Dakota County 4-H Market Beef Update 2016

January 19, 2016

To: 4-H Animal Science Project Members – Market Beef & Dairy Steer
From: Anja Johnson, 4-H Program Coordinator
Re: Animal Identification Process and changes for 2016

Thank you for enrolling in a 4-H animal science project. We hope you find this project both challenging and rewarding.

For the third year, Minnesota 4-H is using its online enrollment system, 4HOnline, to record all animal identifications. 4HOnline has the capability to track animal ownership and identification 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.

NEW FOR 2016: SLICK-SHORN MARKET STEER DIVISION
Dakota County will add a Slick-Short Market Steer division in 2016. See page 3 of the 2016 Beef Information Sheet for more details.

The process that will be followed in 2016 is as follows:

1. Central identification for market beef, market heifers and dairy steers will take place on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Haas Livestock in Cannon Falls.
2. Animals will be tagged with a MN 4-H eartag and weighed at the weigh-in. ID worksheets will be filled out for each animal. Once ID worksheet is completed, the family will sign-off on the worksheet. This worksheet will be kept on file in the Extension Office.
3. Within a week of identification, the information will be entered into your family’s 4HOnline account by 4-H staff. After that, your family may view the information in 4HOnline to check for accuracy. User guides for 4HOnline animal ID’ing can be found at www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID. 4-H staff must be notified of any discrepancies by Feb. 15.

WEIGHT IN DATE AND ID DEADLINE
ALL 4-H MARKET BEEF (beef steers, dairy steers, and market heifers) MUST BE TAGGED with a MN 4-H ear tag and weighed on Saturday, February 6 from 9 am to 11 pm at Haas Livestock in Cannon Falls.

- Dakota County will be holding ONE weigh in – Saturday, February 6
- Cattle will be weighed on a first come, first serve basis.
- Please arrive before 10:45 a.m. to insure your animals get weighed.
- Feeder calves and breeding beef DO NOT come to weigh in, but must be ID’ed by the May 15 deadline. Watch online for more information in early April.
MARKET BEEF LIMITS
4-H member may show up to a total of FOUR market beef, but no more than two entries in any one of the three divisions (beef steers, dairy steers, and market heifers.)

ITEMS TO BRING TO WEIGH IN
- Animal Birthdate - ALL market beef and dairy steers must be born January 1-August 31, 2015
- Breed
- COPY of official registration paper if animal is registered – you will leave this at weigh-in
- Parent and one 4-H member per family to sign ID worksheet
- Tattoo

DIRECTIONS TO HASS LIVESTOCK – 28705 Rochester Blvd., Cannon Falls, MN  55009
From the west- take Hwy 50 to New Trier, go right (south) on Hogan Ave. and go approximately 4 miles to stop sign at the bottom of the hill, take a left. Go about ½ mile and Haas Livestock is on the right side of the road. (Watch for the Join 4-H sign at the end of the driveway)

From Hwy 61- go west on Hwy 50 towards New Trier. Left (south) on Hogan Ave. and go approximately 4 miles to the stop sign at the bottom of the hill and take a left. Go about ½ mile and Haas Livestock is on the right hand side of the road.

IDENTIFICATION TAGS
All market cattle must be tagged with a Minnesota 4-H ear tag. If the animal is a registered animal, they must also have a legible tattoo and an official copy of the breed association registration paper that match the tattoo. MN 4-H ear tags will only be available at the beef weigh in for all market cattle.

MARKET BEEF ID WORKSHEETS
ID worksheets will be completed at weigh in for every animal/family. 4-H staff will enter data from the ID worksheets in 4HOnline by Feb. 10. It is the 4-H member’s responsibility to double check that animal ID information is accurately recorded in 4HOnline. Review your 4HOnline account to make sure all information is correct no later than February 15. If there are any discrepancies please contact Cherie at frand004@umn.edu. Animals that are identified late are allowed to show at the county fair, however, they will not be allowed to advance past a blue ribbon in their class and they are not eligible for champions, state fair or the county livestock auction.

