2016 Animal Science Project ID Information - May 15 Deadline

DATE: January 4, 2016

TO: 4-H Animal Science Project Members
Enrolled in: Beef, Sheep, Swine, Dairy, Dairy Goat, Market Goat, Poultry

FROM: Joe Rand, 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 both challenging and rewarding. This letter outlines the online animal identification process.

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 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 completes the ID worksheet available at www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID.
2. 4-H Family self-enters information at 4HOnline and prints entry report for personal record.
3. If an animal is leased (Breeding Animals ONLY!), the lease agreement must be scanned and uploaded in 4HOnline. The lease form is available at www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID. A copy of the "Minnesota 4-H Animal Science Lease Program Fact Sheet: is available at: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/docs/AnSci-Project-Lease-Fact-Sheet.pdf
4. Existing project animals that are being carried over from last year to this project year must be re-activated by May 15. Eligible animals are Dairy*, Dairy Goat, Lama, Rabbit, Beef Spring and Fall calves, and Cow/calf**. Instructions can be found in the document Animal ID Data Entry by Families, page 5, at www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID.
5. NOTE: New lease forms should be completed each year for all species except dairy. Once a dairy animal is identified and a lease is submitted, the lease must renewed each year. Details to renew existing dairy leases is found further in this letter.

* special rules regarding first freshening apply – see dairy informational sheet
** calf data needs to be updated

NOTE: Data entry must be completed by 11:59 pm, May 15, 2016; you will not be able complete identification after that point. If you are not able to scan in documents, please contact the office at mnext-sherburne@umn.edu to schedule an appointment for assistance in this matter. You must have an appointment in order to have documents scanned.
Additional pieces of project information are available online at www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID, including:
- AnSci Updates for 2016 for unique changes and information in each animal science project area.
- 2016 Information Sheets for the species your family is currently enrolled in, which have been compiled by 4-H State Committees and includes processes, procedures and information unique to the specific projects at the Minnesota State Fair.

Online ID’ing (4HOnline) user assistance and support
- A user guide is available at www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID.
- In addition, an ID helpline will be available May 13-15:
  - Contact information will be available as the date gets close

LIVESTOCK QUALITY ASSURANCE & ETHICS: All youth participating as a 4-H livestock exhibitor in beef, dairy, sheep, swine, poultry, rabbits, meat and dairy goat and rabbit must have completed the a Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics workshop. 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. Certification is good for three fair seasons.

You can sign-up to attend Sherburne County LQA&E Training (March 19) with the registration form available online soon.

If you are unable to attend Sherburne County training, alternate sites are available online at:
http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/lqae/

Minnesota 4-H Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics Policy:
http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/policies/LQA&E-Policy.pdf

SPECIES SPECIFIC INFORMATION....

**Beef, Sheep, Swine & Meat Goats:**
1. 4-H Family gets MN 4-H ear tag from contacting Julie Engelmeyer, livestock project leader at dnarabbitry2009@yahoo.com or 763-218-0655
2. 4-H Family puts tag in animal’s ear by May 15 and completes the information worksheet, available online at: www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID and enters information online at 4HOnline
3. Animals showing as Registered Breeding Beef and Registered Breeding Sheep do not need a MN 4-H ear tag.
4. 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 immediately so the tag can be verified and replaced. Do not wait until county fair if this occurs. The Extension Office will then need to be notified via email at mnext-sherburne@umn.edu with the new ear tag number so the information can be updated online.

**Dairy:** 4-H family completes the ID worksheet (www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID) for all NEW project animals. All dairy animals must be identified with an official form of identification: Official Breed Assn. Ear Tag, Official Breed Assn. tattoo, State 4-H ear tag, USDA tag (7 or 9 digit), Copy of the Breed Assn. ID paper and/or photo (if exhibits distinct markings). Registered animals with pending breed association registration information by May 15 must update this information as soon as registration numbers are received. If you enter as “pending”, you will need to provide updated information to your local Extension Office to update.
If an animal is leased, the lease agreement must also be scanned and uploaded in 4HOnline. The lease form is available at www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID. If using a photo as an official form of identification (because the animal has distinct markings), you will upload the .jpg file of the photo in 4HOnline.

Existing project animals that are being carried over from last year to this project year must be re-activated by May 15. Instructions can be found in the document Animal ID Data Entry by Families, page 5, at www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID. Existing dairy animal leases must also be renewed annually by May 15 – you cannot use past year’s lease agreements without having them resigned. Download existing lease, renew and bring to your local extension office no later than May 15th so they can upload it. You will not be able to upload the renewed lease.

NOTE: Existing dairy animal ID’s can be viewed but not edited because of the “first freshening” rule. If changes are needed to a dairy animal (including changes to the associated exhibitor/member) contact your local Extension Office.

**Dairy Goat:** 4-H Family completes the ID worksheet (www.4-H.umn.edu/animal-ID) for all NEW project animals. Registered animals with pending breed association registration information by May 15 must update this information as soon as it is received. If you enter “pending” you will need to provide updated information to your local Extension Office to get it updated.

**Poultry:** There is no identification worksheet or information that needs to be submitted for your poultry project.

- HOWEVER…..If your project is leased, a “2016 Minnesota 4-H Animal Science Lease Form” must be turned in to your County Extension Office by 4:30 pm May 13. The form is available at http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/animal-science/animal-ID/docs/lease-fillable.pdf
- Be sure to read the Poultry Information Sheet. It contains info on hatch dates and health requirements.
  - Health requirements that refer to State Fair are ALSO requirements for county fair exhibition of poultry.

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Minnesota 4-H Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics Policy: http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/policies/LQA&E-Policy.pdf

If you have any questions about the change to online animal identification or anything else in this letter, please contact Joe Rand, 4-H Program Coordinator at 763-765-3077 or joerand@umn.edu.

**IMPORTANT** - All ownership and registration papers WILL BE checked at the 2016 County Fair.