



Market Beef and Dairy Steer – Self Identify

1/2/2018

TO: Minnesota 4-H Animal Science Project Members – Market Beef and Dairy Steers

FROM: David Foley, Olmsted County Interim 4-H Program Coordinator

RE: **IMPORTANT** - Animal Identification Process

Thank you for enrolling in a 4-H animal science project. We hope you find this project fun, challenging, and rewarding. This letter outlines the **online animal identification process**.

Minnesota 4-H uses its online enrollment system, 4HOnline, to record all animal identifications and ownership data. Online animal identification reduces inaccuracies and inefficiencies that were a part of our past paper system. More information and a 4HOnline user guide can be found at www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID.

The process that will be followed in 2018 is as follows:

1. 4-H Family picks up MN 4-H ear tags and tag applicator from the County Extension Office. **The cost of each ear tag is \$2.00.** Checks can be made out to: **Olmsted County 4-H.** **REMINDER:** The Extension Office is closed on Fridays. Due to limited staff, it is always best to call ahead prior to stopping in to ensure a staff member will be available.
2. 4-H Family puts tag in animal's ear by February 15th and completes the information worksheet (also attached to this email).
3. 4-H Family self-enters information into 4HOnline and **prints entry report for personal record.** NOTE: Data entry must be completed by 11:59 pm, February 15th, 2018; you will not be able complete identification after that point.

*All market beef and dairy steers need to be identified **February 15th**.

Online ID'ing (4HOnline) user assistance and support

- A user guide is available at www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID.
- For assistance with the online ID process, contact your county extension staff.
- In addition, an ID helpline will be available as follows:
- Sunday, February 11, 3:00 - 7 pm, 218-232-4975
- Wednesday, February 14, 4:30 - 8 pm, 507-438-6898
- Thursday, February 15, 4:30-12 midnight, 507-438-6898

On rare occasions, 4-H animals will lose the official Minnesota 4-H ear tag. If this occurs, you will need to contact David Foley immediately at 507-328-6217 or djfoley@umn.edu so that the tag can be verified and replaced. Do not wait until county fair if this occurs.

Three additional pieces of project information are included in this email for your convenience:

- 2018 Animal Science Show Requirements for Minnesota 4-H details specific dates and requirements unique to each animal science project area.
- 2018 Beef Information Sheet compiled by the 4-H State Fair Beef Committee and includes processes, procedures and information unique to the beef project at the Minnesota State Fair.
- Animal Information Worksheet

NEW: Updated Livestock Quality Assurance Training Options: Minnesota 4-H supports livestock quality assurance and animal science ethics. All youth participating as a state fair 4-H livestock exhibitor in beef, dairy, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits, meat goat, dairy goat, and lama must complete livestock quality assurance training.

- Certification is required for state fair grade/age-eligible youth. Must be completed before their home county fair qualifying show.
- The training accommodates multi-levels of learning for all ages. The level of training required is determined by the grade/age of the youth at the time the training takes place.
- Counties that have a swine marketing agreement with a packer that requires livestock quality assurance certification may require swine members (grade 3-13) to certify.
- Minnesota 4-H youth must participate in one of the training options to be eligible for Minnesota 4-H state fair shows. Beginning in 2018, Minnesota 4-H will have two training options.
 1. A face-to-face 3-hour livestock quality assurance and ethics training from Minnesota 4-H. These will be offered in multiple locations statewide. This certification is valid for three fair seasons. Cost is set by county/regional host.
 2. An online 1-hour youth quality care of animals training offered via distance learning. This certification is valid for one fair season. Cost: \$12; pay at registration with a credit card. (This is a national program and registration fee pays for the national training system.)

Trainings promote responsible care of animals, making informed decisions in animal care and providing safe consumer food products. Youth will receive a certificate of completion. Additional information concerning any Livestock Quality Assurance training in our area will be listed in upcoming 4-H newsletters.

If you have any questions about the change to online animal identification or anything else in this letter, please contact David Foley at (507) 328-6217 OR djfoley@umn.edu.