REGISTRATION PAPERS
- Registrations papers need to be scanned and uploaded in 4HOnline.
- Bring a copy of your registration paper to weigh in on Feb. 6 and leave it for 4-H staff to upload.
- For animals that you do not have registration papers on yet, you must submit a copy of the official registration paper by July 1 to Cherie at frand004@umn.edu.
- If you are exhibiting a registered animal, you must present a copy of the registration certificate at the time of verification on entry day at county fair to show in a registered class.
- Registered beef animals without registration papers, tattoos or matching registration tattoos will be moved to the crossbred division.
- ORIGINAL registration papers are required at market beef exhibited at the Minnesota State Fair.
BREED REQUIREMENTS
For more information on breed requirements, see the enclosed state 4-H Beef Information Sheet.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS
All animals must be healthy to be exhibited at the Dakota County Fair. All livestock will be inspected by the official veterinarian on the opening date of the exhibition and daily during the exhibition. The official veterinarian will order the immediate removal of any livestock with symptoms of infectious or communicable diseases including livestock with warts, ringworm or sore mouth.

MARKET HEIFER VERSUS BREEDING HEIFER
Should I weigh my breeding heifer in case I decide to show it as a market heifer? The answer is yes! Market heifers are raised for meat. Judges look for some of the same characteristics as steers. Breeding heifers are for reproduction, judges are looking for an animal that of the traits you want bred into your herd. Market Heifers can be changed to breeding heifers at verification at county fair. However, if you ID your heifer as a breeding heifer and not as a market heifer you cannot make this change. If you are not sure what category to sign your heifer up for you are encouraged to bring that heifer to the beef market weigh in.

AUCTION ELIGIBILITY
To be eligible for the 4-H Livestock Auction your animal must gain a minimum of 1.8 pounds per day, must be properly IDd, meet weight requirements and receive at least a blue ribbon. However, a blue ribbon does NOT guarantee a spot in the auction.

• Rate of Gain will be determined at the county fair for the purpose of county fair auction and awards.
• The champion market beef and champion dairy steer rate of gain winners will receive $50.00 from the Dakota County 4-H Livestock Auction Fund.
• If your animal does not meet the minimum rate of gain of 1.8 pounds per day your animal is still eligible to compete at state fair if the animal wins a trip determined by the judge and the state fair line up. There is not a rate of gain competition at the Minnesota State Fair.
• Minimum weight for county fair auction is 900 lbs for Market Heifers and 1000 lbs for Market Steers

AUCTION BUYER RECRUITMENT
4-H members that participated in the 2015 Dakota County 4-H Livestock Auction are asked by the 4-H Livestock Auction committee to once again help by inviting new buyers to the Livestock Auction in 2016. Over the past few years the auction buyer pool has grown as well with the bids getting higher per animal due to everyone’s efforts to increase and promote the auction. Those that participated in last year’s auction will receive a letter with more information. Potential buyers are then mailed an invite and contacted by the Auction/Jacque Devney scholarship winners, who will personally invite them to the auction. If you were not in the 2015 auction but have potential buyers to add to the auction invite list please contact Anja at akoester@umn.edu or 651-480-7758.

LOST EAR TAGS
On rare occasions, 4-H animals will lose the official Minnesota 4-H ear tag. If this occurs, you will need to contact Anja immediately at (651) 480-7758 so that the tag can be verified and replaced. Do not wait until county fair if this occurs.
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Two additional pieces of project information are included in this mailing for your information:

- 2016 Animal Science Show Requirements for Minnesota 4-H details specific dates and requirements unique to each animal science project area.
- 2016 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.

UPCOMING DAKOTA COUNTY 4-H BEEF PROJECT HAPPENINGS
- Beef Workshop will be Monday, February 22 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center. LeeAnn Waugh and Mark Purfeest will share their knowledge on beef nutrition and grooming. RSVP by February 18 by emailing Cherie at frand004@umn.edu
- NEW in 2016, County Fair Registration will be online this year. Watch for more information and details in early April. County Fair Registration deadline: July 6.
- County Fair Pre-Beef Meeting is set for Monday, July 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center.
- Animal Science Interview Night and Barn Set Up are scheduled for Monday, August 1 from 5-8 p.m. at the Dakota County Fairgrounds.

AK-SAR-BEN
September 22-25, 2016
To be eligible to exhibit at the Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Expo, the 4-H member MUST be at least 10 years old by January 1, 2016 and MUST meet livestock ID requirements.

- Steers and market heifers MUST be owned and fed by 4-H member in accordance with state requirements with records of feeding beginning NO LATER than April 1 of current year.
- Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Livestock Exposition requires that all market animals be DNA identified by set deadline.
- DNA sample must be submitted in official DNA envelope, available from Cherie at the Extension Office or at weigh in.
- DNA samples due to Cherie at the Extension Office by Friday, February 12.
- For more information go to http://rivercityrodeo.com/stock-show.
- Questions? Contact: Cherie Frandrup at 651-480-7702 or frand004@umn.edu