be castrated. (no bull calves)
- Prospect calves must be weaned (no nurse cows).
- The 4-H leasing program is available for prospect market calves.

→ Market Beef:

- Beef steers will be shown by the breed classification in the 4-H Beef Show at the Minnesota State Fair.
 - This year's show will include divisions for the following registered breeds: Black Angus, Hereford (Polled & Horned), Shorthorn, Shorthorn Plus, Charolais, Limousin, Maine Anjou, and Simmental.
 - All breed division steers must show visual characteristics of that breed.
 - **To show in the registered breed classes that require a registration paper, exhibitors must meet the registration requirements for that breed and present the original registration paper. NO EXCEPTIONS. Steers without the original registration paper can place no higher than a blue ribbon and cannot win Champion honors, cannot be in the 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction and cannot be moved to the Crossbred steer division.**
 - All Limousin steers must be out of a registered sire.
 - All Hereford steers must be out of a purebred bull and purebred Hereford or Polled Hereford cow.
 - All Simmental steers must be **half-blood or more and must have a registration paper.**
 - All Charolais steers must be out of a purebred parent.
 - Champion and Reserve Champion Black Angus steers are subject to a blood test to verify the authenticity.
 - All Black Angus and Shorthorn steers must be out of a purebred sire and purebred dam and have registration papers.
 - All Shorthorn Plus steers must have a registration paper and must meet the registration requirements of the National Breed Association.
 - All Maine Anjou steers must be 1/4 blood concentration or more.
 - **Any breed division with less than five entries will be offered at the discretion of the 4-H Beef Show Committee and the respective breed association.**
 - All other beef steers will be placed in the "Crossbred" division, which will include all other breeds and crosses. It will be divided into Lightweight, Middleweight, and Heavyweight divisions with separate awards in each division.
 - Market Heifer Division. Classes will be divided by weight. Champion and Reserve Champion Market Heifers will compete against steer division champions for Overall Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Market Beef.
 - A screening committee will verify the steers on entry day of the state fair. Any steer not meeting the requirements for a particular breed will automatically show in the "Crossbred Steers" class. All decisions by the screening committee are final and are not subject to change. Exhibitors may not switch classes once they have crossed the scale.

→ Dairy Steers:

- Dairy Steers must be 100% dairy bred. No crossbred dairy steers may be entered in the dairy steer show. Exhibitors must identify what breed their dairy steer is when they pre-register with their county extension office at the time of State Fair Registration.
 - These 5 dairy breeds are accepted without registration papers: Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, and Jersey.
 - Milking Shorthorn dairy steers must be registered with the American Milking Shorthorn Society. Any animal carrying the "S" suffix will not be eligible for the dairy steer show but will be eligible for the beef steer show.
- A committee will examine all dairy steers as they cross the scales at verification. This committee may request a blood type on dairy steers that they do not feel represent the genetics of the dairy breeds that it is entered under. The exhibitor and the exhibitor's family will incur the total expense of the blood type test (approximately \$50.00). If a dairy steer is questioned by the committee the exhibitor has the option to withdraw the steer from the dairy steer show and enter it in the appropriate beef steer class or to take it home. Only the champion and reserve champion dairy steers are subject to be blood typed.

Registration Papers

- All registration papers must be originals. Photocopies or faxes will not be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- All required registration papers must be presented at the time of verification or weigh-in on entry day.
- Any beef exhibit entered in a registered class or division without an original registration paper (where required) can place no higher than a blue ribbon, and is not eligible for championship awards or the 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction.
- Registered beef animals without registration papers **WILL NOT** be moved to the commercial or crossbred division.

Identification Details, Forms & Deadlines

- **Market Beef & Dairy Steers** ~ Must be tagged with a Minnesota 4-H eartag by February 15 AND "Minnesota 4-H Market Beef Identification Affidavit" (MBIDA) must be submitted to your local county extension office by February 15.
- **Breeding Heifers** ~ Commercial (See registered note below) must be tagged with a Minnesota 4-H eartag by May 15 AND "Minnesota 4-H Breeding Beef Identification Affidavit" (BBIDA) must be submitted to local county extension office by May 15.
- **Cow/Calf Pairs** ~ Commercial (See registered note below) must be tagged with a Minnesota 4-H eartag by May 15. (Calves must be tagged by County Fair) AND "Minnesota 4-H Breeding Beef Identification Affidavit" (BBIDA) must be submitted to your local county extension office by May 15. If calf is not born by May 15, that should be noted on the form and then the calf should be identified before your county fair. **Both the cow and calf must be listed on the Affidavit.**
- **Prospect Market Calves:** "Minnesota 4-H Breeding Beef Identification Affidavit" (BBIDA) must be submitted to your local Extension Office by May 15 and must be identified with a MN 4-H eartag.

