2016 Market Beef and Dairy Steer ID Information

DATE: January 4, 2016

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

FROM: Joe Rand, 4-H Program Coordinator

RE: IMPORTANT Change to Animal Identification Process

Thank you for enrolling in a 4-H animal science project. We hope you find this project both challenging and rewarding. This letter contains an important change to the animal identification process: the shift from paper affidavits to online animal identification.

Minnesota 4-H is using its online enrollment system, 4HOnline, to record all animal identifications in 2016. 4HOnline has the capability to track animal ownership and identification data and has been used successfully in other states. 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 2016 is as follows:

1. 4-H Family will get ear tags at designated weigh-ins from Julie Engelmeyer, livestock project leader.
2. 4-H Family puts tag in animal’s ear by February 15 and completes the information worksheet.
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 15, 2016; you will not be able complete identification after that point.

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

- A simple 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 Weekend” helpline will be available (8 a.m. – 8 p.m.) Contact information will be available as the date gets close
- *All market beef and dairy steers need to be identified by 11:59pm February 15.

On rare occasions, 4-H animals will lose the official Minnesota 4-H ear tag. If this occurs, you will need to contact Julie Engelmeyer, livestock project leader, immediately at 763-218-0655 so that the tag can be verified and replaced. Do not wait until county fair if this occurs.

AnSci Updates for 2016 for unique changes and information in each animal science project area and 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 are available online www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID

Livestock Quality Assurance & Ethics: Minnesota 4-H supports livestock quality assurance and animal science ethics. The State policy is that youth participating in the State Fair, as a livestock exhibitor, must have completed their age appropriate Level of Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics (LQA&E) training. 4-Hers certified in the Beef and/or Pork Quality Assurance must also take the Ethics portion of the 4-H training. Certification is good for three fair seasons. Additional information concerning any LQA&E training in our area will be listed in upcoming 4-H newsletters or can be found at www.4-H.umn.edu/projects/animal-science/lqae.

If you have any questions about the change to online animal identification or anything else in this letter, please contact Julie Engelmeyer at 763-218-0655 or Joe Rand, 4-H Program Coordinator at 763-765-3077

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