- **Registered heifers and cow/calf projects** must be identified by with an ear tattoo that is recorded and matches the tattoo number on the registration paper. (Calves must be tattooed by County Fair.)
- **If a breeding animal or prospect calf is leased**, the Lease Agreement of the “Minnesota 4-H Breeding Beef Identification Affidavit” (BBIDA) must be completed and submitted to your local county extension office by May 15.

Dates of State Fair 4-H Livestock Encampment & Show Times

- 4-H Livestock Encampment ~ Wednesday, August 26 – Sunday, August 30
 - Weigh-In & Check-In
 - **Wednesday ~ 2:00 – 8:00 pm (All Breeding Heifers, Cow/Calf, and Prospect Market Calves must be verified)**
 - **Wednesday ~ 2:00 – 8:00 pm (All Market Beef and Dairy Steers must be weighed)**
 - Beef Exhibitor Meeting ~ **Thursday – 10:30 am**
 - Show Day & Times
 - Cow/Calf & Prospect Market Calf Show ~ Thursday – 1:30 pm
 - Heifer Show ~ Thursday – 4:00 pm
 - Market Beef Show ~ Friday – 7:30 am
 - Dairy Steer Show ~ Friday – 7:30 am
 - Showmanship ~ Saturday – 8:00 am
 - Championship Event
 - 4:30 p.m. on Friday in the Coliseum
 - This event will include the selection of:
 - Grand & Reserve Grand Champion Prospect Market Calf, Grand & Reserve Grand Champion Cow/Calf, Grand & Reserve Grand Champion Beef Heifer, Grand & Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Steer, Grand & Reserve Grand Champion Market Beef, and the announcement of beef interview savings bond winners
 - All eligible exhibitors are expected to participate in the Beef Show Championship event.

Weight Guidelines

- All Market Beef and Dairy Steers must be born after January 1.
- The RECOMMENDED State Fair minimum weight is 1,000 pounds.
- The REQUIRED State Fair maximum weight (animals CANNOT exceed this weight) is 1,500 pounds for beef breeds and 1,600 pounds for dairy breeds. Animals exceeding these weight guidelines can place no higher than a blue ribbon.

Weigh Back of Market Beef and Dairy Steers

- All market beef and dairy steers receiving a purple ribbon will be weighed back as they exit the show ring.
- All market beef and dairy steers must be within 5 percent of their entry day weight on Wednesday.
- Any market beef or dairy steer not meeting the 5 percent criteria will be lowered from a purple ribbon to a blue ribbon and will not be eligible for the 4-H Auction or special awards.
- No feed or water may be given to animals following weigh-back until after the Division Championship, unless authorized by Show Management. Violations will result in a drop of one ribbon placing and no consideration for Division Championship.

Mouthing of Market Beef and Dairy Steers

- All market beef receiving a purple ribbon will be mouthed as they exit the show ring.
- Any market beef with two or more visible eruptions of permanent teeth will be lowered one ribbon placing. They are not eligible for champion honors or the livestock auction.
- Counties are encouraged to mouth market beef at the county fair and before bringing them to the state fair. An informational sheet on mouthing steers is available from your county extension office.

State Fair Interviews ~ Age Divisions: Intermediate = grades 6-8, Senior = grade 9 and up

- To qualify for awards above a blue ribbon, exhibitors must participate in the Beef interview activity. (Thursday 7:30 – 9:30 am)
- **There are no make-up interviews for** Cow/Calf and Prospect Market Calf exhibitors because these shows are the same day.
- **Breeding heifer make-up interviews are on Thursday (3:00-3:30 pm) in the 4-H Beef Office.**
- Market Beef and Dairy Steer exhibitor make-up interviews are on Friday (6:45-7:15 a.m.) in the 4-H Beef Office.
- Award Winners will be selected during the Final Interview Activity held on Thursday ~ 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- There is no opportunity to make up the Final Interview Activity. 4-Hers selected to participate in the Final Interview Activity will be notified at the beef exhibitor meeting and names will be posted outside the 4-H Beef Office. 4-Hers selected to participate in the Final Interview Activity will receive medallions.
- Interview Activity may be a combination of an oral interview, written test and skill-a-thon activity, and may include a computer exercise.
- Award winners will be recognized during the Championship Event.

Marketing of Market Beef and Dairy Steers

- Exhibitors of non-auction market beef and dairy steers are given the choice to consign their cattle to slaughter or take them home.

- Exhibitors must sign a consignment form in the 4-H beef office by 6:30 pm on Friday to send their cattle to slaughter.
- All Market Beef and Dairy Steers in the 4-H Auction must go to slaughter.

State Fair Showmanship ~ Age Divisions: Intermediate = grades 6-8 & Senior = grade 9 & up

- Divisions: (1) Cow/Calf & Prospect Market Calf, (2) Heifer, (3) Market Beef, and (4) Dairy Steer.
- Any 4-Her exhibiting a Cow/Calf pair, Prospect Market Calf, Heifer, or Market Beef who wants to participate in showmanship must pre-register with their county extension office at the time of State Fair Registration. (Final selections will not be made during the beef show.) Beef showmanship will be held on Saturday.
- The Dairy Steer Showmanship contest will remain the same as past years with exhibitors being selected for showmanship finals during the Dairy Steer Show on Friday
- A 4-H Beef Showmanship Guide has been developed by the 4-H Beef Show Committee. This guide will be provided to the showmanship judge at the state fair.
- Exhibitors must use their own animal for showmanship.
- Exhibitors in the Cow/Calf Division may show either the cow or the calf, but not both (one animal is brought to the show ring).
- Use of color products and adhesives are discouraged in showmanship divisions (**Judge will be advised**).

State Fair Herdsmanship

- Animals must be maintained and look presentable to the public from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. daily.
- Tie-out spaces may be reserved by counties at a cost. Animals may go to tie-outs after 8:00 pm
- FANS – All fans must be mounted on the side of cattle, 6 feet or less from the cattle tie wall. No water-type fan coolers of any kind are allowed. Cage stalls are not allowed at the State Fair (side dividers & front tie panels are allowed).

State Fair Grooming Rules

- All grooming of livestock including clipping, trimming and blocking must be done by the 4-H'er, members of the 4-Hers immediate family (parents, step-parents, brothers and sisters), and other bonafide 4-H members from Minnesota.
- Any exhibitors found in violation of this rule will be eliminated from further competition in the show and will not be eligible for any awards or premiums – including championships, the auction, and showmanship.
- All grooming chutes must be placed in designated areas and must be registered in the 4-H Beef office with a registration fee. Any chute not meeting this requirement will be removed. Please note special rules for grooming chutes and fans in the State Fair Premium Book.

Color Rule--No artificial color will be allowed on 4-H Market Beef exhibits that is applied above the flank of the animal. Coloring materials are acceptable to be applied to the legs and hooves of the animal. **All 4-H market beef exhibits will be checked for artificial color, and may be checked anytime at the Coliseum. Any animal that displays artificial color can not receive a purple ribbon, or be named Division Champion or Reserve Champion, or be selected for the 4-H Auction.** All other Beef exhibits will be monitored for artificial color.

Fluid Administration

- The use of drenching, mechanical pumping devices or other abnormal methods to administer water or fluids to animals will not be permitted.
- Administration of fluids for dehydration or other animal health reasons may be done only after approval from a State Fair veterinarian and show management.
- Any exhibitor found in violation of this rule will be eliminated from further competition in the show and will not be eligible for any livestock awards or premiums – including championships, the auction, showmanship awards, and interview awards.

Auction

- The MLBA 4-H Livestock Auction Committee determines the number of market beef and dairy steers that eligible for auction.
- All breed and crossbred division champion beef steers and the champion market heifer are eligible for the auction, provided there is a minimum of five entries in that division. Other market beef eligible for the auction will be selected by show judges.
- The division champion and reserve champion dairy steers are eligible for the auction.
- The Grand and Reserve Grand Market Beef and Dairy Steers *must* sell in the auction.
- Other exhibitors of auction animals must notify the 4-H Beef Show Coordinators at the end of the Championship Event if they want to withdraw from the auction.
- 20 Percent of all MN State Fair 4-H Auction premiums will be deducted and placed in a “4-H Animal Enhancement Fund” to be used for 4-H Auction Scholarships and other special 4-H Animal Science events and projects.
- All 4-H Livestock Auction exhibits must be consigned to market, and can not be taken home.